



**November 2020 Newsletter**  
**Edition No 154**

**PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

**Next Meeting: Friday 13 November 2020**  
**Venue: Forestville Memorial Hall**  
**Cnr Starkey St and Warringah Rd Forestville**  
**9.30am for a 10.00am Start**

**Members of the Combined Probus Club of Belrose**

Once again a very enjoyable meeting with excellent speakers. A few technical problems with the visual display, however, we are working on it.

Remember there are a lot of events coming up so please make a note of the dates and register via the website. On that note, we did have a problem with the site, however, hopefully the problem has been fixed and the site is again up and running.

Please note you do not have to register if you are attending the meeting but please register an apology if you cannot make it. The committee has decided to keep a record of attendance, however, no action will be taken for non-attendance. This is due to the extremely unusual circumstances we have all had to face.

Once again stay safe and I will see as many of you as possible at the next meeting.

**Terry Stewart - President**  
**Combined Probus Club of Belrose Inc**

**CLUB CONTACTS**

President: Terry Stewart 0402 980 374  
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Treasurer: Chris Wood 9452 3026  
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Club Website: <http://www.belroseprobus.org.au>

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**COLIN AND MARSHA FORDRED HAVE MOVED**

**Please note change of email address & also home address:**

Email: [colin.fordred@gmail.com](mailto:colin.fordred@gmail.com)

Home: 9/51 Killeaton Street, St Ives NSW 2075

Mobiles remains the same

There will not be any home landline.

**ENTERTAINMENT**

Warwick Brady (0418 793 684)

I would like to report that Glen Street again were successful in presenting a show to replace A Morning with Karen Knowles, namely the Wayne Scott Kermond Concert on 12th October to an audience of 145 maximum allowed. The show was very good, Wayne is a true professional.

The only complaint I received was that the Air Conditioning was very cold. I spoke to the Management after the show and was informed as follows "With regard to the air-conditioning, heading into the warmer months it has a standard setting of 22.5 degrees. Perhaps the temperature may have felt colder due to the limited capacity of the auditorium. Hope this explanation helps." Perhaps if we don't have full capacity, we should bring a jacket or coat.

Our Next Show is "Love will keep us together" on Wednesday 16th December at 11.00am I booked 40 seats and already all seats have been reserved. This is the third show in a row where we have been booked out. Thanks for the great support. Only today I learnt that Melissa Langdon and Mark Jones live in Victoria and there is some doubt they will be able to perform for us. The Theatre Management is working on a possible replacement if this is necessary. If a replacement performer is needed you will be contacted to confirm if you wish to transfer your ticket. More news will follow as soon as possible.

As advised last time, the plans for the Wharf Revue are still proceeding. Our tickets for the Opening Night on Wednesday 6th January at 8.00pm have all been paid for, what terrific support! We also have a reservation of 60 seats, a record for any Group. In addition we have 18 out of 20 seats for the Matinee on 13th January at 11.00am. Anyone wishing to have these remaining seats should contact me as soon as possible on 0418 793 684.

I am expecting information of the programme being arranged for Glen Street Theatre 2021, this is currently being finalised.

Programmes already booked are Miss Saigon for July 2021. Exact date will appear in the next issue of our paper. Probably the 8th July at 8.00pm. This show will be presented by Noble Theatre Company who in 2019 gave us the excellent production of Les Miserables.

With Love, Marilyn, has been rescheduled from 2020 and will be performed on Monday 26th July at 11.00AM. This show will capture your hearts as we explore the life and loves of the on screen romantic ingenue. Jacquelyn Claire in the N.Y. Theatre Guide wrote "She looks speaks and moves like Marilyn and it's like going back in time" Tickets should be \$26.00 each and bookings should be available early in 2021.

Thanks again for your support.

**Warwick Brady - Entertainment Officer**

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#### **GUEST SPEAKERS**

Jan Staniland (0409 455 652)

#### **NOVEMBER GUEST SPEAKER**

Councillor David Walton, former Chief Detective Sergeant with Manly Police will talk on police corruption in 1999-2000 – the full story. Headed "Manly Underbelly" it is sure to be an interesting insight into crime and fraud at that time. Cr Walton will be happy to answer questions on his current role in Northern Beaches Council.

**Jan Staniland – Guest Speaker Coordinator**

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#### **SCRAPBOOKING**

Liz Pawsey (0403 206 460)

#### **PROBUS SCRAPBOOKING**

Scrapbooking in the Pawsey Folly is able to practise "social distancing" safely for the group. The next Scrapbooking gathering is on **MONDAY 23<sup>RD</sup> NOVEMBER.** As usual the urn will be bubbling from 10.30am onwards. Stay as long as you like. Bring any craft project to work on and enjoy the friendly chatter!

