



NEWENT & DISTRICT PROBUS CLUB

NEWSLETTER



Welcome
to 2023

HAPPY NEW YEAR

Probus Outreach

Members are reminded that a small but friendly group, usually convenes in the **King's Arms, Newent** after meetings to mull over the talk just given, to run the country better than the present lot or just to chat about anything and everything. Do come along and pitch in. No-one expects you to buy a round! The pub has a warm, friendly vibe and happily serves coffee and non-alcoholic drinks.

Chairmans Message

The New Year is traditionally a time for looking back to see what the major events of the year have been, and also looking forward with aspirations for the year to come. With this in mind I looked back at the note John wrote for the last January newsletter. What a difference a year can make. Yes, John was able to highlight that we had started meeting in the hall again and yes, we had managed to fit in the Christmas Lunch at the Speech House. At the same time, he was warning that it was very probable that we would have to return to Zoom meetings again because of the surge in Covid cases at that time, and so it turned out to be.

I am fortunate enough to be able to report that since I took over as Chairman, we have been able to hold every meeting in the hall (not because of me) and we have been able to enjoy a full programme of monthly lunches thanks to Peter and Lee, and we have also managed to hold our summer party and Christmas lunch both of which were well attended and successful.

Looking forward I hope that we will be able to increase membership and this will help to enable us to start days out to various venues and perhaps theatre trips both of which are still lacking the necessary numbers to keep the costs reasonable. However even without these activities I think the club has done very well to hold so many monthly social events and so I think we are currently stable but cannot be complacent.

Finally, I thank you all for your support in 2022 and I wish you all a peaceful and healthy New Year and look forward to our next meeting in January.

Andrew

Christmas Lunch

*Our thanks to John Martin for organising our excellent
Christmas Lunch
It was very well attended and I think all would agree the
venue was very good as was the food and service.*







John Slack

It was with great pleasure that the Club felt able to award John the status of ***Honorary Member*** on reaching his ninety fourth birthday. Our Chairman Andrew Graham presented John with his certificate, which took place at the Club's annual Christmas Lunch at the Hatherley Manor Hotel on the 13th December.

John is a Chartered Engineer by profession and a very highly respected and well-known member of the club, having joined in 2013. Since then, he has contributed significantly by giving talks and organizing the very successful and popular annual Skittles Evenings, and his vast knowledge has been invaluable in the club quizzes. John is especially well known for his quick wit, dry sense of humour and skill as a raconteur with a seemingly inexhaustible supply of stories and jokes.

John and Yvonne are great traveller's, in particular they very much enjoy cruising to the extent that they seem to have preferential treatment with SAGA.

Congratulations John and our best wishes.



Where am I ?

THIS MONTH'S SPEAKERS

TUESDAY 10 JANUARY 2023

“Falklands – the rebirth of a community”

Ken Ingemills



TUESDAY 24 JANUARY 2023

“Inside a Beehive”

Howard Pitts



Christmas Quiz Answers

Pictures:

1. Office pencil sharpener
2. Vintage Toaster
3. Car Cigarette lighter
4. Flash Light Cubes
5. Caps for a Cap Gun
6. Dip Switch Main beam on car

Number of birds in the song 12 Days of Christmas.

There is a total of **184 birds** in the 12 Days of Christmas.
Here's how to work it out:

Day 1 – a partridge in a pear tree (**1 bird**)

Day 2 – 2 turtle doves and a partridge in a pear tree (**3 birds**)

Day 3 – 3 French hens, 2 turtle doves and a partridge in a pear tree (**6 birds**)

Day 4 – 4 colly (or calling birds), 3 French hens, 2 turtle doves and a partridge in a pear tree (**10 birds**)

Day 5 – **10 birds** again

Day 6 – 6 geese-a-laying, 4 colly birds, 3 French hens, 2 turtle doves and a partridge in a pear tree (**16 birds**)

Day 7 – 7 swans-a-swimming, 6 geese-a-laying, 4 colly birds, 3 French hens, 2 turtle doves and a partridge in a pear tree (**23 birds**)

Day 8 – **23 birds**

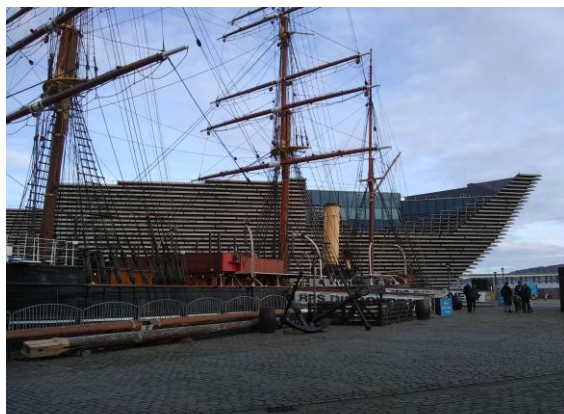
Day 9 – **23 birds**

Day 10 – **23 birds**

Day 11 – **23 birds**

Day 12 – **23 birds**

Add all the days together and you get **184 birds**.



