



## **PROBUS ORIGINS**

This is a brief history of how Probud came into being taken from a number of sources.

Probud is a local association of retired or semi-retired people who come together in non-political, non-sectarian, non-profit making way to provide opportunities for members to meet others in similar circumstances and to enable them to expand their interests on a social basis. It appears that a very active and notable Rotarian, Fred Carhill of Welwyn Garden City Rotary Club conceived the idea after meeting other retired friends with professional and business backgrounds. From this he started a luncheon club. In about 1965, they met in the Campus in Welwyn for lunch and they named it the 'Campus Club'. Due to its popularity, Fred and his Rotary Club proceeded to sponsor and promote other Clubs in adjacent towns though local Rotary Clubs. As a result of this success, Rotary International British Isles Headquarters produced a pamphlet urging other Rotary Clubs to do likewise.

About the same time, Rotarian Harold Blanchard of Caterham with James Raper and Edward Mockett who were reaching the age of retirement felt a need for fellowship. In September 1965 Harold as Chairman of Caterham Rotary Club Vocational Service Committee presented the idea to the Caterham Rotary Club. Monthly luncheons were organised. It became very popular and it was decided to call the Club 'Probud' derived from PROfessional and BUSiness. It is also a Latin word meaning honest or virtuous, from which the English word 'probity' is derived. Harold helped to form and became a founder member of Caterham Probud Club. It commenced promoting Probud Clubs in the South of England. In the Seventies, a vast expansion of Clubs occurred all over the country.

Each Probud club is autonomous with it's own constitution and is managed by a committee. There is no central governing body. In 1972, at the formation of the Probud Club of Bromsgrove, a lapel badge was designed which became popular with other Probud Clubs. In 1980 the first Probud newsletter was launched and

the Probus Information Centre ('PIC') established which shares information between Clubs. PIC has aided the formation of Clubs such that in the UK there are well over 2,000, 800 Clubs in Australia, 245 in Canada, 200 in New Zealand, 80 in Holland, 10 in Belgium and 20 in South Africa. In Wiltshire there are 16 Clubs. By 2018, there were over 400,000 members in approximately 4,000 Probus Clubs worldwide.

In the UK there is a Probus magazine produced quarterly that is free to members and provides details on the activities of the different Probus Clubs as well as providing other information.