#### **And remember these words of wisdom:**

***A day without doing any craft probably won't kill me. But why risk it!***

**Liz Pawsey**

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#### **SOCIAL**

Liz Pawsey (0403 206 460)

#### **CHRISTMAS LUNCH**

Full steam ahead for the **Christmas Lunch** at Terrey Hills Golf Club on **Friday 11<sup>th</sup> December.** Good news is that Terrey Hills GC has now recalculated their available space and is allowing 79 so that leaves 5 on the current waiting list. I have sent everyone who was successful in booking for the lunch, an email with Probus' bank details for using EFT for payment. Payment is required by mid-November.

If your circumstances change and you find yourself unable to attend the lunch, please let me know as soon as possible as there are members eagerly waiting to be told they can join in the annual fun at THGC!

If there are any members still keen to come, please don't hesitate to let me know (by registering via the Probus Website or emailing me on [hastings.pawsey@bigpond.com](mailto:hastings.pawsey@bigpond.com)) and I will add you to the waiting list.

I am very hopeful that the government Covid restrictions for numbers attending THGC will be changed over the next few weeks to allow increased numbers and the members on the waiting list will receive good news. So, I encourage all who would really like to attend the Christmas Lunch, to book and be patient, and you never know, you may be lucky!

Remember this function will be at **Terrey Hills Golf Club**, starting at **12 noon.** \$65 per head (a welcome drink followed by a 2 course meal, tea & coffee)

**In our next newsletter I hope to be giving you details of Social events booked for January and February 2021!**

**Liz Pawsey – Social Coordinator**

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### PAGE 3 GIRL – CHRISTINE KEELER

Photo by late Australian photographer Lewis Morley



#### Who remembers the Profumo scandal?

The photo of Christine Keeler was shot amid the uproar of one of Britain's biggest political scandals, when Keeler's sexual relationship with married British politician and Secretary of State for War, John Profumo, was exposed. The incident, which rocked 1960s Britain became known as the Profumo affair

The scandal led to Profumo's resignation from the Conservative government of then Prime Minister Harold Macmillan, who also left office not long after (although health reasons were largely to blame).

It also led to the suicide of socialite and osteopath Stephen Ward – who was found guilty of being Keeler's "pimp" and living off her earnings, after introducing Profumo and Keeler at a pool party.

As the story, which happened at the height of the Cold War, unravelled it was revealed Keeler, who denied being a prostitute, had also slept with another powerful man at the same time as her affair with Profumo – Soviet naval attache, Yevgeny Ivanov.

The story came out after Keeler was attacked by an angry boyfriend with a gun in December 1962 and journalists started to look into her life.

The length of her affair with Profumo is disputed. The pair met in July 1961, with Profumo claiming the affair ended in August after he was warned by security services of mixing with a woman in Ward's circle. But others claim he continued a sexual relationship with Keeler until December. According to Keeler, she and Ivanov had only a very brief relationship.

The affairs sparked concerns about threats to national security and Ward faced a trial accused of living off Keeler's earnings as a "call girl", as well as the earnings of several other women in his orbit.

He was found guilty but many believed the trial was biased against Ward, and that he was a scapegoat for the whole fiasco so the government could avoid further embarrassment.

He committed suicide the night before his sentence was handed down. Keeler was later charged with perjury and sentenced to nine months prison, where she served four and a half months before being released in 1964.

The naked image of Keeler, shot to promote a proposed film *The Keeler Affair*, surfaced after being leaked to the *Sunday Mirror*. The film never came to fruition and it wasn't until 1989 that the film *Scandal* was released.

The photographer Morley, who died in 2013, said producers demanded Keeler pose naked despite her reluctance.

"During the session, three rolls of 120 film were shot. The first two rolls had Christine sitting in various positions on the chair and on the floor,

dressed in a small leather jerkin (waistcoat). It was at this point the film's producers demanded she strip for some nude photos, Morley recalled years later.

"Christine was reluctant to do so, but the producers insisted, saying that it was written in her contract. The situation became rather tense and reached an impasse.

"I suggested that everyone, including my assistant, leave the studio. "I turned my back to Christine, telling her to disrobe, sit back to front on the chair. She was now nude, fulfilling the conditions of the contract, but was at the same time hidden." Later Christine said that she kept her white lace panties on

The photo became so famous it also propelled the chair she was sitting on, Arne Jacobsen's Model 3107, to prominence.