Chairmans Picture Quiz

The Victoria &
Albert Museum
Dundee, Scotland

1. Which country started the tradition of putting up a Christmas tree?
GERMANY
2. How many Ghosts showed up in "A Christmas Carol" ?
FOUR - Jacob Marly, The Spirits of Christmas Past, Present & Future
3. In which country did Eggnog originate ?
BRITAIN
4. How many gifts were given in total in "The Twelve Days of Christmas" song?
364
5. In which country is it tradition to eat KFC for Christmas dinner?
JAPAN
6. In the film "Love Actually" which character said "Christmas is all around" and what was the name of the actor playing the part?
BILLY MACK played by BILL NIGHY
7. How many of Rudolph's reindeer's name began with the letter "D"?
THREE - DANCER, DASHER & DONNER
8. Which city has been donating the Christmas Tree in Trafalgar Square every year since 1947?
OSLO, NORWAY
9. In what classic novel does the protagonist set sail for a sea voyage on a cold Christmas day
MOBY DICK
10. If you were born on Christmas Day, what is your star sign?
CAPRICORN
11. What is the best-selling Christmas record of all time?
Bing Crosby's "White Christmas" according to the Guinness Book of Records
12. What time is the Monarch's speech to the nation traditional broadcast on Christmas Day?
3pm
13. What colour suit did Santa Claus wear until Coco Cola rebranded him in red?
GREEN
14. What colour are Mistletoe berries?
WHITE
15. What is the real name of the department store featured in Miracle On 34th Street?
MACY'S
16. What decoration do Elves traditionally have on their shoes?
BELLS
17. What fruit is traditionally put in Christmas stockings?
ORANGE or TANGARINE
18. What type of tree is most commonly used for Christmas Trees?
NORDMANN FIR
19. What is the opening line to Shakin Stevens song "Merry Christmas Everyone,"
"THE SNOW IS FALLING, ALL AROUND ME.
20. Which British Monarch delivered the first ever Christmas message?
KING GEORGE V 1932



Things aren't always as they appear.

A man was flying from Glasgow to London Heathrow when the plane had to make an unscheduled stop at Manchester due to a technical issue. The flight attendant announced that there would be a delay until the problem was resolved and if passengers wished to get off the aircraft, they could do so and reboard in an hour. Everyone disembarked except one man, who was blind. Another man had noticed him as he walked by and saw that he had a guide dog laying underneath the seat. He could tell that he had flown on this flight before as the Pilot approached him calling him by his name. He said "Hi Keith we are going to be here for about an hour would you like to get off and stretch your legs?" The blind man replied, "No thanks but maybe my dog would like to stretch his legs?" As the pilot descended the stairs from the plane wearing sunglasses with the guide dog, the passengers looked back in horror. They all scattered, they were not only trying to change planes.... but airlines!

An odd young fellow from
Khartoum
Fell in love with a silver
serving spoon
But the object of his
affection
Was his own damn reflection
That silly silly man from
Khartoum

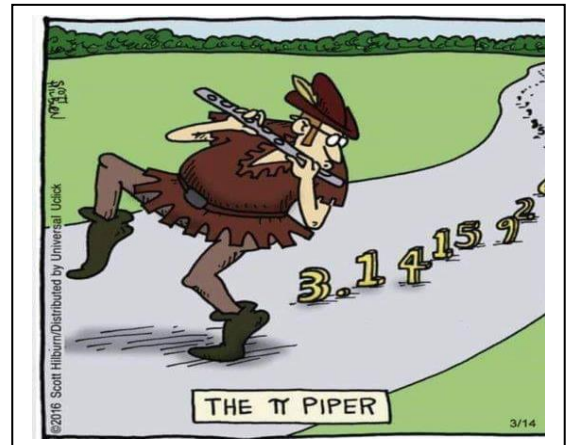




Howlers

A Farmer went out in the snow one morning, to tend to his cows and found them all frozen. A woman was passing by, she breathed on them and each one defrosted. The farmer said to her, "Are you an Angel sent from heaven?"

