



ARUNDEL PROBUS TIMES

1st MARCH 2021

“Like Maltesers – best consumed slowly.” John Hollister

Cael diwrnod da. 1st March is St David’s Day, no less. Are you wearing a daffodil in your suit lapel today, Gents? My suit has a leek in it these days!

It’s Mad March Hare time, too. A hare got thrown out of an old-time dance once for doing the dosy doe in the corner.....and a bald man had rabbits tattooed on his head. From a distance they looked like hares.

March is a great month. It’s Mothers’ Day on the 14th. St Patrick’s Day is on the 17th and real Spring starts three days later on the 20th. There’s a census on 21st and the clocks go forward on the 28th., on Palm Sunday. Phew!
Mike and Elizabeths 65th on 31st. Many congrats. XX

Hares belong to the same family as rabbits, but they are much bigger, and faster. They can reach a top speed of 50 mph (80 kph) over short distances.

The so-called “sport” of Hare Coursing has been banned since 2004 but still takes place, sadly.



This is the twelfth “probustimes”, marking almost a full year since we were first forced to stay at home and our monthly meetings were curtailed. It has been a year of mixed emotions, ranging from shock and horror at the daily toll of tragic losses, worldwide, to the joy of seeing a grandchild’s smiley face on our screen. From doom to Zoom, one could say. Let’s hope a boom follows the gloom. Meanwhile, PT will continue, with your help please.

Before the pandemic, we had become accustomed to hearing of catastrophes happening in other parts of the world, perhaps with mild concern, but this one arrived in our neighbourhood, on our street or even at our door.

Our club is made up of stoic old gents who have “seen it all before”; we’ve been there, done it and experienced many emotions in our long lives, but this time it’s a bit different, to say the least. However, that stoicism is helping us to see it through and, as we top-up our resistance at the vaccine-filling stations, we can look forward to a brighter road ahead. Who knows, we may be meeting together again, err long, but whether we recognise each other only time will tell. Stay safe, keep your distance, wash your hands and think of England!

Probust 21/22 It is proposed that President Chris serves a second year in office because it has not been possible for him to chair a single meeting in the current year, other than Cttees. Barry would continue as VP for a second year, Rich, Charlie and David would continue as Secretary, Treasurer and Social Secretary, respectively, and Bob would become Speaker Secretary.

Unless there is any objection to these recommendations from your Committee by the 31st March, they will come into effect on 1st April. Members will not be asked to pay a sub for the time being and the situation will be reviewed later in the year when circumstances may have changed.

Two Eskimos were sitting in their kayak on a very cold day, so they lit a fire. Unsurprisingly the boat caught fire and sank, proving once again that you can't have your kayak and heat it.

Someone sent me ten puns to make me laugh but no pun in ten did.

There are so many jokes about Covid-19 around at the moment I think we are in the middle of a pundemic.

Do you know why they cancelled the idea of burying Trump in a barrel of concrete? It would have set a very bad president.

Can you name the ten Songs illustrated here? Most are from the Shows. Answers below





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- **A hole has been blown in the wall of a nudists' camp. The police are looking into it.**
 - **Time flies like an arrow. Fruit flies like a rotten banana.**
 - **Atheism is a non-prophet organisation.**
 - I wondered why the football was getting bigger. Then it hit me.
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Another of my all-time favourite comedians was the Dane, Victor Borge. I say "was" but his humour is timeless and mostly unique. I'll never forget his phonetic punctuation, which cannot be adequately reproduced here. Luckily, you can still Google it and I defy you not to laugh out loud when you listen.

He also wrote in a unique way, adding one number to any word, or part of a word, with a number in it. "Once upon a time" became "Twice upon a time" and "For today's lesson I will read two items to you which foretell of" translated into "Five three-days lesson I will read three items three you which fivetell....." Or "We nine lunch at thirteen." It sounded much funnier when he read it.

Borge was also a brilliant concert pianist with the ability to launch into other themes when playing Beethoven's Moonlight Sonata or a Chopin nocturn, for example. You do need to listen to catch my drift.

I saw a dwarf climbing down a prison wall and thought to myself, that's a little condescending.

Modern anaesthetists use either gas or they hit the patient over the head with a boat paddle. It's an ether - oar situation.

Gosh, my hair is growing much longer again in lockdown and I expect yours is too, dear Probus friend, unless you are living with a hairdresser. How shall I wear mine today: a bun or pigtails?

David "Sunshine" has wisely taken his Doctor's advice - and set a fine example for the rest of us.....I bet David showers even more often now and doesn't have to add water to his glass !



(We wish David and Brenda a very happy time in their new home in Arundel.)