The photo was taken at a time that marked the rise of female liberation, but concerns were raised Keeler was exploited and shamed for her sexual freedom.

Keeler died in December, 2017 after suffering from chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, at the age of 75. She lived a very private life in her later years in the UK, having married twice and had three children.

HM the Queen Mother maintained her friendship and social contacts with the Profumos. She discretely invited them to her residences for dinner parties with other establishment figures

### **Christine Keeler Quotes**

Discretion is the polite word for hypocrisy.

We knew we were talking about spies. I knew he knew I knew. I was digging my own grave.

I won't say I didn't like it at the time, the sex, that is, because I wouldn't have let him do it at all if that had been the case. However I dress it up, I was a spy and I am not proud of it.

He had a way with him. Before you had a chance to say no, he was there and done. That only happened to me once before, with a duke, who literally swept me off my feet, and before I knew what was happening, we'd done it. Another terrible mistake.

I enjoyed sex and indulged in it when I fancied the men.

I have always been free with my love - it is my nature. I am easily captivated by men and they have always been attracted to me.

I have survived and possibly I should not hope for more than that. I never found anyone who was good enough, who I could trust enough.

One way of reading my life is that I have been in constant search for a father

**TOURS AND OUTINGS** John Robinson (0438 456 808)

### **OCTOBER BOTANIC GARDENS OUTING**

A perfect day for a trip on the water to the Quay and a very pleasant stroll through the gardens.

The highlight of the gardens is the Calyx wall, the largest of its kind in Australia, standing at 6 metres high and spanning 50 metres, showcasing the Pollination theme with Dichondra, Syngonium and Heuchera. A real eye opener.

A pleasant lunch followed. Our trip home was slowed by missing a bus connection but that allowed some to enjoy a G & T to finish off a very happy day.







### **NOVEMBER FERRY TRIP TO ETTALONG**

A pleasant trip on the water to Ettalong with lunch at the Diggers Club. Mid-week there is usually plenty of parking at the ferry.

Due website problems please register at [johnwrobinson@bigpond.com](mailto:johnwrobinson@bigpond.com)

Numbers limited to 30 on the 11 am ferry and at this time 25 have registered (only 5 places remaining). The Ettalong Club may require face masks

**Please note the fare for the ferry is to be individually paid on the day at Palm Beach and not through our bank account and face masks may be required in the club.**



**LUNCH AT THE ETTALONG  
DIGGERS CLUB**

#### **NOVEMBER OUTING**

**THURSDAY 19TH NOVEMBER**

**FERRY FROM PALM BEACH TO  
ETTALONG**



FERRY DEPARTS PALM BEACH AT 11AM FOR 30 MINUTE TRIP TO ETTALONG.  
SUGGEST WE MEET AT 10.15 FOR COFFEE. RETURN TRIP COST \$12.20.  
LOCAL BUS CONNECTS FROM WHARF TO CLUB OR SHORT 700 MT'S WALK TO CLUB.  
A STROLL AROUND ETTALONG WOULD BE A PLEASANT WAY TO END OUR VISIT.  
DUE TO WEBSITE PROBLEMS PLEASE REGISTER BY EMAIL TO [johnwrobinson@bigpond.com](mailto:johnwrobinson@bigpond.com)

### **SNOWY MOUNTAINS TOUR**

**6<sup>th</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup> APRIL 2021**

We have 41 members registered for this tour, fingers crossed restriction will be lifted and 52 will be able to travel.

The total cost of the tour is **\$845.00 per person**, this includes:

- Travel by luxury coach to and from Belrose.
- 5 nights in a Lakefront double room with hot breakfast every morning.
- Guided tours through the spectacular Snowy Mountains with knowledgeable and entertaining local guide.
- All meals *(except whilst travelling from Sydney, bring your own lunch or purchase at one of our rest stops. Morning tea at Thredbo on Day One will also be at your expense.)*
- Chairlift ride to Australia's highest restaurant.
- All entrance fees.
- No single supplement.
- \$50.00 deposit required when numbers finalised.
- Cancellation policy: full refund up to and including day of departure.
- Please note Tour commences and finishes at Belrose.

