



Volume 3 | Issue 4

**March 2025**

*The newsletter of  
the Chapeltown &  
District Probud  
Club*

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# PRObuzz



## A word from Our Chairman

Dear Members, friends, family and anyone who has stumbled upon our latest newsletter by accident. Firstly, a big thank you everyone who has contributed to this publication, I hope you enjoy reading it.

I write having just been elected to Chairman at our AGM. It is an honour to take on this role following in the recent footsteps of Neil and Nick, who both did a cracking job. The Probud Club exists to provide a place of friendship and interest for its members. To that end we have coming up this year a very varied and interesting selection of speakers and several visits, including the Skipton canal boat trip in May. We do not currently have a nominated 'trips organiser' on the committee, the role is currently being covered by myself. If you would like to dip a toe in the water of a greater involvement in your club, why not suggest and organise one trip in the upcoming year. You will get 100% support from myself and our other committee members. The next suggested trips will be in the autumn to the Royal Armouries in Leeds and the AVRO aircraft museum near Stockport. These are in the early stages of planning and so would be a nice introduction to the role.

This is a special year for our club as it is our 40th anniversary. We will be holding a special dinner on 19th August to celebrate and so please put this date in your diaries and remember Friends and families are welcome. More details to follow in due course.

Best regards **Pete McDermott**





### Keith Faulkner

Keith sadly passed away on 4 February after deteriorating quickly over the last couple of weeks. He was one of our oldest members at the age of 94. Keith had been a member of Probus for over 37 years, having served as Speaker Finder and Chairman. Keith's funeral will be held at 3pm on Friday 21 March at Grenoside Crematorium's North Chapel.

### Ian Hartshorne

Ian died on 7 March at the age of 85. He joined Probus in 2000, and served as Chairman in 2008. A stalwart supporter of the Club, until recently he rarely missed our monthly meetings and seasonal events. Our thoughts are with his wife Stephanie and the family at this sad time. Ian's funeral will be held at 1:30pm on Friday 28 March at St. Mary's Church, Ecclesfield.



## Members' News

**Michael Grey** is stepping down from his role as Auditor after this year. He has been a stalwart of our Club for over 20 years, serving as Treasurer from 2004 to 2010 and Auditor from 2019 to the present. Unfortunately, Michael's health means that we may see a little less of him in the future, but we wish him well and look forward to catching up with him and Vicki whenever we can.

**Malcolm and Julia Hughes** were involved in a serious road accident recently. They are now out of hospital but suffering from numerous broken bones and bruises after what sounds like a terrifying experience. Of course we wish Malcolm and Julia a speedy and complete recovery.

**Roy Wain**, who many may remember, sends his best wishes to all, particularly some of our "older" members. Brian Moore reports that Roy suffered a stroke at the beginning of 2024. He has however made a good recovery and has not suffered any paralysis. He was the Secretary from 2008-2011 and before that was the Chairman in 2001. He left in 2013 to live in the Nottingham area.

**SUBS2025 SUBS2025 SUBS2025 SUBS2025 SUBS2025 SUBS2025 SUBS2025 SUBS2025**

At the AGM it was agreed that in the light of rising costs the annual subscription will be increased from £35 to **£37**. This is now due and can be paid **in cash at the next monthly meeting or by bank transfer to NatWest Bank**  
Account Name: **Chapeltown Probus** Sort Code: **01-00-13** Account No: **19954603**  
(If paying by bank transfer please use your surname and SUBS as the reference)

Your Committee thank you in anticipation of your continued support.

**SUBS2025 SUBS2025 SUBS2025 SUBS2025 SUBS2025 SUBS2025 SUBS2025 SUBS2025**

Some information and background about our upcoming speakers and their talks



**9 APRIL**

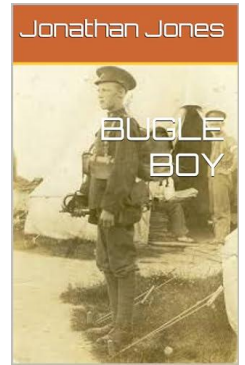
## **“The History of the American Motor Industry” Pt 1 by Paul Adey**

Paul is well known for his meticulous research and professional talks. As with previous presentations on the motor industry, he concentrates more on the people involved and less on the actual cars.

