" *proBITS* "

an occasional publication
from the

PROBUS CLUB
HORLEY & DISTRICT

issue 10
12th January 2021

INTRODUCTION

This epistle is seeing the light of day in response to the Covid-19, or Corona Virus, being the cause to postpone our lunch meetings until further notice.
The ProBus Club Horley & District's Committee wants to stay in touch with the Members and 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 majority of our Members have access to email - only 4 don't - 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 print.

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 :
jpdl.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,
NOT embedded in your document.
Please note : your copy will be edited !
If you submit early enough you'll receive a proof print.

Please email or mail your contribution for the 11th issue, to be received *before* Tuesday the 2nd of February. Each edition will land in your mailbox on the second Tuesday of the month, the same day we would normally have lunch. Many organisations have a newsletter of some sort. 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 .....

editor

Confucius says:

NOW IS **NOT** THE RIGHT TIME
TO **SURROUND** YOURSELF
WITH **POSITIVE** PEOPLE

Is the LPA refund scheme the Ministry of Justice's best kept secret ?.

If you made Powers of Attorney in recent years and have not yet made a claim for a refund you need to act now.

On 1st Feb 2018 the MOJ launched a scheme that offers a partial refund on applications to register a Power of Attorney from 1st April to 31st March 2017. It applies to both Lasting and Enduring Powers of Attorney and must be claimed by 31st January 2021. The scheme was set up because the Office of the Public Guardian had reduced its processing costs without reducing application charges. The refund for each power of attorney varies from £34 to £54 according to the date of the original application for registration.

You can claim on-line at GOV.UK or by calling the OPG's contact centre on 0300 456 0300. *with thanks to Les Locket for bringing this to our attention*

Blast from the past.

We decided to do some tidying-up in the loft (her words - I think the term "culling" is more appropriate). We came across a box, with some old letters and other papers, from around the early 70's. In between this lot was the following epistle which, no doubt, was politically correct at the time.....

"This chain letter was started by a man very much like ourselves and unlike most chain letters, this won't cost you a penny. Simply send a copy of this letter to five of your friends who are equally bored as you. Bundle up your wife and send her to the man whose name appears at the top of the list and add your own name at the bottom of the list. When your name appears at the top of the list you will receive 16,748 women. Nearly all of these must be an improvement on what you have traded in. Have faith - do not break the chain. One man did and got his wife back. Another chap recently died after having entertained 946 women during a period of just a couple of months. It took the undertakers several hours to get the broad grin off his face. The local Old Bill had to step in to control the attendance traffic at his funeral".

contributed by John De Lang

In the 12 months of '20 my gov'ment said to me :

- January : No need to be alarmed. It's a Chinese bug. We're British.
- February : It appears that the Italians can catch it too, but it's not a concern for us. Stiff upper lip, chaps.
- March : Errrr, it looks like we can catch it after all. However, there's no need to panic, just stay two metres apart and keep washing your hands.
- April : We could have around 60% of you catching it, and you'll probably infect your gran. This is becoming somewhat of a Branston we're in.
- May : Yeah, we've totally balls'd it guys. It's spreading quicker than a 5G conspiracy. Stay away from everyone .....unless of course you fancy popping out for fish 'n chips or a McDonald's.....
- June : You can definitely maybe get away with sitting within a metre of a perfect stranger in the park, but meeting up with a friend will lead to certain death so stay home, unless you want to go out.
- July : You may get back in the pub, but only for essential drinks. Feel free to chat rubbish with a random person in the smoking area, but leave immediately if you see a member of your family, or you'll face arrest.
- August : Eat out to help out ! Every single UK citizen simply must rush out to do all the things we've asked you not to do for the last few months. It's your duty, and there's a tenner on us for your efforts.
- September : You ghastly little cretins ! Who told you to go out and spread the virus like that again ? Have you not listened to a single word we've said to you ? Don't even come near me with your crocodile tears, bro.
- October : Better work from home again unless your place of work has a till.
- November : You can go and get your nails polished and do a bit of Christmas shopping with thousands of others. However, visiting pubs, bars and restaurants still pose too much of a risk. Don't mingle.
- December : Christmas is cancelled, see you all again in the new year for more absolute mickery.

origin unknown

In 1996 Mahathir Mohamad, prime minister of Malaysia, threw the largest ever dinner party. 12,000 guests celebrated the 50th anniversary of Mahatmir's ruling party, the United Malays National Organisation.