"No", said the woman,
"I'm Thora Hird!"



Two cowboys are lost in the desert. One cowboy sees a tree that's draped in bacon. "A bacon tree! We're saved!" He says. He runs to the tree and is shot up with bullets.

It wasn't a bacon tree, it was a ham bush.

A Genie granted me one wish, so I said: "I just want to be happy."
Now I'm living in a cottage with 6 Dwarves & working in a mine..

My teacher asked me to give a sentence using the word "centimetre", so I replied, "my Nan came to see us at our new house, but she didn't know the way so I was centimetre"



Visited our local wetland reserve as they have just hatched their first crane. They have named him Derrick.

Something to think about.



Why should we pay cash everywhere with banknotes instead of a card?

I have a £50 banknote in my pocket. I go to a restaurant and paying for dinner with it.

The restaurant owner then uses the note to pay for the laundry.

The laundry owner then uses the note to pay the barber.

The barber will then use the note for shopping.

After an unlimited number of payments, it will still remain a £50, which has fulfilled its purpose to everyone who used it for payment and the bank has not benefited from every cash payment transaction made.

But... If I come to a restaurant and pay for dinner digitally - Card bank fees for my payment transaction charged to the seller are 3%, so around £1.50 and so the fee will be £1.50 for each further payment transaction or owner re laundry or payments of the owner of the laundry shop, or payments of the barber etc..... Therefore, after 30 transactions, the initial £50 will remain only £5 and the remaining £45 became the property of the bank thanks to all digital transactions and fees

My tolerance for idiots is extremely low these days. I used to have some immunity built up, but obviously there's a new strain out there.

Have you got Sex Insurance?

You can now get sex insurance in the UK so it's important you get the correct one

The list below contains the companies that cater for various tastes.

Sex with your Wife : LEGAL & GENERAL

Sex on the phone: DIRECT LINE

Sex with your partner: STANDARD LIFE

Sex with a different person: GO COMPARE

Sex with a lady of generous proportions – MORE THAN

Sex with a Prostitute: COMMERCIAL UNION

Sex with your Maid: EMPLOYERS LIABILITY

Sex with an OAP: SAGA

Sex resulting in Pregnancy: GENERAL ACCIDENT

Sex with an animal: NATIONAL FARMERS UNION

Sex with a Monk: ABBEY LIFE

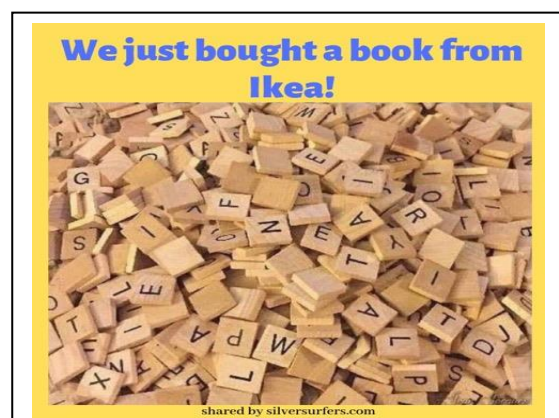
Sex with a Navy Officer: ADMIRAL GROUP

And finally: Sex with a transvestite: CONFUSED.COM

Make sure you are adequately covered

As I watch this generation try and rewrite our history, one thing I'm sure of, it will be misspelled and have no punctuation.

As I've got older, people think I've become lazy. The truth is I'm just being more energy efficient.



Did you know?

When the UK's infant television service was re-established after WW2, in June 1946, it had only one transmitter, at Alexandra Palace, which served the London area. From the end of 1949, new transmitters were steadily opened to serve other major conurbations, and then smaller areas of population. The areas on the fringes of the transmitter coverage provided an opportunity for commercial companies - usually those renting television sets - to install cable systems to enlarge the viewing audience for the one BBC television channel which then existed.

The first was in Gloucester in 1950 and the process gathered pace over the next few years, especially after a second television channel, ITV, was launched in 1955 to compete with the BBC. By the late 1970s, two and a half million British homes received their television service via cable.

Watch the YouTube video for the full story: <https://youtu.be/ltI09ITuGjk>

Thanks to all those who supported me last year. I look forward to receiving your articles this year



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