



Fugelmere Probus Club of Fleet

www.fugelmere.org.uk

Welcome to our December 2019 newsletter.

Luncheon: Monday 9th December 2019.



The menu is

Starter: Wild mushroom and chestnut soup.
Main: Roast Turkey with roast potatoes, cranberry stuffing, bacon roll, etc.
Dessert: Pear frangipani tart with clotted cream.

Please remember that the cost of luncheon is now £20.00. The speaker this month is Mark Lewis who is giving a talk on "Cribs, Cards and Christingles - The origins of Christmas Traditions and Customs". Mark is a freelance artist, designer-silversmith and semi-retired university lecturer who has enjoyed a wide-ranging teaching career. He is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts and is a Liveryman of the Worshipful Company of Horners. Mark has a particular interest in Lighthouses as well as in unusual local customs and rituals - and has published a book on the folklore and popular customs of the church.

Apologies for Absence

Any apologies for this lunch meeting must be given, by Thursday 5th December, to Ted Payne (tel: 01252 615 135, e-mail: tedpayne2000@yahoo.co.uk), or if Ted is unavailable, or you do not receive an acknowledgement from him, to Simon Hackett (tel: 01252 684 346, e-mail: simon.hackett@ntlworld.com).

For telephone calls please ensure you get a verbal acknowledgement, especially if leaving a message on answer phone or voice-mail. For e-mail, please ask for a reply from the addressee.

Our advice is not to click on the links above, but to e-mail Ted or Simon directly from your own contacts list, checking the e-mail address is up-to-date.

If you do not receive a reply, either by phone or e-mail, you will be assumed to be attending and the club will be charged for your lunch, which will be at your cost. Please note that this also applies to late apologies received after the deadline and for just forgetting to turn up!

Important Message – Possible visit to Stratfield Saye.

We would like to offer a group visit to Stratfield Saye in 2020 or 2021, but we need to know how many members would be interested. This is because group visits provide exclusive access to the house on a day when it is not open to the public, for which there is a minimum charge, with a non-refundable deposit. The only dates that last week were available in 2020 are Wednesday 27th May and Monday 3rd August. If we go ahead the house will be open to us all day from 10.30am, guided tours are provided and pre-ordered lunches can be brought in from the Wellington Farm Shop. The visit

cost will be £14 to £20 depending on numbers and we will make our own way to Stratfield Saye. Lunch would be at your own cost. We will take a show of hands at lunch on 9th December to establish whether there is sufficient interest to justify a booking for a group visit, if a date is still available.

News of members

Dennis Staples is still in Marlborough House nursing home in Church Crookham and would love to see his Probus friends. Please advise Nora beforehand if you wish to do this.

Recent Event

Wednesday 20 November, The Museum of Military Medicine and the Aldershot Military Museum

Organiser: Kit Mitchell; Visit leader: Michael Butcher.

Seventeen members and six guests had a very interesting and eventful visit to two local museums in November. At the Museum of Military Medicine at Keogh Barracks near Mitchett, we first had a lecture on the life of James Barry, a renowned military surgeon in the mid-19th century. We then learned that James Barry was born Margaret Ann Bulkley! self-declaring (to herself only) as male, was the only way of pursuing her chosen career at that time. We then had a guided tour of medicine on the battlefield from the civil war onwards.

The group had to brave the cold in the museum as the army has not heated the Keogh Barracks or museum for the last three years! At lunchtime, we then discovered the Swan Inn had had a fire the previous day in the kitchen which caused significant delays to our lunch – but the staff responded superbly and decided not charge us for our meals and we left a very grateful tip for them to share around the staff.

The afternoon was less eventful, but we had a fascinating guided tour of the Aldershot Military Museum which is housed in an old barrack block. We learnt about the birth and growth of the barracks in Aldershot, the impact on the surrounding area and the endeavours of the early aviator Mr Cody. Several members of the group enjoyed handling the rifles and sitting in the armoured vehicles.

Kit would like to thank Michael for leading the visit and coping with a bevy of problems.



Fugelmere Probus Club of Fleet is welcomed at the Aldershot Military Museum

Forthcoming Events

Saturday 21st December 2019, Mill at Sonning Dinner Theatre, "Singin' In The Rain"

Organiser: Terry Berridge.

We have again been able to book the best seats in the house for the matinée performance of this iconic film and musical. We will travel by coach from Fleet to arrive in time for pre-lunch refreshments before sitting down to a very pleasant lunch followed by the performance. A great way to fill us all up with Christmas cheer. **The coach will leave from Holy Trinity Church at 10.45 am on the 21st December and we should park at the side away from the church as there is an evening function, so we need to clear the car park as soon as possible on our return.**

Tuesday 4th February 2020, the FAST (Farnborough Air Sciences Trust) Museum, Farnborough

Organiser: Kit Mitchell.

The FAST Museum celebrates the history of the Royal Aircraft Establishment and its predecessor, the Royal Aircraft Factory. Established in 1911, the factory designed and built military aircraft and was also a centre for research. The RAE from 1918 was one of the worlds leading aeronautical research centres covering aircraft, engines, equipment, missiles and spaceflight. The Museum is in Trenchard House, built in 1907 as the headquarters of the Royal Engineers Balloon School, it became the HQ of Lord Trenchard for the first year of World War 1. The Museum contains material from both the Factory and the Establishment, as well as exhibits about Samuel Cody who made the first powered flight in Britain nearby. A lunch table for our group will be booked at the adjacent Swan Hotel. **The cost of the visit will be £10 per person. We will make our own way to the museum. Payment will be due at the December lunch.**

27th April to 1st May 2020, Spring Break, Warners Bembridge Coast Hotel

Organiser: Ron Thompson.

For the Spring Break next year we shall be returning to Bembridge on the Isle of Wight for 4 nights half board. The island offers lots of attractions and the hotel provides entertainment every evening. Two wine receptions and a bowls match are being organised. Deposits of £30 have been paid for 39 places, which have been confirmed. The sign-up sheet is still available and additional places may still be available for members or guests wishing to join us on this holiday. Prices are £260 per person for a Standard room or £300 for a Signature room, with supplements for a sea view, patio or balcony and for single occupancy. The ferry is an additional £27.50 return per car with up to 4 occupants. **Payment of the balance will be due at the January lunch. Please note that, if we can increase the number of guests on this break to 40+, we shall obtain a further discount.**

Wednesday 11th March 2020, Skittles at the Jolly Farmer

Future dates for your diaries

Tuesday 19th May 2020 Spring Walk

Thursday 4th June 2020 Mottisfont Abbey and rose garden

Kind regards,

Hugh Williams,

President, Fugelmere Probus Club of Fleet