32% of keystrokes on an English QWERTYUIOP keyboard are "hit" on the middle row, 52% on the upper row and 16% on the bottom row of keys.

origin unknown

Photo of the month
will YOURS be here, in the next issue ?

Head to Tail at Kingscote

When bad news is good news.

In the early 70's I was living in Bad Homburg, about 10 miles north of Frankfurt. Working for Price Waterhouse's audit department, I was scheduled to catch the Monday morning train from Frankfurt to Duisburg for a week-long audit there. Waking with a start on Monday morning, I realised I had overslept and that the train would leave in less than 30 minutes. I jumped in my car and must have set a record for the fastest Bad Homburg - Frankfurt commute (no speed limit on the autobahn). Arriving at Frankfurt station, with less than five minutes to departure, there wasn't time to use the nearby parking garage. What to do ? There were some building works around the station and I found a space, not blocking any entrances or exits, next to the screens around the works. Fine, I thought. I dashed into the station and was the last person on the train before it pulled out. So far, so good. Wash, shave and breakfast on the train. Job done. Weeell, not quite. Returning on the Friday evening, I was pleased to find my car still parked where I had left it and undamaged ! Good news ! Then, I saw not one, but two, bright yellow parking fine tickets neatly tucked under the windscreen wiper. Bad news ! I don't recall how much the fines totalled but do remember when I compared the total to what I would have paid in the parking garage, I found, to my great and pleasant surprise, it was only about half of what I would have paid in the garage. Good news ! I paid the fines immediately.

contributed by Mike Livesey

Tales From Across The Pond. Leg Spin, Craft Beer and The Book of Mormon.
One for Victoria Coren-Mitchell and "Only Connect"

I was asked to audit a company in Salt Lake City, Utah. It was developing a new method of manufacturing trans dermal patches. The established procedure was to spread a paste containing the drug onto the backing of an Elastoplast sheet and stamp out the patch to an appropriate shape, a procedure similar to pastry cutting. Needless to say the wastage was considerable and the new method involved injecting the paste onto pre-cut shapes, a process akin to piping icing onto a cake. As an aside, one such medicine is based on TNT and is prepared in a special room where the roof is designed to blow off, if an explosion occurs. You wear special coloured suits so your bits can be identified and your one protection is to be wired to an earthing strip attached to the wall. Arriving a day early, I took the opportunity to visit the Mormon Temple complex. Visitors were taken on organised tours by the elders who gave a condensed history of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints and described the monuments erected in memory of crucial events in the development of the movement. I guess there was a subliminal attempt to convert us to more abstemious ways but to no avail on my part. I visited a second time a year later when Brenda and I did a road trip through Wyoming, Montana, Idaho and Utah. The company management team included a production director, a microbiologist and a quality control manager all of whom I had met on previous audits of other patch manufacturers based in Minneapolis, Cleveland and Miami. They had been headhunted and the meeting seemed more like an old boys' reunion to me. The work went well and at the close I was invited to dinner at a micro brewery called Squatters. Not far from the Mormon complex, it turned out to be a super place where the bartenders slid your drink along a highly polished bar. Shove halfpenny champions to the man. My turn to pay only to be told promptly that no staff member or guest ever paid a cent for food, wine or beer. The owner was a real estate entrepreneur and the company leased the building housing the research laboratory from him. The brewery had been having a bad time because the yeast had become contaminated, so ruining the fermentation process. He bemoaned his fate to the company whereon the microbiologist took the rogue yeast, purified it using a technique called streaking and cleansed & decontaminated the brewing equipment. He never looked back and was so grateful that he made the pledge of free beer to all company employees. I was introduced to him and blow me down he was a Brit who was a cricket fan

