

**Christchurch Probus Clubs 40th Anniversary Year
Celebration Lunch Wednesday 21st June 2017, Careys Manor Hotel**



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Christchurch Mayor Cllr Nick Geary congratulates Probus President watched by Avril Owton

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President Robin Haggett presents a donation to Christchurch Mayor Cllr Nick Geary's charities

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This is the 40th Year of Christchurch Probus Club. It was decided to have a Celebration lunch to honour this occasion. This mammoth task was given to Colin Dobson our Dining Secretary. He organised everything from the menu choice, seating plan, name and menu choice table cards through to collating all the monies. The club would like to thank Colin for his sterling efforts. Our President Robin Haggett also contributed by designing and printing a special 40th Anniversary Menu.

Harold Jones one of our members took the main group photograph to record this special occasion.

Mike Harrold our Vice President took the photographs of the Mayor and our President.

Maurice Dowling our Secretary took all the other random photographs.

Ken Heap our Programme Secretary engaged the services of Avril Owton MBE. Avril was a former Tiller Girl (London Palladium) who is now a successful business woman and owns The Cloud Hotel in Brockenhurst. Avril gave us a talk on her career and anecdotes right up to the present time. All the members of the club thoroughly enjoyed her talk.

Last but not least Graham Newton our Welfare Officer and Mike Penn a Past President of the club put together a booklet covering the history of the first 40 years of the club 1977 to 2017 again another mammoth task. Every member received a copy which was well received.

Again the club would like to thank everyone involved.

A great Team effort!

Christchurch Probus Club gave a donation to the Mayor's charities which are: - Christchurch Food Festival Education Trust, Christchurch Lifesaving Club and Highcliffe Scout Group.

**THE WORSHIPFUL THE MAYOR
COUNCILLOR NICK GEARY**

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Mr Robin Haggett, President
Christchurch Probus Club



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28 June 2017

Dear Robin

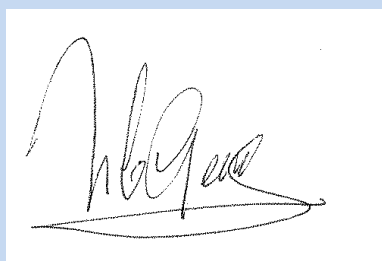
It was a great honour to be invited to the Christchurch Probus Club 40th Anniversary Celebration Lunch and may I thank you for your very generous hospitality.

I thoroughly enjoyed the occasion and everyone made me so welcome, for which I thank you. The lunch was delicious and the talk afterwards by Avril was very entertaining. May I also thank you and your members for the very generous donation you presented to me for my Mayor's Charities, I know that they will be most appreciative of this.

I wish you and your members every success for the future and look forward to the next 40 years. Perhaps one day I might be old enough to join you.

With kind regards

Yours sincerely



Cllr Nick Geary
Mayor

THE ANCIENT BOROUGH OF CHRISTCHURCH

Donation cheques can be sent direct to Christchurch Borough Council, Bridge St, Christchurch, BH23 1AZ for attention of the Mayor's Office, and payable to 'CBC Mayor's Charity Fund'
The Mayor's charities are: - Christchurch Food Festival Education Trust, Christchurch Lifesaving Club and Highcliffe Scout Group.

Christchurch Probus Clubs 40th Anniversary Year Menu



40th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION LUNCH

Wednesday 21st June 2017

12.00 Noon for lunch at 1.00pm

Cedar Suite

Careys Manor Hotel & Spa

Lyndhurst Road. Brockenhurst. SO42 7RH

Starters

Galia Melon, raspberry sorbet

Tomato Tart, rocket and parmesan salad, balsamic

Organic smoked salmon, lemon, brown bread

Main Course

Braised rib of beef, mash, spinach, red wine jus

Sea Bass, crushed new potatoes, lemon & caper sauce

Goats cheese Wellington, aubergine, courgette, basil pesto

Dessert

Chocolate tart, coffee ice cream

Vanilla crème brulee, shortbread biscuits

Cheese and crackers

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AFTER LUNCH SPEAKER:

AVRIL OWTON MBE

‘THE SHOW MUST GO ON’

From Tiller Girl to Hotel Owner!

Avril has recently completed 40 years running the Cloud Hotel in Brockenhurst – a most appropriate speaker for our Anniversary.

But before that, she was a member of the celebrated Tiller Girls Dancing Troupe.

Avril founded the Wessex Women’s Network in 2003, published her first book in 2007, and in 2008 she was awarded the MBE for her work for charities and in the hospitality sector.

It’s quite a story! From humble beginnings.....

The inaugural meeting of the Club took place on 18th April 1977 with just a small membership, and during that first year four of the speakers were from within the Club. However, as the membership grew, outside speakers were gradually brought in.

The first social events? An outing to Exbury Gardens, a visit to the Playhouse Theatre in Salisbury, and a skittles evening!

However things did not run entirely smoothly during that first year. In July two members of the committee promptly resigned, although the reasons for this are not recorded. And then sadly, the Vice President suddenly passed away. But replacements to the committee were co-opted, and the Club moved on.

Finally, in December, the members were delighted to receive the gift of a Gavel and Block (from a Mr. and Mrs. Collins) which is still in use today.

So, some 40 years later we are still going strong (membership currently 48) with the organisation of the Club having remained largely unchanged throughout that time.

Welcome to our 40th Anniversary Lunch!