## **14 May “Bugle Boy” by Jonathan Jones**

“Bugle Boy” is Jonathan Jones’ first novel, and is set in Grenoside, Ecclesfield, Wentworth and on The Western Front. It is the story of a lad who learns his musical skills by playing for Chapeltown Silver Prize Band.

This illustrated talk is accompanied by WW1 artefacts and is about the historical background to the book as well as the process of writing.



## **11 June “Sheffield’s Cinema Heritage” by Mike Higginbottom**



At the outbreak of World War II fifty two cinemas operated in Sheffield. The very last of them closed in 1988, just as the first of the modern multiplex cinemas were opening across the city.

Mike Higginbottom has surveyed the surviving Cinema buildings and talks about Sheffield’s remaining cinema heritage, including some surprising survivals.



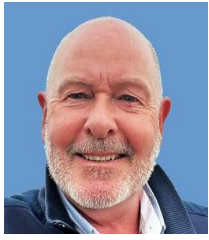
I had to attend hospital in late January for a minor procedure

I was waiting to be seen when the lad next to me said,  
“Fair fa’ yer honest sonsie face! Great chieftain o’ the puddin’ race!”

I turned my head round to the lady sat on my other side and she said,  
“Wee, sleekit, cow’rin, tim’rous beastie, O, what a panic’s in thy breastie!”

Surprised, I said to the next doctor walking past,  
“Excuse me, but is this surgical outpatients?”  
He said, “no, sorry, this is the Burns unit.”





**This month our newly elected Chairman Pete McDermott recounts some of the hazards of working abroad as a 21-year-old graduate.**

Three editions ago I introduced myself explaining my career in engineering. I mentioned my 5 months working for Davy in Morocco in 1982, (when I was a fresh faced 21-year-old with hair!) and teased you with some more interesting stories later. Well, here they are...

**Background** The northern part of Morocco was strictly Muslim, and no alcohol was allowed to be sold or consumed except in registered hotels or private homes. Additionally, the region was rebelling against the government, plus it was a known cannabis smuggling route to Europe via Tangiers, all in all an interesting place to do work experience!

Unbeknown to most people there are 2 Spanish enclaves on the northern coast of Morocco (Ceuta and Melilla), which are just like Gibraltar in that they are sovereign land and hotly disputed by the 'host' country (in this case Morocco). Melilla (on the right) was about 15 miles from where our construction site was located. I arrived in Morocco late one afternoon in July '82 and was introduced to our 'compound' where all the foreign workers (mainly British and French/Belgians) lived.

It was a walled and gated compound of bungalows, and we had our own guard who stood by the gates armed with what looked like an elephant gun ensuring that no undesirable locals broke in (not that I met any undesirables other than the police and army!).



**MFC (Moroccan Fried Chicken) at gunpoint** That first evening, a colleague asked if I wanted to join him and couple of others in going for a meal at 'THE' local restaurant in the nearby village of Selouane. They only serve chicken he said, but it's very good, and you can get a beer or bottle of wine, and so off we went. A good meal was had by all as well as a few drinks. It was around 11pm when there was a loud knock on the door of the restaurant and in charged about 6 paramilitaries armed with rifles. We were told to stand facing the wall with our hands on our heads while they pointed rifles at us and searched us for documents. As foreigners they eventually let us go, but the Belgian woman and her Moroccan husband who owned the restaurant were taken away and never seen again. That was the end of our local restaurant and an interesting introduction to my home for the next 5 months!

After this, the only options to get a drink were in our onsite 'clubhouse' or at the one (very poor) hotel in the nearest town of Nador, or to buy beer on the local black market. We used to drive down a back street in Nador, stop outside a lock-up, bang on the door and hey presto the door opened, money was exchanged for beer and the beer quickly loaded into the boot of our car and away. That was not the end of the risk however as regularly driving between work and compound we would be stopped by the local para's and asked to provide documents, and sometimes the car was searched. It was not unknown for passports to be handed over containing some 'notes' or a packet of cigarettes to smooth our progress.

**Drug Running in Melilla?** Part of my responsibilities was to take project stage payment documents to the bank in Spanish Melilla. One afternoon I went as normal into Melilla only to find the bank closed for a late lunch, so in my scruffy work gear and with a rucksack on my back I walked around the shops passing time until the bank reopened.

