



**March Hares**

When did you last see these amazing animals? They're going mad at this time of year. Tragically, many are being killed by dogs for sport on the South Downs, north of Arundel. What punishment would you impose on hare coursers?

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**“Beware the Ides of March”** As you may know, this famous line comes from William Shakespeare’s play *Julius Caesar*. (I didn’t know). In the play, a mysterious soothsayer tells Caesar to “beware the Ides of March” as a warning about his impending assassination, which did indeed take place on March 15 — in real life.

If I knew what the Ides of March are I would probably avoid them myself. Can anyone please tell me?

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**I hate negativity**

A report that states “One in every two adults in the UK will not get cancer in their lifetime” conveys exactly the same information, yet is somehow slightly more reassuring, don’t you think?

**February's Pub Lunch** was very enjoyable for the twenty-one of us able to be there. The Arun View always looks after us very well and this was no exception. Plenty of good, home-cooked food on the plates and not a scrap left uneaten. Ian had done a great job organising the event and was there to greet us. His place cards were ideal for members and serving staff alike. Well done and thanks, Ian. (Note. Ian has volunteered to organise another PL here in September).

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**White Swan Hotel Lunches.** I have had a couple of meetings with hotel management, as requested by committee, and am very close to agreeing beneficial changes and improvements in our meeting lunches.

These meetings came as a result of disquiet in the club regarding the varying quality and quantity of meals served, as well as other aspects of lunchtime. When conversations with the hotel are concluded I will report fully to the committee and then to the membership. Agreed changes will start in April. BT

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### **Man about Town - Martin's talk**

Martin Alderton is recognisable to most people living in Arundel, not only as a (recently retired) local postman but also as the proprietor of Arundel Walking Tours which has shown thousands of people around town over the last twelve years.

It was good to hear Martin Talk the Walk with us on 22<sup>nd</sup> February. There's very little Martin does not know about Arundel, its history, architecture and countless tales of old and there's no better way to learn more about Arundel than to take a walk with Martin or, better still, invite him to come and talk to us, which is what I did.

Martin had chosen to focus on the south of the town in his first talk to us. He showed several fascinating, early and unique, black and white photos around the "old" bridge (the third actually) and the Arundel port of olden times.

Surely the club will want to welcome Martin back again to hear more tales of the town we love. Perhaps in October.

Martin also shared with us concerns about changes at the Royal Mail and its impact on postal services. Who knew that redirected mail could now cost the recipient a financial penalty as could the use of "old" stamps, even on Christmas cards? Note. In his e-mailed thanks next day, Martin told me he was showing the Pagham WI around town. He never stops.

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### **New Member - Peter Laverick**

In the President's absence, Vice President Brian Arthur inducted Peter into the club at the February meeting and he was warmly welcomed with a round of enthusiastic clapping.

Hopefully, we may, one day, persuade this accomplished tuba player to give us a few um-pahs. We would be blown away. Welcome Peter.



## **What's on this month, March ?**

**March Pub Lunch Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> Middleton Sports Club, Sea Lane, M-on-Sea PO22 7RH - 12.00 for 12.30** Organised by Pam and Tim. You should have ordered your lunch by now, but here's a reminder of the menu :

- **Mains**

Chicken Forestier with Sauté Potatoes  
Pan Fried Salmon with Crushed New potatoes  
Steak and Kidney Pie with Mashed Potatoes  
Vegetable Risotto  
(All mains served with Fresh Vegetables).  
£1 tip)

- **Desserts**

Crème Brulée  
Sticky Toffee Pudding with Ice Cream  
Apple Crumble with Custard or Cream  
Ice Cream

Price £24 per head (including

**.Red Nose Day for Comic Relief 15<sup>th</sup> March**

Returning again this month, isn't it remarkable how much money this charity raises each year by inspiring young and old to do silly things for the benefit of others? Most Probus members are probably too long in the tooth (and elsewhere) to rush around doing crazy things for charity. We are now part of the silent majority who continue to donate to worthy causes without fuss -, whilst wearing red noses perhaps - including sponsoring family and friends. Good on you.



**Regular Monthly Meeting March 28<sup>th</sup> The White Swan Hotel Speaker Bill McNaught**

Bill is going to talk to us about the other William Cody who began his acting career in the early days of film and just happened to have the same name as "Buffalo" Bill Cody, although he was not a relation. His story is no less interesting.

