



Friendship & Fellowship

Frinton & Walton District Men's Probus Club Newsletter December 2020

*We would like to wish all of our members
a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New
Year in whatever form that may be!*



A wintery scene at Great Bentley





Presidents Message

Welcome Gentlemen to this, our December Newsletter, and which we all hope will be the last we will need to circulate due to this awful virus.

Although our county is in Tier 2 with its' relevant constraints, we hope that this will remain the case when the Government review the latest situation, expected on the 28th of the month. With the fear of the spread of the latest strain of the virus it is highly likely that tougher restrictions will be imposed.

I'm sure that you have all been keeping abreast of the latest news and guidance measures regarding COVID-19. The development and future distribution of an effective vaccine appears to be very positive news and will hopefully mean that we will be able to return to some form of normality early in the New Year.

Before that, of course, we have Christmas and the opportunity of sharing the festivities with some, if not all of our families and friends. Nevertheless, we will need to continue to be mindful of the caution required to keep ourselves and others safe.

We hope that this newsletter continues to keep you up-to-date and in touch with your Committee and other members during these difficult times and please remember that your input, whether informative or funny, is always welcome.

As always, I hope that you and your loved ones remain safe and well, but our thoughts and best wishes go out to all of our fellow members who are, or have been, dealing with health issues.

Finally, but by no means least, I would again like to thank Mike Woodward for organising and editing this newsletter and to all the members of the Committee for their continuing support, dedication and hard work.

My very best wishes to you all for a merry Christmas and happy New Year.

Best wishes.
Tony Rudd



In Memory of Keith Banks

It is with great sadness that we have to report the sad passing of our dear friend and member Keith Banks. After battling a short illness, he passed away peacefully on the morning of December 16. Our thoughts at this difficult time are with Ann and her daughters Alison and Debbie, particularly at this family time of the year.

Keith joined our Club in 1990 when 'young' Stan Revill was our President, Keith quickly joined the Committee and remained a Member for 25 years during which time he was President himself and served as our Social Secretary for 19 years organising with his usual happy smile and laidback manner many Club Holidays, Golf and Snooker Competitions, Skipper Nights, Theatre Trips and Christmas Lunches where he always ensured that the 'Ladies' received a gift, Keith will be greatly, greatly missed by us all.

Probus Club



In Memory of John Floyd 1924 – 2020

We have also received a call from John Floyd's family to advise that John sadly passed away on December 16, following a heart attack.

John was a club member for over 30 years attending well over 300 meetings. He also became a committee member and our President, during which time he instigated the 'Presidential Cycle' to overcome a selection problem. He also attended most of our Club holidays and was our Guest Speaker on no less than 5 occasions giving talks on many subjects, not with a posh Power Point presentation but with just 5 postcards with bullet points on, often delivered with a wicked sense of humour. On his retirement from the Club in October of last year, who can forget the look on the face of our Speaker Revd Keith Lovell when John got up and told a risqué joke about a Church Parishioner.

He took an active interest in many things including the Frinton Residents Association, Heritage Trust, Frinton Postcard Club, the Memorial Club and as a Member of the Arts and Lits at Clacton it was John who organised for a Mini – bus to take other Frintonians to and from their events each Monday evening.

John will not only be sadly missed by Members of our Club but most of Frinton as well

COVID-19 Corner

It looks as if the topic of COVID is going to be with us for some time yet.

With a new strain of the virus that is spreading more rapidly than the last one is causing concern and we are now faced with even more tougher restrictions. We now have a new Tier 4 which is broadly the full lock down measures that were in force from last March, with all nonessential shops, gyms, entertainment venues, restaurants and pubs now closed. Families are restricted to their homes once more with limited measures in place for Christmas.

At the moment the Tendring area remains in Tier 2 thanks to the lobbying of our MP and local Councillors. We can at least still meet with family and friends outside and visit pubs and restaurants who can still remain open. This situation will be monitored, and this level of measures may change as this new strain of the virus is spreading fast.

Looking on the bright side the roll out of the vaccine is progressing and we can only hope that this will prevent the virus getting a grip of the population and we can start to return to normal. Fingers crossed!

So, for the next few weeks please do take care and exercise sensible precautions when visiting your family over Christmas and when you are out and about.

As always, your committee members will remain in touch with their allotted probus members and we are here if you need us.

It's good to see the Russians have at last produced their vaccine!!





The winning lottery number drawn last Saturday evening, 28 November, was number 32 and belongs to Mick Mockford.

Congratulations Mick.

Social Secretary's Report

Unfortunately, the latest COVID position and safety restrictions have scuppered our meetings and social plans for the time being. But we will be back!!

