



The Probus Club of Berwick-upon-Tweed

Welcome to our 'It's Good to stay in touch' Newsletter –

Issue 15 – 24th February 2021

Edited by Homer Lindsay, homer@thelindsays.info Mobile 07749 458484, 17 Cornwall Avenue, Berwick, TD15 2NX

Dear Member,

You will have seen by now the Chairman's Message to the effect that our first meeting of 2021 is scheduled for 23rd June at the Parish Centre. This gives us something to look forward to but, of course, it depends upon the four stages of progress being successfully passed.

This edition is somewhat different in that very little of the content is original work submitted by our members, unfortunately. Let's hope we can do better next time.

I was contacted by Vicky Ryan of Hearing Dogs for Deaf People, a national charity, offering a speaker by video call. For us, that's not an option yet, so I asked her to provide an article. She has provided a very interesting case study which is reproduced on page 3. If ever we aspire to Zoom meetings, I'll invite her to join us.

I have featured one of our members, **Roger Daniel**, (Town Crier of Alnwick) who is going to participate in the Macmillan Cancer Support Mighty Hike, Northumberland Coast. I wonder whether he'll be wearing his top hat when he walks from Alnwick to Bamburgh?

Deadline for copy, 15th March.

Who Said?

"You can't just ask customers what they want and then try to give that to them. By the time you get it built, they'll want something new."



The Milky Way (courtesy of Gary Lintern)

SUBSCRIPTIONS FOR 2021

As you no doubt remember, the Club recently held an online Special General Meeting [SGM]. At the Meeting I was elected Treasurer to succeed Charles Fairfield. Naturally we thank Charles for his many years of faithful service and wish him well. At the SGM, members also agreed that the subscription for 2021 should be set at £8. This is much lower than last year (when it was £15) for obvious reasons but the Club does have some ongoing fixed costs to cover such as insurance and will have expenses when we resume hopefully in the summer.

The Club has a bank account at TSB. Unfortunately, the TSB branch in Berwick is closing next week so, although it will still be possible to pay in cheques and cash via the Post Office, clearly it will be more convenient to use online banking since the nearest TSB branches are at Haddington, Amble and Galashiels. I therefore thought that I would invite you to pay £8 online at your convenience or, if you don't use internet banking (it's easy I promise !!!), send me ASAP a cheque for that amount. Relevant details are: -

M. Wright
20 Ness Street
Berwick-upon-Tweed
TD15 1HY

Sort code: **77-20-09**
Account name: **Probus Club of Berwick upon Tweed**
Account number: **00009667**

If you have not paid your 2020 subscription (£15) please add this to your 2021 subscription.

Please telephone me if you need help or clarification. Meanwhile, I look forward to seeing you before too long.

Michael Wright
Treasurer
01289 763368



Heritage Open Days 2021

It has been announced that National Heritage Open Days will run from 10th – 19th September 2021 with the theme

Edible England

Berwick Heritage Open Days will be a blend of online and in-person events from 17th – 19th September.

<http://berwickhods.org.uk>

Macmillan Cancer Support Mighty Hikes – Northumberland Coast

Probus Club member, Roger Daniel, is in training for the Northumberland Coast Hike from Alnwick to Bamburgh Castle, a distance of 26 miles, on 17th July!

He needs our support and you can encourage him on his Facebook page, click → [I'm doing the mighty hike](#)

He is raising funds for Macmillan Cancer Support and is targeting to raise £1275. If you wish to help him click → [Roger's Coastal Challenge](#)

Good Luck Roger!



Hearing Dogs for Deaf People

Hearing Dogs for Deaf People is a national charity that trains dogs to alert deaf people to important and life-saving sounds.

Just as importantly, hearing dogs also provide love, companionship and emotional support – helping deaf people to leave loneliness behind.

People like Sarah.

Sarah was born profoundly deaf and often made to feel she was not important – almost invisible and then she was partnered with Albert. As well as alerting her to important and life-saving sounds, hearing dog Albert has also broken-down barriers and given her the confidence to live life how she wants to.

This is Sarah's story:

"I was born profoundly deaf and have no hearing in both ears.

It has impacted me massively. I've never felt safe wherever I was as I can't hear sounds. I always felt vulnerable. I can't hear sounds like the doorbell or someone

knocking, meaning that I missed parcels and visitors. I would have to wait by the window, I couldn't do anything in case I missed them.

I slept through alarm clocks; this meant my parents had to come in my bedroom to wake me up.

