



PROBUS Global Newsletter December 2020



Christmas Greetings from President Shirley Roberts and the Management Team

Another year has nearly past and one we shall always remember with all the restrictions we have endured in our countries due to the Covid19 pandemic.

As here in the UK we now approach the Winter season which starts on the 22nd December may we pray that 2021 will give us some hope that we shall once again be able to socialise again within our Probus clubs and generate a new optimism for future growth in PROBUS.

However for some clubs this might not be possible as we are getting feedback that some clubs might fold due to the pandemic. May I reassure all PROBUS Global members if this happens to their club they may still remain a member of PROBUS Global.

By now you will most likely have done most of your Christmas shopping either online or venturing out with the required mask and bluetooth turned on your mobiles to enable the test & trace app in your country to be useful.

Have a happy time with your family at Christmas if this is possible and look in on the website for some news, inspiration or just for a chat in the meantime.

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Announcement

We are pleased to announce that

Rob Neary from Highlands Probus Club and currently President of PAQ Australia has

joined us on the Management Team . Rob will be able to help with any queries you may have relating to Probus in Australia.

We thank Steve Campbell a founder member for his service who has resigned from the Management Team due to personal reasons.

Survey

Thank you to all members who took part in the Nossal survey and also our August survey questions. We continue TO ask for your opinions in the Survey Page which may have altered or been added to the last time you looked at that page.

Presentation.. Click on link to ask for invite

<https://probusglobal.org/Meetings/#BX-DEC08>



Aussie Christmas



As Australia gradually recovers from the pandemic, it looks as though most areas will be allowed to have an almost normal traditional Christmas. Many Probus clubs will celebrate Christmas with a lunch or a bar-b-que some time during December, but the Oz Chrissy traditions are somewhat different from that of our Northern Hemisphere friends. Because it is hot, traditional English Christmas fare has gone by the wayside, replaced by local and seasonal produce such as cold meats, crustaceans and salads. As a sop to British tradition, cold ham and turkey may be on the menu but puddings are more often than not replaced by Aussie Pavlovas and copious amounts of cherries, all washed down with ice cold beer. While some Probus Christmas functions may be formal affairs in hotel restaurants or cafes, others are casual, just like most family Christmas celebrations. Christmas dinner is actually lunch, and tends to be very informal - picnics on the beaches and in the parks, or back yard bar-b-ques are the most common. Being summer, it is not unusual to have Christmas Day above 30 degrees Celsius, so Father Christmas has been known to show up in shorts and thongs (flip-
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flops) to greet the children. Many people wear Christmas hats to mark the day – whether they are surfing, feasting, or while cooking the prawns on the barbie. Dogs are draped in tinsel and street parties are not unknown.



And then there are the Aussies who live in the bush, or far from a beach, so they have to put up with celebrating Christmas poolside. It's a hard life - as explained by the quintessential Aussie version of *Jingle Bells* [here](#).

As an exception on Christmas Day, the country deliberately takes a day off from sport. But being a sporting nation, one day is enough, and two major events traditionally commence the next day - the [Boxing Day Test Cricket match](#), and the [Sydney to Hobart Yacht Race](#). The summer holiday TV season is mainly replays of old films and sit-coms, so watching these sporting events, for the next few days, becomes the major lounge room activity while overcoming the effects of over-indulgence. Also on screen are "hard core" replays of a deluge of previous local sporting games, live streams of the NBA matches in the USA, closely followed by tennis – the Australian Open.

Being multicultural, we also borrow traditions from other cultures of course, but Christmas for Aussies, apart from family and food, are sand, surf, Santa, sport, sunscreen, and mozzie repellent.

Mary Wilson - Probus Club of Holland Park Central (pictures not copyright)



INFORMATION

OF
PROBUS VLAANDEREN.

