

NEWSLETTER



NEWENT & DISTRICT PROBUS CLUB



AUGUST 2022



No Pub Lunch this month – Next one Tuesday 6th September



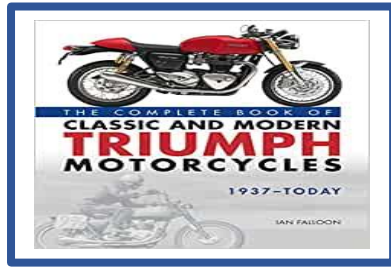
TUESDAY 9th August 2022

Jim Cooper

The art of persuasion
The History of Travel Posters

Poster art has always been an influential form of advertising in addition to an art form in its own right. Powerful images and bold colours were employed to capture attention and evoke the promise of someplace new and exotic, promoting an experience or adventure and how to get there. Today, they stand the test of time as stylized art and an investment for their style and strong visuals, and the artists that created the work.

Jessie Gillan



TUESDAY 23 August 2022

Ray Sturdy

The Spirit of Triumph

The Triumph Motorcycle Company

Triumph Engineering Co Ltd was a British motorcycle manufacturing company, based originally in Coventry and then in Meriden. A new company, Triumph Motorcycles Ltd, based in Hinckley, gained the name rights after the end of the company in the 1980s and is now one of the world's major motorcycle manufacturers.



In view of the recent events at Westminster I thought this is really relevant?

Oxford University researchers having discovered the densest element yet know to science.

It is has been named
Governmentium (Symbol=Gv)

It has only **1** neutron,
25 assistant neutrons
88 deputy neutrons and
198 assistant deputy neutrons,
Giving it an atomic mass of **312**.

These 312 particles are held together by forces called **Morons**, which are surrounded by a vast quantity of lepton-like particles called **Pillocks**.

Since Governmentium has no electrons, it is inert. However, it can be detected, because it impedes every reaction with which it comes in contact with.

A tiny amount of Governmentium can cause a reaction that would normally take less than a second, to take 4days to 4 years to complete.

Governmentium has a normal half- life of 2-6 years

It does not decay, but instead undergoes a reorganisation in which a portion of the assistant neutrons and deputy neutrons exchange places.

In fact, Governmentium's mass will actually increase over time, since each reorganisation will cause more Morons to become neutrons, forming **Isodopes**.

This characteristic of moron promotion leads some scientists to believe that Governmentium is formed whenever morons reach a critical concentration. This hypothetical quantity is referred to as a critical morass.

When catalysed with money, Governmentium becomes

Administratium (symbol =Ad), an element that radiates just as much energy as Governmentium, since it has half as many Pillocks but twice as many Morons.

B Browning.

THE JOY OF FALSE MEMORY

DR KATY BELLAMY. PHD; MSC

COGNITIVE PSYCHOLOGIST



Katy Bellamy, a cognitive psychologist, made a welcome return to Newent and was as entertaining as ever when she spoke about the “Joys of False Memory”. This, she explained, in its simplest terms and in her own inimitable style, means remembering with extreme clarity, events that never happened at all.

Dr Bellamy completed her MSc and PhD at The University of Edinburgh studying the cognitive neuroscience of false memory. She currently works as a professional public speaker talking on neuroscience topics and as an expert witness in court cases

She opened by saying that her talk explains how the phenomenon of false memory helped scientists understand how true memory works in the brain. It’s a phenomenon we all produce all of the time. In fact, without false memory, you can’t produce true memories, an observation seen in people with diseases that cause dementia.

In this, she, and the rest of her profession, drew heavily on the works of Professor Frederick Bartlett who was a British psychologist and the first professor of experimental psychology at the University of Cambridge. It was an assemblage of his past works, including experiments testing the ability to remember using figures, photographs, and stories.

His Theory of Remembering involved social conditions that were influential to remembering, along with comparisons such as “free remembering” to special circumstances of remembering.

We all have them. In 1914 Professor Bartlett started to research memory. Recall was generally thought to be accurate then, but he found that not to be the case in Asian countries. They had a more philosophical view. He carried out experiments and wrote a book “Remembering” about them. He found that well known stories like King Arthur would all be told differently, but he then discovered native American stories that had been regularly told. He found dramatic changes in retellings which may have been weeks or months later. Canoes became boats. Paddles became oars. Major parts were omitted. He concluded that memory is biased by social and cultural issues and memories are made to fit with life experience.