who spent much of the summer watching Kent. He had founded a flourishing cricket league in Salt Lake City where the climate provided dry pitches where leg spin was practised and thrived. We had a great evening talking about field placings to Googlies and top spinners and reminiscing over England's leg spinners of the past. Shane Warne had not appeared on the scene at this time. As another aside, I once inspected a company in Indianapolis, staffed entirely by Pakistanis. Cricket nutters to the last, I left them my copy of The Cricketer Magazine. It was more popular than a copy of Playboy.
So there we are then, drinking craft beer with an ex-pat Brit in the shadow of the Mormon Temple and discussing the finer points of leg break bowling. You just cannot make these stories up. And yes, I have the T shirt and a beer mug and several coasters to prove it ! *contributed by John Startup*

Thoughts on a COVID cure.
Reading the New Scientist this morning, I realised that all we have been hearing are updates on the progress of the various vaccines and when they are due to be available. I hadn't even thought about the problems of supply and distribution. Given the global population of 7.7 billion and that many of the vaccines need at least one booster that comes to at least 9 billion doses. As with protective equipment, most 'rich' Governments are buying vaccines in huge numbers. The USA has placed orders for some 700 million doses; the UK Government has placed orders for about 340 million doses and so on. As well as the huge problems of vaccine production each dose requires ancillaries for containment and application. Strangely one crucial ingredient is derived from the blood of Horseshoe Crabs which is hugely sensitive to toxins and is used to detect contaminants in batches of the vaccine. Another is the supply of vials which must be made from borosilicate glass (because the vaccines are capable of reacting with ordinary glass) and there could be a shortage there as there is only one major manufacturer of these. Syringes, alcohol wipes, shipping containers and a host of other equipment is also needed for each dose and there are problems in matching the delivery of all these items so that items air freighted must meet shipbourne supplies etc. on time. A further problem is that most of the vaccines are temperature sensitive making distribution in remote areas problematic. Finally to give an idea of the transport logistics it has been calculated that it would take some 8,000 Jumbo Jets to transport all the doses needed. With thanks to the New Scientist. *contributed by Brian Monk*

The Henry Smith Horley Parish Charity.

This story goes back to the 12th Century and is about giving support and assistance to those individuals and families in need in the Ancient Parish of Horley*. Although the nature of the need today may be different, it remains as great and diverse as it has been over the last 900 years. The story starts with the founding of the Augustinian Priory at Merton in 1114 by Gilbert Norman, Sheriff of Surrey, who had been given the Manor of Merton by Henry 1 and passed it on to the Priory. The Priory income was initially derived from the Manor and later from the lands gifted to it in the County of Surrey and adjoining areas. Over time the area of these land holdings grew to the extent that by the 16th Century the Priory was the dominant, wealthiest landowner in Surrey. The founding Constitution of the Priory included an obligation to provide pastoral care and support to those both living in and holding tenancies belonging to the Priory. In 1538 Henry VIII authorised the sacking of the Priory as part of his nationwide dissolution of the Monasteries. Their lands were requisitioned by the Crown. One of the consequences of this was the breakdown of the system of care which led to great hardship across the County as the Priory lands were distributed to individual owners in exchange for support in the wars against the French. Much of Horley was sold to City of London foundations, including Christs Hospital which still has interests in the Parish. There was a rising recognition that some form of support was needed in the rural areas because of the impact of crop failures and disease due to the 'Little Ice Age'. At that time, the concept of individual charity was growing particularly in the Non-Conformist Christian and Jewish traditions. In 1548 Henry Smith was born in Wandsworth into a merchant family. It is believed that he was articled as an apprentice to a Salt Merchant in the City of London and, following the completion of his apprenticeship, he either started his own business or took over his Master's business and expanded it into the export of iron and cloth and money lending. He would have been very aware of the poverty in the rural communities surrounding London and in 1620 he started to buy land on the western outskirts of London as an investment. Henry died in 1628 and was buried in Wandsworth Parish Church. He had no children. His will instructed the Executors to continue to invest to provide income that would support the poor in improving their circumstances. In the 1630s the executors transferred the estate's assets to a charity, now called The Henry Smith Charity, whose investment, acquisition, and distribution activities are managed by Trustees and professional advisors. Since then, as well as supporting national