The C.I.C. (coordination and information center) of Probust Belgium has divided the Belgian Probust clubs, based on culture, into six regions;

4 Dutch-speaking and 2 French-speaking regions.

The domain name: "Probust-Vlaanderen" is the clear representation of the 4 Dutch-speaking regions.

Region 1 = West Flanders, region 2 = East Flanders, region 3 = Antwerp, region 4 = Limburg / Flemish Brabant / Brussels

There is a website for the Dutch-speaking regions:

<http://www.probus-vlaanderen.be>

This website has been created based on the following parameters:

1. A website serving and for the four regions of Dutch-speaking Probust clubs.
2. User-friendly, fast and with one click, reach the individual website of a Dutch-speaking Probust club.
3. Probust clubs that do not have their own website, provide them the opportunity to develop a "Public Page" and "Club Private Page" and have it managed by the club.
4. Probust to help clubs that want to develop their own website with the necessary instructions.
5. Modern, dynamic, pleasant and informative.
6. Using Drupal software with a very good provider; timely maintenance and immediate updating to the latest state.
7. Independent website, affordable and free from advertising or other announcements.

8. Revelation of important Probust events or future events.

9. "Links" to important websites in line with Probust happen.

10. Application of the Laws of Privacy.

Important for this website is the menu:

Stay in your room. (Blijf in Uw kot)

To break through the loneliness of the Dutch-speaking Probust members, the Probust members find information about corona, sightseeing , WhatsApp, video conference, travel, entertainment, and so on.

When this menu was created on the website, there were more than a thousand visitors in no time.

[Roger Leppens](#)

PROBUS Belgium

<https://www.probus-belgium.be>

managed by the Coordination and Information Center (CIC)

was founded in 1984 by George Dick († 2017) member of Rotary club Antwerp-Ring. George was also the driving force behind the Belgian Probustclubs as national coordinator for 16 years.

Stany Verougstraete, member of Probustclub Dendermonde and founder of the C.I.C. in 2001, succeeded him in this position from 2000 to 2005.

What matters most at PROBUS is the friendship between the members of the club, and across the clubs. All activities are aimed at this. And that friendship also extends across national borders, even though there is no international umbrella of PROBUS.



PROBUS

We're coming up to Christmas

We're back in lockdown too

How will we all manage

With nothing left to do?

We've bought our Christmas presents

We'll wrap them in good time

The wonders Amazon brings us

Delivered directly every time

We won't be having parties

But we'll still be in good cheer

Through deliveries Tesco brings us

We're well stocked with wine and beer

It won't be the same as normal

We'll miss the friends we've lost

But life goes on without them

Despite our personal cost

So enjoy the Christmas season

And make the Probus toast

To fellowship and good friendship

Right now we need it most!

Derek Treagus



Banchory-Ternan Men's Probus Club

Hi, I'm Stan Thomson, former President and current Secretary of Banchory-Ternan Men's Probus Club, Banchory, near Aberdeen, Scotland, United Kingdom.

A few months ago I registered with 'Probus Global' and have since made many new friends through the facilities available on their website. It certainly does make the world a smaller place when we have an organisation such as 'Probus Global' at our fingertips. The information that is to hand, together with the fact that their Webmasters are so friendly and helpful, really makes for the world being your Oyster.

Through 'Probus Global' I got invited to be present, virtually these days of course, at a number of meetings of The Men's Probus Club of Newmarket, Ontario, Canada, and thoroughly enjoyed each visit. Their Management Committee is so very efficient and professional. At the meetings I attended they had excellent speakers who gave informative, educational, Interesting and thought provoking presentations. Indeed and actually, I was invited, and spoke to, a virtual meeting of their club, about my Probus Club and our surrounding area in Banchory, and beyond. It was good to be able to advertise the fantastic area we all live in here.

I look forward to a time without Covid, when we will be as we were, and can meet and socialise with everyone, and be happy again.

Please take care and eventually we will be back to normal times and can enjoy life together again.