When I was in the shower and a sound goes off like a smoke alarm, which is one of the sounds that worried me constantly, they needed to open the door to flash the light switch, to grab my attention. I didn't have privacy.

I've struggled in my social life. I rely on British Sign Language (BSL). People who don't know BSL struggle to communicate with me, it is very frustrating.

It is very isolating and lonely as I can't understand the conversation. I get nervous mixing with people I don't know, as they don't understand how to communicate with me.

I never went out on my own.

People would think I was ignorant when they spoke to me because they couldn't tell I am deaf.

I have felt ignored. I felt unimportant. I felt invisible. Being deaf is exhausting and hard. This all changed when I was matched with Albert.

When Albert met me and my parents for the first time, he knew that I am the one whose life he will change, as he came to me and has never left my side. We've been inseparable since the day we met. I can't believe the difference he has made to my life.



I am more relaxed at home with Albert, knowing that he'll alert me to sounds I need to be aware of by nudging me with his nose. I'm able to sleep properly too.

He lets me know if someone's calling me whether the room door is open or closed, especially my bedroom and bathroom, so nobody has to come in. I have my privacy back.

He has given me the confidence to go out, knowing I am not on my own.

Being deaf, I constantly face barriers, but now we face it together. He makes me feel confident and he makes everyone aware of my deafness with his special uniform.

I've noticed that people are kinder to me now and make me feel involved in society. Albert has made me visible. It's all thanks to him, he really is a superstar."



Sarah and Albert

We provide talks to groups, schools, and businesses by video link and these are great ways to meet a hearing dog and find out how they help deaf people to leave loneliness behind.

Our fun and insightful virtual talks are delivered by fantastic volunteer speakers



(and their canine co-stars!) and each talk can be flexible to fit your audience.

Find out more and book your talk here >>

<https://www.hearingdogs.org.uk/support/enquire/request-speaker/>

Editor's Note: Let me know if you would like to join a Probus Virtual (Zoom) Meeting with a talk by Hearing Dogs for Deaf People.

Facebook Snippet: Berwick Visitor Centre

Golden Horizon is the World's largest square rigged sailing ship and is to visit Berwick this summer. She is an impressive vessel of 162 metres (531 feet) in length.



She was built in 2018 with a capacity for 272 passengers and 147 crew, she will anchor in the bay and tender her passengers ashore to our pontoon facility in Tweed Dock.

The Pub Quiz - 10 Questions! - Gwilym Hughes (Porthmadog Probus)

1. Dick Grayson was the original person to act as assistant to a superhero using what alias?
2. Which David Nicolas novel was made into a 2011 film starring Jim Sturgess and Anne Hathaway as protagonist Dexter and Emma?
3. Which is the only planet in our solar system to have one moon?
4. Which two tennis players fought the "Battle of the Sexes" match in 1973 which saw a victory for the female competitor?
5. Between which two cities does the Trans-Siberian Railway run?
6. What does a Geiger Counter measure?
7. Regarding a room contains a lavatory, for what do the initials WC stand?
8. Which of the 282 Munros in Scotland is the only one on the Isle of Mull?
9. What nationality is Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, Africa's first elected female head of state?
10. What were the names of the six celebrated Mitford sisters?

Reproduced from the Porthmadog Probus Newsletter dated 15th February 2021

TWIXT THISTLE AND ROSE ONLINE MINI CONFERENCE

SATURDAY 6 MARCH 2021, 10 TO NOON

Twixt Thistle and Rose is a project that has been running for the past two years in the Berwick Record Office thanks to funding from the National Archives and Berwick's Guild of Freeman. It has been recataloguing Berwick's unique collection of Borough Archives dating from the 16th to 20th centuries and involving local volunteers in making them more accessible to a wider audience. This free online mini conference will highlight the work which has been done and some of the stories we have uncovered as well as outline some of our future plans.

Please come and join us on Saturday 6th March between 10 and noon. Booking can be made via Eventbrite - <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/twixt-thistle-and-rose-berwick-borough-archives-conference-tickets-138932453709?aff=ebdssbonlinesearch>

For further information contact Linda Bankier on berwickarchives@northumberland.gov.uk

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editor of the Bowsden Bugle.*

Toby's Tailpiece (a dog's eye view of the world) is now written by us, Leo and Freya, two Dalmatians who live with Harry and Eileen Wilson here in Bowsden. This month we are concerned by the large increase in the number of puppies sold during the Lockdowns. Readers may remember a long-running campaign by the Dogs' Trust with the slogan "A puppy is for life, not just for Christmas" when the Charity was concerned about the number of unwanted dogs given up when their novelty had worn off.

