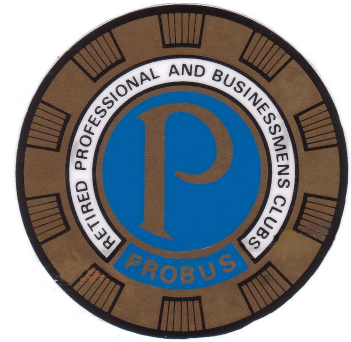


Pentland Probus Club



By Leslie Hannaford

By happy coincidence the Pentland Probus Club also celebrates in 2007 - the 25th Anniversary of foundation in 1982. The Club is not exclusive to Juniper Green but meets there and encompasses the village along with Baberton, Currie and Balerno.

Probus Clubs came into existence through a perceived need by a member of Rotary for a social gathering of retired professional and business men who wanted to meet people of similar backgrounds but without formal structures and commitments. Welwyn Garden City lays claim to the idea but it was Caterham which had similar notions that adopted the name Probus – taken from the backgrounds of the intended membership of retired PROfessional and BUSiness people.

The idea spread and became worldwide leading to Ladies' Clubs and some with mixed memberships. Clubs are autonomous – there is no worldwide governing body but generally each follows the original format of creating a regular structured meeting which provides an opportunity to socialize and extend friendship. Clubs are non- political, non-religious and are not charity fund raising organizations.

Proposals to form a Pentland Club were initiated by The Rotary Club of Currie & Balerno in January 1982. Interested parties drew up a constitution, put together a speaker programme and invited prospective members to a first meeting on 7th April 1982. Notwithstanding the original derivation of the title Probus, members come from all walks of life which diversity provides for a very interesting and entertaining social community.

The Club has a programme of 19 meetings from September to May – usually on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of the month. Apart from the opportunity to catch up on social news over coffee and biscuits the meetings include a speaker programme covering a wide variety of subjects and two outside visits. Around midsummer there is also an outing to which partners are invited.

Membership for this anniversary year is steady at 58 of which 15 are residents from Juniper Green. Only two Presidents have lived in Juniper Green – Alastair Hardie for 1993/4 and Jack Emslie 2004/5. However, Eric White who is well known in the village will make that three as he takes over for 2007/8.



Interestingly meetings were originally held in St. Margaret's Court in Juniper Green but by 1998 the membership had grown to an extent that there were concerns about overcrowding and fire regulations. A transfer was made to Juniper Green Parish Church Hall where meetings remain to this day with a membership capped at 60.



To ensure that members can maintain contact on a regular basis outside of programmed meetings a very well supported coffee morning is held throughout the year at The Kinleith Arms, Juniper Green. So it is that the Pentland Probus Club maintains a lively presence in the village.

25th Anniversary celebrations have included preparation of a written record of club history presented to members in January and a celebratory lunch enjoyed by members and guests on 4th April 2007. There is also a book 'Probing the Past' where a number of members recount stories from their lifetime at home or abroad, in wartime and in peace illustrated with line drawings. The book has been published in association with The Living Memories Association in Edinburgh and is available from them or locally.

Further information can be obtained from Secretary Leslie Hannaford – Telephone 0131 453 3012 or email to lesliehannaford@blueyonder.co.uk

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