



“ proBITS ”

an occasional publication
from the

PROBUS CLUB
HORLEY & DISTRICT

issue 19
Oct 2021

INTRODUCTION

"proBITS" is published for PROBUS Members. It is our response to the Covid-19 or Corona Virus, being the cause to postpone our lunch meetings until further notice. The Committee of *PROBUS Club Horley & District* wants to stay in touch with the Members and for the Members to stay in touch with each other. It is very important, in the situation we find ourselves in, to be "connected". Complete isolation from our friends/family is a dangerous thing. The vast majority of our Members have access to email and those without will receive "proBITS" in printed form. Hopefully, they'll submit their words of wisdom in a more traditional manner, like delivery by hand, snailmail or even pigeonpost ! Contributors also receive a printed issue.

The "proBITS" newsletter can only exist successfully with the cooperation of all Members concerned, that must be obvious to everybody. I plead therefore with all Members to make a contribution, however small.

The email address for "proBITS" contributions is :
jpdل.probus@icloud.com

As a guideline : maximum about 850 words for a 2 page spread.

If pics submitted, deduct 30 words per pic.

Text in plain A4 Word document/email.

Pics sent *separately*, in JPG or JPEG format,
but NOT embedded in your document.

Please note : your copy may be edited !

If you submit early enough you'll receive a proof print.

Please email or mail your contribution for the next issue, to be *received before the end of the month*. Each edition will land in your mailbox on the first Tuesday of the month. Many organisations publicise a newsletter of some sort to their members. Virtually all of them struggle to get pages filled. I really hope that the PROBUS Club of Horley & District, with all its Members having (had) interesting professional lives and interests, will prove to be an exception to the rule. And no, you can't use the excuse that you don't have the time

There's no need to wait - you can submit NOW !

Remember that the [weblinks](#) and [email addresses](#) that appear in the proBITS "on-line" edition can be accessed by simply clicking them on your screen.

Photo of the month
will yours be a "page 3 picture" in the next issue ?



Sometimes you have to be in the right place, at the right time, with the right camera(lens) ! The dimensions of the housebricks behind the mouse, which is ± 25 yards away, give some indication of its size.

My First Memory.

The milkman, with his horse and cart, had placed the bottles on our doorstep. My characteristic of being helpful started from an early age. I was now about three years old and decided to take in the bottles. At three years I was quite adept at walking, which is more than I am now. Unfortunately my hands found the bottle difficult to hold with the result that it fell onto the step and broke. Somehow I cut my wrist on a shard. My mother took me to the treatment room of a surgery or hospital. I do not remember much of this but I do remember sitting on a bench that ran around the walls of the room. Also I remember someone going to a cupboard over the bench and taking out something which they brought to me. What that was I do not know as at that point the memory ends. I was left with a ridge in my skin, about 10 mm. long, as a reminder of the event. It is still visible.

contributed by Arthur Browne

An Indian Railways Journey.

Firstly, I have not had the privilege of travelling on the roof or hanging out of a door. This particular incident happened on my first trip to India and I booked (to be precise the company I was auditing did this) an overnight trip from Mumbai to Aurangabad. An easy trip by air so the company was puzzled why I wanted the overnight sleeper from Mumbai terminus. A magnificent Victorian edifice ready to fall down for lack of TLC. The sleeping compartment consisted of four convertible bunk beds with the only privacy consisting of a flimsy curtain dangling from a rail which ran the length of the corridor. There was me, the company VP and a complete stranger. The VP was a senior member of The Indian Pharmaceutical Society, well used to top class travel and obviously disgruntled that he had been downgraded to act as a chaperone. We set off late in the evening, after wrestling our way through the densely packed crowds many of whom were settling down for a night's sleep on the platform. The porters carried phenomenal loads on their heads and how they shouldered



