



Friendship & Fellowship

Frinton & Walton District Men's Probus Club May Report 2020

Overview from our President Tony Rudd

Welcome gentlemen to this our 2nd non-meeting under the Covid-19 lockdown.

Unsurprisingly, we have no increase in membership numbers this month but more importantly nor do we have any reported reductions. Let's all make sure it stays that way but please let any member of the committee know if you encounter any related health issues.

Again, no Speaker this month – not sure what Mike's been up to lately but think he's probably just been sunning himself on the Cote du Jardin!

Members celebrating birthdays this month are Terry Knapman and with 'significant' birthdays are Mike Wagland, Mike Stansfield and me. Happy birthday all.

Secretary's Report from – Tony Comber

- a) **John Floyd** – As you will remember from the April notes the winner of the Lottery Bonus Ball was John Floyd. I contacted John on his cell phone after 5 attempts. John is now living in a 200 year old Manor house which has been converted into a nursing home for as John calls them 18 'in-mates' because he still continues to have falls and his daughter who has MS could no longer cope. I had a long chat with John and his is still as 'bright as a button' and was ahead of me in a number of the topics that we discussed, this is extremely frustrating for John because he is getting weaker and weaker physically and can now only walk 4/5 steps before he has to stop, the home has a very sophisticated stairlift that takes the circular stairs at speed. John spends a great deal of time sleeping now. He asked to be remembered to Members of the Club for which he thanked us all for your 'Friendship and Good Fellowship' To spread the time John would welcome a telephone call from the more established Members he can be reached on 07765135502, but be patient because as I have said John sleeps a lot and does not always hear the telephone. Watching the News on Thursday I noticed that the 140k cards for 'Colonel Tom Moore's 100th Birthday were displayed in the Great Hall of his Grandsons school, this in fact is the school where John Floyd was Head of Languages, small world?
- b) **Kings Coaches** – They have kept all of their staff on, but have had to postpone the delivery of 2 new coaches (circ: £250.000 each) until the current 'lockdown' situation is resolved. The staff and drivers are ready to take us on trips and the Club holiday when things ease.
- c) **Recruitment** – The Committee are still looking at new ways to gain new Members, and are at present putting together 'copy' for an article Frinton Rotary's annual magazine

Stay safe, keep smiling.



Social Secretary's Report from – Ian Whale

My three "buddies" all seem to be fine. Stan Revill is still getting out and about, and caring for Ruth, who is housebound. He is in regular contact with his son in Scotland.

Vic Middleton was considering going into a home but has sensibly opted for some home care instead. He has been in contact with "Home Instead". The power of advertising! I hope he realises that it won't be the attractive young rosebud in the tv advert, but probably some fat old crone, putting his shirt on, instead! Mike Smedley sees him regularly with his medicine deliveries and gets him occasional bits of shopping. Vic apparently tried to go to Morrison's by bus last week but was foiled by the irregularity of bus timetables.

Chris Keeble is fine and enjoys a looonng "putting things right" chat on the phone.

Social Secretary's Report

Really nothing new to report. I'll update on the Summer Ball next month. I think there is a reasonable chance that it will go ahead, but it depends on the success that Boris will have in gradually unlocking us, without triggering a new spike in the virus. I will be making contact with the proprietor of the "Queen's Head" soon to get a quote for the "Gentlemen's Evening" at the end of September.

My own feeling is that we should ditch any thoughts of trying to organise a Group Holiday until next May/June 2021, because any such venture would be dodgy before a vaccine can be found. Many holiday firms are likely to go out of business before then. We may be able to do one or two coach trips in the Autumn. These can generally be arranged at short notice.

Treasurer's Report from – Tony Rudd

Gentlemen, as you can imagine that during the difficult times, we are currently experiencing not much is happening regarding our finances. Excluding my extremely high drinks bill, the only movement on our account has been the payment of last months' lottery win.

In the meantime, I have been looking into ways to reduce the lengthy queues forming at each meeting to pay lunch monies and other 'dues'. This includes the possibility of introducing Internet Banking for those members that could make use of it. Unfortunately, due to reduced staffing levels at the bank and a need for them to prioritise other areas of their business, this facility is not currently available for us to set up. However, I will continue to pursue this idea when the situation allows.

The lottery bonus ball drawn last Saturday evening was number 47 and is held by Bill Ferreira. Congratulations Bill, I will drop your cheque off to you – safely!

Believe it or not, we **STILL** have a couple of lottery numbers available for any discerning member who wants to take advantage of this fabulous opportunity to win the magnificent tax free (we won't tell if you don't) monthly prize on offer and help the clubs' funds at the same time. Just call me – 850940.

Many thanks.

Probus Club

Welfare Officer's Report from – Ken Williams

The Club Committee continue to be in telephone contact with a significant number of our members to check their health and general well-being during the lockdown period. All conversations so far have been positive, with members displaying their usual resilience and good humour. Colleagues are still making use of home deliveries of prepared meals through the Frinton Golf and Cricket Clubs, exercising regularly, and shopping within the current guidelines.

There were no reports of difficulties with shopping for all the basic items colleagues required.

Ian Whale.

Ian's operation in early April on his left eye went well and there was a successful outcome. A new plastic lens was inserted into the eye because of the damage caused by the glaucoma attack and Ian will return to the hospital later in the year for similar treatment to his other eye. So good news indeed.

Ron King.