Stan Thomson Secretary

Banchory-Ternan Men's ProBus Club

The Pandemic and Art



As a result of the spread of the Coronavirus / COVID-19 we've all been stuck at home a lot over the past eight months, which brings with it new, unexpected dilemmas.

At times like this, it is hugely important to stay busy. The stimulus of drawing and painting allows us to momentarily forget about the immediate reality, and provides us with a much-needed mental rest which lowers stress and generates relaxation and happy feelings.

Can I tell you about my journey in the art pursuit, and subsequent diminution of worries and pressures I was under at the time, a long while ago.

I had never ever considered taking up painting. I didn't think for a minute I would be able to draw anything, far less paint it. I don't remember ever drawing or painting anything when I was young and at school. Staff members worked real hard at trying to find out what made me tick, and injecting some knowledge into me. So, fast forward about forty years and I am in a caravan site where I have purchased a caravan, Anyway, I was walking through the site one day, trying to get some fresh air and clear my head a bit so that I could find some good thoughts, when a miracle happened. Well it probably wasn't a miracle cause I met someone, and he didn't have wings or a beard!

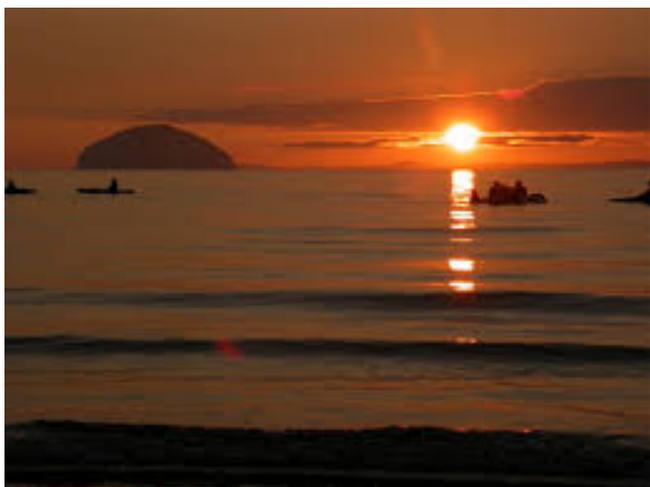
What happened was that I came across this little caravan sitting on the side of the roadway through the site and, not that I was doing my 'peeping Tom' act, or anything, but I happened to glance through the front window as I passed, and noticed a chap standing there at an easel, painting. I'd never seen an artist at work before so I blatantly stared through the window watching this chap. I can't really explain what went through my mind but I felt so much at ease as I watched this chap produce a lovely colourful scene on the canvas Well, I think the guy got so fed up being stared at while he was working that he invited me in for a coffee. Bob had been painting most of his life and was renting this small van to use as a studio.

After that first meet I was a regular visitor to Bobs studio , and, through time, Bob got me involved in the art of painting. He loaned me a few tubes of paint, some brushes and a couple of small blank canvases. With a bit of direction from Bob I eventually turned out a painting which I was quite pleased with. To say that I was painting at Bobs studio every day of that two week visit to the caravan site would not be an understatement. I was hooked, and I couldn't get enough of it. I don't know how to explain it but being involved in something that made me think, and something I was enjoying, was helping me to forget my troubles. Painting was helping me feel much better, relaxed, whatever, and was easing my tensions much better than any medication had ever been.

During the rest of the summer of 95', when I had first met Bob, I was never away from his studio when I visited the caravan site for weekend breaks / holidays. Ray, my wife, said that it was worse than being a golf widow! During the winter of 95' / 96' I enrolled in a night class course - 'Basic Oil Painting' it was called. I had tried various mediums in
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Bobs studio but really liked painting in oils. I had learned a lot from Bob but I wanted to be taught by a professional and as the course was being held in the renowned 'Glasgow School of Art' I felt it would be a good place to meet a professional artist. 'Glasgow School of Art' is no longer with us, having been burned to the ground a couple of years ago – for the second time! I am sure it will be rebuilt again very soon

Following being tutored at the Art School that winter I carried on painting at home until the spring of 96' when the caravan site opened and I could get back into Bobs studio. I painted a lot that year and when the next winter arrived I enrolled in another course at the 'Glasgow School of Art'. This time it was a course on Portrait painting, which I loved.



