



June is busting out all over.....

The teacher asked her young class to use the word “fascinate” in a sentence and Molly put her hand up. “I went to visit my grandfather’s farm and saw some sheep. They were fascinating.”

“Very good Molly but I want someone to use the word “fascinate”, not “fascinating”. So, Sally put her hand up. “My family visited a museum, and I was fascinated”.

“Thank you Sally but I still want someone to use the word “fascinate”. Then Johnny put his hand up.

Fearing the worst, the teacher invited Johnny to try. “My Aunt June has a sweater with ten buttons on it but her boobs are so big she can only fasten eight”. The teacher started to cry.

The Repair Shop

I bet I am not the only one who has been enjoying this BBC1 programme during lockdowns. The undoubted skills of most of the characters involved are impressive and some of you may be tempted to apply to have an heirloom restored, aunt Gladys’s mangle or great grandfather Thomas’s shotgun, for example.

I have applied myself but, at the interview and rehearsals, I could not weep openly, or even summon up a tear, when the cover came off and the repair was revealed. The producers said I was not a suitable candidate and could not therefore go forward and have Dad’s old carpet slippers patched up on TV.



It is not generally known that Kleenex is a major sponsor of the programme and a second old barn nearby is filled with their supplies.

Apologies. Did you notice? I try hard not to include anything that has been included before, but I missed a joke last month that was in the April edition too. If you hadn’t noticed, then don’t read this!

Richard Brennan. How many English words of three letters or more can you make from our Secretary Richard’s full name? 60+ is good. (Ben and Brenda are not allowed).

John Monroe has found the perfect word to describe our feelings during perhaps the strangest fifteen months of our lives. It wasn't burnout — we still had energy. It wasn't depression — we didn't feel hopeless. We just felt somewhat joyless and aimless. The word is **languishing** which is a sense of stagnation and emptiness. It feels as if you're muddling through your days, looking at your life through a foggy windshield, and it might also be the dominant emotion of 2021, according to the New York Times.

So, what can we do about it? A concept called **flow** may be an antidote to languishing. Flow is that elusive state of absorption in a meaningful challenge, or a momentary bond, where your sense of time, place and self, melts away. During the early days of the pandemic, the best predictor of well-being wasn't optimism or mindfulness — it was flow. People who became more immersed in their projects managed to avoid languishing and were able to maintain their pre-pandemic happiness.

While finding new challenges, enjoyable experiences and meaningful work are all possible remedies to languishing, I would respectively add returning to the camaraderie of Probus as another way of capturing that solace we have missed for so long. **Thank you, John,**

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Arundel Probus Club plans to resume its monthly meetings.

Hooray! We can get cautiously together again on Thursday 24th June for our first post-Covid meeting and lunch at the White Swan Hotel. It will be wonderful to see as many members as possible at this first meeting in over fourteen months but make sure to bring your Membership Card with you to help remind you who the others are! And do stay for lunch, after a rare drink from the bar with friends, if wanted. David Tippett has worked with the hotel to produce a tasty menu and the price increase is modest by today's standards. (The room charge has actually decreased). There is no speaker but David Feist has arranged a Quiz for us so we will find out who Mr. Smarty Pants is this time. Our thanks to both Davids. Current Covid precautions will be in place at the hotel, of course and hopefully you've all had your two jabs long since.

Our ladies are invited to join us at the following meeting and lunch on 22nd July when Bill Avenell from Pulborough will give us a talk entitled "What's in a View?", a talk that selects some of the iconic views of West Sussex and explores their geographical origins, historical significance, artistic value and other factors that make them so popular. Sounds interesting.

Meanwhile, there are plans to hold a Pub Lunch – possibly in July and probably at the Arun View – so David or Richard will be in touch once those plans are finalised.

(It's difficult to type with my fingers crossed.)

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France revisited.

An elderly British tourist was fumbling for his passport on arrival in Calais. "You have been to France before, monsieur?" the customs officer asked sarcastically.

