

## ARUNDEL PROBUS TIMES

1st MARCH 2022

It's St David's Day today when the whole of Wales wears a daffodil for some reason. (I must ask Acer to explain.)

The Patron Saint of Wales, David Sant, was born in the late 5th century and was a vegetarian, choosing to eat only leeks and drink water. (There's no suggestion he also ate daffodils). He is said to have lived until over 100 and died this day in 589. Good news for Probus vegetarians.

Miracles were reported to have happened around him – we could do with him back here now – and, returning from a special religious journey to Jerusalem, he brought a stone back with him. The stone now sits on an altar in St David's Cathedral, which was built on the site of David's original monastery and is a lovely place to visit.

Dydd Gŵyl Dewi Hapus.

Diolch



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### Probus Club EGM

Some call it an Emergency General Meeting but it's actually an Extraordinary General Meeting. However, both words apply as this is a very important meeting, arguably the most important in the club's history. Please try to attend in person on 24th of this month to listen, contribute to the debate and vote. You may choose to abstain of course, but the decision requires a simple majority of members attending, or who have indicated their vote beforehand. The question is simply, should the club admit female members from 1st April this year? Yes or No.

The issues have been spelt out already. The club's membership has been slowly reducing in number for some time, for various reasons, and we could soon be below the minimum the White Swan Hotel needs to justify our presence, particularly at lunch. We are unable to recruit new members as swiftly as we lose them – and that would only keep the same number rather than increase it – but the presence of ladies at successive lunches has made a real difference which helped the Committee vote in favour of lady members at its January meeting. It's now up to you.

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### If a word sequence sounds wrong, it probably is wrong.

Ever wondered why we say tick-tock and not tock-tick, or ding-dong, rather than dong-ding, King-Kong and not Kong-King? Evidently, it's because of one of the unwritten rules of the English language that if there are three words in a row the order has to be I, A, O and if there are only two words, the letter I has to go before A or O. Other examples are mish-mash, chit-chat, dilly-dally, shilly-shally, tip-top, flip-flop, ping-pong and sing-song.

Adjectives in English also have to follow another unwritten rule: opinion-size-shape-colour-origin-material-purpose noun. That explains "little green men" and not "green little men", for example.

"Big, bad wolf" seems to break this rule but the first "I, A, O" rule takes precedence.

Even though all four of a horse's feet make exactly the same sound, we say clip-clop and not clop-clip. This rule even has a technical name, if you are interested. It's "ablaut reduplication" so now you know! What ho!

Twenty-seven members, partners and a guest enjoyed lunch at The Fox in Patcham on 10th February. The food was good but the noise level was too high for some, a difficult thing to control when everyone is chatting loudly all at once. Thanks again to David Tippet for the organisation.

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### Church Poster In France:

When you enter this church it may be possible that you hear "The Call of God." However, it is unlikely that He will call you on your mobile. Thank you for turning off your phones. If you want to talk to God, enter, choose a quiet place and talk to Him. If you want to see Him, send Him a text while driving.

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I was very sorry to learn of the death of Barry Cryer, surely one of the most talented funny men there has ever been. One thinks of countless comedians over the years who made us laugh out loud, but many of their jokes and sketches were written by Barry.

I really don't know who will replace him as, sadly, today's humour is poor by comparison. Rude, crude and blatantly racist, or sexist, doesn't cut the mustard with me.

However, one of Barry's best is, I think, this one.

"Elderly couple thought they had recognised the Archbishop of Canterbury sitting in a bus shelter across the road. "Go over and ask him", orders Betty, so hubby Ken approaches and asks the question.

"What did he say?" asks Betty on Ken's return. "He told me to F\*\*\* off", says Ken.

"Oh dear" replies Betty "Now we'll never know".

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Still on the subject of Wales, there's a warning to the young not to buy condoms in Wales as they may have leeks in them.

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**Brian Arthur's excellent talk on *Scharnhorst***, the WW2 German pocket battleship, at the 24th February meeting, drew a good crowd with about 28 present, of whom 25 stayed for lunch including three ladies and three guests. Brian had kindly agreed to bring his talk forward a month to make way for the EGM, mentioned above. His talk was exceedingly well researched and accompanied by very clear photographs. Well done and thank you, Brian – and your assistant. Danke Schoen!

## Why is English so hard to learn?

Let's begin with box, and its plural boxes, but the plural of ox is oxen, not oxes.

One fowl is a goose and the plural geese, yet the plural of moose is never meese.

You find a lone mouse, or house full of mice, but the plural of house is houses not hice.

The plural of man is men whilst the plural of pan is never pen.

If I mention a foot and you show two feet, then I give you a book: is a pair a beek?

If one is a tooth and a full set are teeth, why shouldn't two booths be called a beeth?

If the singular is this and the plural these, shouldn't the plural of kiss be keese?

We speak of a brother and also of brethren but though we say mother, we never say methren.

As the masculine pronouns are he, his and him, just imagine the feminine she, shis and shim.

Aren't you glad you were born into it, but maybe you weren't ?

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## No, I hadn't forgotten what a very busy day 1st March is :-

As well as St David's Day

it's Shrove Tuesday.....

and that means Pancake Day.....

and that's because it's the first day of Lent

as well as the first day of meteorological spring.

Tomorrow is Ash Wednesday when we sweep up all the burnt pancakes.

And don't forget Mothering Sunday on 27th. when the clocks Spring forward again.