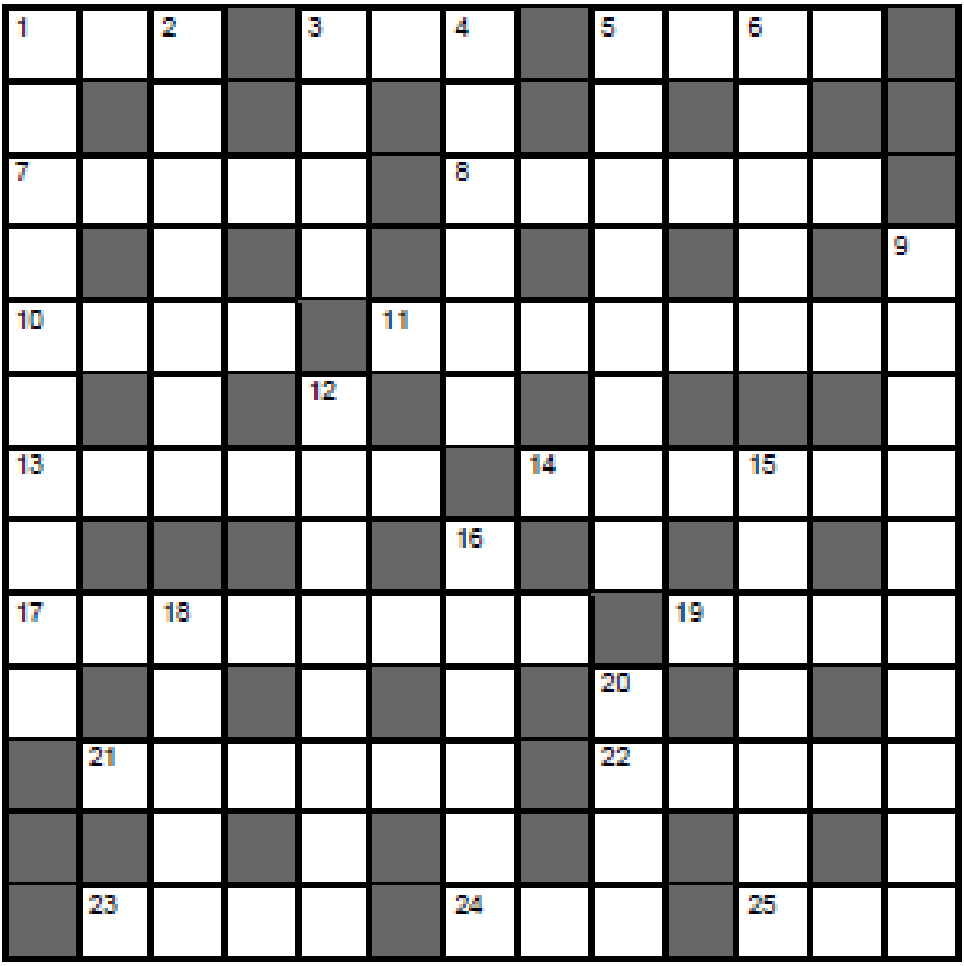
causes, grants have been made to 150 parishes including the Ancient Parish of Horley where distribution used to be administered by the Parish Officers. In the 1890s many of the parishes including Horley set up independent Parish Charities with Trustees and overseen by Parish Councils. The general objective of the Charities remained to 'support the poor'. Unfortunately, the records of the Henry Smith Charity were destroyed in the Second World War and there is no information about the reason for selecting the parishes although the majority are in Surrey and linked to the Merton Priory before the Dissolution. Today, the Henry Smith Horley Parish Charity is administered by five Trustees who receive applications for small financial gifts from families, individuals, students, and local causes from within the Ancient Parish that help with improving recipients' circumstances. In the last 12 months the Horley Charity received £12,000 from the Henry Smith Charity and distributed 102 monetary or in-kind gifts. The Charity is largely 'under the radar' of the wider community in Horley. It does not need the publicity associated with seeking public financial support because most of the funding is provided by the Henry Smith Charity. However, occasionally it does receive financial gifts that go towards the Charity's work.

