

STOKESLEY PROBUS CLUB

Chairman's Reports

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Chairman's Report 2021

Hello, welcome back.

It seems appropriate today to say that it's really great to see Members return fit and well after the Coronavirus pandemic.

The Queen in her 2019 Christmas Day Speech described the year as 'BUMPY'. She hasn't yet described 2020 or 2021.

I hope you all managed the challenges with calm, humour and enterprise. We can now resume our Club activities safely and enjoyably. So, the right start now, on behalf of the membership, is with *brief* thanks to our Committee.

We held four Meetings 2019-2020. The last one in March 2020 was cancelled due to the Virus. All five physical Meetings for 2020-2021 were cancelled due to the Virus. We did, however, hold 5 Zoom Meetings from 6th May 2020 to 4th March 2021

These were organised by Chris Lee and a great success.

We restarted physical Meetings on 28th July 2021

All Committee Meetings enjoyed excellent attendance and commitment.

Chris Lee: Treasurer & Membership Sec.

Chris managed his first fiscal year and the following Virus period with great perseverance and efficiency. He arranged a new online system for the Club's Banking needs after surmounting considerable obstacles including a potential change of Bank.

He committed a great deal of time and energy to the issue including consultation with the Committee. Chris managed the end-of-year accounts very effectively with cancelled Meetings and Speakers in this period. He also monitors the membership accounts.

Thank you for all your work Chris.

Keith Burton: Speaker Finder

The Bar is set high for this role being a main attraction for Members. Keith maintained the incredible standards of the Speaker Programme continuing an outstanding tradition. He managed the cancellation of the first Virus Meeting in March 2020 followed by 16 more Speakers so we are delighted to be starting again today. Member safety was always the priority. Keith has spent a great deal of time on behalf of the Club in maintaining Speakers and creating a new programme.

Thank you for all the work Keith

John Edwards: General Member

John completed an invaluable Term of Office at the 2020 AGM. He contributed to Committee work and supported the important refreshment start to the day.

John was standing for re-election as GM at the 16.4.20 AGM. (Cancelled)

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The Committee Co-opted him as a GM until we could hold an AGM.

I will return to this point under Elections.

Thank you for your flexible commitments to the Club John.

David Stevenson: Secretary

David was due to complete his first year as Secretary at the April 2020 AGM. Disappointingly, David decided to stand down from the Secretary role and resigned from membership in February 2020. He has many other interests he wishes to pursue.

David recorded and presented Committee and Member Minutes with Speaker Reports.

So, its Thanks to David for his Probus work.

Stefan Barnes: Website Manager

Stefan stepped down on 19.11.19 after 6.5 years due to many pressures from his other commitments. Our thanks were extended to Stefan for his incredible work with a gift.

Many thanks Stefan.

Keith Bell: General Member

Keith continues to contribute to Committee issues and creates a very positive atmosphere for Members with the friendly refreshment start to the Meeting. Keith completed his term of Office at the 2021 AGM and was standing for re-election so the Committee Co-opted him as a GM to the next AGM – today.

Thank you for all your efforts Keith.

Derek Whiting: General Member

Derek continues to provide thoughtful comments in Committee discussions to promote the Club in the area and to write poetry and autobiographies.

Thank you for your Service to the Club Derek.

Graham Howard: General Member

Graham completed his first year of Office at the 2020 AGM. He has provided an additional source of ideas into the development of the Club and reviewed the Club Insurance Policy. **Thank you for all your work Graham.**

Kevin Clifford: General Member

Kevin also completed his first year of Tenure at the 2020 AGM. Kevin is an excellent source of studious and insightful comment which has been of great benefit to Committee work. **Thank you for all the support Kevin**

Maj Chuhan: Auditor

Maj managed the change of Treasurer from David to Chris with diplomatic and financial skill. He completed the appropriate checks on the Club Accounts and approves the two

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Financial Statements presented today. Maj also provides invaluable general support to Club life.

Thank you for all your contributions Maj.