In a famous experiment a group of Americans was asked to count the number of passes in a basketball match shown on TV. Not one saw a gorilla walk past at a certain point. There were expectations of what they would see and the brain had ignored the gorilla. The Professor concluded that memory was a reconstructive process, drawing from different storage spaces within the brain. There were no MRI scans available to him but later experiments have shown that the memory, of e.g., a birthday party, will light up several different parts of the brain before eventually emerging from the hippocampus.

Bartlett’s work made him the godfather of psychology and changed the way we think about memory.

Katy then showed, admittedly to some scepticism from the audience, the example “The War of the Ghosts” experiment from *Remembering* (1932); Bartlett's most famous study. In the experiment, Bartlett assigned his Edwardian English participants to read the Native American Folklore titled “War of the Ghosts”. Participants were told to remember the story at extended intervals numerous times. Bartlett found that at longer intervals between reading the story and remembering it, participants were less accurate and forgot much of the information from the story.

Bartlett's opus remains in print and it was not superseded until the 1970s when Elizabeth Loftus's book “Witness for the Defence” was published and this immediately became the “go to” text book for students.

By using examples from these two works, Katy demonstrated the fallibility of so-called memory and how a false memory could be created in a person's mind. This proved particularly apt in court cases where a defendant could be acquitted purely on the evidence that what a witness was testifying did not, in fact, happen at all.

She then challenged, with some success, members' recollection of perhaps two of the most infamous events of recent times - the John Kennedy assassination and the 9/11 Bombings. Finally, she demonstrated that, in spite of some members' claims, we have no recollection of events that happened when we were three years old or under. That part of the brain that stores memory does not become functional until we are ages 4 and 5 years.

Bizarrely you have to have false memories to form true memories. Memories slowly degrade so they are better closer to the time of the event. It is false memory that keeps true memory going. In the case of dementia, the patient will have both false and true memory recall operating at once.

After telling a story of a memory about 6 or 7 times the core elements are likely to remain for the future, but peripheral details will still change. When emotion is present then the amygdala is involved and 2 copies are laid down – one in the hippocampus and one in the frontal cortex of the brains.

This was clearly a complex topic with surprising assertions, and raised numerous questions from the floor for Katy to answer.

The chairman had to call a halt to the lively question and answer session that followed as it threatened to become as long as Katy's talk.

Peter Hayes / John Wzdzon



HM Government

The Government have announced that to help with the current economic crisis, that from 1st October, the Home Office and Immigration Department will start deporting pensioners (instead of Illegals) in order to lower Welfare Benefits, Pensions and NHS costs.

The longer I look at this the more I understand why aliens don't visit us anymore.





DINING WELL

Virginia Woolf once said “We cannot think well, love well, or sleep well if we have not dined well! Most months, members have a chance to prove at least one of these and who knows, maybe all three.

In and around Newent, we are fortunate in having an unrivalled range of pubs serving good food within easy travelling distance – the problem is, particularly for those who are newcomers to the district, finding them.

An easy, and pleasurable, way to discover these hidden culinary gems is to join our regular, monthly pub lunches. Long-time member Peter Hines organises these and he notifies members via email each month of the venue for that month’s lunch. Purely in the interests of research, Peter, aided and abetted, by his wife Lee, “road test” each pub before naming it as a venue [someone has to do it. Ed]. Then, and only then, does he recommend it to members.

Peter told the Newsletter that he has a four-point plan when choosing a suitable venue

- * Open Tuesdays; max 30mins from Newent
- * Good food choice, reasonable prices
- * Ample space in pub and parking; easy access
- * Friendly staff, ambience, clean loos

Not many pubs meet all four. So, quiriness and character is just a bonus. Of course, the quality of the food is vital. He also tries to look out for those slightly off the beaten track where members might not ordinarily visit.

Apart from the happy experience of a good meal enjoyed in nice surrounding there is also the joy of good conversation with fellow members and it’s perhaps opportune to remind members that one of the elements of Probus membership is fellowship. Although, to a certain extent, this happens during our regular meetings, a pub lunch provides the chance to meet others whom perhaps you may not know so well, in a more relaxed atmosphere. There is no great mystique in coming along to one of them. Just notify Peter, make your choice from the menu that he sends round. and turn up – and he will even provide directions on how to get there if necessary.