The illustration on his grave, as an Alderman of the City of London

*Ancient Parish of Horley refers to the Parish boundary as it was from the 14th Century to Henry Smith's death. The Parish was about twice today's area and extended north to include Salfords, White Bushes, Sidlow and south to Tinsley Green. Parishioners walked from these outlying areas to St Bartholomew's Church through heavily wooded country and a look at the Ordnance Survey map of footpaths shows the routes they would have taken, sometimes several times a day.

References : British History Online; other online research; Henry Smith, His Life and Legacy, by Lucy Lethbridge & Tim Wales, ISBN 978 0 9930945 0 7

contributed by David Yates



Horizontal :

1 - Secure in a cabbage patch (3)

3 - Impose a limit on commercial airline profits initially (3)

5 - American lawyer with newspaper is somewhat foolish (4)

7 - Booze provided by officers of the law, with hesitation ! (5)

8 - Plan to camp out ? (6)

10 - Objective is to take a turn towards a lake (4)

11 - Supernatural being in charge of a cake decoration (8)

13 - Mother left depressed defines herbaceous plant (6)

14 - This person right to take all for a drink (6)
17 - Surprisingly, one alder is toxic (8)
19 - Monarch holds 1001 in the middle east (4)
21 - Stick notice in this location (6)
22 - Significant vessel from China or Taiwan (5)
23 - A drink from medic the morning after (4)
24 - A small amount of metadata (3)
25 - Vociferous beast of burden, we hear (3)

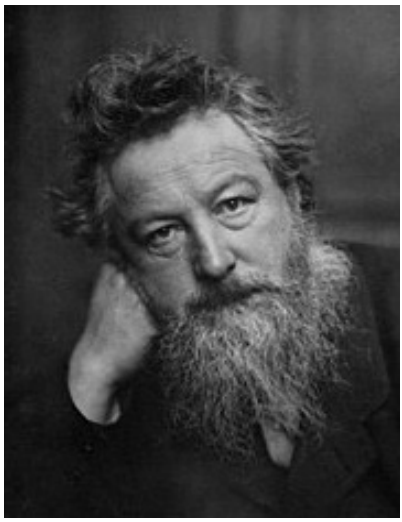
Vertical :
1 - In favour of cured meat as game ? (10)
2 - Duck a barrier after a pleasant meander (7)
3 - Complain about millpond resident, perhaps ? (4)
4 - Flexible industrial site I enter (6)
5 - Young Derek holds creature for summer visitor (8)
6 - A French American military man follows female to kingdom (5)
9 - Type of amphibian found in cracked jet-car tank (10)
12 - Transmit a musical instrument in the woods (8)
15 - Sounds like illumination is found in the water (7)
16 - Building material found in gun emplacements (6)
18 - Edie returns to river for a duck (5)
20 - Child with guardian may be in hospital (4)

SOLUTIONS for the December crossword.
Horizontal : 1 - Cicely, 4 - Chaff, 8 - Third, 9 - Mon-soon, 10 - Audible, 11 - Once, 12 - Roc, 14 - Stir, 15 - Huge, 18 - Dai, 21 - Apes, 23 - Colonel, 25 - Footman, 26 - Rehab, 27 - Event, 28 - Snipes.
Vertical : 1 - Catnip, 2 - Chindit, 3 - Ladybird, 4 - Cant, 5 - Acorn, 6 - Fennel, 7 - Amber, 13 - Children, 16 - Gunship, 17 - Baffle, 19 - Iceni, 20 - Alibis, 22 - Erode, 24 - Omit.

