



Reading and District Probus Club

"Telegraph"

October 2024

Web-site Address – www.probusclub-reading.org.uk

Our speaker this month will be Christine Lewendon who will give us a talk entitled "Those were the Days".

LUNCH ARRANGEMENTS (Tuesday 8th October)

The cost of lunch will be **£24 per head**. Please assemble in the dining area at 12:30 in time for our Business Meeting on this day. Lunch will be served at 12:45. Please remember that you will be liable for a "no show" charge of £22 if you fail to advise the Secretary that you will not be attending by **09:00hrs. on Thursday 3rd October** that you will **not** be attending.

UPCOMING SPEAKER ARRANGEMENTS

12 November 2024 Richard Havelock "Penicillin"

14 January 2025 Jacquie Kavavangh "The BBC Archives"

10 December 2024 (Ladies' Lunch) Wendy Edwards "The Dogs Trust"

11 February 2025 AGM - a film might be shown

4th TUESDAY CLUB" LUNCH (October 22nd)

Come along and enjoy the company and chat at our next "4th Tuesday Club". We normally start to gather around 12 noon at Mapledurham Golf Club. Bring along a friend, your wife or someone else.

BIRTHDAYS THIS MONTH

Barrie Machin will celebrate his birthday this month.

REGALIA & CLUB SALES

If any member wishes to purchase a tie or any other item, please contact Russell King.

Reading & District Probus Club – Committee Members

President: Colin Hatcher **Vice President:** Peter Higginson **Immediate Past President:** Francis Brown
Secretary: David Laird **Treasurer:** Siraj Vora **Speaker Secretary:** Vacant
Almoner: Russell King **Regalia & Club Sales:** Russell King

THIS MONTH'S HUMOUR



Oh dear!!

MORE TRIVIA Titbits

I take no blame for any inaccuracies!

Absolutely pure gold is so soft that it can be molded with the hands. A lump of pure gold the size of a matchbox can be flattened into a sheet the size of a tennis court. An ounce of gold can be stretched into a wire 50 miles long.

Barbers at one time combined shaving and haircutting with bloodletting and pulling teeth. The white stripes on a field of red that spiral down a barber pole represent the bandages used in the bloodletting.

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration announced in 1978 that it would alternate men's and women's names in the naming of hurricanes. It was seen as an attempt at fair play.

Hurricanes had been named for women for years, until the NOAA succumbed to pressure from women's groups who were demanding that Atlantic storms be given unisex names.

In the Netherlands, in 1634, a collector paid 1,000 pounds of cheese, four oxen, eight pigs, 12 sheep, a bed and a suit of clothes for a single bulb of the Viceroy tulip.

There are 45 miles of nerves in the skin of a human being.

Natural gas has no odour. The smell is added artificially so that leaks can be detected.

Although identified with Scotland, bagpipes were actually introduced into the British Isles by the Romans.

While known as a painter, sculptor, architect, and engineer, Leonardo da Vinci was the first to record that the number of rings in the cross section of a tree trunk reveals its age. He also discovered that the width between the rings indicates the annual moisture. He could write with one hand and draw with the other at the same time. Despite his great scientific and artistic achievement, he was proudest of his ability to bend iron with his bare hands.

In 1945, a computer at Harvard malfunctioned and Grace Hopper, who was working on the computer, investigated, found a moth in one of the circuits and removed it. Ever since, when something goes wrong with a computer, it is said to have a bug in it.

The first city to reach a population of one million people was Rome, in 133 BC. London reached the mark in 1810, and New York made it in 1875. Today, there are well over 300 cities in the world that boast a population in excess of one million.

Mayonnaise is said to be the invention of the French chef of the Duke de Richelieu in 1756. While the Duke was defeating the British at Port Mahon, his chef was creating a victory feast that included a sauce made of cream and eggs. When the chef realized that there was no cream in the kitchen, he improvised, substituting olive oil for the cream. A new culinary masterpiece was born, and the chef named it 'Mahonnaise' in honor of the Duke's victory.

The average human body contains enough iron to make a six-inch nail, sulfur to kill all the fleas on an average dog, carbon to make 900 pencils, potassium to fire a toy cannon, fat to make seven bars of soap, phosphorous to make 2,200 match heads and water to fill a ten-gallon tank.

The world's tallest mountains, the Himalayas, are also the fastest growing. Their growth about half an inch a year, is caused by the pressure exerted by two of the Earth's continental plates (the Eurasian plate and the Indo-Australian plate) pushing against one another.

The term 'honeymoon' is derived from the Babylonians who declared mead, a honey-flavored wine, the official wedding drink, stipulating that the bride's parents be required to keep the groom supplied with the drink for the month following the wedding.

Flying from London to New York by Concorde, due to the time zones crossed, you could arrive two hours before you leave.

84 percent of a raw apple is water. A cucumber is 96 percent water.

The sandwich is named for the Fourth Earl of Sandwich (1718-92), for whom sandwiches were made so that he could stay at the gambling table without interruptions for meals. The Hawaiian archipelago was originally called the Sandwich Isles.