



Do be careful, you single chaps, as we approach St. Valentines Day on 14th. as 2024 is a Leap year and you should know what that means ! A women can propose to a man on Leap Day. You cannot refuse a lady who asks you to wed, even if she waits 'til the 29th !

Which of our members has married the most times ? (Answer below)

Who was St Valentine? The most likely story is that there were multiple St. Valentines who died on 14 February in the 3rd century. At least two of them were executed under Roman Emperor Claudius Gothicus in 269-270 A.D, when it was common to persecute Christians. Historians draw this information from the Bollandists. They were an order of Belgian monks who gathered evidence on saints from archived manuscripts around the world for three centuries. Since 1643, the monks have published volumes about the lives of saints, with the last volume published in 1940.

So, you've no-one to send a card to, or receive one from. No problem. It's easy: just send one or more cards to yourself. They're supposed to be anonymous anyway. You won't know who they are from !

What's on this month? February

Thursday 8th Pub Lunch, The Arun View, Littlehampton, BN17 5DD 12 noon for 12.30 pm .

Kindly organised by Ian Goodall

Menu Choices – a reminder

Mains

Chicken Supreme with a cream of mushroom and marsala wine sauce served with sauté potatoes and seasonal vegetables

Roast Loin of Pork with stuffing, crackling served with roast potatoes and seasonal vegetables

Steamed Bacon and Onion Roly Poly with white onion sauce served with mash potato and savoy cabbage

Fillet of Cod in crispy batter served with chips and peas

Grilled Fillet of Cod in lemon butter served with new potatoes and salad

Flat Mushrooms, glazed with gorgonzola and herb crust, served on a bed of courgetti with pesto, spinach and red onion

Desserts

Strawberry and Vanilla Ice Cream sundae

Cherry and Almond Frangipane with vanilla ice cream

Sticky Toffee Pudding with butterscotch sauce & vanilla ice cream

Glazed Passionfruit Tart with passionfruit sorbet

Cost £24.50 per person, including tip. Payment by BACS is preferred, unless already paid by cash or card at the club meeting on 25th January. Advise Ian Goodall of your choice of menu and method of payment, by email: ig@goodall.net or by phone: 07786 22332, if not done already.

Thursday 22nd Monthly meeting at White Swan Hotel Speaker, Martin Alderton Arundel Walking Tours

My Flyer will follow soon with full details and, hopefully, February club lunch choices.

RIP Douglas Gold

Hon. Member Douglas Gold has sadly passed away at the age of 94. Douglas lived in Burpham and had been a planter in Malaysia. For many years, Doug regularly attended Probus meetings and served a period as Secretary. Club Secretary Richard read the Eulogy at our January meeting and we had a moment's silence. We offer our condolences to Douglas's family.

Last month's speaker - Stuart Flitton

"Journalism: My part in its survival"

Stuart's chosen title proved apt as he has already contributed forty-six years to his profession and continues to do so today. A gifted speaker, with superb use of the English language and grammar, and the voice to match, Stuart gave thirty-one very attentive members a fascinating account of his career, from cub reporter at the age of eighteen in South Africa, to working for Times and Telegraph in UK. This was a very entertaining talk. He met so many interesting people. Thanks to Brian Sweet for the recommendation.

Birthdays this month

John Taylor 5th February johnht20@hotmail.com **Go on, please send John a card. He loves them.**

The President introduced two new members and welcomed a guest and potential new member.



Lesley Beale Married to Carole. Lives in Crossbush. Hobbies include course fishing, woodwork and making and flying model gliders.



Chris Hopkinson. Married to Amanda. Lives in Poling. Semi-retired Naval Officer. Airline Pilot. Ski-chalet owner. Director of Visit Arundel.

Hobbies include walking, DIY, dogs, gardening and old cars.



Guest Peter Laverick. Lives in Poling. Notary. Tuba player.

Probus White Swan lunches – Summary of responses and recommended actions

The committee is grateful to the seventeen members who responded to the invitation to comment on White Swan lunches. All current members were invited to comment but some members are currently inactive.

Comments were summarised and the committee had a good discussion regarding possible actions.

Thirteen responders felt a price increase is necessary and, of those, seven would pay £25 inclusive. Three will accept an increase but were not specific. Any increase will be conditional on improvements in meals offered – wider menu choices, more on the plate, especially vegetables and improved taste of curries and chilli etc.

Nearly all felt that tea/coffee at the table is unnecessary and that the cost to the hotel reduces amount available for food. NOTE. Coffee is available to purchase in bar lounge.

Two felt the large round tables, with only seven seats, make it difficult to talk with others, especially for the hard of hearing. Increasing the number at each table, where possible, to eight or nine, may help.

The committee made it clear that the club's disquiet is not a criticism of Joe and her colleagues who continue to do a great job looking after members at lunch times. Neither is it of David Tippet who is the club's liaison with the hotel.

Conclusion

Bob Tanner has been asked by the committee to meet with senior hotel staff to find the best way forward and to report back.