What&Where ?

Not exactly a high quality photo, but this is done on purpose, otherwise it would be far too easy. However, I'm sure that the resolution is still sufficient to let you guess what this is - no doubt you have one. You will just have to give your imagination a bit more room to play !

William Morris (1834-1896) Founder member of the Arts & Crafts Movement.
Following on from Roy's article on Standen in issue 6, I thought I would give a little more detail on William Morris. Possibly not everyone who visits Standen is aware of the name William Morris and his association with Standen and the Arts & Crafts Movement. William Morris was the most celebrated father figure of the movement and, between 1891 and 1894, together with his friend Phillip Webb, was commissioned by a prosperous London Solicitor, James Beale, to design and construct Standen House. William being the major influence in the internal design regarding wallpapers, tapestry, carpet design and furniture. Born in 1834, he went to school at Marlborough College and later to Oxford where he studied the history of medieval architecture. This influenced him to abandon his early plan to take orders, instead deciding to become an architect/designer. Together with some similarly like-minded colleagues, Morris rejected the later eighteenth century contemporary industrial age, turning his back on machinery and mass production and the effects it had on design and the traditional crafts. Just one side effect of his influence was to restore respect for well-made scrolled furniture of a simple design and finish unspoiled by stain and polishes. In other words, the furniture items were to be kept in their natural colours. In the 1860's, together with Phillip Webb, he built William's family house in Bexley Heath which became known as "The Red House". It is now considered to be a significant building relating to the Arts & Crafts Movement. Today the house is owned by the National Trust and open to visitors. Also open to visitors is William's childhood home. Situated in Walthamstow and owned by the National Trust known as The William Morris Gallery. The museum is devoted to the life and works of the designer.



The William Morris Gallery
Lloyd Park,
Forest Road,
Walthamstow, E17 4PP
020 8496 4390

The Red House
Red House Lane
Bexley Heath
London, DA6 8JF
020 8303 6359

contributed by Dave Sharratt

A Grand Day Out.
(with apologies to Wallace and Gromit)

Sitting in my office in Frankfurt, Germany, on a Friday afternoon in the summer of 1972. A phone call from a colleague - "Are you available to take a day's holiday on Monday ? A friend of mine from England is coming over in his car and I had promised to show him around but now have a work commitment. Can you stand in for me ?". Yes, I could. So, Monday morning I meet my colleague's friend, and his car. I say car but it deserves a much grander accolade as it was a gleaming, magnificent e-Type 5.3L convertible Jaguar with silver-grey paint and all the luxury trimmings ! What a beast. What did the friend want to see and do ? "Well, Heidelberg isn't far is it ?" he asked. "About 50 miles south" I replied. "OK, let's go there." The autobahn south from Frankfurt is mostly very straight and, in those days, without speed limits although only a two lane dual carriageway. With the top down and very little traffic, we had reached maximum speed of 152 mph – when we were overtaken by a large Mercedes limousine. I say "overtaken" but it crept past inch by inch as it was probably doing "only" 153 mph. With that little disappointment behind us, we arrived in Heidelberg only some 25 minutes after leaving Frankfurt. After exploring the historic old town and the ruined castle perched high above the town, where we saw the world's largest wine barrel, capable of holding 220,000 litres, we enjoyed a wonderful lunch in a typical "weinstube". Two-o-clock, so what next ? "Isn't Hockenheim race track near here?" asked my companion. "Yes, about 10 miles away, but it will be closed so no chance to get in." Little did I know. "Well, I'd like to see it". So off we went. Getting there in no time, it appeared deserted, until we found an open gate leading into the area behind the pits. In we go, and found a crew swarming over a very intimidating touring car (Le Mans type). Believe it or not, they were speaking English and came to look at the gleaming e-Type. My companion asked if he could take the car on the track. Amazingly, the answer was: "We have it for another hour but we finished our testing, so help yourself." Consequently, I experienced about 10 laps of the inner Hockenheim circuit, as a passenger, in that fantastic e-Type before a spin indicated that we had probably reached our limit. Thanking the crew, my deliriously happy and satisfied companion drove more sedately back to Frankfurt (stopping for an "abendessen" on the way, when the car needed a rest after over-heating). Ah well, not perfect, but a "once in a lifetime" grand day out I would happily repeat.