Mr. Whiting admitted that he had been to France previously.

"Then you should know enough to have your passport ready."

The Englishman replied, 'The last time I was here, I didn't have to show it.'

"Impossible. You English always have to show your passports on arrival in France!"

The Englishman gave the Frenchman a long hard look -- then quietly explained. "Well, when I came ashore at Gold Beach on D-Day in 1944, to help liberate your country, I couldn't find a single Frenchmen to show a passport to!"



Interesting Year 1981

1. Prince Charles got married.
2. Liverpool crowned soccer Champions of Europe .
3. Australia lost the Ashes.
4. The Pope died.

Interesting Year 2005

1. Prince Charles got married.
2. Liverpool crowned soccer Champions of Europe .
3. Australia lost the Ashes.
4. The Pope died.



Should Prince Charles plan to marry again, someone ought to warn the Pope.



We're having a whale of a time!"

Parlez vous deutsch?

A Royal Navy admiral was attending a naval conference in Brussels that included counterparts from the U.S., U.K, Canada , Australia and France.

At a cocktail reception, he found himself standing with a large group of Officers that included personnel from most of those countries. Everyone was chatting away in English as they sipped their drinks when a French admiral suddenly complained that, whereas Europeans learn many languages, the English learn only English. He then asked, 'Why is it that we always have to speak English in these conferences rather than French?'

Without hesitating, the British admiral replied, 'Maybe it's because the Brit's, Americans, Canadians, Aussie's, Kiwis and South Africans arranged it so you wouldn't have to speak German.'



Now that the club is getting back to business, we need more Probus members to step up and give a talk at a club meeting. A few of us have done so already and it's not such a big deal. In fact, it's quite fun. Anyone can do it and you are assured of a friendly audience. It only lasts about 45 minutes and, at the end, you will probably wish it could go on for longer. So, give me a call or an e-mail and we can discuss details, timing etc. We all have a trove of experiences to interest others. Don't keep them to yourself. You know you can do it but don't worry if you don't want to. Bob



Blossom was particularly good this spring, before the gale on 3rd May, so I thought you might like this shot.

Four friends, who hadn't seen each other in 30 years, reunited at a party...
After several drinks, one of the men had to use the men's room and those who remained talked about their kids.



The first guy said, 'My son is my pride and joy. He started working at a successful company, at the bottom of the ladder. He studied Economics and Business Administration and soon began to climb the corporate ladder and now he's the president of the company. He became so rich that he recently gave his best friend a new Mercedes on his birthday.'



The second guy said, 'Wow, that's terrific! My son is also my pride and joy. He started working for a big airline, then went to flight school to become a pilot. Eventually he became a partner in the company, where he owns the majority of its assets. He's so rich that he gave his best friend a new executive jet for his birthday.'



The third man said: 'Well, that's impressive! My son studied in the best universities and became an engineer. Then he started his own construction company and is now a multimillionaire... He also gave away something very nice and expensive to his best friend for his last birthday: a 30,000 square foot mansion.'

The three friends congratulated each other just as the fourth returned from the men's room and asked: 'What are all the congratulations for?' One of the three said: 'We were talking about the pride we feel for the successes of our sons.....?'

The fourth man said: 'And so do I. My son is gay and makes a living dancing as a nightclub stripper.'

The three friends were shocked and said: 'What a shame... What a disappointment.'
The fourth man replied: 'No. You're quite wrong. I'm not ashamed of him. He's my son and I love him. And he hasn't done too badly either. His birthday was two weeks ago, and he received a beautiful 30,000 square foot mansion, a brand-new jet plane and a top of the line Mercedes from his three boyfriends.'

A smile is a curve that sets everything straight

Times Remembered.....

The European Commission had just announced an agreement whereby English would be the official language of the European Union, rather than German, which was another possibility. As part of the negotiations, the British Government conceded that English spelling had some room for improvement and accepted a 5- year phase-in plan that would become known as "Euro-English".