an Indian railway sleeper carriage in mid 90s

their way through the crowds without dropping anything begged belief. Time to bed down, simply remove your shoes and stretch out. No posh toilet facilities and no pyjamas. Very hot and stuffy and pitiful A/C. One could understand why my companion was upset. I was regretting my curiosity in taking rail travel rather than using Indian Airways, a pre-Jet Airways ramshackle domestic organisation. I managed to drop off despite the clattering and banging of square wheels on worn track. I awoke three times, firstly by the snoring of our stranger and secondly by a tickling on my forehead which turned out to be a cockroach on the forage. My VP could not whack it without breaking my nose. Apparently, his brief was to watch over this idiot who eschewed air travel. He had been sitting over me with legs crossed Buddha like. Thirdly was the call of nature. I have no words to describe the toilet save to say I learned a lesson which stood me in good stead for future travel on the Shatabdi, India's crack express trains. Make sure you have eaten and drunk and made a pit stop BEFORE you travel ! As I was returning to my compartment the train lurched over some points. I lost my balance and grabbed the first thing to hand. It was the curtain rail extension. Down came the whole lot from end to end. The total removal of the flimsy excuse for privacy caused pandemonium amidst my fellow travellers. The carriage was in total uproar with goodness knows how many dialects yelling at the top of their voices. One minute they were comfy and cosy and the next fully exposed to all the World and it did not need an interpreter to translate their words into something like "What does this B*****y foreigner think he is doing ?" The curtain had also fallen on the poor guard who was in shock and looking like an overdressed version of the deity "The Lord Shiva". I had nowhere to hide and for the last two hours of the journey I was persona non grata until we pulled into Aurangabad. It was a journey I (and the VP no doubt) will not easily forget.

contributed by John Startup

Primary school logic.

A teacher was reading the story of the Three Little Pigs to her class. She came to the part of the story where the first pig was trying to gather the building materials for his home. She read : "and so the pig went up to the man with the wheelbarrow full of straw and said : Pardon me sir, but may I have some of that straw to build my house ?" The teacher then asked the class : "And what do you think the man said ?" Little Johnny was first to raise his hand and said in a very matter-of-fact way : "I think the man would have said : Shit !! A talking pig !!"

Interesting ?

Researchers have discovered that chocolate produces some of the same reactions in the brain as marijuana. The researchers also discovered other similarities between the two, but can't remember what they are. (Matt Lauer on NBC's Today show) ≈ Only 15% of Estonians believe in a god, making them the least religious nation in the EU. ≈ The first year in which there was no recorded lynching of a black American was 1952. ≈ Until 1972 Britain stipulated that you had to be a householder to qualify for being a member of a jury in a criminal case. ≈ Winston Churchill never visited Australia ≈ The film "Nosferatu", made in 1922, credited 16 people. The film "Matrix Revolutions", made in 2003, listed more than 700. ≈ The American John J. Lattimer bought Napoleon's mummified penis at auction. The penis had "travelled" around the London auction market since the beginning of 1927 until this American urologist pushed his way through the fray to successfully bid for it in 1977. Apparently, it is still in the possession of the Lattimer family. ≈ Until the mid 1980s, mortgages were strictly rationed in Great Britain. ≈ The salary of Ireland's Prime Minister was last year, at a princely € 310,000, the highest of any European leader. Compared to this, the annual salary of Boris Johnson is a paltry £ 161.000

Same sound - different meaning.

Tech Support : 'Please Right-Click on the document you have problems with.

Customer : 'Yes, I've done that'.

Tech Support : 'OK. Did you get a pop-up menu ?'

Customer : 'No'.

Tech Support : 'OK. Right-Click again. Do you see a pop-up menu now ?'

Customer : 'No'.

Tech Support : 'OK. Can you tell me what you see on your screen ?'

Customer : 'Sure. There is twice the word "click", like you told me to write'.

Hidden problems.

Patient : "Doctor, I'm suffering from bad wind - although it does not smell and is silent, it still feels very uncomfortable" Doctor : "OK, take these pills and come back after a week". When the week had passed : "Doctor it is still happening but now it smells awful, although it is still silent". Doctor : "Excellent, we have sorted the problem with your nostrils, so next we shall tackle your hearing".

Great Brits 6 - Robert Falcon Scott.

"Scott of the Antarctic" was born on 6th June 1868 in Plymouth to John Scott and Hannah Scott. He died 29th March 1912 aged 43, on the Ross Ice Shelf in Antarctica. To follow the family's tradition, Scott and his younger brother Archie were predestined for careers in the armed forces. Scott himself spent four years at the local day school before being sent to Stubbington House School in Hampshire and prepared as a candidate for the entrance exam to the Naval Training Ship HMS Britannia. In July 1883, Scott passed out as a midshipman and by October he was en-route to South Africa to join the flag ship of the Cape Squadron. In March 1888 Scott passed his exams to become a Sub Lieutenant and progressed to the rank of Lieutenant. Early in 1899 he had a chance encounter in a London street with Clements Markham, who was now knighted as President of the Royal Geographical Society and learned of the impending Antarctic expedition on board the ship "Discovery". He saw this as an opportunity for an early command and a chance to distinguish himself as part of a planned scientific Polar Exploration. Edward VII, having showed a personal interest in the forthcoming expedition, visited the "Discovery" the day before the ship left Britain in August 1901. During this visit he appointed Scott a member of the Royal Victoria Order. "Discovery" returned to Britain in September 1904. The expedition had caught the public imagination and Scott became a popular hero and was invited to Balmoral Castle where King Edward VII promoted him to Commander of the Royal Victorian Order.

