



LOCKED - DOWN TIMES

A monthly news update from the

Probus Club of Bransgore

April 2021

When we launched “Locked Down Times” last May as a means of keeping in touch with everyone during the first lock-down, none of us could have foreseen that it would have extended to a run of 12 issues. However, with the Prime Minister’s (fingers crossed) promise that our new freedoms are irreversible, it seems that the time has come to say a fond farewell to all matters lock-down and enthusiastically embrace our new freedoms. This, therefore will be the last edition of Locked-Down Times.

However, before you rush into print or address your concerns to social media, rest assured that we will continue to publish a monthly newsletter that will look remarkably similar to what has gone before. Hopefully, however, there will be one significant difference: a focus on future events and monthly meetings!

Club News

The monthly Zoom Committee Meeting took place on 6th March and there were actually matters to discuss around the topics of meetings and social events. We are still targeting August for our first meeting in a marquee but there are the obvious issues of maximum numbers and social distancing that we will only be able to address fully when the venues re-open.

Before then, we have the barbecue at Stephen Dennison’s on the 9th July, where the major concern is the very mundane one of will the sun shine!

Finally, we all agreed that the Zoom Quiz Nights were proving to be a big success and have arranged another one for the 29th April.

Common Interest Groups

- **Genealogy.** Meeting arranged for Tuesday 11th May. Contact Ken Tullett.
- **Classic Cars.** Tongues hanging out waiting for the pubs to re-open.
- **Walkers.** Walk arranged for Wednesday 28th April. Contact Bernard Gilbert.
- **Golf.** Solent Meads. Tuesday 27th April. Contact Peter Walmsley.
- **Camera Club.** Date of first photo-shoot to be arranged.

Possible New Group – Stamp Collectors.

Bob Gee is interested in meeting with other stamp collectors. Get in touch with him if philately is your thing. (Email: bob.gee3@btinternet.com.)

Len's Bit

It seems like every day now I end up thinking 'what an extraordinary year we have had'. Except of course it is now an extraordinary 14 months. When I look back to February 2020 and before, there seem to have been so many high and low points, unlike really any other time in my life.

On the Probus front, we had to stop the monthly lunches. Committee meetings had to move on-line and I ended up president for a second year. You can decide for yourselves whether the latter is a positive or negative but, for me, the uncertainty during both years has made the job very much harder without a comfortable monthly routine to follow. On the very positive side, easing of the initial lock-down did allow us to start up the smaller common interest groups, which I think have been a real success and I hope we can keep the momentum going when we get to a new normal.

Another success has been, for me, the on-line quizzes. The last one on the 1st April was another really enjoyable evening, with a wide variety of questions posed by Peter and Christine. Our next quiz night will be on the 29th April and everyone is welcome. Details are on the website and I will also be sending out an email. This is something we could perhaps also continue after lock-down, but, dare I say it, Face to Face.

Thank you to all for your responses to our request for views on resuming meetings when the "roadmap" allows. These have been very helpful, and will be borne in mind when we started detailed meeting planning soon.

On the personal front, not so much a year as a very long roller coaster ride. It has been really hard not seeing family but I was very grateful to see one daughter and grandson in between waves last year, and the other daughter and grandson will be visiting this month. I was also fortunate enough to get a holiday break in before the second wave, which helped postpone the stir crazy symptoms. Thankfully, having the dogs to walk daily means I do get the chance to see many of you out and about, which buoys up the spirits no end. As life slowly returns to normal, I find I now automatically reach for the calendar when the telephone rings. After months of blank pages now there are few weeks without something arranged. Next week is a big week for me, not only do I see no 2 grandson, but I have appointments for both my 2nd Covid jab and a haircut!

There is an ancient Chinese curse (attributed by many to Terry Pratchett) – "May you live in interesting times". Well the last year or more have certainly been both different and interesting, but I don't feel cursed, there is too much good stuff coming.

Deliberate Mistake

The correct answer to last month's competition was "CAMRA" instead of "Camera." Well done to all who spotted it. The first name out of the hat was that of Barry Jolly, who won what was, literally, a star prize.

For those of you who have read this far eagerly scanning for mistakes, any that you may have found were not intended and, sadly, there is no prize for spotting them this month, other than personal satisfaction!

Enjoy your new freedoms.

Stay safe, keep well.