



Fugelmere Probus Club of Fleet

www.fugelmere.org.uk

Welcome to our February 2021 newsletter.

It's the usual situation, some good news and some bad news. Bad news – lockdown extended to 8th March! Good news – some of us have now been vaccinated and the Harlington centre will soon be open for jabs. Even better news, people report it's a good process – and we are genuinely a world leader in this – at last!

More good news, we now have a second quiz master, Paul Allen (in addition to his role as Vice President!). Also, Keith Allaway has volunteered to organise on-line bridge for anyone interested in making up a four, more details below.

Recent Activities

Twenty-three households joined our Zoom monthly meeting on 11th January – the attendance is steadily increasing. Colin Summerhayes gave us a talk entitled "Melting ice, rising seas". This showed the overwhelming evidence for climate change and it was good to see the detailed facts in what is often an emotional debate in the press and social media.

Hugh Williams was our quiz master for another great quiz on 19th January. Fourteen households joined the quiz with over 20 participants in total. Keith and Margaret Allaway demonstrated their skills coming first - again – congratulations!

Programme of Future Activities

Monday 8th February - Monthly Zoom meeting and talk

We have a talk from one of members: Peter Withey. This entitled "Religious dissent and the accidental acquisition of Preston Court in Kent". Without wishing to spoil the suspense, I think there may be a family connection!

As before, all newsletter readers, spouses and partners are welcome to join the session.

As usual, we will first cover Probus matters and reports from the officers. These will start at 2:30 pm but you can join the session any time from 2pm onwards. This gives everyone a chance to make sure their Zoom connection is working and to have a chat with other members before the official business starts.

Details for connecting to this Zoom session are the same as previous months: Michael Butcher is happy to offer one-on-one support to anyone who is having difficulty with Zoom.

Thursday 18th February- Zoom quiz

This month we welcome a new quiz master, Paul Allen (so Hugh can have a well-earned break!). The format will be similar to our previous quizzes.

The quiz itself kicks off at 8pm but we will open up the Zoom session at 7:45pm for those who want to chat beforehand. The Zoom details are the same as our monthly meeting as shown above. All of your household bubble is welcome to join and assist. No need to book.

Online bridge

At last month's meeting, we asked for ideas/volunteers for other activities we could undertake during lockdown. Keith Allaway volunteered that he has been playing bridge online and that it was a successful and enjoyable experience.

No special equipment or software is required - just an ability to connect to the internet. Keith will do the rest. So, if you would like to make up a four for a game, please let Keith know (his details are in the Club Handbook). He will then arrange a mutually agreeable date and provide instructions for connecting to the online bridge site.

Walks

Although we have to cancel our planned group walks, people are allowed to team up with one other person for exercise if they wish. Remember, we can email our portfolio of recent local walks to any member who wishes.

Postponed events

If all goes according to plan (!), most of us will have had our first vaccine jab by mid-February – but we will still need to socially distance. I suspect this means that most of our first half events programme will not resume – but the message of the Covid era is that nothing is certain, and everything can change!

Also, the treasurer reports that the club currently holds deposits from 11 members out of the 18 people who signed up for the visit to Mottisfont Abbey planned for June 2020. This amounts to £180. It is intended to refund this at the next lunch, whenever that occurs.

Secretary's notes

There are two birthdays this month, Kit Mitchell 21st, Tony Trice 28th.

I will finish with a second plea for members to volunteer for the committee with the aim of joining either the Speakers' secretary team or the Events team. Please let me or any member of the committee know if you are interested.

Kind regards,

Chris Farmer,
President, Fugelmere Probus Club of Fleet