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## 10th March Probus Pub Lunch

It's not really a pub but the club is returning to the popular Northbrook College on 10th March and a £5 deposit is required to secure a seat at a table there. Menu choices have been circulated and if you haven't chosen and paid by the time you read this it's probably too late.

It has been suggested that some ladies may like to sit together at the College lunch so a "ladies only table" will be reserved for the purpose, on this occasion.

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**A woman has the last word in any argument. Anything a man says after that is the beginning of a new argument.**

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**Anyone who tells you they can still do at 75 what they were doing at 25 wasn't doing much at 25.**

Years ago, you paid at the fairground to see a large lady's tattoos. Now it's free and they're everywhere.

It's got a wooden frame, wooden engine, wooden wheels, and a wooden gas tank. Did he ride it? No, wooden start...



Old Nell Jones was the widow of Dai, a Welsh sheep farmer. She got rid of the sheep when Dai died twenty-five years ago and only had one small Jersey cow living in the old orchard and which she called Buttercup.

Buttercup gave enough milk each day for Nellie to make a little cream and butter which she sold to supplement her pension but one day the cow went dry. She needed another calf.

So, Nellie called Dai's old friend Morgan, the vet, but told him she didn't want that huge bull again as it nearly killed Buttercup last time. Morgan told Nellie not to worry. "I'll do it by A I this time" he told her and said he would call in a couple of days' time. She should have a pail of hot water and clean towels available, and should tether Buttercup securely.

The day for the A I soon arrived and when Morgan visited the old farm everything was ready. "Buttercup's tied to an apple tree, there's lots of hot water on the stove and plenty of towels", said Nellie. "And you can hang your trousers on the back of the door", she added.

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Another Barry Cryer story, which I may have mentioned before, involved a young hunter who was in court having been seen shooting a very rare, and protected, bird called a Loon, or Great Northern Diver. He apologised to the Judge and explained that he was desperate as his young family were at home and starving so he had to find something for them to eat. There was nothing else around.

The kindly old Judge took sympathy on the defendant and dismissed the case, telling him never to do anything like it again.

The Judge saw the hunter in the car park later and asked; "What did the Loon taste like, son?" "Somewhere between Swan and Golden Eagle your Honour," replied the hunter.

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I am still thinking about railways and trains, which are far less romantic creatures nowadays than in my youth but many of the old steam engines are still to be seen today.

The trains had their own names, like The Master Cutler, heading north to Sheffield; The South Yorkshireman, The South Wales Borderer and The Devon Belle, but it was the steam locos themselves that were the biggest attraction, some with unforgettable names. Mallard, Flying Scotsman and Royal Scot are the most famous but there were many others, often with regimental names or named after the learned gentry. The Royal Norfolk Regiment (google its amazing history) and the Lord Edgecombe are examples.

Today, there are over 100 private railways in the UK, (the Bluebell Line is the nearest) most using parts of Lord Beeching's axed lines, as well as a few Railway Museums, notably in York (put it on your wish list if you haven't been there!) The restored, working engines are a thing of great beauty. Who cannot marvel on seeing The Princess Elizabeth steam passed, perhaps in Jubilee year?

If you are interested in supper on the Bluebell Line in October for about £40, including bangers and mash, for example, during a return ride from Horsted Keynes, let me know.

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**Arundel Community Fayre – Town Hall Saturday 26th March 10.00 – 2.00 The Club will have a stall there so please come and see us as we promote the club and hopefully recruit.**

## AGM

Like this winter's storms, one General Meeting follows another. The club's AGM is on 28th April and will be announced at the 24th March meeting, which is also the EGM. All offices have to be vacated at the AGM and a new Committee elected. VP Barry Hopkins is willing to serve as President for a year and David Feist has accepted a nomination to become VP. We also know that David Tippetts intends to give up the Social Secretary role which he has held with credit for five years. His is a hard act to follow. I will continue as Speaker Secretary, if voted in again, and continue with this APT. It will be an interesting meeting.

We are also having a speaker on 28th April as Bill Avenell from Pulborough is returning to tell us all about Weather Lore in that entertaining way in which he spoke last time. Bill has requested to go on early so we can have the AGM after his talk. Bill is not staying for lunch but we hope you are.

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**BREAKING NEWS:** The English Cricket Board announce they have appointed tennis world number one Novak Djokovic as a temporary batting coach.

"We acknowledge he doesn't have a background in our sport, but we couldn't overlook the fact it took two weeks for Australia to get him out!"

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**Warning. Wise man does not keep sledgehammer and his slow computer in same room.**

## Honesty

A Scouser appears on Antiques Roadshow with a very rare vase.

The ceramic expert asks, "How did you acquire the vase?"

The Scouser, "It was handed down to me."

The expert, "Who by?"

The Scouser replies, " My mate in an upstairs window".

## A misconception

I called an old school friend, now an academic in a science faculty, and asked what he was doing. He replied that he was working on "Aqua-thermal treatment of ceramics, aluminium and steel under a constrained environment."

I was impressed, and thought he obviously was working on an interesting, Post-Doctoral project.

On further inquiry, I learned that he was washing dishes in hot water under his wife's supervision.

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I was browsing in a second-hand bookshop and found a book entitled "A beginners guide to surgical operations." When I opened it, the Appendix had been removed.



**I DON'T MEAN  
TO BRAG** BUT ...  
*I finished my 14-day diet  
IN 3 HOURS AND 12 MINUTES*

With best wishes. Bob