

Secretary Annual Report for 34th A GM

The Membership number on Roll stands at 38. This year we have had just one resignation.

For the past 2 years the Probus Committee has been attempting to provide full and varied programmes for each year – 2023 -2024-2025.

A pattern is emerging from the actual Members who have been on the various Events planned. It appears that as our Members age profile has developed – the Members attendances are gradually dropping in numbers, despite some initial interest in the programmes offered. Consequently it is much more challenging to make Events planned viable pricewise. This situation also has been compounded by the numbers of Members who have passed – with no full counterbalance by new Membership being taken up.

The situation has been looked at by Committee – hence their decision, this year to the send out a Questionnaire as well as to place time for full Member participation about this problem at this year's AGM. The Committee, once re-elected are keen to fully analyse the results and thereby be able to act on Members wishes and increase further participation in our planned days out.

Attempts are also being made to join up with neighbouring Probus Clubs to assist with boosting numbers ready to go on Events planned.

Better ways at improving Member Communication have meant that Member Mailing now can be tracked so that if anyone misses /does not receive information – a resend option is provided for Member help.

The current Membership Mailing by Secretary this year is 18. Information is always in green top and tail to ascertain detail of content. This is done to provide an alert for Members unsure if they could be short of any Monthly Mailings. If this is the case then do please request a re-send. There are a few Members who have not been receiving the Members Maling I send from Sitelok – our current Mailing information platform. If any Members are still not continuing to receive all or some Mailings – and have not yet let me know – and as noted above, if you do, I will send a REQUESTED COPY of each future Mailing as a backup, using my other platform source – Gmail.

Over this past year the Club Website has been given a thorough make-over. So by interacting more with our Website www.probusverwood.org.uk all Members may have a good access to much more information in a timely manner. This includes our Data/ Policy and Constitution & Rules, details of speaker's subject talks each Month, Probus Global Newsletters (sent out quarterly), Photo Gallery of our Events, details about who we are as a Club in Verwood and what we believe in, an invitation for local people to join us, Committee Officers, a News page of our recent and current President's Charities and a Confidential Log In Members' Area for details of contact for Members, Widows and Honorary Members of our Club.

This year has also seen the introduction of Policy Documents plus ensuring all Members can ensure their Privacy/Data is properly dealt with.

This year also sees a full year of being associated with Probus Global via their 4 regular Newsletters sent out as well as now having full printable copies available for Membership on a dedicated page on our Club Website.

My appreciative thanks to Assistant Secretary Gordon Simpkin, together with Member Tony Bird have given me so much helpful advice and practical support as well to all Committee Members, together with many thanks to the Vice-President Edward Murphy and President Nick Gray - in order to enable myself to carry out my duties as Secretary of Verwood Probus Club throughout this past year.

Moving to Verwood Probus Club 35th year of existence I believe we could do well to challenge ourselves to be ready to approach our Local Community residents at every opportunity with Our Aim to Increase our Membership Number On Roll - as far as we can.

Peter Richardson

Verwood Probus Secretary