



# Reading and District Probus Club

## "Telegraph"

October 2025

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

This month our own Peter Higginson will tell us about "The Antikythera Mechanism" and also show a video regarding this amazing ancient Greek box of tricks.

### LUNCH ARRANGEMENTS (Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> October)

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 9<sup>th</sup> October** that you will **not** be attending.

### UPCOMING SPEAKER ARRANGEMENTS

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

**13 January 2026** Nick Brazil "A Balkan Railway Adventure"

**9 December 2025** Christmas Lunch  
Jean Hill "The Rhyme of Our Lives"

**10 February 2026** AGM No speaker but we hope to see a bit of comedy

### 4<sup>th</sup> TUESDAY CLUB" LUNCH (October 28<sup>th</sup>)

Some of us are still meeting and enjoying the company and chat at these "4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday Club" get togethers. Why don't you join in at our next gathering. We normally turn up around 12 noon at Mapledurham Golf Club. Bring along a friend or your partner.

### BIRTHDAYS THIS MONTH

Like last month, October was also 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



### **CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL THE KIDS WHO WERE BORN IN THE ..... 30's 40's, and 50's!!**

First, we survived being born to mothers who smoked and/or drank while they carried us and lived in houses made of asbestos.

They took aspirin, ate blue cheese, tuna from a can, and didn't get tested for diabetes or cervical cancer.

Then after that trauma, our baby cots were covered with bright coloured lead-based paints.

We had no childproof lids on medicine bottles, doors or cabinets and when we rode our bikes, we had no helmets or shoes, not to mention, the risks some of us took hitchhiking .

We drank water from the garden hose and NOT from a bottle.

Take away food was limited to fish and chips, no pizza shops, McDonalds, KFC,

Even though all the shops closed at 6.00pm and didn't open on the weekends, somehow we didn't starve to death!

We shared one soft drink with four friends, from one bottle and NO ONE actually died from this.

We could collect old drink bottles and cash them in at the corner store and buy Gobstoppers, Aniseed Balls, Uncle Joe's Mintballs, and some fireworks to blow up frogs and lizards.

We ate cupcakes, white bread and real butter and drank soft drinks with sugar in it, but we weren't overweight because.....

**WE WERE ALWAYS OUTSIDE PLAYING!!**

We would leave home in the morning and play all day, as long as we were back when the streetlights came on.

No one was able to reach us all day. And we were O.K.

We would spend hours building our go-carts out of scraps and then ride down the hill, only to find out we forgot the brakes.

We built Dens and tree houses and played in creek beds with Dinky cars.

We did not have Playstations, Nintendo's, X-boxes, no video games at all, no 99 channels on cable, no video tape or DVD movies, no surround sound, no mobile phones, no personal computers, no Internet or Internet chat rooms.....

**WE HAD FRIENDS** and we went outside and found them!

We fell out of trees, got cut, broke bones and teeth and there were no Lawsuits from these accidents .

Only girls had pierced ears!

You could only buy Easter Eggs and Hot Cross buns at Easter time.....no really!

We drank milk laced with Strontium 90 from cows that had eaten grass covered in nuclear fallout from the atomic testing at Maralinga in 1956.

We rode bikes or walked to a friend's house and knocked on the door or rang the bell, or just yelled for them!

Footy had tryouts and not everyone made the team. Those who didn't had to learn to deal with disappointment. Imagine that!!

Our teachers used to belt us with big sticks and leather straps and bully's always ruled the playground at school.

The idea of a parent bailing us out if we broke the law was unheard of. They actually sided with the law!

Our parents got married before they had children and didn't invent stupid names for their kids like 'Kiora' and 'Blade'.....and you **RESPECTED THEM**.

You ran when you saw a Copper on a Bike, and you hadn't done anything wrong!! Fear and Respect was the Order then.!!

This generation has produced some of the best risk-takers, problem solvers and inventors ever!

The past 70 years have seen an explosion of innovation and new ideas.

We had freedom, failure, success and responsibility, and we learned **HOW TO DEAL WITH IT ALL!**

And, **CONGRATULATIONS, YOU are one of them!**

David Laird  
30 September 2025