

Stokesley Probus Club  
AGM – Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> April 2025  
CHAIRMAN'S AGM REPORT

On behalf of the general membership, I like to start with a brief recognition of the **Committee Members** who support the management of the Club. The Committee is **one of several elements essential** to the Club remaining active and successful.

We have:

Chris Lee: **Treasurer & Membership Sec.**

Kevin Clifford: **GM**

John Edwards: **Secretary**

Derek Whiting: **GM**

Graham Howard: **GM**

Bob Scott: **Speaker Finder**

Brian Clarke: **Website Manager**

Keith Bell: **GM**

plus Chris Griffiths co-opted to Comm as a GM wef 19.11.24 to the AGM today.

And we have Maj Chuhan: **Auditor**

We hold 5 Committee Meetings per year plus **many** email and telephone exchanges with occasional meetings to support management and planning work.

The Committee enjoys outstanding Attendance and Participation from all Members.

So, on behalf of the general membership 'thank you' to all Comm. Members.

Your commitment is appreciated.

*Now a special 'thank you' to Bob Scott who steps down today as our SF.*

*Bob was co-opted to the Committee as a GM from Jan to April 2022; then at the AGM was elected as our new SF 2022 - 2027. He has brilliantly completed three years providing an interesting programme of Speakers. So, with our thanks Bob, a small token of our appreciation for your work: **The Train bk.***

**Membership** – We had 47 at the 16.4.24 AGM

We lost 7 Members with health and age-related concerns:

Brian Dinsdale 75, Brian Nicholls 94, David Hunt 83, Chris Taylor 89,

Terry Ratcliffe 87, Eddie Moore 88 and

Malcolm D'Arcy 95 (who also moved house to Ripon).

Sadly, Brian Nicholls, Eddie Moore and Brian Dinsdale passed away.

We held Eulogies for Garry Turner, Brian Nichols, Eddie Moore and Brian Dinsdale

Eulogies and In Memoriam entries are on the Club Website.

We also lost Colin Hurworth. He enjoyed most of the Speakers but in order to know everyone he needed to join in with trips and lunches and was uncomfortable with these types of events.

This reduced the membership from 47 to 39

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

We missed out on one or two but let's keep a welcome.

We gained new 5 Members  
 Robin Stimpson via Kevin Clifford (joined 20.8.24)  
 Paul Bruce via KW (joined 15.10.24)  
 John Richardson via Bob Blakey (joined 21.1.25)  
 Graham Tyrer via Chris Lee (joined 21.1.25)  
 Laurie Graham via KW (joined 21.1.25)  
 We currently have 44 Members.

*Please continue to promote the Club.*

### **Monthly Meetings 2024 - 2025**

The Meetings are the popular heart of the Club, **another essential element**.  
 They provide an opportunity for Members to enjoy Conversations prior to the  
 Speaker and Refreshments led by **Keith Bell with Derek Whiting and John Edwards**.

#### **Thanks to Keith**

The average number of Members attending each Meeting this year was 27 (61%).  
 31 last year.

Feb. 2025 (27 attended & 11 apols) div. by approx. 44 Ms (86% active Members)

These are excellent %s given health issues and holidays.

#### **attendance**

Ap	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Jan	Feb	Mar	Tot.	Avg.
25	24	26	27	25	28	28	28	31	27	30	299	27

#### **apologies**

10	7	7	6	8	4	8	8	4	11	5	73	7
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The **Speaker Programme** 2024-2025 led by **Bob Scott**.

The diversity and quality of Speakers **remains another essential element** to  
 enjoying Club membership. We had:

#### **2024:**

April William Gilard Brown - Christine Corbett  
 May Rowing the Atlantic - Jasmine Harrison  
 June Darlington to Saltburn Railways - Colin Hatton  
 July Carlton Camp - Andrew Rees  
 Aug. Exploits in Greenland - Ted Parker  
 Sept. Smith of Maddiston Remembered - Paul Bruce  
 Oct. Ready for Anything - Tim Townsend  
 Nov. Seaton Delaval Hall - Phil Burton

#### **2025:**

Jan. The World's Worst Airport - Bob Scott  
 Feb. Ewes, Moos and Yaks – Michael Kirke  
 Mar. The Pennymans of Ormesby Hall - Phil Burton

Something for everyone in another brilliant and vibrant programme.