I'm afraid I didn't really follow up with what I had learned about painting portraits but carried on painting in oils. My favourite painting subjects were Landscapes, Seascapes and Sunsets. You couldn't get a better venue for a Seascape, or a Sunset, than at the caravan site. The site was right on the edge of the West coast of Scotland, with the sun in the evening going down over an island called 'Ailsa Craig', or 'Paddy's Milestone' as it is otherwise known as, or later in the year, over the Mull of Kintyre.

Absolutely fabulous painting material.

From 1996 I painted right through to 2007 joining a local Cambuslang, Glasgow, Art Club in one of the church halls where we had a 'tutor' who kept us right. We arranged the occasional Art Exhibition there, and where I sometimes managed to sell a painting or three. In those days we were asking for £30 to £50 for a painting, not the hundreds of pounds that's asked nowadays.

During 2007 I moved to Banchory where I live now but still carried on with my painting. Occasionally I enrolled in a winter and / or spring art course which is held twice a year in the art room in Banchory Academy. That is, until a couple of years ago when I found myself out every night of the week through one thing or another that I was involved in – I still keep my hand in doing paintings, though not as much as I used to do. That is going to change very soon once I finish preparing my new studio area in the spare room, or in my office area under the stairs, (shades of Harry Potter!). I would urge anyone to start painting. If you feel that you wouldn't be very good at it remind yourself that you don't have to be as good as those you admire as artists. It's good to have artists / experts to learn from and be inspired by. But remember that they started out just the same as you. The main thing with them, and it could be with you, is that they did pick up that brush! The more you paint the more your style will evolve and confidence in your own abilities will become second nature.

The stimulus of drawing and painting allows us to momentarily forget about the immediate reality, and provides us with a much-needed mental rest which lowers stress and generates relaxation and happy feelings'

Stan Thomson Banchory Scotland

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The Men's PROBUS Club of Newmarket Rises Up to the Challenges of COVID-19

In late March this year, the government of Ontario, Canada declared a Provincial State of Emergency and imposed a general lockdown. Specific guidelines for indoor group gatherings that were put in place precluded in-person meetings at the St Elizabeth Seton Parish Hall.

Here is a chronicle of how we have dealt with the challenges.

Cancelled the March General Meeting as a precaution before the general lockdown was announced

Held the first virtual Management Committee meeting on Skype in April and decided on Zoom as the virtual meeting platform of choice moving forward

Held first Zoom General Meeting on April 15th

General Meetings remain on Zoom currently

Instituted a "wellness check" on all members in April

Call Leads reached out via phone calls and emails twice a month until July when the province began to re-open Launched our website in addition to Facebook to broadly communicate with members and the newly retired; <https://www.mensprobusclubofnewmarket.ca>

Made available video recordings of feature presentations on our website for those who could not join Zoom meeting live; <https://www.mensprobusclubofnewmarket.ca/videos.html>

Enabled cashless membership renewal payments by adding an Interac e-transfer option to mail-in cheques

Extended invitations to our General Meetings to clubs across Canada as well as members of PROBUS Global

Canadian guests stretch across the country from British Columbia to New Brunswick

International guests from across the globe including UK, Belgium, France, South Africa, Australia and India

Our General Meeting, held on the 3rd Wednesday of each month from 10:00 to 12:00 EST, will be on Zoom until further notice. For security reasons, virtual meetings are by invitations only. To submit your request to attend, please complete the form at <https://www.mensprobusclubofnewmarket.ca/contact-us.html>

Check our speakers and topics, past and future, at <https://www.mensprobusclubofnewmarket.ca/speakers.html>

BE A FRIEND - BRING A FRIEND - MEET A FRIEND





On behalf of the service and support team for Probus in Australia and New Zealand, we would like to extend our very warm wishes to Probus Global members for the festive season.

