



# Reading and District Probuss Club

## "Telegraph"

February 2025

Web-site Address – [www.probusclub-reading.org.uk](http://www.probusclub-reading.org.uk)

At this month's meeting we will hold our Annual General Meeting. There will be no Speaker. However, a short film will be shown for your entertainment following the AGM.

### LUNCH ARRANGEMENTS (Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> February)

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 6<sup>th</sup> February** that you will **not** be attending.

### PAYMENT FOR LUNCHES

If you intend to pay by BACS please ensure that your transfer is made to Reading & District Probuss Club sort code 20-71-03 account number 80398594 on the **Monday before** the lunch at the latest, giving the reference your name followed by the month.

### UPCOMING SPEAKER ARRANGEMENTS

**11 March 2025** Michael Humphries  
"Reminiscences of a Very Amateur Organist"

**8 April 2025** Fred McCrindle - "Dementia"

**13 May 2025** Peter Higginson - "The History of Electronic Computers"

**13 May 2025** Alan Fitzgerald - "Hidden Rivers of London"

### 4<sup>th</sup> TUESDAY CLUB" LUNCH (February 25<sup>th</sup>)

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

### BIRTHDAYS THIS MONTH

David Laird 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 Probuss Club – Committee Members**

**President:** Colin Hatcher **Vice President:** Peter Higginson **Past President:** Francis Brown  
**Secretary:** David Laird **Treasurer:** Siraj Vora **Speaker Secretary:** Vacant  
**Almoner:** Russell King **Press Secretary:** Vacant **Supplies Officer:** Russell King

## THIS MONTH'S HUMOUR



### **My Newest Unique Sculpture!**

**I wonder what the starting price will be when I put it up for auction at Christies**

### **More bits of useless information**

False eyelashes were invented by an American film director D W Griffith while he was making his epic 1916 epic *Intolerance*. Griffith wanted actress Seena Owen to have lashes that brushed her cheeks, to make her eyes shine larger than life. A wigmaker wove human hair through fine gauze, which was then gummed to Owen's eyelids. *Intolerance* was critically acclaimed but flopped financially, leaving Griffith with huge debts that he might have been able to settle easily — had he only thought to patent the eyelashes.

The Great Lakes are Lake Michigan, Lake Huron, Lake Erie and Lake Ontario. They are the most important inland waterway in North America. All the lakes, except Lake Michigan, which lies entirely in the United States, are shared by the United States and Canada and form part of the border between these countries. They contain six quadrillion gallons of fresh water, one fifth of the world's fresh surface water. The Great Lakes have a combined area of 94,230 square miles — larger than the states of New York, New Jersey, Connecticut, Rhode Island, Massachusetts, and Vermont combined.

The most abundant metal in the Earth's crust is aluminium. The Chinese were using aluminium to make things as early as 300 AD, although western civilization didn't rediscover aluminium until 1827. Napoleon III provided his most honored guests with knives and forks made of pure aluminum. At the time the newly discovered metal was so rare, it was considered more valuable than gold.

The first performance of Handel's Messiah was on April 13 1742 at the New Music rooms in Fishamble Street, Dublin. Because of the demand for space, the men were asked not to wear their swords and the ladies not to wear hooped skirts.

More than 99.9 percent of all the animal species that have ever lived on Earth were extinct before the coming of man.

The first safety feature for an automobile was invented in 1908 by John O'Leary. He patented a large net, to be installed on the front bumper, to scoop pedestrians out of the way before they could be run over.

Saffron, made from the dried stamens of cultivated crocus flowers, is the most expensive cooking spice.

The average person falls asleep in seven minutes and is about a quarter of an inch taller at night.

Oak trees do not produce acorns until they are at least fifty years old.

The White House, in Washington DC, was initially gray, the color of its original stone. After the War of 1812, during which it had been burned by Canadian troops, the outside walls were painted white to hide the smoke stains.

Adult cats with no health problems are in deep sleep 15 percent of their lives. They are in light sleep 50 percent of the time.

Offered a new pen to write with, 97 percent of all people will write their own name.

David Laird  
31 January 2025