Flyer will follow. Lunch will follow too, as usual.

**Who has a birthday this month? March.** They'd all like to hear from you.

Mike Gammon 5<sup>th</sup> mgammon321@gmail.com

John Munro 19<sup>th</sup> johnmunro3@btinternet.com

Alan Beale 24<sup>th</sup> alanbeale1@tiscali.co.uk

**A wise man speaks.....**

*"Why is it that, with quotes on the internet, you never know whether they are true or false ?"* Abraham Lincoln

**Wassailing.**

Another date for your diary is Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> March for the, weather-postponed, Wassailing ceremony at the Arundel Community Orchard on Herington's Field, off Fitzalan Road. 3.30 – 5.00. Entry free and it's always fun. (All weather-permitting of course).

If you can, do go and enjoy this ancient event which involves asking the spirits for a bountiful harvest this year. Take bells, whistles, horns – anything to wake the spirits and fruit trees from their winter slumber. The Green Man will guide you.



**A Good Night's Sleep** Do you know that wonderful feeling when you get into bed, immediately fall fast asleep and wake up nine hours later, fully refreshed and ready to face whatever the day holds? Neither do I.

**What's on next month, April ?**

**Pub Lunch Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> April Denmans Garden, Fontwell** Includes garden visit after lunch for those who want to, and can, all for **£24 inclusive.** **Note.** The normal price for a retired person to enter just the garden is £7. Spring is a lovely time to visit this delightful garden. Fingers crossed for decent weather. Organised by Bob Tanner. (No, not the weather).

**Menu choices.**

Mains TO FOLLOW  
Desserts

## Regular Monthly Meeting April 25<sup>th</sup> AGM and Quiz

This meeting is the club's Annual General Meeting when a new Committee will be elected for 2024-2025

Will every member, new and old, please think seriously if they can step up and help run the club. The club does not run itself. We all know that, surely. As retired business or professional people, we understand fully that successful organisations rely on the input of their members, and our club is no different.

We are approaching the Annual General Meeting when the new committee has to be put together for another year. There are only six of us and others should now take a turn, please. It's not too difficult and the club will be richer and more secure with new blood helping to run things.

Please contact any member of the current committee if you can help, even in a small way. Our names and contact details are in your Members' Handbook. Thank you.

At present, we know that President David Feist will step down after his year of office and Vice President Brian Arthur will automatically succeed him. Stephen Brocklebank is being nominated by the committee to become Vice President. Charlie Meggs is retiring after several years of great service as Treasurer and Tim Jowitt has volunteered to replace him. Charlie will continue to look after speaker equipment. David Tippett is ending an equally long period of service as Hotel Liaison and Lunch organiser, to be replaced by Bob Tanner who will also continue as Speaker Secretary and APT compiler. Richard Brennan deserves a break after another long spell as Secretary. Perhaps the job could be shared. I think it could. Volunteers PLEASE.

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## Immediate Past President David Feist (he will be by then) will conduct a Quiz after the AGM.

It will soon be time for outgoing **President David** to choose the next winner of the **President's Prize**, awarded to the member who has contributed most to the club during the President's year. Committee members are excluded. The prize is an attractive pewter plate – which they hold for a year - depicting a group of men together. They could be members of a Probus club in the 18<sup>th</sup> Century. The prize-winner will be announced at the AGM. John Taylor was the, very worthy, last winner.

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## "It is easier to fool people than to convince them they have been fooled". Mark Twain

(Pre- internet!) He's increasingly proved correct. What would Mr Twain say now?

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**Another day dawns.** I've probably told you before that doing the NYT Wordle and Spellbee word games in bed each morning has become a highlight of my days (how sad) but rarely do I reach even half-way to the maximum daily points score. How far do you get? I've never heard of many of the words listed, like today for example – biotto, lolcat and tabla – but the puzzles serve to stimulate the brain without much effort and I can attempt them laying down.

Now the morning sun is streaming through the bedroom windows and I can no longer see my iPad's screen. Think I'll just lay here a little longer to top up my gardener's suntan.....no, must get up now or I'll be late for lunch downstairs.