While 2020 may well be the year many of us would like to forget, this year has highlighted how important the connections we make through Probus are to all of us.

Let's hope that we can all start 2021 with Probus Fun, Friendship and Fellowship

Warm Regards



PLANT QUIZ

PLANTS

Below are the clues to 25 different plants. As with most gardens, there's a bit of a mixture: flowers, vegetables, herbs - maybe even the odd tree. Only

the popular names rather than the scientific ones, although in a couple of cases the scientific name is clearly the only answer that can be given.

1. This is always the best policy
2. Don't fiddle with these
3. Long eared ringer
4. Part of a young horse
5. Citrus flower from Chihuahua
6. In part, this tradesman's got a bit of a back problem
7. Dick Grayson's looking a bit frayed
8. A black bird that swears
9. A new one sweeps clean
10. This tree's ffazy about bricks & mortar
11. Card game that'll leave you sore
12. Avalanche
13. You'll need the man from No. 6 to fix this!
14. A brand of soft cheese
15. Sybil's other half
16. These poor ladies don't have dancing partners
17. In Greek Mythology, she was messenger to the gods
18. Springing up in Belgium
19. Did this instrument of punishment come from an American state?
20. Wise man's stamp
21. Preserve to feed a baby
22. Demure ranks
23. Where Felix coins his money
24. Oriental sea creature
25. This youth fell in love with his own reflection.

Answers page 10



the most commonly used letter in the alphabet is E

dreamt is the only word that ends in mt

the first letters of the months July through to November spell JASON

there are only 4 words in the English language which end in 'dous' (they are: hazardous, horrendous, stupendous and tremendous)

the oldest word in the English language is 'town'

'Bookkeeper' and 'bookkeeping' are the only 2 words in the English language with three consecutive double letters

the word 'Strengths' is the longest word in the English language with just one vowel

the dot on top of the letter 'i' is called a tittle

the past tense for the English word 'dare' is 'durst'

the word 'testify' derived from a time when men were required to swear on their testicles

The first English dictionary was written in 1755

1 out of every 8 letters written is an e

the word 'almost' is the longest in the English language with all the letters in alphabetical order

the longest one syllable word in the English language is 'screched'

all pilots on international flights identify themselves in English regardless of their country of origin

the expression to 'knuckle down' originated from playing marbles (players used to put their knuckles to the ground for their best shots)

the word 'almost' is the longest in the English language with all the letters in alphabetical order

the most commonly used word in English conversation is 'I'

For Your Amusement



So now lets have a few chuckles with the contents below.

While shopping for vacation clothes, a husband and wife passed a display of bathing suits. It had been at least ten years and twenty pounds since she had even considered buying a bathing suit, so she sought her husband's advice. 'What do you think?' she asked.

'Should I get a bikini or an all-in-one?' 'Better get a bikini,' he replied. 'You'd never get it all in one.'He's still in intensive care.

A man is recovering from surgery when the Surgical Nurse appears and asks him how he is feeling.

'I'm OK but I didn't like the four letter words the doctor used in surgery,' he answered.

'What did he say,' asked the nurse.

'Oops!'

'Mr. Clark, I have reviewed this case very carefully,' the divorce Court Judge said, 'And I've decided to give your wife £775 a week,'That's very fair, your honour,' the husband said. 'And every now and then I'll try to send her a few quid myself.'

New Survey Questions.