Walter Gregory: Mince Pies

Walter has organised the Mince Pies for Member enjoyment at the January meeting for about 22 years. He has decided, however, that it is time to step down so many thanks for organising so many special refreshments Walter. **Gift**

Keith Bell kindly agreed to continue this important tradition making the mince pies going back to one of his previous careers as a Chef. Thank you, Keith.

Alan Reed: Temp. Secretary

Members should be aware that the Committee Co-opted Alan Reed as Temporary Secretary to replace David Stevenson. Alan's start would have been the 16th March 2020 Committee and Member Meetings but the Virus forced cancellations. Alan had planned to stand for election at the April 2020 AGM but cancellations continued so the Committee renewed his Co-option. His delayed tenure started with a Zoom Committee Meeting on 6.5.20 and was due to last until the next AGM. Alan's personal position, however, has now changed. Disappointingly, Alan resigned from the post wef 4.3.21.

Many thanks Alan for the excellent work. Gift

John Edwards: Temp. Secretary

We have been very fortunate to secure the services of John Edwards. The Committee Co-opted John as temporary Secretary wef 4.3.21 to the next AGM, today, with John standing for the post.

Thank you for all the commitment John.

David Chalk: Website Manager

Following two previous Mtgs which had included Stefan Barnes and Peter Robinson a final Mtg on 9.7.21 with DC, CL & KW concluded with David taking on the WM role. He had already made a significant start to updating the website and confirmed that he would stand for the post.

Thank you for the commitment David.

So, on behalf of the Members, I can say 'thank you' to all those Members offering support to the management of the Club.

A notable milestone illustrating this support would have been achieved on 18.8.20 but the Virus caused cancellations. The milestone was achieved on 5.11.20

100 Committee Meetings since 1986. **Gift**

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Membership

We have gained 4 new Members since the 2019 AGM; David Milner, Alan Reed, Michael Watson, David Chalk

We currently have 50 Members. Many thanks to the Members who invited Guests to our Meetings. This is the most effective strategy for attracting new Members.

We enjoyed the company of eight Guest through 2019/20 so please continue to promote the Club.

We lost 1 Member due to a house move South and 1 Resignation.

Sadly, five Members passed away: Mike Brabin, Hugh Charman, David Middleton, Fred Logie, Geoff Phillips

Monthly Meetings 2020-2021

The Meetings are the popular heart of the Club providing an opportunity to enjoy refreshments and conversation prior to the Speaker. The average number of Members attending for 2019 – 2020 was 37 per Meeting.

Speaker Programme

The 2019-2020 programme was brilliant and remains central to the Club's success We had:

- A Town of Rampant Sin
- Three Stories in One
- A Notorious Teesside Murder
- Cyber Crime
- Land of Iron
- The Most Decorated Officer of WW2
- Sicily and the Aeolian Islands
- The Weird World of Quantum Mechanics
- Low Flying along the Tees from Marske & Redcar airfields 1909-1919
- Archaeology of WW1 on Teesside
- Restoration of Tocketts Mill (Virus Canc.)

Something for everyone in a diverse and enjoyable programme; impossible to choose a favourite (Fred's!!); attendance and questions were excellent and appreciated; there were no problems with Speakers and best of all for Chris, it came in under budget. Thanks to Members for all the Speaker suggestions. Keep them coming in.

The new programme looks just as good especially with David Milner listed and Keith Burton in reserve.

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Member Lunches

2.10.19 Bay Horse, Great Broughton, 10 Members enjoyed the social occasion with 7 apologies. Organised by Peter Robinson.

April and October 2020 and April 2021 Cancelled due to the Virus.

Christmas Lunch

The lunch on Tuesday 10th Dec 2019 at The Wainstones in Great Broughton was another festive success. Thanks to Chris Lee. 32 Members and 26 Guests 58 v 51 in 2018.

The Lunch on the 8th December 2020 was cancelled due to the Virus. The Committee circulated a Survey requesting member Views on the future of the Christmas Lunch.

Every response valued the Lunch and the current organisation. Detailed analysis to Comm.

