



Reading and District Probus Club

"Telegraph"

September 2025

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

This month our own Michael Humphries will tell us about his reminiscences as an amateur organist.

LUNCH ARRANGEMENTS (Tuesday 9th September)

The cost of lunch will be £28 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 £27 if you fail to advise the Secretary that you will not be attending by 09:00hrs. on Thursday 4th September that you will not be attending.

UPCOMING SPEAKER ARRANGEMENTS

14 October 2025 Film show / Discussion
"The Antikythera Mechanism"

11 November 2025 Francis Brown "50 years In
the Saddle"

9 December 2025 Jean Hill "The Rhyme of Our
Lives"

13 January 2026 Nick Brazil "A Balkan
Railway Adventure"

4th TUESDAY CLUB" LUNCH (September 23rd)

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 or your wife.

BIRTHDAYS THIS MONTH

September was a barren month!

REGALIA & CLUB SALES

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

Reading & District Probus Club – Committee Members

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

THIS MONTH'S HUMOUR



Something missing?

Grocery Delivery Substitutions

I received my order and three items were substituted - toffee cream doughnuts, vegetarian sausage rolls and cheese and leek lattice bakes. Each of the three was replaced by a box of baby plum tomatoes! (I had already ordered one box). I always thought that substitutions consisted of nearest thing to the missing item. Can anyone explain how plum tomatoes is the nearest similar item to toffee cream doughnuts, sausage rolls, and cheese lattice pies similar to leek lattice bakes. I am thoroughly confused. I now have four packs of tomatoes instead of one, so it looks like tomorrow I'll be making tomato soup.

I ordered a 70 cl bottle of vodka ice which cost £4.00. It was out of stock and was substituted by a 70cl bottle of vodka costing £16.00. I was only charged £4.00!

I ordered a toilet brush. It was out of stock, so they sent me a toothbrush!

I ordered a packet of Chorizo (Spanish sausage) and was sent a jar of olives instead!

During Covid I ordered toilet rolls - they were out of stock because of the great demand. They were substituted by light bulbs!

I was sent two packs of Beecham's cold and flu tablets instead of a Covid test kit! The delivery driver thought it highly amusing and circulated it to all of his fellow drivers!

I ordered some Whiskers for our cat. They said they had none in stock so sent dog biscuits as a substitution!

Friends of ours ordered a joint of lamb and some mint sauce to go with it. They were sent seafood sauce as a substitution for the out of stock mint sauce.

I ordered battered onion rings and got onion snack crisps!

I once had broccoli replaced by broccoli seeds - at least it was the same veg.!

Courtesy Peter Higginson

Eating Out in the 50s

1. Pasta was not eaten.
2. Curry was a surname.
3. A takeaway was a mathematical problem.
4. A pizza was something to do with a leaning tower.
5. Crisps were plain; the only choice was whether to put the salt on or not.
6. Rice was only eaten as a milk pudding.
7. A Big Mac was what we wore when it was raining.
8. Brown bread was something only poor people ate.
9. Oil was for lubricating; fat was for cooking.
10. Tea was made in a teapot using tea leaves and never green.
11. Sugar enjoyed a good press in those days and was regarded as being white gold. Cubed sugar was regarded as "posh".
12. Fish didn't have fingers.
13. Eating raw fish was called poverty, not sushi.
14. None of us had ever heard of yoghurt.
15. Healthy food consisted of anything edible.
16. People who didn't peel potatoes were regarded as lazy.
17. Indian restaurants were only found in India.
18. Cooking outside was called camping.
19. Seaweed was not a recognised food.
20. "Kebab" was not even a word, never mind a food.
21. Prunes were medicinal.
22. Surprisingly, muesli was readily available it was called cattle feed.
23. Water came out of the tap. If someone had suggested bottling it and charging more than petrol for it, they would have become a laughing stock!
24. And the things that we never, ever had on our table in the 50s and 60s: elbows or phones!

Courtesy Ray Head

*David Laird
31 August 2025*

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