contributed by Mike Livesey

Highlighting a Local Club or Organisation.

Horley Bowling Club.

Founded in 1913, the Club has a proud history of providing a sports & leisure facility for the people of Horley & surrounding areas. Our Clubhouse and playing green are located in the centre of town, in the Recreation Ground on the Brighton Road. Little information about the Club is available from its earliest years, however it is thought by some that the green was situated behind the Albert Rooms, in Albert Road, whilst others suggest that it was probably on land presently occupied by the Constitutional Club. However, it is known that in the 1920s a Club by the name of 'St. Bart's' played on a green located at the rear of the Church Rooms in Albert Road. During 1933 the Club affiliated to the Surrey County Bowling Association and the Club relocated to a new green, laid out on 'glebe land' in Vicarage Lane. It is presumed that the continuing connection with the Church through St. Bart's influenced this move. In 1955 the Church sold the whole of Vicarage Lane site, including the bowling green. This began a period of uncertainty, until in 1963 the Horley Parish Council stepped in with the provision of a site in the Recreation Ground to secure continuance of the town's bowling tradition. The modern brick-built Clubhouse we have now replaced the old wooden structure. After much fund raising this was opened in Oct 1998. Today's Club, with over 100 members, is mixed-sex orientated. This wasn't always the case, as ladies were only admitted in 1968 ! The Clubhouse & green are maintained solely by the membership, who all pull together with loving care to produce a green which is widely acknowledged to have one of the best playing surfaces in Surrey. Our green is the main reason we are asked to host inter-County matches and Surrey Competition finals are regularly held at the Club. Our teams play in the East

Short Mat Bowling in the Club House

Green maintenance

Surrey League and cup matches which take us as far as Croydon; also, given our position on the edge of Surrey, we play in Border Leagues which means we play teams from West Sussex. Friendly matches are also played against local Clubs & villages. Another very successful aspect of the club is our Short Mat bowling section which is hugely popular and very social during winter months. We run 3 teams in the West Sussex Leagues and are one of the most successful Short Mat clubs in the area. Please forget those old 'stereo type' images of bowlers ! Modern-day bowling is a very relaxed social sport where you can play as competitively as you like or just join in with a friendly 'roll up', to go at your own pace. There is a licensed bar and we hold regular social activities. We are proud to have qualified coaches with whom private or group taster sessions can be booked, and all equipment is provided. Open days are planned for 28th - 31st May 2021, but you can pop in and speak with us any time. You can contact us via the form on our web site or phone Liz, our membership secretary.

Phone : 01293 785715 email : hbcmembership@gmail.com
www.horleybowlsclub.co.uk

What&Where ?

Did you get it ? Or did you think it was part of a bicycle ? I'm sure you will agree with me that if I had placed the "cutout" at the same resolution as the picture to the right, you would have found it a lot easier to guess what it was.

Fancy submitting a *What&Where ?* picture for others to exercise their grey matter ? You know the email address !

And finally...

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

In January we pay tribute to the parents of the following people :

On the 10th Martin Forde increased the local population with one.

On the 24th Alan Mathers saw the light of day.

Please let us know if your birthday is in January but was 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 !

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

probits@icloud.com

Receipt before 2nd of February latest would be much appreciated.
It gives me enough time to prepare the next issue which hits your mailbox on the second Tuesday of February, the 9th.

Our website : www.probusclubhorley.org