**John Robinson**

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### **DECEMBER NEWSLETTER**

Geoff Jones (0412 420 213)

### **DEADLINE FOR ENTRY TO DECEMBER NEWSLETTER**

If you would like to submit input for the December Newsletter, please do so by 25 November 2020. Input can be sent to me, the Newsletter Editor at [geoffjones1874@gmail.com](mailto:geoffjones1874@gmail.com)

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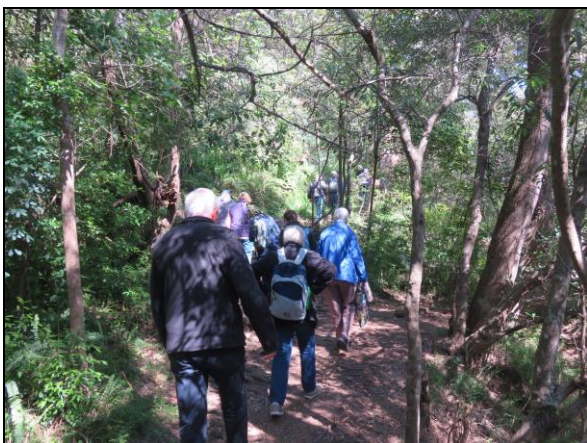
**NOVEMBER WALK**

Our November walk is on Friday 27th and is Bayview to Church Point and return. Park and meet at 9.00 am for a 9.15 am start at Bayview Park, Pittwater Road, next to the Tennis Courts (no Parking Fees). We hope to have coffee at The Waterfront, Church Point Wharf. As this is the last walk for the year we are planning, if possible, to have lunch at the Flying Fox Cafe, Winnererremy Bay. Although this is a street walk, there are some wonderful water views and interesting houses along the route.

**SEPTEMBER WALK**

Our September Walk was enjoyed by 16 walkers on another perfect day. It was the 2 Creeks Walk led by Ted Morton. We started from Echo Point Park and walked under Roseville Bridge and along a bush track beside Middle Harbour. There were some interesting bush and water views along the route with a spectacular spot for our cheese and biscuit stop. On our return we were able to enjoy coffee at Echo on the Marina. Thank you Ted for a great walk.

**Helen Miles**

**WELFARE**

Robyn Wood (0424 243 457)

Great job everyone. Keep up with all that we have to do to keep safe and well.

Knees are the flavour of the month. Some that have been waiting a long time are now in rehab. I have sent cards and taken some around to people as the post is so slow. Our thoughts are with those losing their nearest and dearest and those in care. Keep up with your exercise.

**Robyn Wood – Welfare Officer**

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## WINE PAIRING IN THE STONE AGE



"Simple rule of thumb; if it tries to eat us, serve with red. If it runs away from us, serve with white."

## OUT OF THE MOUTHS OF BABES



We have given over to Wraps With Love 20 new wraps as shown below which takes our overall total to 907.

Thank you to all the knitters and crochet people and to those who have donated money for wool.

**Margaret Hobson**



## NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS



4<sup>TH</sup> **Lesley Hackshall**

4<sup>th</sup> 1740 - Augustus Montague Toplady, English hymn writer (Rock of Ages)

7<sup>th</sup> **Margaret Ayre**

7<sup>th</sup> 1867 - Marie Curie, chemist, physicist

8<sup>th</sup> **Ted Morton**

8<sup>th</sup> 1922 - Christian Barnard, surgeon, performed the first heart transplant

13<sup>th</sup> **Tony Lovett**

13<sup>th</sup> 1850 - Robert Louis Stevenson, writer

16<sup>th</sup> **Lee Sandell**

16<sup>th</sup> 42 BC - Roman emperor Tiberius 42bc

17<sup>th</sup> **David Macaulay**

17<sup>th</sup> 1945 - Dany Devito

18<sup>th</sup> **Narelle Coleman**

18<sup>th</sup> 1939 - Margaret Atwood, author

20<sup>th</sup> **Judy Fuller**

20<sup>th</sup> 1925 - Robert F. Kennedy, Brother of President John F. Kennedy,

21<sup>st</sup> **Val Gibbs**

21<sup>st</sup> **Tonia Glassock**

21<sup>st</sup> 1694 - Voltaire, philosopher

22<sup>nd</sup> **Jenny Jones**

22<sup>nd</sup> 1890 - Charles de Gaulle, President of France

24<sup>th</sup> **Mark Johnston**

24<sup>th</sup> 1864 - Henri de Toulouse-Lautrec, painter

26<sup>th</sup> **Russell Allsop**

26<sup>th</sup> 1940 - Tina Turner

29<sup>th</sup> **Lorna Brady**

29<sup>th</sup> 1832 - Louisa May Alcott

30<sup>th</sup> **Marjorie Grant**

30<sup>th</sup> 1874 - Sir Winston Churchill, Prime Minister of Britain during WWII

