



# Reading and District Probus Club

## "Telegraph"

April 2026

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

We welcome our speaker, Caroline Simms of Silvertime Legal, who will tell us all about Tax, Care and the New Guy".

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

Please note that with effect from this month the cost of lunch has been increased to £30 per head. Please assemble in the dining area at 12:30 in time for our Business Meeting. Lunch will be served at 12:45. Please remember that you will be liable for a "no show" charge of £29 if you fail to advise the Secretary by 09:00hrs. on Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> March that you will not be attending.

### UPCOMING SPEAKER ARRANGEMENTS

**12 May 2026** Kevin Fitzsimons "The War Graves Commission"

**9 June 2026** (Guest's meeting) Alan Copeland "The Changing Face of Reading"

**14 July 2026** Rebecca Chu "Urban Observations from Beijing, Shanghai, Hong Kong, Singapore, London and Reading"

**12 August 2026** Nick Wells "General Knowledge Quiz"

### 4<sup>th</sup> TUESDAY CLUB" LUNCH (April 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

Colin Hatcher will celebrate his birthday this 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:** Russell King **Vice President:** John Woodcock **Past President:** Peter Higginson  
**Secretary:** David Laird **Treasurer:** Siraj Vora **Speaker Coordinator:** Colin Hatcher  
**Almoner:** Russell King **Press Secretary:** Vacant **Supplies Officer:** Russell King  
**Minutes Recorder:** Francis Brown

## THIS MONTH'S HUMOUR



### **Two intrepid members on club visit to Brooklands Museum**

#### **More bits of Trivial Information**

Women shoplift more often than men; the statistics are four to one.

King Alfonso of Spain (1886-1931), was so tone-deaf that he had one man in his employ known as the Anthem Man. This man's duty was to tell the king to stand up whenever the Spanish national anthem was played, because the monarch couldn't recognize it.

Seoul, the South Korean capital, just means "the capital" in the Korean language.

The term "devil's advocate" comes from the Roman Catholic Church. When deciding if someone should be sainted, a devil's advocate is always appointed to give an alternative view.

Dr. Samuel Langley was able to get many model airplanes to fly, but on December 8, 1903, Langley's "human-carrying flying machine" plunged into the Potomac River near Washington DC, in front of photographers who were assembled to witness the event. Reporters around the country made fun of the idea that people could fly and nine days later, Wilbur and Orville Wright proved them wrong.

The human kidney consists of over one million little tubes with a total length of about 40 miles in both kidneys. The kidneys filter about 500 gallons of blood each day.

In Greek culture, brides carry a lump of sugar in their wedding glove. It's supposed to bring sweetness to their married life.

During the time that the atomic bomb was being hatched by the linked States at Alamogordo, New Mexico, applicants for routine jobs like cleaners, were disqualified if they could read - illiteracy was a job requirement. The reason: the authorities did not want their rubbish or other papers read.

Snails produce a colorless, sticky discharge that forms a protective carpet under them as they travel along. The discharge is so effective that they can crawl along the edge of a razor without cutting themselves.

Dennis Newton was on trial for the armed robbery of a convenience store in district court when he fired his lawyer. Assistant district attorney Larry Jones said Newton, 47, was doing a fair job of defending himself until the store manager testified that Newton was the robber. Newton jumped up, accused the woman of lying and then said, "I should have blown your head off." The defendant paused, then quickly added, "If I'd been the one that was there." The jury took 20 minutes to convict Newton and recommended a 30-year sentence.

The "y" in signs reading "ye olde..." is properly pronounced with a "th" sound, not "y". The "th" sound does not exist in Latin, so when ancient Rome occupied (present day) England the rune "thorn" was used to represent "th" sounds.

Spiral staircases in medieval castles run clockwise. This is because all knights used to be right-handed. When the intruding army would climb the stairs they would not be able to use their right hand which was holding the sword because of the difficulties of climbing the stairs. Left-handed knights would have had no troubles, except left-handed people could never become knights because it was assumed that they were descendants of the devil.

Shakespeare spelled his own name several different ways. He is given credit by scholars for introducing as many as 10,000 words, and phrases into written language. But it's not at all certain that he made up this many words. Most were probably common terms for his time and he was merely the first to put them in written form in his plays and poems. Some scholars give him credit for thousands, but others say he actually coined only a few hundred. He was the first person to use certain words that are now common, including hurry, alligator, bump, eyeball, and anchovy.