**Thanks to Bob** Questions were excellent and welcome.

Thanks to Members for the Speaker suggestions. Keep them coming in.

**Member Lunches:** led by **Peter Robinson** and Keith Waller

We have now enjoyed another year with an increased number of members attending the lunches.

June 2024 The Crown, Kirklevington 16 Ms 7 apols

Sept. 2024 Tockett's Mill, Guisborough 18 Ms 2 apols

Oct. 2024 The Panda, Stokesley 17 Ms 6 apols

Mar. 2025 Blacksmiths Arms, Swainby 19 Ms 9 apols

Guests were invited.

All four lunches were enjoyed in a convivial atmosphere.

**Thanks to Peter - anything to add?**

**Christmas Lunch** on Tues. 10<sup>th</sup> Dec.2024 at The Wainstones in

Gt. Broughton was another festive success, an annual treat.

29 Members & 22 Guests attended. (42 in 2023)

**Thanks to Chris Lee** for all his work organising the event.

### **Trips**

3.7.24 Land of Iron Museum & Grinkle Park Hotel

13 Members & 5 Guests enjoyed exploring the mine

followed by an enjoyable lunch

Several other venues were suggested by Members. Unfortunately, following initial research, they were deemed to be unsuitable or visits not permitted.

-Brands Sands sewage works (Mike McCamley/Colin Howard/Malcolm Beavis)  
no public visits

-Marske sewage works (Stefan Barnes) not located

-Tocketts Mill (Graham Howard) visiting very restricted

-Boulby Potash Mine&Grinkle Park Hotel (Graham Howard) no visiting

-Whitby Brewery (Graham Howard): visit declined

-Whitby Gin (Graham Howard): visit declined

**Website** ([stokesleyprobus.co.uk](http://stokesleyprobus.co.uk)) has been successfully and creatively developed by

**Brian Clarke** with a focus on current business. The website is easy to access and contains considerable Club Information. **Thanks to Brian**

### **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 41 Members online.

We still retain verbal communication routes and hardcopies of information for Members.

### Looking forward .....

- We have completed a Review of the **Constitution** for 2025–26 Adopted (3yr universal Comm tenure)  
Posted on the website by **Brian Clarke** and emailed to Members
- **Committee Membership** continues with stability and effectiveness  
We currently have 10 Members Photo on website
- There will be 4 **Member Lunches**: dates and venues confirmed by **Peter Robinson**.  
Next one: Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> April at The Royal Oak in Gt. Ayton  
Posted on the website and emailed to Members
- **Chris Lee** has booked **Christmas Lunch** for Tues 9th Dec. 2025 at The Wainstones Hotel in Great Broughton.  
Posted on the website and emailed to Members
- **Bob Scott** has Planned another excellent **Speaker Programme** for 2025-2026 which has challenged the Budget  
**Stefan Barnes** produced the **Programme Cards**.  
Issued to Members and Guests and posted on the website. Thanks to Stefan.
- **Trips**: Trips are proving to be problematic most notably due to a significant increase in costs. Member suggestions for visits are carefully considered for Member support, overall costs and transport using a Coach or Member cars.  
Trip suggestions are currently under review with decisions determined at a Monthly Meeting.  
Full details to be posted on the website and emailed to Members. Pending: Green Howard Museum/Auckland Project/Weardale Railway (Colin Howard) Castle Howard at Christmas (Jim Gannon & Norris Wilson)
- **Agendas, Minutes and Reports** from all General Meetings, Speakers, Committee Meetings and the AGM are produced by **John Edwards**.  
Thanks to **John** for his massive effort especially on the Speaker Notes.  
All posted on the website and emailed to Members.
- All **Club Activities** are posted on the website
- The **Club Finances** are in excellent order thanks to prudent management from **Chris Lee** and judicious auditing from **Maj Chuhan**  
A Review of Subs is a priority to accommodate current cost increases.  
**Thanks to Chris and Maj**  
Accounts and Subscription decisions posted on the website.
- 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 another great year. Thank you. *The last word is for you.*

*The **Club** continues to be vibrant 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 is another essential element.**