*Another Combined Probus Club of Belrose Member's grandmother's letter to her son.*

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*Dear Son,*

*Just a few lines to let you know I'm still alive. I'm writing this letter slowly because I know you can't read fast.*

*We are all doing very well.*

*You won't recognize the house when you get home - we have moved. Your dad read in the newspaper that most accidents happen within 20 miles from your home, so we moved 30 miles away. I won't be able to send you the address because the last Probus member that lived here took the house numbers when they moved so that they wouldn't have to change their address.*

*This place is really nice. It even has a washing machine. I'm not sure it works so well though: last week I put a load in, pulled the chain and haven't seen it since.*

*Your father's got a really good job now. He's got 500 men under him - he's cutting the grass at the cemetery.*

*Your sister Mary had a baby this morning but I haven't found out if it's a boy or a girl, so I don't know whether you are an auntie or an uncle.*

*Your brother Tom is still in the army. He's only been there a short while and they've already made him a court martial!*



*Your Uncle Patrick drowned last week in a vat of whiskey in the local Brewery. Some of his workmates tried to save him but he fought them off bravely. They cremated him and it took three days to put out the fire.*

*I'm sorry to say that your cousin Sam was arrested while riding his bicycle last week. They are charging him with dope peddling.*

*I went to the doctor on Thursday and your father went with me. The doctor put a small tube in my mouth and told me not to talk for ten minutes. Your father offered to buy it from him.*

*The weather isn't bad here. It only rained twice this week, first for three days and then for four days. Monday was so windy one of the chickens laid the same egg four times.*

*About that coat you wanted me to send you: your Uncle Stanley said it would be too heavy to send in the mail with the buttons on, so we cut them off and put them in one of the pockets.*

*John locked his keys in the car yesterday. We were really worried because it took him two hours to get me and your father out.*

*There isn't much more news at this time. Nothing much has happened.*

*Your loving Mum.*

*P.S. I was going to send you some money but I had already sealed the envelope*

**(With thanks to Roger Morrow who may have been the grandson)**

## **THIS MONTH'S HISTORY LESSON**

We older people need to learn something new every day...Just to keep the grey matter tuned up.

Where did "piss poor" come from? Interesting history.

They used to use urine to tan animal skins, so families used to all pee in a pot. And then once it was full, it was taken by the woman and sold to the tannery.

If you had to do this to survive you were "piss poor". But worse than that were the really poor folk who couldn't even afford to buy a pot...They "didn't have a pot to piss in" and were the lowest of the low.

The next time you are washing your hands and complain because the water temperature isn't just how you like it, think about how things used to be.

Here are some facts about the 1500's:

Most people got married in June because they took their yearly bath in May And they still smelled pretty good by June. However, since they were starting to smell, brides carried a bouquet of flowers to hide the body odour. Hence the custom today of carrying a bouquet when getting married.

Baths consisted of a big tub filled with hot water. The man of the house had the privilege of the nice clean water. Then all the other sons and men, then the women and finally the children. Last of all the babies.

By then the water was so dirty you could actually lose someone in it. Hence the saying, "Don't throw the baby out with the bath water!"

Houses had thatched roofs: thick straw piled high, with no wood underneath. It was the only place for animals to get warm, so all the cats and other small animals (mice, bugs) lived in the roof.

When it rained it became slippery and sometimes the animals would slip and fall off the roof. Hence the saying, "It's raining cats and dogs."

There was nothing to stop things from falling into the house. This posed a real problem in the bedroom where bugs and other droppings could mess up your nice clean bed.

Hence, a bed with big posts and a sheet hung over the top afforded some protection. That's how canopy beds came into existence.

The floor was dirt. Only the wealthy had something other than dirt. Hence the saying, "Dirt poor."

The wealthy had slate floors that would get slippery in the winter when wet, so they spread thresh (straw) on the floor to help keep their footing.

As the winter wore on, they added more thresh until, when you opened the door, it would all start slipping outside. A piece of wood was placed in the entrance way. Hence: a thresh hold.

(Getting quite an education, aren't you?)

In those old days, they cooked in the kitchen with a big kettle that always hung over the fire. Every day they lit the fire and added things to the pot.

They ate mostly vegetables and did not get much meat. They would eat the stew for dinner, leaving leftovers in the pot to get cold overnight and then start over the next day.

Sometimes stew had food in it that had been there for quite a while. Hence the rhyme:

"Peas porridge hot, peas porridge cold, peas porridge in the pot nine days old."