Trips 2019

There was a reduced number of suggested Trips this year due to the Pandemic. Thanks. Trips which were supported were:

- (a) Thurs. 6.6.19 The King and I, Empire Theatre in Sunderland(KW)**
3 Members and 7 Guests enjoyed a great show. 5 Member apologies
- (b) Wed. 31.7.19 Railway Museum in Shildon (AB)**
15 Members and 6 Guests attended with 8 Member apologies
This was a thoroughly enjoyable day.
- (c) Thurs. 26.9.19 Les Miserables, Theatre Royal in Newcastle (KW)**
6 Members and 4 Guests attended with 18 Member apologies
Another excellent show.

Trips 2020 All Cancelled due to the Virus

- (a) Wed. 10.06.20 Ushaw Coll., Historic Hse, Chapels & Gdns (JR) CANC.
- (b) Tues. 25.08.20 Whitby and Shirley Valentine (KW) CANC.
- (c) Wed. 23.09.20 National Railway Museum, York (AB) CANC.
- (d) Thurs.26.11.20 Phantom of the Opera, Empire Th, S'land (KW) CANC.

Website (stokesleyprobus.co.uk)

The website is highly valued thanks to the work of **Stefan Barnes**. The Website was dormant with ongoing discussions about its future. The Committee circulated a Survey seeking Member views. Every response valued the history and left decisions on future management to the Committee and a new Website Manager. All Members supported having two Sections: Club History and Current issues. Today, I am delighted to say that we may have a new WM

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Communication

Our emailing system is well-used, very effective and complies with GDPR. We send out Agendas and Minutes and information about Meetings, Trips, Member Lunches and Christmas.

We receive emails with queries and comments so we are able to keep everyone well-informed very quickly. It's a very efficient process with 47 Members online. We still retain verbal communication routes and hardcopies of information for Members.

Looking forward to a healthier year:

We have completed a Review of the **Constitution** for 2021-2022 with several proposals for change. Agenda item.

- **Committee** Membership continues to have flexibility and is very active. Agenda item.
- There will be more **Member Lunches** with dates and venue to be confirmed by Peter Robinson.
- **Lunch and Shirley Valentine re-booked for Thursday 26th August 2021**
- **Chris Lee** has booked **Christmas Lunch** for Wed. 15th Dec.2021 at The Wainstones Hotel in Great Broughton.
- Keith Burton & Stefan Barnes have produced the 2021-2022 **Programme and Cards**.
- I emailed the **Calendar of Activities** for 2021-2022

Hopefully we will be welcoming more **new Members**

And finally

I would like to thank Committee Members for their advice and guidance for me over the past exceptional year. Thank you.

The last word is for you.

*The **Club** remains very healthy offering an enjoyable programme to its membership but let us know if you think of any improvements which will make the Club even more attractive*

Thank you for your support for myself and for the Committee.

Your participation does make a difference.

Thank you.

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Chairman's Reports

Chairman's Report 2019

What is a Chairman's Annual Report all about or supposed to be about?

- A resume of the year
- Reports on how the operations of the Club were monitored
- Highlights key moments
- Affords new Members a flavour of the Club
- Serves as a promotion of the Club to anyone visiting the Website
- Provides an acknowledgement of Members who are **directly** contributing to the success of the Club
- Offers some direction to the following year
- Affords an opportunity for shareholders to decide on dividends but given that we are a non-profit making enterprise, in effect, this means sacking the Chairman

The right start is with brief thanks to our Committee & Reps.

We held 5 Meetings all with excellent attendance and commitment.

David Middleton: Treasurer & Membership Sec.

David continued his expert management of the Budget always maintaining a healthy balance. David's 7 year term ends today (1.4.12 to 16.4.19)

Thank you for all your service David and for keeping me right. Gift.

Peter Robinson: Secretary

Peter presented very professional Minutes with unparalleled Speaker Reports. He also excellently monitored other issues eg the Constitution & GDPR

Peter steps down today with our thanks for his 5 years of service

15.4.14 – 16.4.19 Thank you Peter Gift

Stefan Barnes: Website Manager (2013-2023 x5 twice)

Stefan manages the Club Website which is an outstanding source of information. He has resolved numerous technical problems this year, maintained the site and found time, in spite of many outside pressures, to further develop it eg with the Remembrance Section. **Thank you Stefan**

Keith Burton: Speaker Finder (2016/17 O.M. 2017-2022 S.F.)

