

## A Short History of Ferndown Probus Club

Shortly before Christmas, on 11th December 1979, a meeting was held at the Whincroft Hotel and formed a steering committee to form a new Probus Club. (The Whincroft Hotel was on the corner of Wimborne Road West and Whincroft Close).

The Committee consisted of Dr. T. C. Morrison, Mr J. A. James, Brigadier B. Burkin, Mr. G. W. Robb, and Dr. D. I. Dowson.

Dr. Dowson was the chairman of the Vocational Services Committee of the Rotary Club of Ferndown which had sponsored the project.

This Committee drew up a draft constitution, proposed administration details and to arrange monthly luncheon meetings.

The inaugural luncheon of the Ferndown & District Probus Club was held at the Whincroft Hotel on Tuesday 22nd January 1980. Fifty-five members attended the luncheon of which fifty-three joined. Seven others who had been unable to attend the luncheon had expressed a wish to join, making a total of 60, which was the target.

The cost of lunch was £2.30 and the Annual Subscription was £2.

At this lunch a Committee was formed and the following members were proposed, seconded and elected.

President	Dr. T. C. M. MacDougal-Morrison
Vice President	Mr. E. Babb
Secretary	Brigadier B. Burkin
Treasurer	Mr. G. Robb
Members:	Lt. Col. R. Harvey, Mr. L. James, Mr. E. Longley, Mr. L. G. J. Vickers

The Club was popular and a waiting list was created but this problem was solved when another Club was opened in the area in 1982 and was named West Moors Probus Club

In 1983 the Whincroft Hotel, situated on the corner of Wimborne Road East and Whincroft Close, was closed and demolished and in its place was built a block of flats. As a Consequence a new home was sought and we established ourselves at the Coach House Hotel in November 1983. This hotel, together with the first Haskins Garden Centre, was on the sites now occupied by Sainsbury's Supermarket and Coach House Mews.

In 2000 the two sites were sold and demolished and we were again obliged to find an alternative venue. In August 2000 we made our new home at the St. Leonards Hotel.

The two local Probus Clubs were so successful that in 1987 another Club was formed and named Forest Edge Probus Club resulting in three Probus Clubs in the near locality. Nevertheless, in August 2004 the West Moors Probus Club closed and the same happened to Forest Edge Probus Club.

At the Annual general Meeting held in March 2004 the name of the Club was changed to Ferndown Probus club.

The year 2005 heralded the 25th Anniversary of the formation of the Club. This was celebrated by a magnificent Gala Dinner-Dance which was held in the Great Hall at Canford School, Canford Magna.

Meanwhile, we were obliged to leave the St. Leonards Hotel and moved our lunches and Coffee Mornings to Dudsbury Golf Club in April 2007.

We remain at Dudsbury Golf Club and hold our monthly Lunches and monthly Coffee Mornings.