Suddenly 2 pairs of arms grabbed me and shunted me down a dark alleyway. Guns pointed in my face, being shouted at in a mixture of Arabic and Spanish. Was I being robbed, or possibly about to be murdered? >>>



>>> It transpired after several very scary minutes that the two men were plain clothes police who thought I was a drug runner! After searching me and checking papers I was unceremoniously kicked back onto the street, in need of a beer to calm me down!



**Bonfire night** On Bastille day, the French had put on a party for everyone, so come 5th Nov it was our turn. We had collected so much wood from the equipment packing cases that we had a bonfire the size of which would rival any Loyalist bonfire in Belfast! To get fireworks we made a trip across to Spain on the ferry and managed to get hold of some proper display fireworks, the kind you see in London on New Year's Eve, which came back in our cars covered by bags and clothes.

To get the party started we mounted 5 or 6 of the biggest aerial display mortars around the base of the bonfire, but how would we start it safely? Again, using ingenuity, we managed to get hold of some gunpowder (from our guard I recall) and we laid a trail of gunpowder around the base of the fire and away to a 'safe distance'. Just like in the movies we lit the gunpowder trail and off it went hissing and crackling making its way to the bonfire and then setting off the display mortars which soared high into the sky and exploded with huge bangs and balls of fire. It was incredibly impressive we thought, and the party started. However, 10 minutes later pandemonium broke out as the local para police thought they were under attack and turned up in force to fight 'the invaders', only to find about 100 foreign engineers drinking and partying. Whole sheep were roasted in pits in the ground and the night was a great success, but how no one was arrested or killed I'll never know...



**Eggs-citing times** There seemed to be some kind of illicit trade in eggs between Morocco and Melilla. Hundreds of people would gather at the border (closed to them), carrying trays of eggs 10-15 high on their heads. Eventually they would muster courage and storm the border post, which brought out the guards with their whips, who lashed anyone and anything in sight. The lucky few got through, but most (mainly older women) were left bruised and covered in broken eggs... I never did understand what drove this strange weekly ritual.

### Dodging bullets at the Port of Nador

Apart from drug runner, illegal diner and police bribe, my main job was organising the transport and storage of all equipment on site (near Selouane). This meant I spent most of my days between the port of Nador and the project site. This was a relatively quiet role apart from being stopped by police every day who threw 'stingers' across the road to make you stop. However, things did get livelier. While I was there a local university was raided by the army/police and a significant number of protesting students were killed.



Plus a few months after I returned to the UK, the UK press reported that a helicopter had been flying around the port of Nador firing bullets at people.

All in a day's work I thought and not necessarily what you are trained for at University, but I have to say my time at Davy was without doubt some of the best of my career and I wouldn't have missed it for the world!





### Skipton Canal Boat - 13 May 2025

Our trip to Skipton is progressing well – as we go to press we have 36 firm bookings and a few other expressions of interest. The maximum number is 46 people so there is space available if you would like to join us. Family and friends are very welcome to join us. The cost will be between £40 - £45 depending on numbers.

The coach will depart from Grenoside Community Centre at 8.45am. We have booked the boat trip at 11am for 3 hours including a ploughman's lunch followed by a seasonal dessert, with tea or coffee. The boat trip finishes at 2.15pm allowing time to explore Skipton before returning home at 4.15pm. Contact Pete McDermott to book.

### Leeds Royal Armouries (2025), Jodrell Bank Observatory and AVRO Museum (2026)

These trips are in the early stages of planning. Leeds Armouries will be early autumn this year, to avoid the school holidays. The trip to Jodrell Bank and the AVRO Museum will be in spring 2026. Watch (this) space for further details!



### “Reasons why I cannot be an official in our club”

I don't know many people “I think I only knew two members when I joined”

I haven't been in long enough “I had been in less than one year when I was co-opted to help”

I don't know how the club works “The quickest way to change that is to join the committee”

I've only just retired “That's the ideal time to get involved in new interests”

I haven't got the time “I've yet to meet the retired person who isn't busy”

(my 'to do list' gets longer by the month)

I've had enough of meetings and committees “Forget what happened in work life.

This is totally different – it's enjoyable and very satisfying”

**So, if you are a member reading this....**

### “What's your HONEST reason for not helping to run your club?”



“Delete the negative; accentuate the positive!” *Donna Karan*

“I'd like to be known for stepping up and encouraging others to do the same”

*Leigh Anne Tuohy*





Continuing smaller numbers attending the seasonal lunches – this time only twenty-eight - meant that the winter one was served in the Library as had been the one before. It was a very pleasant event enjoyed by everyone. In contrast the monthly lunch numbers are generally remaining around twenty (give or take with holidays and medic appointments!)