Sometimes they could obtain pork, which made them feel quite special. When visitors came over, they would hang up their bacon to show off.

It was a sign of wealth that a man could, "bring home the bacon."

They would cut off a little to share with guests and would all sit around and "chew the fat".

Those with money had plates made of pewter. Food with high acid content caused some of the lead to leach onto the food, causing lead poisoning death.

This happened most often with tomatoes. So, for the next 400 years or so, tomatoes were considered poisonous.

Bread was divided according to status. Workers got the burnt bottom of the loaf, the family got the middle, and guests got the top, or "the upper crust".

Lead cups were used to drink ale or whisky. The combination would sometimes knock the imbibers out for a couple of days.

Someone walking along the road would take them for dead and prepare them for burial. They were laid out on the kitchen table for a couple of days and the family would gather around and eat and drink and wait and see if they would wake up. Hence the custom "holding a wake."

England is old and small and the local folks started running out of places to bury people. So they would dig up coffins and would take the bones to a bone-house, and reuse the grave.

When reopening these coffins, 1 out of 25 coffins were found to have scratch marks on the inside and they realized they had been burying people alive. So, they would tie a string on the wrist of the corpse, lead it through the coffin and up through the ground and tie it to a bell.

Someone would have to sit out in the graveyard all night (the graveyard shift) to listen for the bell. Thus, someone could be, "saved by the bell" or was "considered a dead ringer."



**A LOCKDOWN POEM BY THE UK POET LAUREATE  
SIMON ARMITAGE**

To mark National Poetry Day, "Something Clicked" – a poem written by Poet Laureate, Simon Armitage. In a special collaboration, the one-off commission highlights the increased reliance on broadband in helping us stay connected in recent months. From keeping in touch with family and friends, to home schooling and taking up new hobbies, connectivity and broadband have never been so fundamental to so many parts of life.

"Something Clicked", reflects on these changes and highlights the re-evaluation of some of life's priorities, including the new norm of walking to another room to work instead of battling the stressful commute. The poem brings to life how our homes have become the centre of learning and exploration, allowing us to see the world, and beyond, from our kitchens, lounges and basements. It reflects on the whys of digital life and explores the possibility that connectivity can bring, allowing us to unlock our potential.

**Something Clicked**

Then something clicked  
and the day quivered and rang like a question mark!  
Why grit your teeth in the gridlock now the  
commute's  
a superfast hop and a skip from toothbrush to  
keyboard,  
from bed-hair to screen-call?  
Why wrestle with glitches and gremlins  
or tussle with gubbins and gismos, or idle and churn  
in the swirling pit of the buffering wheel  
now you're fine-tuning the senses, enrolling for real  
life,  
getting to grips with arts and crafts  
that were only a keystroke away all along -  
you're a rhythm guitar, a poem, a garden, a song.  
You've learned to cook -  
you're a Sunday roast, a multigrain loaf, a recipe  
book!  
Why be garbled and scrambled again

now you're mindful, resourceful, neighbourly,  
human?

Now you're curious. Fruitful. Meaningful. Tuneful.

And why twiddle your thumbs, though sometimes  
it's good

to kick back, to noodle and doodle

letting dreams swim into pin-sharp-focus,

meander through luminous moments. Why stall,

why settle for knowledge arriving granule by  
granule?

No more fishing for news with a butterfly net,

doing the human aerial. You're bright of late, ideas  
hitching

and switching from one domain to the next,

thoughts swiping from subject to subject, planet to  
planet,

globetrotting the universe. And you're riding a  
bike -

you're a walk, a hike, a mountain, a lake.

It's a new world - you're at school in the kitchen,  
at work in the attic, in Ancient Rome in the lounge,  
on Mars in the basement. Why tear out your hair  
while the present dithers and loads, you deserve  
to lean on the airwaves and not fall over,  
to feel the hub of your heart's heart  
pulsating and purring with life's signal.

So you're right here this minute being your best  
being.

And now you've hooked up

with the all-thinking all-feeling all-doing version of  
you

why sit in the future's waiting-room

drumming your fingers,

why lose the connection

when you could be your own greatest invention?

.....Did you understand the poem!?!



## ANOTHER HISTORY LESSON

### THE REAL REASON "RULE BRITANNIA" WAS WRITTEN!

Here is something you are unlikely to learn via the BBC. In the 17th century the seas around Britain were ruled by North African Muslim Slavers. They stopped British ships and carried off the crews to be sold as slaves in Algiers and Tripoli. The situation became so bad that fishermen from Devon and Cornwall wouldn't put out to sea in case they were captured by North African Slave Traders.