In the first year, "s" would replace the soft "c". Certainly, to make the sivil servants jump with joy. The hard "c" will be dropped in favour of "k". This should klear up konfursion, and keyboards kan have one less letter.

There would be growing publik enthusiasm in the sekond year when the troublesome "ph" was to be replaced with "f".. This would make words like fotograf 20% shorter.

In the 3rd year, publik akseptanse of the new spelling was expekted to reach the stage where more komplikated korecshuns would be posible. Governments would enkourage the removal of double letters which had always ben a deterrent to akurate speling. Also, al wil agre that the horibl mes of the silent "e" in the languag was disgrasful and it should go away.

By the 4th yer peopl wil be reseptiv to steps such as replasing "th" with "z" and "w" with "v". During ze fifz yer, ze unesesary "o" kan be dropd from vords kontaining "ou" and after ziz fifz yer, ve vil hav a reil sensi bl riten styl.

Zer vil be no mor trubl or difikultis and evrivun vud find it ezi TU understand ech oza. Ze drem of a united urop vil finali kum tru.

Und efter ze fifz yer, ve vil al be speking German like zey vunted in ze forst plas.

A man got on the bus with his golf trouser pockets full of golf balls and sat down next to a young woman. She kept looking at him and his bulging pockets. Finally, after her many glances he said, "It's golf balls."

The young woman continued to look at him for a very long time, concerned about what he had said and, after several minutes, asked "Does it hurt as much as tennis elbow?"



A deep-sea diver was surveying a wreck in deep water when he saw a man wearing a three-piece, pin-striped suit and a bowler hat walking towards him. He wrote quickly on his marker board "What on earth are you doing down here?" and handed it to the man. The well-dressed man took the board and the marker and wrote "Drowning!"



An elderly couple had dinner at another couple's house. After the meal, the wives left the table and went into the kitchen.

The two men continued talking and one said, 'Last night the wife and I went to a new restaurant and it was really great. I recommend it very highly.'

The other man said, 'What is the name of the restaurant?'

The first man thought for a long time and finally said, 'What's the name of that flower you give to someone you love? You know, the one that's red and has thorns.'



'Do you mean a rose?' 'Yes, that's the one,' replied the man. He then turned towards the kitchen and yelled, 'Rose, what's the name of that restaurant we went to last night?'

Embarrassment remembered

Years ago, I was in Amsterdam where public conveniences were not convenient. In fact, they hardly existed at all. One was obliged to go to a bar to use the facilities where you were expected to buy a drink but, unfortunately, even a half litre of Heineken quickly brought you back to square one.

So, you can imagine my delight when I found a small urinal on the side of a canal. It provided minimal privacy, allowing a conversation with your partner to continue. My need was urgent and as I stood inside, with my head peering over the top, I realised the drain discharged into the canal below with what seemed to be a Niagara-like roar, to the great amusement of a tour-boat of Japanese tourists chugging past.



I can imagine elderly Japanese today showing treasured photos of their trip to Europe, a long time ago, especially the one of the man peeing into the Amsterdam canal.

A True Story

An elderly Florida lady did her shopping and, returning to her car, found four males in the act of leaving with the vehicle. She dropped her shopping bags and pulled out her handgun, proceeding to scream at the top of her lungs, "I have a gun, and I know how to use it! GET OUT OF THE CAR!"...

The four men didn't wait for a second threat. They got out and ran like mad.

The lady, somewhat shaken, then proceeded to load her shopping bags into the back of the car and got into the driver's seat. She was so shaken that she could not get her key into the ignition. She tried and tried, and then she realized why.



A few minutes later, she found her own car parked four or five spaces farther away. She loaded her bags into the car and drove to the police station to report her mistake.

The sergeant to whom she told the story couldn't stop laughing. He pointed to the other end of the counter, where four pale men were reporting a car-jacking by a mad, elderly woman described as white, less than five feet tall, glasses, curly white hair, and carrying a large handgun.

Enjoy your summer.

Bob