Last month, around thirty of us including wives and partners and widows of past members, met at The Mill Race at Walford, a tiny straggling village between Ross on Wye and Lydbrook in the Forest of Dean. An extensive menu provided a baffling choice, while the dessert made selection difficult and abstinence harder still. Our numbers perhaps surprised the hosts, making service not the fastest in the world. No matter, drinks were downed and conversation flowed and a jolly good time was had by all.

Peter Hayes

Health Advice

The Japanese eat very little fat and suffer fewer heart attacks than the British or Americans.

On the other hand, the French eat a lot of fat and also suffer fewer heart attacks than the British or Americans.

The Japanese drink very little red wine and suffer fewer heart attacks than the British or Americans.

The Italians drink excessive amounts of red wine and also suffer fewer heart attacks than the British or Americans.

Conclusion: Eat and drink what you like, it's speaking English that kills you!!!!



**A MAN HAS BEEN KILLED BY A SHARK
WHILST HONEYMOONING IN AUSTRALIA.
REPORTS SAY HE DIDN'T SUFFER, AS HE
WAS ONLY MARRIED FOR 5 DAYS.**

HOLIDAY COMPLAINTS

1. "They should not allow topless sunbathing on the beach. It was very distracting for my husband who just wanted to relax."
2. "On my holiday to Goa in India, I was disgusted to find that almost every restaurant served curry. I don't like spicy food."
3. "We went on holiday to Spain and had a problem with the taxi drivers as they were all Spanish."
4. "Although the brochure said that there was a fully equipped kitchen, there was no egg-slicer in the drawers."
5. "It's lazy of the local shopkeepers in the afternoons. I often needed to buy things during 'siesta' time -- this should be banned."

They breed and are allowed to vote!

Read all about it.



Eastern Evening News. An Elsan chemical toilet has gone missing from a hut at Corton's pitch and putt course. Lowestoft police are investigating but say they have nothing to go on.

Huddersfield Examiner. Lost, brown and black dog. Has pie-balled left eye and limbs. He has half of his right ear missing and no tail. Answers to the name of Lucky.

Exmouth Journal. Budleigh Salterton has been criticised for the poor state of its beach. A spokesman for council commented "Unfortunately we have a sewerage outlet at the East end of the beach and another one at the West end, so we seem to be caught between two stools"

Where am I?



**Answer to last month's
picture quiz was:**

**Lower Brockhampton
Court, Nr Bromyard.**

No one recognised it!



Minding your own business

Yesterday, my daughter emailed me again, asking why I don't do something more useful with my time. "You mean relaxing in the garden drinking wine is not good for me" I answered".

Doing something useful seems to be her favourite topic of conversation.

"She said she was only thinking of me, she said I should go down the senior's centre and meet with people there".

I took her advice and when I got home decided to teach her a lesson about staying out of my business.

I emailed her and told her that I had joined a Parachute club.

She replied "Are you mad? You are 75 years old and now you are going to start jumping out of a plane?"

I told her that I even got a membership card, which I said I would email to her.

She immediately telephoned me "Good grief mother! did you not have your glasses on? The is membership to a Prostitute Club not Parachute".

"Oh Lord, I said. I am in real trouble; I don't know what to do. I signed up for 5 jumps a week"

The line went quiet and her friend came on the phone and said that her daughter had just fainted.

SUMMER PARTY

On Tuesday 26 July, forty-four members, wives and wives of former members, enjoyed a most pleasant afternoon at our summer party, the first to be held for a several years and the first to be held in the gardens of Gorsley Village Hall. The weather was kind to us, although it got a little warm and sun hats were the order of the day. The excellent food provided and served by Gurneys Butchers of Ledbury, was BBQ Roast "Gloucester Old Spot" Pork and a selection of salads. The ladies (and some of the men) excelled themselves with a spectacular variety of mouth-watering desserts. It was so lovely to see everyone meeting up and talking to old friends. It really demonstrated the ethos of Probus of Fellowship.



Photos courtesy of Mike Townsend

**Thanks to all those who submitted
articles, particularly Peter Hayes and
John Weeden.
I would like to hear from other members
as well.**

•
Ed (temp)



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