Would you be more likely to attend Probus Global meetings on

Weekdays

Weekend

Preferred Local time

Website

How often do you visit our website

Which sections of the website are you interested in

Which section of the website do you find most informative

What, if anything would you like added to the website

PLANTS. Answers

- 1.Honesty
- 2.Violas
- 3.Harebells
- 4.Colstfoot
5. Mexican Orange Blossom
6. Plumbago
- 7.Ragged Robin
8. Crocus
9. Broom
- 10.Walnut
11. Red Hot Poker
- T2. Snowdrop
13. Leek
14. Primula
15. Basil
16. Wallflowers
- 17.Iris
18. Brussel Sprouts
19. Virginian Stocks
20. Solomon,s Seal
21. Honeysuckle
22. Primrose
23. Catmint
24. Japenese Anemone
25. Narcissus
26. Carnation or Cyclamen
27. Poppy
28. Cowslip
29. Foxglove or Bear,s Breeches
30. Sage
- 3T. Roses
- 32.Broccoli
33. Pussy Willow
34. Chinese Lantern
35. Cosmos
36. Hydrangea
37. Savoy Cabbage
38. Chives
39. Marrow
40. Dandelion
41. Phlox
42. Magnolia
43. Elder
44. Parsley
45. Swede
46. Tulips
47. Canterbury Bells
48. Budleia
49. Thrift
50. French Marigold

Ideas to keep yourself happy in Lockdown.

Even though there might be frost or snow on the ground or a lovely sunny day there is always the garden or balcony to take a special photograph. Birds coming to your feeders or bees descending on your flowers so why not get the camera out and take a photo.

Books to read.

Suggestions always welcome but why not return to read some of your own books tucked away in some cupboard ready to take to the charity shop.

Making a phone call once a week.

Perhaps ringing another Probus friend from your club which will bring happiness to both of you especially if they have no hubby to talk to.

Sending a group email .

You may have special group of friends in your Probus club so why not share with them any amusing article you might have been sent from another source. Chuckles are always welcome.



<https://www.literacyshed.com/diving-giraffes.html>

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Nuances of the English Language

Lovers of the English language might enjoy this.....How do non-natives ever learn all the nuances of English???

There is a two-letter word that perhaps has more meanings than any other two-letter word, and that word is "UP."

It's easy to understand UP, meaning toward the sky or at the top of the list, but when we awaken in the morning, why do we wake UP ?

At a meeting, why does a topic come UP ? Why do we speak UP ,and why are the officers UP for election and why is it UP to the secretary to write UP a report?

We call UP our friends and we use it to brighten UP a room, polish UP the silver, we warm UP the leftovers and clean UP the kitchen. We lock UP the house and some guys fix UP the old car.

At other times the little word has a real special meaning. People stir UP trouble, line UP for tickets, work UP an appetite, and think UP excuses.

To be dressed is one thing but to be dressed UP is special. And this up is confusing:

A drain must be opened UP because it is stopped UP .

We open UP a store in the morning but we close it UP at night. We seem to be pretty mixed UP about UP !

To be knowledgeable about the proper uses of UP , look the word UP in the dictionary. In a desk-sized dictionary, it takes UP almost 1/4 of the page and can add UP to about thirty definitions

If you are UP to it, you might try building UP a list of the many ways UP is used. It will take UP a lot of your time, but if you don't give UP, you may wind UP with a hundred or more.

When it threatens to rain, we say it is clouding UP . When the sun comes out we say it is clearing UP . When it rains, it wets UP the earth.

When it doesn't rain for awhile, things dry UP

One could go on & on, but I'll wrap it UP , for now my time is UP , so Time to shut UP

Oh...one more thing:!

What is the first thing you do in the morning & the last thing you do at night?

Quotes

"How did it get so late so soon?

It's night before it's afternoon.

December is here before it's June.

My goodness how the time has flown.

How did it get so late so soon?" — Dr. Seuss

"From December to March, there are for many of us three gardens -

the garden outdoors,

the garden of pots and bowls in the house,

and the garden of the mind's eye."

- Katherine S. White

"May you have the gladness of Christmas which is hope;

The spirit of Christmas which is peace;

The heart of Christmas which is love."

- Ada V. Hendricks



**Make your
2021 PROBUS
Year
a great one!**

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