Keith provided yet another interesting and unique programme. The Standards are high for this role being the main attraction for new Members and Keith is doing a great job. **Thank you Keith**

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John Edwards: General Member (2017-2020)

John has continued to contribute incisive ideas into Committee discussion and supported the important refreshment start to the day. **Thank you John**

Keith Bell: General Member(2015-2021 x2)

Keith continues to add his light touch to Meetings and has also assumed responsibilities for refreshments. **Thank you Keith**

Derek Whiting: General Member (2013-2019)

Derek continues his invaluable Committee work regularly promoting the Club through his photography and the S&DT. Derek is standing for re-election today for his 3rd term. **Thank you Derek**

Chris Lee: General Member (2016-2019)

Chris completes his 3-year term as Committee Member today but is standing for the Treasurer and Membership Secretary role.

Chris' work for the Club is held in high regard. **Thank you Chris**

Chris 'still here' Stirk

Chris is an incredible man. He successfully fights adversity continuing to enjoy a full and rich life. He supported Members with cups of tea for 20 years but in July finally accepted that at (102) 94 it was time 'just to help out a little'.

We were grateful for all of Chris' work and thanked him last August.

Thank you again Chris and Keith Bell, John Edwards & Harry Bowes for the excellent refreshments start to the Meetings.

Walter Gregory: January Man.

Members have enjoyed a glass of sherry with a mince pie at every January Meeting for over 20 years thanks to Walter. This is greatly appreciated so long may it continue. **Thank you Walter**

Maj Chuhan: Auditor (2016-2019)

Maj completed the Audits with great efficacy. He is also very successful recruiting new Members and regularly adds supportive comments in Meetings. He ends his 3-year term today but is standing for re-Nomination.

Thank you Maj

So, on behalf of Members, 'thank you' to all those Members offering support to the management of the Club.

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Speaker Programme

The programme was brilliant and remains central to the Club's success (Keith will Report). We had:

The Trans-Siberian railway	Capt. Cook's Cottage
The last Great Battle of WW1	The re-introduction of the Lynx into Kielder
Stokesley: now & then	The Bomber Boys
Keith Burton : Lest we forget	Cleopatra's Needle
Stokesley Clockmakers & Einstein.	Stokesley railway network

Something for everyone in a diverse and enjoyable programme; impossible to choose a favourite (**KBI**); attendance and questions were good and appreciated; there were no problems with Speakers and best of all for **David**, it came in under budget.

Thanks for all the Member Speaker suggestions. Keep them coming in.

The new programme looks just as good especially with **Fred Logie** listed.

Monthly Meetings 2018-2019 (2017-2018)

The Meetings are the popular heart of the Club providing an opportunity to enjoy refreshments and conversation prior to the Speaker. The average number of Members attending remains at 34 per Meeting. This is an excellent % from the active membership (38+12)

34 /50 = 68% Full: 34/56 = 60% (Membership constantly changing!)

Ap	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Jan	Feb	Mar	Tot./Avg.	
34	33	30	36	33	33	35	43	33	36	33	379/34	2017/18
33	33	29	34	35	30	31	37	38	40	38	378/34	2018/19
12	11	8	5	11	8	9	4	13	8	11	100/9	2017/18
12	7	8	6	6	14	9	4	12	8	12	98/9	2018/19

Member Lunches

(a) Wed. 3.10.18 Lunch and conversation were enjoyed at

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The Royal Oak in Great Ayton. 10 Members and 1 Guest attended with 4 apologies

- (b) Wed. 10.4.19 Ten Members and one Guest attended enjoying the social occasion at the Blacksmith's Arms in Swainby. There were 5 apologies. Another excellent visit.

TRIPS

There were many suggested Trips throughout the year. Details are recorded in the Minutes. 10 were declined.

Trips which were supported were:

- (a) Wed. 6.6.18 Ryedale Vineyards (SB) & Beningbrough Hall (JE)

19 Members and 14 Guests attended with 3 Member apols.

Everyone enjoyed an excellent day.