On the subject of drink, a woman cycled to a supermarket to buy a bottle of her favourite wine and intended carrying it home in the basket on her bike. But she worried about falling off on the ride home and breaking the bottle, so she drank it all before setting out on the return journey.

This turned out to be a very wise decision as she fell off her bike seven times before reaching home.



Did you know? The letters **a**, **b**, **c** and **d** do not appear anywhere in the spelling of 1 to 99.

The letters **a**, **b** and **c** do not appear anywhere in the spelling of 1 to 999.

The letters **b** and **c** do not appear anywhere in the spelling of 1 to 999,999,999

The letter **c** does not appear anywhere in the spellings of the entire English Counting.

The letter **d** appears for the first time in hundred

The letter **a** appears for the first time in thousand

The letter **b** appears for the first time in billion

Now you know!

Mr Brown's Peacock has laid an egg in Mr White's garden. Whose egg is it? Answer below.

Times remembered(You must have some too, please)

I had been asked by the WHO to visit Belarus in the mid-1990s, not long after the fall of the Soviet Union. My task was to help teach senior officials from the 12 Newly Independent States the fundamentals of food safety law and practices, as seen in the West. Can you name all 12 NISs? I know I couldn't as I flew-in to Minsk on that cold, February afternoon to meet up with my friend and fellow tutor, John.



We had a day to spare before the course started so we visited a museum that recorded the awful experiences of the people of Belarus during WW2. There were ghastly exhibits, including human ashes from the extermination camps and countless photos from the Nazi invasion. The suffering in that small country was unimaginable. John and I were silent as we returned to our hotel to complete preparations.



There were about forty delegates from Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Russia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Ukraine and Uzbekistan. (Did you name them all?!) They all spoke mostly Russian, and little English, so we had to work with a team of interpreters, but some States had brought their own as their local dialects or languages demanded it.

The week went well, and the delegates were attentive and interested, even when I was explaining HACCP, the new, science-based methodology for food safety systems analysis. (Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Points). I tried to make it funny by saying the letters also stood for Have A Chicken Curry and Pray, but that went down like a lead balloon. Not good in Russian!

John and I were guests of honour at the final evening's dinner after which each State's delegation thanked us and presented us each with a small bottle of their local brew. In almost every case this was their local flavoured vodka and tradition demanded we took a drink from each! Eating large chunks of fatty pork between each sample was also expected and we duly obliged. All went well until we got to Georgia. They don't produce much vodka, but excellent brandy! We had mixed our drinks!

How John and I ever got back to our hotel room that night I shall never know but I do remember sleeping on the ceiling and miraculously catching the flight home next day! Bob



I have an extremely rare pencil, once owned by William Shakespeare. It's very worn so I don't know if it's 2B or not 2B.



This is my step ladder. I never knew my real ladder.



Nurse to Doctor. There's a patient in the waiting room who thinks he's invisible. Doctor to Nurse. Tell him I can't see him today. Boom, boom !



I have relabelled all the spice jars in my wife's spice rack. I'm not in trouble yet but the thyme is cumin.



A shop assistant fought off an armed robber with a labelling gun. The guy now has a price on his head.

We had another Ocado food drop the other evening and several people complained the next day, as they have done after every delivery we've had. Honestly, some people.

The helicopter only hovers just overhead for about twenty minutes and then is gone.



Those songs. Answers, in random order. See how you got on.

Feed the Birds (*Mary Poppins*)

Climb every Mountain (*The Sound of Music*)

Got-a pick a pocket or two (*Oliver*)

Send in the Clowns (*A Little Night Music*)

Somewhere, over the Rainbow (*The Wizard of Oz*)

Old Man River (*Showboat*)

You'll never walk alone (*Gerry and the Pacemakers*)

Singing in the rain (*Singin' in the Rain*)

Any dream will do (*Joseph*)

Somewhere, there's a place for us! (*West Side Story*)

A TIMELY REMINDER AND A WARNING

The scammers and fraudsters are very active again, as you may already know, so please be ultra-cautious. These b..... are exploiting the prolonged lockdown and the frailty of many by claiming to be your bank, utility provider, insurance company, vaccination centre and so much more, so be on your guard twenty-four hours a day.

I know it's not easy as we wait for that expected call from a loved one, or someone else we know, but treat every call with suspicion. It may not be genuine. Friends and relatives will understand – and be impressed – if you put the phone down on them. They will call again with a clearer introduction next time. **DO NOT GIVE OUT ANY PERSONAL INFORMATION.**

Bring back the stocks and the ducking stool, I say, or even the rack. I'd flog 'em too.

Stay safe and keep smiling. **Bob**

Answer. There was no egg. Peacocks don't lay eggs. Peahens do.