Unfortunately, Ron has been unwell over the last couple of weeks. Initially he thought it may have been some sort of food poisoning, but this has not been confirmed. It left him extremely tired and unable to do his usual tasks. His doctor prescribed a course of antibiotics and although these have started slowly to help, unfortunately there was a mix up and they were left in Ron's chemist for over a week before he was able to use them, resulting in him feeling weaker and unwell.

Ron's daughter is in Worcester, so things have been more difficult, but she has been able to order an online food delivery. Ron's wife is also unwell and has only been out of hospital for about six weeks. We will be in regular contact to monitor matters and provide what assistance we can.

Thank you for all the regular contributions that members have made to our Secretary for Club circulation to keep us amused during this period. I'm sure members will also be pleased to hear that our Speaker Secretary, Mike Woodward, has managed to get our Club Joke Masters, Colin Knights and Keith Banks to do a session when we return to normal meetings. Alasdair Mackenzie will provide vocals and will be accompanied by James Ewart on spoons.

An interesting report from Kings College London, of an Ipsos MORI report has found that seven out of ten people strongly support current measures and nine out of ten support them. Apparently, this level of support is quite unusual. While the support for the extraordinary measures appear incredibly uniform their impact and our underlying attitudes are not.

Three main clusters in the population have been identified, the Accepting, the Suffering and the Resisting. 44% were identified as The Suffering, 48% The Accepting and 9% The Resisting. Interestingly these groups had a significant gender, age and political make up. I'll avoid the many political, gender and social issues the report outlines but suffice to say that males of our age are predominantly in the Accepting group!

We'll meet again sometime soon!

Speaker Secretary Report May 2020

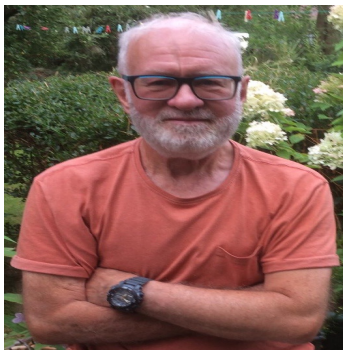
Dear Probus Members,

We are now in the 6th week of lockdown and I hope you are all keeping safe and well.

I don't know about you, but this period has been very busy with jobs around the house and garden. It's good to get these jobs done but I've never worked so hard taking down an old pergola and breaking up a hardstanding area with a pickaxe!! I guess it will all be worth the effort when it's all finished, and the area replanted with new shrubs and flowers.

I hope you have been keeping yourselves occupied and taking advantage of the fine weather where you can with walks along our lovely and peaceful seafront.

This month's speaker would have been Bob Harding Jones.



Bob is a professional Humourist, Raconteur, Poet, Speaker and Writer who was going to entertain us with his 'British Comedy Greats' performance. This is an affectionate laughter-packed stroll down British Comedy's memory Lane with Humorous banter, audio clips and prizes.

He has performed at many clubs and festivals including the Edinburgh and Glastonbury Festivals the comedy circuit and The Comedy Store. He also writes newspaper and magazine columns and has a number of published books.

I am sure we can reschedule his date when we can get back to normal and gather for our meetings. In the meantime, you can check out his website for more information.

Don't forget it is May Bank Holiday this Friday to celebrate VE day. We expect to hear the voices of Frinton Men's Probus bellowing the tones of Vera Lynn's – We'll Meet Again with the rest of the nation at 9.00pm.



It seems ages since we had our 40th Anniversary lunch which was a very fine affair. I was looking back on my files and came across some photos that I managed to take on the day. I thought it would be nice to share a couple of the best ones with you. Enjoy!



Bees & Insects Matter

In last month's report I referred to the subject of Bee's and why they are so important to our livelihood as they help to pollinate most of the crops we eat and many that feed farm livestock. Bee populations are dying at an alarming rate and we look forward to when Jonathan can come and speak to us about the important work of Bee- Keepers.

Ken Williams came across this interesting article where a worldwide study of insects also reveals a widespread decline since 1925. Whilst we may not all be lovers of the creepy crawlies their decline will also have an impact on our future environment. You can see the full article at the link below and is worth a read about the function of these little creature that we take for granted.

<https://theconversation.com/insects-worldwide-study-reveals-widespread-decline-since-1925-137089>

Well that's all for now. Keep safe and well and see you next month. Here is another Trump funny to bring a smile to your face. Surely, he can't win another term!!!!



A08

A couple of points I think we should discuss. We've only had one meeting with members so far this year, and June/July will probably be doubtful too. We have quite a large number of newer members, and some may get discouraged, especially as they have paid for a full year of activities. Perhaps it would be worth considering whether we could give members a discount off their membership fees for 2021? We can't do the calculation yet until we know when we will be re-starting normal meetings, but it might be nice to tell them we will take this into consideration?

For similar reasons, I think we should postpone the September recruitment campaign until next year, and let our existing membership settle down together, and get to know each other better, (and our customs and ethos), before we introduce any more strangers into the club.

Xmas Dinner. Has this date been already booked with FGC? If not, is it my job, or the Luncheon Secretary's job to do so? I know how busy they can become with bookings at that time.

That's all for now. May I say how impressed I have been by all the funnies, and other useful information that our Secretary, Tony, has provided for us over the last few weeks. The imagination shown by some of the contributors has been epic.

Best wishes to you all, and your families. Stay well!