- (b) Wed. 29.8.18 Whitby (KW), Arncliffe Arms (KW) &

(Private Lives) Esk Valley Theatre in Glaisdale (MH)

12 Members and 12 Guests attended with 9 Member apols.

A thoroughly enjoyable day.

- (c) Fri. 30.11.18 York: Goddard House (SB),

The Treasurer's House (KW), York Minster (KW:canc.),

York Christmas Market (KW)

15 Members and 13 Guests attended with 12 Member apols.

A diverse and enjoyable day.

Organised for 2019

- (a) Thurs. 6.6.19 The King and I; Sunderland Empire (KW)

4 Members & 4 Guests booked with 4 Member apols.

2 spare places

- (b) Wed. 31.7.19 Nat. Railway Locomotion Museum at Shildon (AB)

Eight Members & 8 Guests booked so far. More welcome.

- (c) Thurs. 26.9.19 Les Miserable; Theatre Royal, Newcastle (KW)

- (d) Members & 7 Guests booked with 15 Member apols. Two spare places

- (e) Thurs. 4.7.19 Mount St. John Garden (ML). Pending item

Christmas Lunch

The lunch on Tuesday 11th Dec 2018 at The Wainstones was another festive success. Thank you, David.

27 Members and 24 Guests booked. 59 in 2017

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(David will Report)

This occasion is one of the highlights in the Club Calendar.

Website (stokesleyprobus.co.uk)

The website is highly valued thanks to the expertise of Stefan Barnes (Stefan will Report).

- All Agendas and Minutes are posted on the Website
- Events, Meetings and Venues are posted
- The Remembrance page celebrates lost Members
- Please visit the website and enjoy browsing

Communication

Our emailing system is well-used, very effective and complies with GDPR following work by Peter Robinson and myself.

We send out Agendas, Minutes and Information about Trips, Member Lunches and Christmas.

We receive emails with queries and comments so we are able to keep everyone well-informed very quickly. It's a very efficient process with 48 Members online. We still retain, of course, verbal communication routes and hardcopies of information for Members.

Membership (David will Report)

John Upton left last June. David Houston and Mike Brabin resign today.

All for reasons related to health.

We also lost John Foster in June but happily he rejoined in November.

Very sadly we lost David Fordy who passed away on the 6th July and Mike Sockett who passed away on 4th October.

- *We gained 9 new Members*
- Wilf Elliott in May, Bill Graham in June,
- Brian Dinsdale and Kevin Clifford in July,
- David Warburton and David Stevenson in October,
- Fred Logie and Richard Rose in January
- Alec Smithson in February
- Overall, an excellent year for membership.

We currently have 56 Members.

Many thanks to the Members who invited Guests to our Meetings.

This is a very successful practice for attracting new Members.

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We enjoyed the company of 17 Guest visits through the year so please continue to promote the Club.

Looking forward

Peter Robinson and myself completed a Review of the Constitution and Ethos for 2019-2020 with many proposals for change. The Adopted Constitution will be posted on the Website (Peter will Report)

Peter and I have updated the Membership Application Form and the Committee Nomination Form. They are available as hardcopies or on the website

Committee Membership has flexibility, is very active and is a major item in the Elections to follow.

The next two Member Lunches are October 2019, details to be confirmed and April 2020, details to be confirmed

Peter Robinson has offered to Organise Member Lunches

Trip Suggestions for 2020. This needs to be an Agenda item to allow discussion on the various issues.

David has booked Christmas Lunch for Tues. 10.12.19 at The Wainstones Hotel in Great Broughton.

Keith Burton & Stefan Barnes have produced the 2019/20 Programme and Cards

I have emailed the Calendar of Activities for 2019-2020

Hopefully we will be welcoming more new Members, so it will be another excellent year

And finally

I would like to thank Committee Members for their advice and guidance for me over the past year. Thank you.

- *The last word is for you.*
- *The **Club** remains very healthy offering an enjoyable service*
- *to its membership but **let us know if you think of any improvements** which will make the Club even more attractive*

Thank you for your support for myself and for the Committee.

Your participation makes a difference.

Thank you.