

AUDLEM & DISTRICT PROBUS CLUB 25th ANNIVERSARY : 27th April 2020

Background

The Probus movement owes its origins to Rotary International Britain and Ireland but unlike Rotary, it has no central Governing Body and each club decides its own constitution and organisation - all within the concept of providing opportunity for fellowship for like minded retired professional people. Every Club is autonomous. The name PROBUS derived, of course, from PROfessional and BUSiness. PROBUS is a Latin word meaning virtuous / upright. Now there are clubs throughout Europe, the USA, India, Canada, Africa, Australia and New Zealand.

Audlem & District Probus Club

In June 1994 Derek Rooke was appointed President of the Rotary Club of Nantwich and had the idea of forming a new Probus Club. He approached Humphrey Parker, a fellow Rotarian and Audlem resident whom he had known for many years and asked him to get together a nucleus of interested people in the village. Eventually a core group of 15 or so people was established and agreement was reached with the landlord of the Lord Combermere to hold fortnightly meetings there.

Several initial meetings were held by Derek and Humphrey, but the most important was the inaugural meeting on the 27th April 1995 when Derek presented Humphrey, as Founding President, the Badge of Office which had been donated by the Rotary Club of Nantwich. **The Audlem and District Probus Club had been formed and was meeting regularly.**



Founders Meeting 1995

Eventually the meeting place at the Lord Combermere which had served the Club well for several years was considered too small and so the Club moved to Brookfield Golf Club in 2005 where we were made very welcome by the owners. This location has been a major contributor to the continuing growth of the Club.

20th Anniversary at Brookfield 2015

Brookfield was put up for sale in 2017 and the club was reluctantly forced to find a new location.



Audlem Public Hall was chosen and although the transition was difficult it has worked out very well and the club is now happy and settled in its new location.

Our Programme

The club continues to meet fortnightly on the second and fourth Thursdays of each month. Members enjoy socialising with each other over coffee and biscuits on arrival, followed by a speaker chosen by our Speakers Secretary. The club is fortunate in being able to attract interesting speakers who address us over a wide variety of topics. Many members complete the morning by lunching locally in groups.



Christmas 2013 Meeting where we were entertained by the Congleton Town Crier

The club enjoys a varied social programme organised by our Social Secretary for the benefit of our members and their wives. It includes coach trips to interesting venues such as stately homes and gardens and conducted tours of local factories and manufacturing businesses, in addition to winter social evenings of games and quizzes and summer evening events such as BBQs and skittles.

A Visit to Jaguar Landrover production line followed by a circuit of the test track

In addition, the club organises an annual holiday by coach to a wide range of venues for its members and wives.



Lake District Holiday 2013

There is also an active walking group within the club which undertakes local walks of about 4 to 5 miles, usually followed by a pub lunch.



Probus Walk, winter 2016

Today our membership stands at slightly less than 80 members with a self imposed limit of 100. The club is one of the most vibrant Probus clubs in the area and enjoys a critical mass large enough to allow us to attract the best speakers and to organise a wide range of social activities well supported by our members.

We look forward with confidence to the club continuing to prosper in the coming years.

