

Milford Probus Club

Information for prospective new members

Milford Probus Club, like similar national and international Probus clubs, is a monthly luncheon club for retired and semi-retired business and professional men and women to meet in convivial company. It has been established since 1999 and welcomed women members in 2016. Membership covers Godalming and the surrounding districts and currently there are over 40 members.

Monthly lunches are held followed by a presentation from invited speakers on a diverse range of topics and interests. Many of these have had a local interest and have included: 'Godalming - the knitting capital of Britain', 'Watts Gallery - Artists Village', together with many covering topical issues such as, 'The Energy Crisis, Climate Change and Potential Solutions'. In addition, there is a Christmas meal. Lunches are open to partners and additional guests.

The club usually organises a couple of social events, usually in the spring and autumn together with Godalming Probus, to places of interest and these have included Bletchley Park, Blenheim Palace, Portsmouth Dockyard, and a number of National Trust gardens and properties. Recent trips have been to Hever Castle, the Brighton Pavillion and Winchester. There is an active walking group enjoying many of the fine walks especially in the Surrey Hills and the South Downs and usually rewarded with a reviving pub lunch.

The annual membership subscription fee is £30.

Prospective members are welcome to join one of our lunches as a paying guest before committing to membership.

More information about the club can be found at www.milfordprobus.com

Details of lunches

Meetings are held on the third Friday of each month at The Masonic Hall, Ockford Road, Godalming GU7 1RQ (opposite The Inn on the Lake Hotel). There is ample parking available.

The Hall is open from 12:00 noon for registration and pre-lunch drinks at the bar. A three-course meal with coffee is served from 12:30 pm. The menu is fixed but those with any special dietary requirements can be accommodated provided ample notice is given when booking lunch.

The cost of lunches is currently £34 and includes a raffle for a bottle of wine. Any profits are given to a local charity, of the President's choice, at the end of the year.

On arrival members and guests book in at the Stewards Table to pay for lunch either by credit/debit card, cash or cheque, if they have not already paid directly to the club's bank account (preferred). They will be allocated a seat number and asked to indicate whether they will be attending the next lunch. New members and unaccompanied guests should ask the stewards to let one of the committee members know that you have arrived.

Lunch will be called at 12:30 pm and members should take their seats at the place allocated to them on arrival.

The President will introduce the speaker and any guests and then a member will say Grace. Any new members attending for the first time will be introduced and be presented with a Label name badge. Label badges are worn by members at lunch.

When coffee is served the President will propose toasts to the King and Absent Friends. The President will then give out any notices. The speaker will be asked to draw the raffle; the winning number matched to the table place number.

After the lunch there will be a short break and members are asked to clear the tables and arrange seating as appropriate.

A member will then introduce the speaker and after the talk and questions, another member will give thanks.

Members are expected to undertake a number of duties during the year: Saying Grace, acting as Stewards to book in members and take payment, introducing and thanking the speaker. In addition, members are encouraged to serve a term on the club committee.

Dress for lunch is a relaxed 'smart casual'. Ties are optional for men.

Constitution

Title and object

The Club shall be called The Milford Probus Club and shall be a luncheon club

Membership

Membership shall be open to retired or partially retired professional and business men and women

Committee

A Committee shall be elected by the general membership present at the Annual General Meeting, consisting of a President, a Vice-President, a Secretary and a Treasurer and such other members agreed by the general membership. In addition, the Committee may co-opt additional members, as required, during the year. At no time shall the committee exceed eight members. The Committee will be required to carry out the day to day running of the Club, arrange lunches, appoint new members and carry out any other duties required by the general membership.

Finance

The financial year will run from 1st April each year, other than in the first year of operation. The accounts will be audited each year. A bank account will be operated and cheques will require the signature of either the Treasurer or the Secretary.

Annual General Meeting

An Annual General Meeting will be held in May each year to appoint/re-appoint members to the committee, to receive and approve the audited accounts, to agree the annual membership fee, to agree the number of new members to be appointed and to consider any other matters notified to the Secretary at least two weeks in advance.

Alterations to the Constitution

Any alteration to this constitution shall be made either at the Annual General Meeting by a majority of those present or by members voting in a ballot of all members initiated at any time by the Committee.

Data Protection

New provisions in the Data Protection Act, which came into force in 2018, require the club to inform you what personal data we hold on individual members and what we do with it. You are entitled at any time to require the club to remove your specific personal data from its records, and/or place restrictions on the extent to which the club shares or displays this information.

The data you provided on your application to join the Milford Probus Club is entered onto a data base recording your name, the name of your spouse or partner, your address, telephone number and email address, dietary preferences, requests to be excused certain duties and the nature of your job before you retired, are all recorded together with attendance at the monthly lunches. The data is kept on record after a member ceases to be a member of the club for any reason. Access to this information is limited solely to committee members. None of this data is shared with any other party and we have no plans to share it in future.

Application for Membership

I wish to apply for membership of the Milford Probus Club and accept the Club's constitution. As the club is run by members, for the benefit of members, I understand I may be called upon to assist from time to time. By signing this application form I acknowledge that I have read the notice concerning the use of my personal data by the Milford Probus Club and I agree that the data on this form can be recorded and used as described in that notice.

Name

Address

Telephone number

Email

Spouse or partner name

Any special dietary requirements

Business/Professional background

Date

Signed

The annual subscription is £30. Payment can be made directly to the club's bank account: Milford Probus Club, Sort code 60-09-04, account number 72924047. Please quote your surname.

Please return the completed form to Miranda O'Brien (miranda.obrien@btinternet.com)