This time the potential problem is much

worse as there has been a huge increase in dog ownership (estimated recently at over 250%) due in part to home working and the increased opportunities for dog walking as approved exercise. Many unscrupulous breeders have inflated puppy prices for popular breeds and a number of bitches have been stolen for breeding, only to be abandoned after having several litters.

What will happen when "normality" returns after the pandemic and the home workers go back to the office and have no time for walking their dogs? How many animals will be handed in to organisations like BARK (the Berwick Animal Rescue Kennels)? Even worse, how many will simply be turned out onto the street?

The Pub Quiz - 10 Questions! - Answers;

1, Robin, 2. One Day, 3. Earth, 4, Billie Jean King & Bobby Riggs, 5. Moscow and Vladivostok, 6. Radiation, 7. Water Closet, 8. Ben More, 9. Liberian, 10. Nancy, Pamela, Diana, Unity, Jessica & Deborah.

Product Review: The Snoozle Slide Sheet *by Homer Lindsay*

In the last edition of the Newsletter, I shared with you a little about my spinal and back problems and how I found that acupuncture was a great relief and helped to alleviate pain.



This time I'd like to ask you whether you find it difficult to move about in bed?

As you might expect, my mobility is rather limited and turning over in bed is a bit of a strain. Always on the lookout for something to help, I came across a slide sheet that was so simple, yet so effective an aid to getting in and out of bed and turning over. The Snoozle is a tubular 4-way slide sheet and goes on top of your bed sheet. It's comfortable on the outside and extremely slippery on the inside. I find it reduces the effort of turning over, to getting up. Changing position in bed when you have a debilitating condition such as arthritis, fibromyalgia or lack of mobility can be painful or uncomfortable at the very least.

I've had a Snoozle for several years now and I cannot do without it! When it was possible to travel about, my slide sheet was always packed to go with me.

If you want to know more, click this link <https://www.thesnoozle.com/>

If you have something that helps your mobility why not let us know about it. To share your experience, email me at homer@thelindsays.info



Mud, not muddy water!



The New Berwick Hospital is Another Step Nearer now that the NCC's Strategic Planning Committee has approved the application. Warkworth resident David Smailes has been appointed as Project Manager with the difficult brief of maintaining hospital services whilst sequentially clearing the site in order to erect the new 2-storey buildings. Born in Alnwick and with many years' experience in civil engineering and construction, David will report to Northumbria Healthcare Executive Director Marion Dickson who will lead the £25 million project, due to open in 2022. During construction some 295 jobs will be created.

The new Hospital will provide all the existing services now delivered at Berwick Infirmary together with a state-of-the-art endoscopy suite. Accommodation on the same site will be provided for Well Close Medical Group, thus offering opportunities for integration of GP and hospital services.

It is pleasing to note that the existing Bell Tower, a familiar feature in the front of the 1874 Infirmary building will now be retained in the new hospital. **Harry Wilson, Bowsden Bugle**

Who Said?

“You can't just ask customers what they want and then try to give that to them. By the time you get it built, they'll want something new.”

Steve Jobs

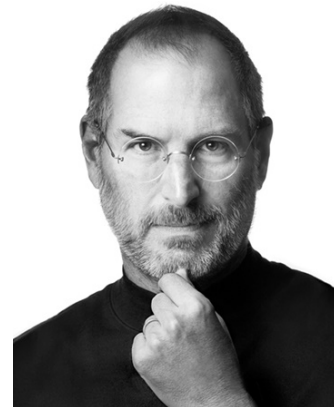
Profession: Apple Co-founder

Nationality: American

Why Famous: Inventor, entrepreneur and businessman, Jobs co-founded Apple Computer from his parents' garage in 1976, then went on to found NeXT and Pixar before returning to Apple in 1996.

As CEO, he oversaw the introduction of the iMac, iTunes, iPod, iPad and the iPhone, revolutionising personal computing.

Under his leadership Apple became the most valuable company in the world.



Born: [February 24, 1955](#)

Birthplace: San Francisco, California, USA

Died: [October 5, 2011](#) (aged 56)

Cause of Death: Pancreatic cancer

Was this Newsletter worthwhile? Your feedback would be appreciated, along with suggestions and contributions for future editions during the COVID-19 crisis. Contact details on page 1.