

Stokesley Probus Club
AGM – Tuesday 21st April 2026
CHAIRMAN'S AGM REPORT

I have listed **7 essential elements** to the Club remaining active and successful.
The Committee is one of them so I would like to start with an acknowledgement of:

Chris Lee: Treasurer & Membership Sec.	Kevin Clifford: GM
John Edwards: Secretary	Derek Whiting: GM
Chris Griffiths: Speaker Finder	Graham Howard: GM
Brian Clarke: Website Manager	Keith Bell: GM

And we have Maj Chuhan: **Auditor**

We hold 5 Committee Meetings per year plus **many** email and telephone exchanges with the occasional **coffee meeting** 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 the Committee Members.

Your commitment is appreciated.

Membership: a 2nd essential element - you! We had 44 Members at the 15.4.25 AGM

Current Members lost:

David Bryson passed away 14th Feb. 2026 aged 97

Past Members lost over the year with health and age-related concerns:

Michael Westgarth-Taylor stepped down at the 15.4.2025 AGM

John Crocker stepped down 20.6.2014 and passed away 26.1.26

Mike Irving stepped down 9.6.2021 and passed away 01.06.25

John Rider stepped down 19.10.2021 and passed away 17.2.26

Richard Rose stepped down 20.6.2023 and passed away 11.12.25

Terry Ratcliffe stepped down 20.8.2024 and passed away 31.7.25

David Storry stepped down 20.5.2025 and passed away 27.9.25

We held Eulogies for Members.

Eulogies and In Memoriam entries are on the Club Website.

New Members: We gained 3 new Members

Tom Simpson (15.10.25 Maj Chuhan)

Ian Taylor (17.2.26 Maj Chuhan) Jonathan Meredith (17.2.26 Bob Blakey)

Potential Members for the new year:

Alan Stemp-KW Alan Wynne-Ron Dalton Robin Winney-KW

David Foreman-Maj Mike Overy-Maj Rob Smith-Norris Wilson

We currently have 43 Members. Please continue to promote the Club.

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

The Father of the House (Club) remains John Rhind with 30 years of membership
The Elder Statesman is now John Richardson from HR who is 96.

Monthly Meetings 2024 - 2025

The Meetings are the popular heart of the Club **and the 3rd essential element.**
They provide an opportunity for Members to enjoy Refreshments and Conversations prior
to the Speaker. Led by **Keith Bell with Derek Whiting and John Edwards.**
Thanks to Keith Bell and the team

The average number of Members attending each Meeting this year was **27 = 63%**
(61% last year)

May 2025 (34 attended & 7 apols) div. by approx. **43 Ms = 95% active Members**

These are excellent %s given health issues and holidays.

	Ap	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Jan	Feb	Mar	Tot.	Avg.
Attendance	27	34	24	30	25	22	29	27	27	24	30	299	27.18
Apologies	05	07	12	09	11	14	07	07	07	13	09	101	9.18
Guests	01	02	02	02	00	00	00	00	02	01	02	11	

(NB Sept Mtg held in Stokesley Methodist Church due to STH passing the Probus Booking to a U3A Meeting and not informing SPC)

The **Speaker Programme** remains a **4th essential element** to enjoying Club membership. Led by **Chris Griffiths** we had:

2025:

- April A Pocket full of tickets – Marjorie Kirke
- May Dementia Awareness – Neta Kaur-Brown
- June Those were the days – Colin Hatton
- July The railway that got the world on track – Caroline Hardy
- Aug. Nature and the Archives – Christine Corbett
- Sept. Greenland Pt2 – Ted Parker
- Oct. Tees Wildlife Trust – Tom Richardson
- Nov. Hearing dogs for the deaf – Martin Peagam

2026:

- Jan. NYMA – Raymond Clarke
- Feb. RNLI – Colin Harrison
- Mar. HMS Beagle Pilot Diaries 1825-1830 – Michael Kirke

Something for everyone in another diverse and vibrant programme of quality Speakers.

