



# Reading and District Probus Club

## "Telegraph"

February 2026

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

At this month's meeting we will be holding our Annual General Meeting. There will be no Speaker. However, a short film will be shown for your entertainment following the AGM.

### LUNCH ARRANGEMENTS (Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> February)

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 5<sup>th</sup> February that you will not be attending.

### UPCOMING SPEAKER ARRANGEMENTS

**10 March 2026** Maureen Blake "Setting up a small school in West Bengal"

**12 May 2026** Round Table Discussion

**14 April 2026** Silvertime Legal "Tax, Care and the New Guy"

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

### 4<sup>th</sup> TUESDAY CLUB" LUNCH (February 24<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

Alan Bradbury and Peter Higginson will have to wait till next month, however, David Laird will celebrate his birthday (just) 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:** Peter Higginson **Vice President:** Russell King **Past President:** Colin Hatcher  
**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**



### **THE NEXT TIME YOU THINK YOU ARE HAVING A BAD DAY**

Fire authorities in California found a corpse in a burnt-out section of forest while assessing the damage done by a forest fire. The deceased male was dressed in a full wet suit, complete with scuba tanks on his back, flippers, and facemask.

A post-mortem revealed that the person died not from burns, but from massive internal injuries. Dental records provided a positive identification. Investigators then set about to determine how a fully clad diver ended up in the middle of a forest fire.

It was revealed that on the day of the fire, the person went for a diving trip off the coast some 20 miles from the forest. The fire fighters, seeking to control the fire as quickly as possible, called in a fleet of helicopters with very large dip buckets. Water was dipped from the sea and then flown to the forest fire and emptied.

You guessed it. One minute our diver was making like Flipper in the Pacific, the next he was doing the breaststroke in a fire dip bucket 300 feet in the air. Some days it just doesn't pay to get out of bed.

### **STILL THINK YOU ARE HAVING A BAD DAY?**

A man was working on his motorcycle on his patio and his wife was in the kitchen. The man was racing the engine on the motorcycle when it accidentally slipped into gear. The man, still holding onto the handlebars, was dragged through the glass patio doors and along with the motorcycle dumped onto the floor inside the house.

The wife, hearing the crash, ran into the dining room and found her husband lying on the floor, cut and bleeding, the motorcycle lying next to him, and the

shattered patio door. The wife ran to the phone and summoned the ambulance.

Because they lived on a fairly steep hill, the wife went down the several flights of stairs to the street to escort the paramedics to her husband.

After the ambulance arrived and transported the man to the hospital, the wife up righted the motorcycle and pushed it outside. Seeing that gas had spilt on the floor, the wife got some paper towels, blotted up the gasoline, and threw the towels in the toilet.

The man was treated and released to come home. Upon arriving home, he looked at the shattered patio door and the damage done to his motorcycle.

He became despondent, went to the bathroom, sat down on the toilet and smoked a cigarette. After finishing his cigarette, he flipped it between his legs into the toilet bowl while seated. The wife, who was in the kitchen, heard a loud explosion and her husband screaming. She ran into the bathroom and found her husband lying on the floor. His trousers had been blown away and he was suffering burns on his buttocks, on the back of his legs, and his groin.

The wife again ran to the telephone to call for the ambulance. The paramedic crew that was dispatched was the same one and the wife met them at the bottom of the stairs on the street.

The paramedics put the husband on to the stretcher and began carrying him down to the street. While they were all going down the stairs to the street, accompanied by the wife, one of the paramedics asked her wife how her husband had burnt himself. She told them and the paramedics laughed so much that one of them slipped and tipped the stretcher, dumping the poor husband out. He fell down the rest of the stairs and broke his arm.

*Taken from a Florida Newspaper.*

### **JUST REMEMBER, IT COULD BE WORSE.....**

.....The average cost of rehabilitating a seal after the Exxon Valdez oil spilling Alaska was \$80,000. At a special ceremony, two of the most expensively saved animals were released back into the wild amid cheers and applause from onlookers. A minute later, in full view, a killer whale ate them both.

..... A woman came home to find her husband in the kitchen, shaking frantically with what looked like a wire running from his waist towards the electric kettle. Intending to jolt him away from the deadly current she whacked him with a handy plank of wood by the back door, breaking his arm in two places. Until that moment he had been happily listening to his walkman.

*David Laird Secretary  
31 January 2026*