We will closely monitor the situation and be ready to restart the club activities as soon as we can after the Government hopefully announces a return to less restrictive rules which, at the moment is anticipated in the spring next year.

Summer Group Holiday

It is hoped that we can continue with our planned group holiday next year. We have had 9 members (7 doubles and 2 singles) who have expressed an interest. We would like to see some more members come forward but understand that now is not a good time to think about such matters. The quotation from Warner's is based on 40 persons in 17 double and 3 single rooms. We will remain in touch with Warner's and perhaps when the situation changes, we can gain more interest and book this event. If you are interested or have any questions, please feel free to contact Ian Whale.

Remembrance Day

It was great to see that the Remembrance services managed to go ahead, albeit in a limited form, across the country. It's a sobering thought that nearly 60 million people lost their lives in the Second World War and the majority of those were civilians during the dreadful bombing raids that devastated our towns and cities.

Our club was represented at the local service held each year at the Frinton Memorial Club. Below is a picture of Ian Whale waiting to place our commemorative wreath on the memorial plaque.



November 12, 2020



NEVER FORGET: A veteran lays a wreath

Pictures: Robert Smith

Tributes paid to fallen heroes

THE pandemic may have altered the way this year's Remembrance Sunday could be observed, but it did not stop people from honouring our fallen war heroes.

In Clacton, Walton, Brightlingsea and Frinton, groups of people and veterans gathered at Covid-secure ceremonies where they paid respects while socially distancing.

All of the remembrance service's poignantly saw the laying of poppy wreaths, while others opted to pay tribute to our brave soldiers from the safety of their own homes or on their doorsteps.

Lest We Forget.

November 12, 2020

NEWS 29



LEST WE FORGET: The memories of our brave heroes are honoured in Frinton

Pictures: Robert Smith

We'll meet again sometime soon!



Finance Report from Tony Rudd

Unfortunately, in the absence of our normal Club activities, I have little to report.

However, as I will be starting to draft the annual accounts for the period January – December 2020, very soon, I would be grateful if any member with outstanding subscription fees or lottery monies could let me have their cheques as soon as possible.

Your regular Committee Member contact would hopefully have advised you of any outstanding dues during their recent telephone calls to you.



Birthday Celebrations

We have four birthdays being celebrated in December in addition to JC's on the 25th, so our congratulations go out to Bernie Deane, Brian Heard, Bill Read and Bill Smith.





Speakers Corner

Our programme for this year has, understandably, been completely disrupted. With the ongoing situation it is difficult to plan for the next year, but thankfully we have a list of prospective speakers who have confirmed that they will be happy to return when the situation allows.

Many professional speakers have resorted to delivering virtual presentations using video tools such as Zoom and this may be an option we will need to consider for future meetings.

In the meantime, we will continue to research and gather information on potential speakers and subjects for our future meetings.

Members welfare

We certainly have faced some difficult and challenging times this year, with the added concern for our safety and welfare. Thankfully, all of our members have managed to remain safe and coped with the restrictions on our lives. As the saying goes "there is always hope". Rob Morgan sent in this little poem which I hope you find relevant to our situation.

Life is unpredictable
It changes with the seasons
Even your coldest winter
Happens for the best of reasons
And though it feels eternal
Like all you'll do is freeze
I promise spring is coming
And with it, brand new leaves

Jokers Corner



Christmas dinner at our house this year



Classic Dialogue!



A Scotsman and his wife walked past a swanky new restaurant.

"Did you smell that food?" she asked. "It's smells absolutely incredible!"

Being a 'kind-hearted Scotsman', he thought, "What the hell..., I'll treat her!"

So, they walked past it again!

Some More Mindful Moments



Above is a lovely scene taken from the Naze looking back to Walton Pier.



Resting Swans on the River Orwell, Suffolk.

Why not share some pictures you may have snapped on your iPhone or camera. We can include them in the next newsletter.

We do hope you have a good Christmas and please do keep safe and well and see you next month.



Please do send in any local information or suggested articles for inclusion in our next edition to me at: mikewrm15@yahoo.co.uk



Your Committee Members

Tony Rudd – President & Treasurer

Mike Woodward – Vice President, Speaker Secretary & Publicity

Tony Comber – Secretary

Mick Mockford - Luncheon Secretary

Len Parton – Welfare Officer, Social Programme & Photography

Ian Whale – Social Secretary

George Gardener – Committee member & Social Programme

Alan Dunt – Assistant Treasurer & Luncheon Support

Ian Stansfield – Publicity & Recruitment