

## Speaker & Publicity Secretary's Report April 2020

Dear Probus Members,

Along with our president and committee members I hope this report finds you and your family safe and well. These are very trying times and as I look out of my study window at the blue skies and lovely spring weather it is hard to believe we are in a crisis situation and lockdown in our homes.

As we applaud our NHS and other key frontline workers for their hard work and dedication, we also spare a thought to those who have sadly lost their lives to this deadly virus. Special thoughts also go to our Prime Minister, Boris Johnson, who is now sadly battling this disease. We wish him well for a full a speedy recovery.

I guess you are wondering why my report is not included with the one recently circulated by Tony. My only feeble excuse for this late update is that I have lost all sense of time during this lockdown. Every day seems the same. I have also just returned from my holiday home in Devon — only joking!!!! What was the Scottish Health Minister thinking when you visited her second home in Fife — beggars' belief!! Any way that's enough of my musings let's get on with my brief report.

## Speaker Secretary Report

I don't know about you - but I thoroughly enjoyed our last meeting there was a real buzz and lively atmosphere in the clubhouse with all our new members. Jason from Suffolk Farmhouse Cheeses also treated us to an excellent and very interesting talk about his journey in dairy farming. The cheese also went down very nicely after the meeting with a glass of red!

Sadly; our programme has had to be put on hold until we hopefully see some improvement to this situation we face, and we can start to get back to some normality.

Our speaker this month would have been Jonathan Webster who is a local Beekeeper. I had an interesting chat with him when I telephoned to discuss the current situation. His main profession is IT technician and he is able to work from home. He is certainly making the most of this situation where he can spend more time tending the bees. He is very much looking forward to joining us in the future to talk about his passion and why the bee is so important to our environment.

## **Publicity & Recruitment Report**

It's fantastic news that we are still recruiting new members despite the present situation.

Our planned recruitment campaign and coffee morning will now have to take place later in the year. That doesn't mean that preparations have stopped we have recently taken delivery of a very nice pop up banner which will be used for future events. This together with our printed tablecloth gives us a professional presence as you can see from the photo below.



Well that's it from me for now. Thank you to all of you who have sent in jokes and funny videos. They have certainly provided our household with some laughter. Here are a few from me. Keep well and keep safe.

"Outside the confines of his church, Father Frank was a timid, quiet, self-effacing and rather weak individual. However, once inside the building and at the table administering communion he was transformed into a confident, loud, rather bombastic and powerful individual. Congregation members whispered that he must have an altar ego."

"Promiscuous Penny was excited to hear that the handsome men of the medieval battles re-enactment troupe were coming to her hometown's castle to show off their skills over a long weekend. She had long been a fan of one knight stands."