Questions were excellent and welcome.

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

Thanks to Chris Griffiths

Member Lunches: the 5th essential element of Club Social Life.

Led by **Peter Robinson**

We enjoyed another sociable year of Member Lunches all enjoyed in a convivial atmosphere. There was a slight fall in numbers attending: 70 to 57

30.04.25 The Royal Oak, Gt. Ayton 21 Ms 2 apols 1 G

05.06.25 Tocketts Mill, Guisborough 12 Ms 0 apols 1 G

08.10.25 Dudley Arms, Ingleby Greenhow 13 Ms 10 apols 0 G

04.03.26 The Crown, Kirklevington 11 Ms 11 apols 1 G

Guests were invited. Avg. 14.25 Members

Thanks

to Peter

The Christmas Lunch is the 6th essential element in Club Events. Led by **Chris Lee**

Held on Tues. 9th Dec. 2025 at The Wainstones in Gt. Broughton.

29 Members and 23 Guests attended with 4 Member apologies.

The event received mixed reviews.

This was reflected in Member discussion and subsequent Minutes at the monthly Meetings from January to March 2026. Many Member comments were very positive balanced with many Member concerns.

Alternative venues were suggested by Members and researched by Chris Lee, Organiser supported by the Chairman. This resulted in a decision to remain at the Wainstones for 2026 with a second review to follow in 2027.

Further discussions to be held with Wainstones Management.

The Structure of the event was considered but final details to be determined.

Whinstone View was considered the preferred alternative.

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

Trips: a desirable support to social activity within the Club

Trips have become problematic for all Clubs and Societies due to rapidly increasing costs especially regarding transport, admission and a range of other issues. There were many suggestions from Members:

Castle Howard Kynren Princess Alexandra Auditorium

Darlington Hippodrome Raby Castle Teesside Princess

Sunderland Empire Durham Cathedral Ampleforth Abbey

Following research into costs and levels of Member interest, all were declined.

A trip to the Yorkshire Museum in York was suggested by **Chris Griffiths** and supported by Members. This was booked by the Chairman with lunch at the Treasurer's House.

The visit was enjoyed by 13 Members and 12 Guests with 9 apols on Wed. 29th Oct.

2025

Website (stokesleyprobus.co.uk) The Website continues to be the Probus Library of activity. It is successfully and efficiently managed by **Brian Clarke** with a focus on current business. The website is easy to access and contains considerable Club Information.
Contact Brian with any queries or comments. **Thanks to Brian**

Communication

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

All posted on the website

We receive emails with queries and comments, so we keep everyone well-informed very quickly. It's a very efficient process with 40 Members online. We retain verbal communication routes and hardcopies of information for Members.

Looking forward

- We have completed a Review of the **Constitution** which was Adopted without change

Posted on the website by Brian Clarke and emailed to Members

- **Committee Membership** continues with stability and effectiveness

We currently have 9 Members **Individual Images to be posted on the website**

- There are 4 **Member Lunches**: dates and venues confirmed by **Peter Robinson**
Next one: Thursday 4th June 2026 at The Blackwell Ox in Carlton

Details posted on the website and emailed to Members

- **Chris Lee** has booked **Christmas Lunch** for Tues 8th Dec. 2026
at The Wainstones Hotel in Great Broughton.

Posted on the website and emailed to Members

- **Chris Griffiths** has Planned another excellent **Speaker Programme** for **2026-2027**
within challenging budgetary constraints

Stefan Barnes produced the **Programme Cards**.

Issued to Members and Guests and **posted on the website**

- **Trips**: Member suggestions for visits are carefully considered for overall costs and levels of Member interest. Trip suggestions are welcome for 2026, researched and
and

decisions determined at a Monthly Meeting.

Full details are posted on the website and emailed to Members.

- **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 professional scrutiny from [Maj Chuhan](#)
A Review of Subs is a priority to accommodate on-going 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 in Club life is the 7th essential element.

KW Chairman