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## Forthcoming Speakers

March 28th	Bill Mc Naught	- "William Cody"
April 25th	AGM	- Quiz
May 23rd	Andrew Warren	- "The Mysteries of Aroma"
June 27th	Les Maple	- Sound systems in the theatre
July 25th	Dave Pidoux (TBC)	- "Taxi" part 2
August 22n	O'Malley (Steve Wiltshire)	- A Street Artist working around Arundel
September 26th	"Tax, Care and Toy Boys"	- Lisa Lumsden for Co-op Estate Planning

Bookings are now being taken for speaking dates at our club next autumn and winter. We'd love to hear from you; all of us ! Just give me a call. Bob, on 01903 882127 Don't delay and risk disappointment.

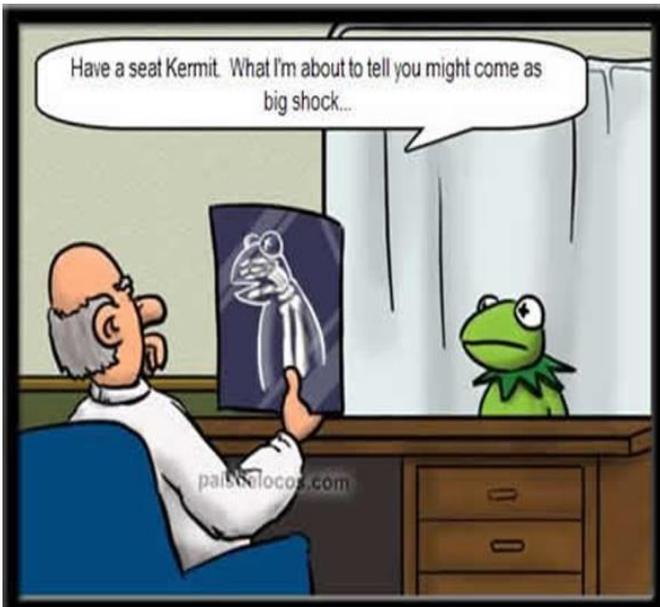
MATT



*'The British make the best racing drivers. A lifetime of swerving round potholes at a steady 20mph has honed their skill'*



RIP Ian Lavender



**Car and Driver says 95% of electric cars are still on the road. The remaining 5% made it all the way home.**

**Practical Advice:**  
**If all the toilets in your house are occupied and you are waiting for one to be free, switch off the wi-fi.**

**Call for sponsorship.** External speakers at our club are not invited to lunch, or even a drink at the bar, by the club, especially if being paid to speak. (Some members have been known to put their hands in their own pockets. however.) The club's present finances only stretch to speaker fees and it's becoming embarrassing, so the committee is inviting all members to contribute to a new fund to allow the Speaker Secretary to offer entertainment to visiting speakers, at his discretion. Please contact me or the Treasurer confidentially if you would like to help. Thank you.

**Famous last words.** "My wife said she missed me, but then I realised she was re-loading !"

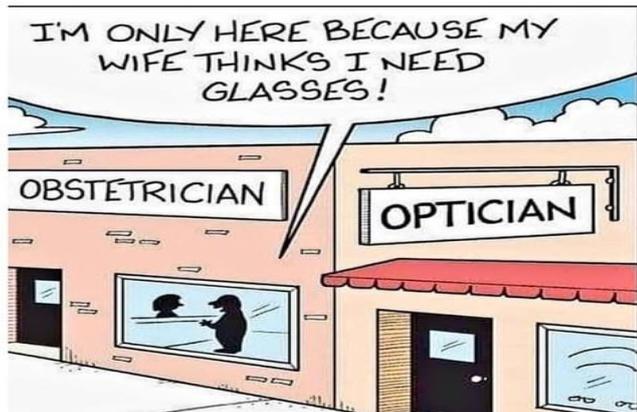
**I had never heard my wife complain once - until I had hearing aids fitted.**

**I was watching something interesting on TV. This lady was describing all the great things to do for fun. Then I realised it was one of those religious channels and she was reading a list of sins.**

**Pizzas are round, they come in square boxes and are eaten in triangles. Fascinating.**

**Compiling this monthly chronicle doesn't get any easier so I could do with a lot more input from readers. The jokes – good and bad – keep coming, but I would like other contributions please. Poems, short essays, amusing incidents recounted, embarrassing moments, loveliest memory, your disclosable news etc. etc.**

**I am never sure which font and which print size are preferred by you readers. There are thousands of permutations so please advise if you have any problem reading any part of this newsletter - without using a magnifying glass.**



*Best wishes, Bob*

**Final word of advice. Do not sit on the floor without a plan on how to get up.**

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