SCOTT'S FINAL JOURNEY

Before his second attempt Scott stated that his prime objective was to reach the South Pole which became known as the British Antarctic Expedition 1910 and later known as the Terra Nova Expedition (the name of the ship). Scott outlined his plans for the journey to the entire crew, leaving open his choice of who would actually form the final polar team. The march south began on November 1st, a caravan of mixed transport (motors, dogs and horses). By January the 4th the decision was made. Five members of the team, Scott himself, Wilson, Bowers Oates and Evans, would make the final push to the pole. The chosen group marched on, reaching the pole on the 17th January only to find a tent left in place by Roald Amundsen the Norwegian explorer who had achieved the conquest on the 18th December the year before. The deflated party began the 862 miles (1387 Km) return journey on 19th January. "I'm afraid the return journey is going to be dreadfully tiring and monotonous" wrote Scott that day.

A fall on 4th February had left Evans, "dull and incapable" and on 17th February, after falling again, he died near the glacier foot. With 400 miles (644Km) still to travel across the Ross Ice Shelf, Scott's party's prospects steadily worsened as, with deteriorating weather, a puzzling lack of fuel in the depots hunger and exhaustion, they struggled northward. On the return journey from the Pole, Scott reached the meeting point for the dog teams, 300miles (483 Km) from Hut Point, three days ahead of schedule, noting in his diary for 27th February 1912 : "We are naturally always discussing possibility of meeting dogs, where and when, etc. It is a critical position. We may find ourselves in safety at the next depot, but there is a horrid element of doubt". On 2nd March, Oates began to suffer from the effects of frostbite and the party's progress slowed as he was increasingly unable to assist in the workload, eventually only able to drag himself alongside the men pulling the sledge. By 10th March the temperature had dropped unexpectedly to below -40 °C . On the same day, Oates, whose toes had become frostbitten, voluntarily left the tent and walked to his death. Scott wrote that Oates' last words were "I am just going outside and may be some time". After walking 20 miles (32Km) farther despite Scott's toes now becoming frostbitten, the three remaining men made their final camp on 19th March, approximately 12.5miles (20Km) short of One Ton Depot. The next day a fierce blizzard prevented them making any progress. During the next nine days, as their supplies ran out, and with storms still raging outside the tent, Scott and his companions wrote their farewell letters.

Scott gave up writing in his diary after 23rd March, save for a final entry on 29th March. His concluding words were : "Last entry. For God's sake look after our people". Eight months later a



*From left to right :
Lawrence Oates, Henry Bowers, Captain Scott, Edward Wilson and Edgar Evans*

party of explorers from base camp found the tip of the tent containing the bodies of Bowers, Scott and Wilson. Scott was lying with his two comrades on either side. Scott looked agitated, as if he had struggled to the last. The others seemed at peace. The search team took away the bamboo supports of the tent and on the top of it they built a cairn, which is now buried deep under the Antarctic ice. In January 1912 the remaining members of the expedition left the Antarctic. They reached New Zealand a month later, at which time a cable was sent to Britain bearing the grim news. Four days later, a memorial service was held at St Paul's, attended by the King, the archbishop of Canterbury and the elite of British society. More than 10,000 people gathered outside. Britain was awash with grief.

contributed by Dave Sharratt

Calculations the (very) old way..

Additions :		Roman Numeral Answer :
1 - MI + VIII	=	
2 - II + III	=	
3 - VI + MIV	=	
4 - III + III	=	
5 - V + CII	=	
6 - MCXIV + XVI	=	
Subtractions :		
7 - VII - VI	=	
8 - CX - IV	=	
9 - V - II	=	
10 - VIII - III	=	
11 - IX - V	=	
12 - MXXIV - VI	=	

Interesting ?

More than two-thirds of British pensioners agree to receive medical treatment elsewhere. A higher percentage than in any other major European country.

Until the late 1960s, men with long hair were not welcome in Disneyland USA.

