

HISTORY OF PROBUS

The Probus club was conceived by three businessmen travelling to London by train. The three, James Raper, Harold Blanchard and another, as yet unknown, were reaching the point of retirement and realised they had a need for fellowship. Thus in the same time period, September 1965, Harold Blanchard, the chairman of Caterham Rotary Club Vocational Service Committee, by now retired from business, presented the idea to the Rotary Club.

The members of the Rotary Club Vocational Service Committee decided to organise a monthly lunch. In February 1966, a meeting was advertised for all retired professional and businessmen aged 60 and over. 42 men turned up. A monthly lunch was arranged, at which the Rotary Club President took the chair until the club had formed its own rules and committee. The inaugural luncheon of the first Probus Club in the United Kingdom (by that name) was on March 2, 1966.

In May 1966 a committee was formed with Harold Blanchard as chairman, who is seen as one of the 'father figures' of Probus along with James Raper. The name 'PROBUS' was suggested by a member who took the first three letters from **PRO**fessional and **BUS**iness. It had the advantage that it was a Latin word from which 'Probity' was derived. Success of the Probus Club of Caterham became known among other Rotary Clubs with new clubs being founded.

In 1974, Probus expanded into New Zealand and by 1976 the idea had spread to Australia. The first Probus club for seniors in North America was sponsored by the Rotary Club of Galt in Cambridge, Ontario, Canada in 1987.

Although Probus membership has its greatest concentrations in Great Britain, Australia and New Zealand, clubs today exist in all parts of the world, including the USA, Belgium, India, South Africa and several other countries in Africa and Asia.

THE SPIRIT OF PROBUS



PROBUS exists to provide a social forum, fellowship and friendship for like-minded people.

PROBUS is NOT a fundraising organisation however, members do contribute monthly to the Chairman's charity.

PROBUS has no central authority or head office to administer policies, procedures or systems of governance. Our Probus club is autonomous, setting our own rules and written constitution formulated by a democratically elected committee and approved by a majority of the full membership.

Coulsdon and Purley **PROBUS** Club is a non-Party Political and non-Sectarian Club. At this time, it remains a 'men only' club. Wives, partners and guests are invited to our Christmas and May lunches and to our social events and outings.

All activities organised by **PROBUS** for the benefit of its members are entirely voluntary, without any obligation or remit; the exception to this being that of essential running costs subject to scrutiny by the elected Club Treasurer.

PROBUS Meetings and Luncheons: See page headed 'Coulsdon and Purley Probus Club' for details of monthly meetings and luncheon. There is a fixed menu, however, special diets are accommodated. Dress Code: Lounge Suite / Smart Casual, Probus Tie and Name Badge.

COULSDON AND PURLEY PROBUS CLUB for retired professionals/businessmen

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Your details (CAPITALS):

Title: Honours:
First Name:
Surname:
Status: =Batchelor, =Married, =Widower
Wife/Partner Name:

Contact details (CAPITALS):

Address:
.....
..... Post code:
Telephone: Home:
Mobile:
Email (case sensitive):

Additional information:

Birth Date: Day: Month: Year:
Former Occupation:
Hobbies/Interests:
How did you hear about Coulsdon and Purley Probus?
.....

Candidate signature: Date:

continued overleaf



MEMBERSHIP APPROVAL

Please complete the form overleaf and then pass it to your sponsoring Member.

Introduced by : Date:

Tel/Email:

If you do not have a sponsoring Member, please get in touch with us (see below) and we will be pleased to put you in touch with a Member who can introduce you.

**Secretary: Email: iangpayne@btinternet.com
Tel: 01737 554449**
Webmaster: Tel: 01737 555974

For Club use only

Guest meeting date:

Approved date:

Signed:
(Club Officer)

Joined / Sub received date:

Badge ordered:

Inducted meeting date:



**Emperor
Marcus
Aurelius
Probus
276 – 282**

COULSDON AND PURLEY PROBUS CLUB

When in nearby Caterham, retired bank manager, Harold Blanchard, started the very first PROBUS CLUB for retired PROfessional and BUSIness gentlemen in 1966, little was he to know that in a relatively short time Probus would become world-wide with 4,000 clubs and over 300,000 members.

Shortly after starting the Caterham Probus, Harold Blanchard was one of the guests of honour at the formation of COULSDON PROBUS CLUB in 1968, it becoming the second Probus Club in the world. The idea quickly spread through the UK. THE PROBUS CLUB OF PURLEY was formed in 1984.

COULSDON AND PURLEY PROBUS CLUB was formed in 2023 by the merger of Coulsdon Probus Club and The Probus Club of Purley.

An active, or relaxed retirement is the well-earned dream of most of us. Never-the-less we do not want to lose that interaction we had with like-minded people which we had during our business careers. Probus offers the ideal environment to keep those contacts and make new ones over our friendly monthly luncheons.

We meet at the Purley Sports Club, The Ridge, Purley CR8 3PF on the first Thursday of each month at 12 for drinks in the bar prior to sitting down to lunch – a high quality waitress served three course meal. After lunch we have a guest speaker – topics being chosen for their interest to Probus members, followed by a business meeting. At each meeting contributions are made to the Chairman's charity.

A major part of our activities are social events which, of course, include wives, partners and guests. Outings include theatre, cruises, concerts and an annual quiz. The Ladies are especially honoured at our annual Ladies Luncheon now part of our Christmas Lunch.

Coulsdon and Purley Probus offers a warm welcome to new members and visitors. Please email, phone or visit our website for further information.

Coulsdon and Purley Probus Club



**Secretary
01737 554449**

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www.coulsdonandpurleyprobus.co.uk**