Between 1609 and 1616, 466 British ships were captured by Slave Traders in the English Channel, Irish Sea and North Atlantic, and the crews were sold into slavery.

In 1625 a raiding party landed at Mount's Bay in Cornwall and 60 people who had taken refuge in a local church were dragged out, loaded up and taken off to Africa to be sold as slaves.

On 12 August 1625 the Mayor of Plymouth wrote to London for military help after 27 ships had been seized by North African Muslim Slave Traders in just 10 days.

In 1645, 240 people were seized as slaves in Cornwall.

The situation only began to change after the end of the English Civil War when the Royal Navy was built up under Oliver Cromwell. By 1700, North African Slavers generally knew better than to bother the British Isles in the search for slaves because of the Royal Navy.

It was a triumph that Britain was finally able to control its own coastal waters.

It was in commemoration of this that in 1740, James Thompson wrote 'Rule Britannia'.

It is a hymn of thanksgiving rather than a proclamation of aggressive Nationalism.

If you get this far and are interested to learn more, read "White Gold" by Giles Milton.

**(With thanks to Jan Staniland)**



### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

*Dear Geoff*

*I had to put my dear father in a care home and handed him over to the matron there.*

*'We'll be in tomorrow to see you, Dad,' I said.*

*The matron kept an eye on him for the next few hours. He seemed fine until he suddenly tilted over to the right. The matron rushed over and straightened him up.*

*A few hours later, he started tilting to the left and, again, the matron immediately straightened him up.*

*The next day, I arrived and asked him, 'Are you OK here, Dad?'*

*'It's fine,' he said, 'But they won't let you fart.'*

*love Q*

### Qantas from Heathrow to Australia in 16 hours

A message to Geoff from a friend

I received this message from a friend who went to the UK in February just before Australia closed its borders. She has been stuck in the UK ever since but has recently been allocated a seat on the Government's first flight to bring Australians back home. She is now in quarantine in the Northern Territory.....

*Just wanted to say how strange it felt and how long it has been since I boarded a plane for Darwin! Yes I am here in hot, balmy, tropical NT.*

*I had an email from DFAT Tuesday morning to get tested and get to Heathrow for 8.00 am Thursday morning for 11.00 flight. I wondered if they had sent a Hercules aircraft to evacuate us!! Ha ha! but no it was a very new 787 Dreamliner. 175 on board, everyone was socially distanced, except for families.*

*So here I am having been swabbed and tested and signed my life away a hundred times to start the quarantine adventure at Howard Springs. We flew straight to RAAF Darwin - 16 hours! Shortest trip I have ever done to Aus. (Apparently Qantas used to use Singapore as a hub, but when Singapore shut down over Covid they discovered they could reach Darwin in one hop. I bet that continues into the future!!?)*

*On arrival we were all loaded on to a bus in groups of 30 (to mitigate infection risk) with police escort (!) and were taken to Howard Springs. It has been an impressive logistical exercise between the OZ Govt. UK Govt. Qantas and various crisis agencies - quite impressive, despite a few stuff ups....well we were the first. So we drove along the Stuart Highway past Palmerston that I had driven so often....and hasn't it grown, and then I realised it was 20 years ago that I was here before!! How did that happen??!*

*Well it all feels very familiar and lovely (I wish I could get a car and explore)so I have suggested to John that he meets me here once I am out of quarantine and we have a few days holiday together ! We'll see.*

*It is good to be back - now just have to navigate quarantine (we have individual outside verandahs to use, which is lovely to sit out on for dinner) otherwise we stay in our room. Plenty of time to get over very severe jetlag - not much sleep in the past 3 days. Now I will start to remember all the things I needed to do in UK before I left - it was such a fast turn around.*

*You are so lucky numbers are low in Aus - life must seem almost normal. In the UK everyone is full of doom and gloom (because the days are getting darker, shorter and colder) and the second spike is kicking in, they are all fighting about which covid rules they should obey or not....terrible! Stafford is still lovely countryside though and it was brilliant to see Mum on Tuesday before I left. However, it breaks my heart that I could not be with her for her 99th birthday on Monday. However, I will skype and have left presents etc and she is happy and in very good care. I am very lucky to have got on that flight - my SIA flight for 28 November was cancelled ....so I would be looking at much higher costs and probably not a flight until January. So pleased that all that anxiety has gone.*

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### **Britain is Repossessing the U.S.A**

#### **A MESSAGE FROM JOHN CLEESE (MONTY PYTHON) TO THE CITIZENS OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA**

In light of your failure to nominate competent candidates for President of the USA and thus to govern yourselves, we hereby give notice of the revocation of your independence, effective immediately.