Page Ten Teaser

1	2		3		4		5		6		7	
8							9					
10									11			
12	13				14				15			16
17			18		19		20				21	
22							23					
24					25				26			

Across :

- 1 Sailor returns note in Wales (4)
- 4 An extra right out of the cowshed (3)
- 6 Deal with bishop's garment (4)
- 8 Convulsions of Nazi eating spam hash (6)
- 9 Tree initially planted outside public library, against regulations (6)
- 10 The way in to captivate ? (8)
- 11 Mammal returns to the grass (4)
- 12 Prehistoric creature frantically out-ran sun's ray (13)
- 17 Sounds like collar is uncomfortable (4)

- 19 Wanderings of this person and her majesty's (8)
- 22 A good 11 concurred ! (6)
- 23 Fat of the land, we hear (6)
- 24 Poke right in the midst of a group of whales (4)
- 25 Geological feature of Columbia ? (3)
- 26 Fill up with a mixture of eats (4)

Down :

- 2 Plant like a writer (5)
- 3 Al emigrates from Oz to some-where in Europe (7)
- 4 Degrees in depression ? (5)
- 5 I return to forcibly enlist for ruler (7)
- 6 Dance about for food ? (5)
- 7 Shake a teal up on high ground (7)
- 10 Young amphibian is left headless (3)
- 13 You take the edge off anger for the not so old (7)
- 14 Wandering detectives return after no degree (7)
- 15 A French medic takes directions to get naked (7)
- 16 Spooky little relative, perhaps ? (3)
- 18 Initially food rioters eat every day unfettered (5)
- 20 New angle for old money (5)
- 21 Tries again for a pass (5)

Solution for Page Ten Teaser of last month :

Across : 1-Basa 4-Moa 6-Drip 8-Fat Hen 9-Violet 10-American
 11-Loan 12-Sandpiper Hide 17-Beet 19-Stroller 22-Coping 23-Indigo
 24-Fell 25-Tan 26-Yarn.

Down : 2-Alarm 3-Adhered 4-Manic 5-Advance 6-Droll 7-Ireland
 10-Ass 13-Anemone 14-Insight 15-Holiday 16-Ear 18-Trial 20-Reign
 21-Eager.

Interesting ?

On average, women occupy the toilet 3 times longer than men. ≈ About 28% of speech is silence. ≈ Britain and Ireland have the highest concentration of natural redheads in the world. ≈ The UK consumes about 85% of the worlds baked beans of which 75% is in tomato sauce. ≈ An amputated newt's limb will grow back fully in 10 weeks. ≈ 65% + of BT landlines are ex-directory.

Prescribing in the early sixties.

When I came to Horley as an assistant to my godfather Stuart Fleming in 1961, the prescribing of medicines was largely in the ancient Apothecaries System. In 1965 we were converted, mercifully to the metric system. It seems very primitive that the old weight of Grains converted to 64.79 mg in the metric and 1 Dram, equal to 3 Scruples to 3.69 millilitres. Not simple conversions to do ! We had relatively few effective antibiotics. Penicillin was usually given by painful injection. It had a narrow spectrum of efficacy until broad spectrum penicillins were developed such as Ampicillin and later Amoxicillin. This happened not far away, in a laboratory in the village of Brockham close to Dorking. Tetracycline had also just been introduced but was relatively expensive to prescribe. Streptomycin, often mixed with penicillin, was useful but could cause deafness. Sulphonamides {M and B} invented in France in the 1930's were cheap and the use was therefore encouraged by the authorities. Again, sometimes they were effective, but a serious side effect was that they could destroy the kidneys. Depression was treated with Amphetamines. Anxiety with Barbiturates, such as Phenobarbitone. This resulted in many of our elderly patients being irreversibly dependent on Barbiturate sleeping tablets. Curiously though, it did not seem to harm them. Gastric ulcers were treated with Magnesium mixtures. Ranitidine and Omeprazole did not yet exist. Leg ulcers were wrapped for 3 or 4 weeks at a time in sticky medicated bandages which became very smelly. As an anaesthetist I used Ether (highly flammable) and also toxic Trichlorethylene (now used in dry cleaning). We prescribed a more popular Guinness and Mackesons to our inpatients at Horley Hospital. Numerous homeopathic 'drugs' were useless but still popular. Potassium Bromide mixed with Strychnine, Cannabis, Cocaine, Valerian and other herbal remedies.was prescribed. Because of the bromide it was difficult for me, a supposedly 'modern' young doctor to wean patients off these, especially as my Grandfather at the Clerklands Surgery had used them. He liked patients to wear red flannel belts to ward off rheumatism. They had to be red to be effective... In pregnancy we used raspberry leaves. There was a shortage of maternity beds at Redhill general Hospital so most deliveries, even of twins, were done at the patient's home. However with the opening of the first part of the beautiful new hospital at West Green in Crawley, we could deliver our patients there. Slowly we moved in to a more scientific era. However, I recall the patients being grateful and satisfied with our simple therapeutic regimes of the time.

contributed by Jim Williamson

Economic Models explained with Cows.