## MONTHLY LUNCHES TRIAL

We are considering introducing card/contactless payment for monthly lunches, to simplify the process. Payment will still be required on the day but as a trial in April you can pay by cash or by card. Unfortunately, card payments do incur a fee from the card handling company so if you opt for card payment the amount will be £25.42. If the trial is successful and we continue offering card payment we will negotiate with Wortley Hall to see if they will absorb some or all of the fee.

## SPRING SEASONAL LUNCH • TUESDAY 20 MAY • 12:30 for 1pm

Bookings are now being taken for the Wortley Hall lunch. The price is £25 per person and as always wives/partners and guests will be made very welcome. Here is the menu:

Ham Terrine, Pickles & Mustard Mayo  
Pea & Mint Soup (v)  
*Steamed Salmon, Asparagus & Hollandaise*  
*Chicken Breast stuffed with Tomato & Mozzarella with Herb Dressing*  
*Seasonal Vegetable Rigatoni (v)*  
*(All served with buttered new potatoes & vegetables)*  
Cherry Ripple Ice Cream & Boozy Cherries  
Chocolate Tart, Caramel, Strawberries & Chantilly Cream  
followed by tea/coffee and mints

Please book, giving your menu choices, to Trevor by email at [trevor.winslow@outlook.com](mailto:trevor.winslow@outlook.com) or by phone or text on **07966 317258**. Payment can be made by cash or card at the April or May meetings, or online by bank transfer (note a card payment will incur a surcharge of £0.42 per person).



2025 ANNUAL DINNER

**TUESDAY 19 AUGUST**  
**WORTLEY HALL HOTEL**

**6.30 for 7pm**

**Special Celebration Dinner**  
**and Entertainment**

**Everyone welcome**  
**to share this milestone with us**

**Full details will be available very soon**

So I said to this policeman, where do you live, like...Letsby Avenue?

Back in the 80s, you'd hear an approaching police siren and your mate would instinctively quip: 'He'll not sell many ice creams, going at that speed!'



Traffic cop cars were generally all white with a red stripe running around the middle, better known to one and all as Jam Butties. Going back further, pursuit cars were all blue and sounded a bell to alert people to their presence, usually big engine Jaguars or Rovers. Panda cars would be much more modest, Ford Anglia or Morris 'moggy' 1000s.



Policemen sometimes patrolled on bicycles. They occasionally do today, of course, but don't look half as smart as their predecessors, careering downhill in full dress uniforms, buttons, belts and buckles shining like new pins, with snazzy pointed helmets to boot, badged at the front and held in place by gleaming chinstraps.



Police would regularly be out on the beat, patrolling local streets, clearing up minor infringements and disturbances. On the rare occasions something more serious occurred, they would signal for officer support by tooting on a whistle, enough to scare the living daylights out of folk brought up from birth to respect the law. Get stuck behind a copper in the chippy or local shop and most people of my generation will automatically come over shame-faced and guilty, even though they haven't done anything.



Unfortunately, I get the feeling there's not much respect for the law nowadays and it's such a shame. It made for better community life and bred much needed manners and respect.

I ought to know, because I was one of them. And it's something that never, ever leaves you. Ah! Well, you can't have everything, can you? And not a repeat of Dixon of Dock Green or Z Cars to be had anywhere!

*Reproduced by the kind permission of Gary Rowley*

**This is your Newsletter**

**There is always space for your contribution.**

Also, if you have news you want to share with your fellow Members just contact Trevor on **07966 317258** or email at [trevor.winslow@outlook.com](mailto:trevor.winslow@outlook.com)

