



# Titirangi Ladies Probus

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## NEWSLETTER

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**A** HAPPY new year to everyone and especially those who didn't come to the informal shared lunch on 18 January. The food was lovely and varied. We must have excellent cooks at our Probus. The Quiz questions were about New Zealand and we worked in pairs. One couple couldn't join in because neither of them had a pen or pencil, but they only admitted it half-way through the quiz!

**O**UR Main Speaker today is from the Sensible Sentencing Trust and I'm sure it will be interesting. Our Mini Speaker is Patricia, who has only recently joined the club, so I think you are very brave. I hope other members are willing to follow you.

**I**N November our main Speaker was Jan Saussay who is President of the Dolphin Theatre. She arrived slightly late and breathless as she had been giving talks all day and the first group were late so that made her late for all the other groups.

She started off by saying it might be better if we, the Probus ladies, asked her the questions and she would answer them. This seemed a great idea and I think it worked. One question was asked "How did it come to be named 'The Dolphin Theatre' " and we were told that when they wanted a name for the new theatre – a wee dolphin arrived in the harbour, so they named it "The Little Dolphin Theatre". This was in 1961 and in 1971 when they moved to new premises also in Onehunga, they renamed it "The Dolphin Theatre." We were told it cost \$200,000 a year to operate. Although most of the work was voluntary, it was the lighting which cost the most. The plays are carefully chosen and the one currently on was *Last of the Summer Wine*. I had not intended going but Pinesong runs a bus, which my husband drives, so I had a privileged seat. It was acted very well by a small cast. I have been to Holmfirth in the West Riding of Yorkshire, a small town famous for knitting wool where the television series was filmed.

**M**INI Speaker was our President, Glenda, who spoke about the great holiday she had touring England and Wales. She remained well whereas most of her travelling companions had at least one missed trip. They toured the Tower of London (the ravens are still there) and explained to us how the leek (vegetable) became associated with Wales, went on the Mt Snowden mountain train, toured Port Sunlight, which was a village built by the employer for his workers who made the famous Sunlight soap (I can still remember shredding it into thin slivers to go into our wash boiler where "whites" were boiled in those days. They visited Highclere Castle where *Downton Abbey* was filmed and you would get some idea of the culture of those above stairs and those below stairs, and they visited Stratford on Avon the home of our famous playwright William Shakespeare. I spent my first 40 years in England and I must confess that of those places (and the many more I can't say due to limited space) I have only visited the Tower of London!

**O**UR Christmas lunch was very good. The ham was carved of front of us and the chicken was cut in plentiful thick slices, and we just helped ourselves. I'd certainly recommend it to anyone.

**M**ARCH will be our Annual General Meeting and we will be entertained by the Te Atatu Men's Choir.

Fees are due now and are still only \$20. The final date for payment is March otherwise the person's name will not be entered on our list.

Kind regards,

*Christine*