Speaker Programme

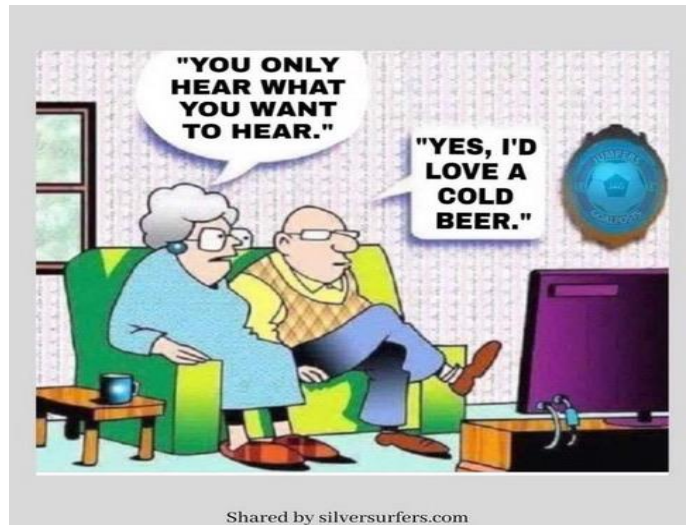
February 22nd	Martin Alderton	- Arundel Walking Tours
March 28th	Bill Mc Naught	- "William Cody" (Not Buffalo Bill, but almost)
April 25th	AGM	- Quiz with President David
May 23rd	Andrew Warren	- "The Mysteries of Aroma"
June 27th	Les Maple	- sound systems in the theatre
July 25th	Dave Pidoux (TBC)	- "Taxi" part 2
August 22nd	O'Malley (Steve Wiltshire)	- Street artist working around Arundel

Looking for more members willing to give a talk. There's so much un-tapped talent out there !

Absent friends

The committee is aware of about ten Probus members who are currently unable to attend club meetings due to illness, incapacity or other circumstances beyond their influence. To them all we would like to say you are greatly missed and we wish you a speedy recovery or change in circumstances that will allow you to return to the fold again soon.

Barring that, we would love to hear from you so please get in touch if you are able, either to club secretary Richard rbrennan118@btinternet.com or to me as the compiler of this light-hearted monthly newsletter bobtanner1809@gmail.com Our very best wishes.



I can't remember how to write 1, 1,000, 51, 6 or 500 in Roman Numerals. IM LIVID !



No. This newsletter has not changed direction. Just look closely at this clever photo. It wasn't posed. Your mind, honestly ! Remember. Two heads are better than bum !

Did you know 14 muscles are activated when opening a bottle of wine?
Now you know how I keep so fit.

Dickie came to call.

It arrived on a friend's driveway but looked different from the usual woodies that waddle around the garden. It was sleeker, looked fitter and was less skittish when approached. It also carried two plastic tags on its legs. A racing pigeon indeed. Where had it come from and where was it going? Why had it stopped off? It was a windy day.

Was it thirsty or hungry? A bowl of water was cautiously provided and the bird seemed grateful after a good drink. Some porridge oats and a few seeds followed, before night set in.

Don't know why, but friends called the pigeon Dickie. It didn't complain.



Next day, Dickie was still there and came close enough to allow one to read the numbers on its tags. A quick look on the Royal Association of Racing Pigeons' website (yes, Her Late Majesty was a keen Pigeon Fancier and had her own lofts) revealed the owner's e-mail address .

Mr Parker soon phoned my friends to confirm Dickie was a hen bird. She had been released in Dorset but strong westerly winds had blown her off course and she hadn't made it back to Oxford. He said they could keep Dickie. (He must have known what would happen later.)

So, lots of bird food was bought and Dickie (they didn't change her name) got more and more comfortable with her generous hosts. She even moved indoors during day-time, perched on a chair back not far from the Aga, and seemed to put on weight.

This arrangement continued for several weeks, to the delight of my friends' neighbour's children who came round daily to help feed.

All seemed normal one bright September morning as Dickie sat preening her feathers on the garage roof. Was she preparing for another long flight? That possibility only occurred later, after she had disappeared.

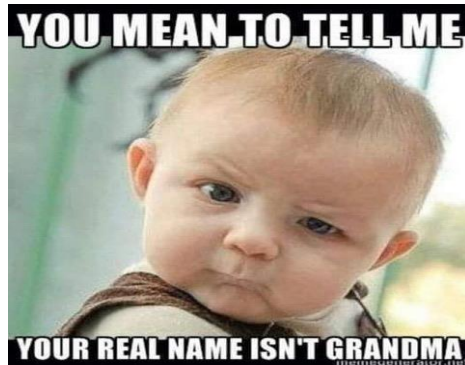
Later the same day, Mr. Parker rang to report that B 12208 (Dickie) had arrived back in her loft, to my friends' utter surprise. Not only had she flown the 150 miles from Uckfield to Oxford in under three hours but had remembered the way after 32 days. The wind had turned southerly which was what Dickie had been waiting for. Even so, with a brain the size of an acorn, that was some accomplishment. Being called "bird-brained" is no longer the insult I thought it was.



What's on next month – March?

Mothers Day, or Mothering Sunday, is on March 10th this year, so don't forget. If you are lucky, Madam, you may be taken out to lunch, receive a bunch of flowers or a box of chocolates. If you are incredibly lucky, you could get all three.

I wonder how many members are taking their mother out. None, sadly. My mum was born in 1913. Now, where shall I take her ?!



Pub Lunch on March 14th at Middleton Sports Club, Sea Lane, Middleton-on-Sea. PO22 7RH
(So there's plenty of time). Kindly organised by Pamela and Tim.

Mains –

- Chicken Forestiere with Sauté Potatoes
- Pan Fried Salmon with Crushed New potatoes
- Steak and Kidney Pie with Mashed Potatoes
- Vegetable Risotto

Desserts –

- Crème Brulée
- Sticky Toffee Pudding with Ice Cream
- Apple Crumble with Custard or Cream
- Ice Cream

Cost £24.00 per person, including tip. Payment by BACS is preferred, unless paying by cash or card at the club meeting on 22nd February. Advise Tim Jowitt of your choice of menu and method of payment by email: jowitttim@gmail.com or by phone: 07529 908610

March 28th. Monthly meeting at The White Swan. Speaker Bill McNaught. Subject "William Cody". Come stay for lunch and bring your partner, friend, neighbour or a stranger! Flyer will follow.



Which member has married the most times? Of course, The Rev. Michael Weaver. He's lost count.

Best wishes, Bob