**Publication of the next newsletter is planned for June 2025**



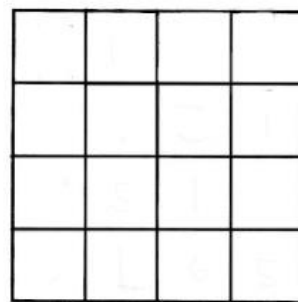
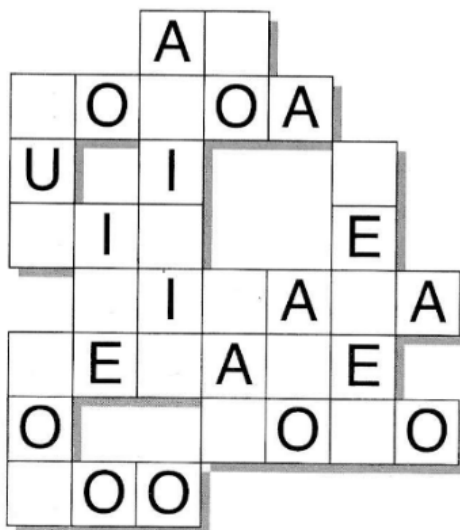
### NINE LETTERS = NINE DIGITS

Each of the nine letters used in this word square represents a different digit 1 through 9. The numbers outside the grid show the results of multiplying the values of the letters in each row and column. Can you determine the values of the letters and fill the empty grid with their corresponding numbers?

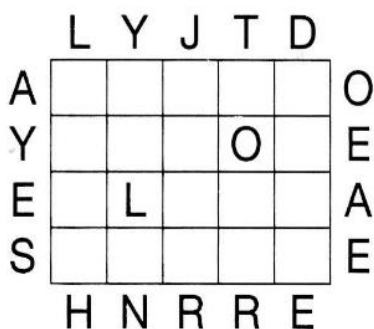
C	A	S	T	48
O	R	C	A	84
R	E	A	M	210
N	A	M	E	270
756 35 36 240				

### TAKE TWO

Choose two consonants and repeat them as many times as needed to complete this crisscross puzzle. All vowels have already been placed. Create uncapitalized words commonly used in English. No words may be repeated.



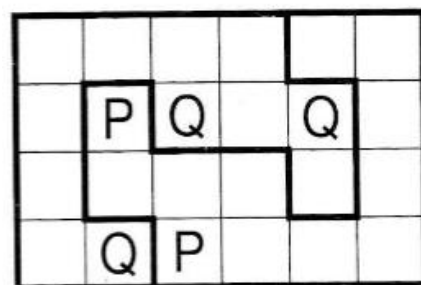
### SLIDE SHOW



Slide the 18 letters surrounding the grid into the empty squares so that four words are formed reading across and five words are formed reading down. Letters above and below the grid slide vertically to any position without changing columns, and letters to the left and right slide horizontally to any position without changing rows. Each exterior letter is used only once. Two additional letters are already positioned in the grid. Can you slide all of the others into place?

### Answers to the last issue of newsletter puzzles:

#### STEPPING STONE CROSSWORD / MIND YOUR P's and Q's



## 20 CLASSIC ONE-LINE PUT-DOWNS

1. He had delusions of adequacy - Walter Kerr
2. He has all the virtues I dislike and none of the vices I admire. - Winston Churchill
3. I have never killed a man, but I have read many obituaries with great pleasure. - Clarence Darrow
4. Thank you for sending me a copy of your book; I will waste no time reading it. - Moses Hadas
5. I didn't attend the funeral, but I sent a nice letter saying I approved of it. - Mark Twain
6. He has no enemies but is intensely disliked by his friends. - Oscar Wilde
7. I feel so miserable without you; it's almost like having you here. - Stephen Bishop
8. He is a self-made man and worships his creator. - John Bright
9. I've just learned about his illness. Let's hope it's nothing trivial. - Irvin S. Cobb
10. He is simply a shiver looking for a spine to run up. - Paul Keating
11. He loves nature in spite of what it did to him. - Forrest Tucker
12. Why do you sit there looking like an envelope without any address on it? - Mark Twain
13. His mother should have thrown him away and kept the stork. - Mae West
14. Some cause happiness wherever they go; others, whenever they go. - Oscar Wilde
15. He uses statistics as a drunken man uses lamp-posts... for support rather than illumination. - Andrew Lang
16. He has Van Gogh's ear for music. - Billy Wilder
17. I've had a perfectly wonderful evening. But I'm afraid this wasn't it. - Groucho Marx
18. He can compress the most words into the smallest idea of any man I know. - Abraham Lincoln
19. There's nothing wrong with you that reincarnation won't cure. - Jack E. Leonard
20. He inherited some good instincts from his Quaker forebears, but by diligent hard work, he overcame them. - James Reston (about Richard Nixon)