Her Sovereign Majesty Queen Elizabeth II will resume monarchical duties over all states, commonwealths, and territories (except Arkansas, which she does not fancy).

Your new prime minister, Boris Johnson, will appoint a governor for America without the need for further elections.

Congress and the Senate will be disbanded.

A questionnaire may be circulated next year to determine whether any of you noticed.

To aid in the transition to a British Crown Dependency, the following rules are introduced with immediate effect:

You should look up "revocation" in the Oxford English Dictionary.

1. Then look up aluminium, and check the pronunciation guide. You will be amazed at just how wrongly you have been pronouncing it.

2. The letter 'U' will be reinstated in words such as 'favour' and 'neighbour.' Likewise, you will learn to

spell 'doughnut' without skipping half the letters, and the suffix -ize will be replaced by the suffix -ise. Generally, you will be expected to raise your vocabulary to acceptable levels. (look up 'vocabulary').

3. Using the same twenty-seven words interspersed with filler noises such as "like" and "you know" is an unacceptable and inefficient form of communication. There is no such thing as US English. We will let Microsoft know on your behalf. The Microsoft spell-checker will be adjusted to take account of the reinstated letter 'u' and the elimination of -ize. You will relearn your original national anthem, God Save The Queen.

4. July 4th will no longer be celebrated as a holiday.

5. You will learn to resolve personal issues without using guns, lawyers, or therapists. The fact that you need so many lawyers and therapists shows that you're not adult enough to be independent. Guns should only be handled by adults. If you're not adult enough to sort things out without suing someone or speaking to a therapist then you're not grown up enough to handle a gun.

6. Therefore, you will no longer be allowed to own or carry anything more dangerous than a vegetable peeler. A permit will be required if you wish to carry a vegetable peeler in public.

7. All American cars are hereby banned. They are crap and this is for your own good. When we show you German cars, you will understand what we mean.

8. All intersections will be replaced with roundabouts, and you will start driving on the left with immediate effect. At the same time, you will go metric with immediate effect and without the benefit of conversion tables. Both roundabouts and metrification will help you understand the British sense of humour.

9. The Former USA will adopt UK prices on petrol (which you have been calling gasoline)-roughly \$10/US gallon. Get used to it.

10. You will learn to make real chips. Those things you call French fries are not real chips, and those things you insist on calling potato chips are properly called crisps. Real chips are thick cut, fried in animal fat, and dressed not with catsup but with vinegar.

11. The cold tasteless stuff you insist on calling beer is not actually beer at all. Henceforth, only proper British Bitter will be referred to as beer, and European

brews of known and accepted provenance will be referred to as Lager. Australian beer is also acceptable as they are pound for pound the greatest sporting Nation on earth and it can only be due to the beer. They are also part of British Commonwealth - see what it did for them.

12. Hollywood will be required occasionally to cast English actors as good guys. Hollywood will also be required to cast English actors to play English characters. Watching Andie Macdowell attempt English dialogue in Four Weddings and a Funeral was an experience akin to having one's ears removed with a cheese grater.

13. You will cease playing American football. There is only one kind of proper football; you call it soccer. Those of you brave enough will, in time, be allowed to play rugby (which has some similarities to American football, but does not involve stopping for a rest every twenty seconds or wearing full kevlar body armour like a bunch of nancies). Don't try Rugby - the Australians and Kiwis will thrash you, like they regularly thrash us. No more Orange Bowl, Rose Bowl, Cereal Bowl or Super Bowl. From now on..... get used to the World Cup.

14. Further, you will stop playing baseball. It is not reasonable to host an event called the World Series for a game which is not played outside of America. Since only 2.1% of you are aware that there is a world beyond your borders, your error is understandable. You will learn cricket, and we will let you face the Australians first to take the sting out of their deliveries.

15. You must tell us who killed JFK. It's been driving us mad.

16. An internal revenue agent (i.e. tax collector) from Her Majesty's Government will be with you shortly to ensure the acquisition of all monies due (backdated to 1776).

17. Daily Tea Time begins promptly at 4 pm with proper cups, never mugs, with high quality biscuits (cookies) and cakes; strawberries in season.

God save the Queen.

**John Cleese**

**(With thanks to Jan Staniland, Roger Morrow and John Cleese)**