SOCIALISM

You have 2 cows. You give one to your neighbour.

COMMUNISM

You have 2 cows. The State takes both and gives you some milk.

FASCISM

You have 2 cows. The State takes both and sells you some milk.

BUREAUCRATISM

You have 2 cows. The State takes both, shoots one, milks the other, and then throws the milk away...

TRADITIONAL CAPITALISM

You have two cows. You sell one and buy a bull. Your herd multiplies, and the economy grows. You sell them and retire on the income.

SURREALISM

You have two giraffes. The government requires you to take harmonica lessons.

AN AMERICAN CORPORATION

You have two cows. You sell one and force the other to produce the milk of four cows. Later, you hire a consultant to analyse why the cow has dropped dead.

A BRITISH CORPORATION

You have two cows. Both are mad.

A FRENCH CORPORATION

You have two cows. You go on strike, organise a riot, and block the roads, because really, you want three cows.

A JAPANESE CORPORATION

You have two cows. You redesign them so they are one-tenth the size of an ordinary cow and produce twenty times the milk. You then create a clever cow cartoon image called 'Cowkimon' and market it worldwide.

A GERMAN CORPORATION

You have two cows. You re-engineer them so they live for 100 years, eat once a month, and milk themselves.

AN ITALIAN CORPORATION

You have two cows, but don't know where they are. You decide to have lunch.

A CHINESE CORPORATION

You have two cows. You have 300 people milking them. You claim that you have full employment, and high bovine productivity. You arrest the newsman who reported the real situation and put him in jail without a trial.

Horley, Surrey.

New detached houses from £19,500.

Horley Row is a beautiful location on the Surrey/Sussex border just minutes from Horley and with easy access to Redhill. Excellent schools, shopping and leisure facilities already exist, together with a fast round-the-clock rail service to London.

Right now, Bovis are offering a wide range of superior 3 bedroomed houses, including detached and semi-detached designs.

Every home is carefully finished and has a comprehensive heating system and a 10 year N.H.B.C. warranty.

Excellent mortgages available.

For more details about these exceptional homes, contact our selling agents

**Audley Estates Ltd on
Horley 3915**

Bovis

Bovis Homes Division



inflation has rather taken its toll.

Roman Calculations :

1 - MIX 2 - V 3 - MX 4 - VI 5 - CVII 6 - MCXXX

7 - I 8 - XCVI 9 - III 10 - V 11 - IV 12 - MXVIII

Xword answers :

Across : 1-Bala 4-Bye 6-Cope 8-Spasms 9-Poplar 10-Entrance 11-Reed
12-Tyrannosaurus 17-Ruff 19-Meanders 22-Agreed 23-Grease 24-Prod
25-Col 26-Sate.

Down : 2-Aspen 3-Austria 4-Basin 5-Empress 6-Caper 7-Plateau 10-Eft
13-Younger 14-Nomadic 15-Undress 16-Sis 18-Freed 20-Angel 21-Resit.

And finally...

Even in these dark days there are still enough reasons to celebrate !

January is usually a cold month, great for a cuddle under warm blankets.
It is somewhat surprising therefore that we only have a single birthday
to celebrate *this* month.

In October we pay tribute to the parents of :

Steve Challis - born on the 8th

Give him a ring and say 'Happy Birthday'

Please let us know if your birthday is also in October but is not mentioned.

The editor always has the last word.....

I would like to say a very warm "thank you" to those people who have,
with their contributions, made this issue of proBITS possible - take a bow !

*On this page we also gratefully mention that
page by page has been checked for mistakes by the Pages.*

Contributions for the next issue are very welcome (if not essential) - and you
still have enough time on your hands ! More details on page 2.

Receipt *well before* the end of this month would be much appreciated.
It gives (just) enough time to prepare the next issue.

