

DALGETY BAY PROBUS CLUB



Issue 4

19th May 2020



FROM THE PRESIDENT – Michael Hamilton

Good morning Gentlemen and welcome to our fourth newsletter.

‘Thank you’

To all who have made contributions to our newsletters, a big thank you. These have been very interesting and informative – even at our age we can learn from our peers. Keep them coming. To those members who haven’t managed yet, please do not hesitate to relate your tales from the past or present – there must be many!

‘Light at the end of the tunnel’

Eight weeks of ‘lockdown’, sensibly adhered to by the vast majority, has earned control on the spread of this coronavirus strain. Fortunately the weather has been kind to us and our living standards and general environment here have made this period reasonably comfortable and its passing rather quick. All parties agree that the peak has passed and it is time to start releasing restraints, all-be-it with differing degrees of caution. We may not yet have a sense of relief, and anxiety is likely to continue, but with common sense and appropriate precautions in place, the light at the end of the tunnel should get brighter and bigger as the end is reached with eventual breakthrough.

‘Common sense’

Some words and associated quotes (slightly modified) come to mind at the moment:

- P**erseverance: “enabled the snail to reach the ark.”
- R**esilience: “is accepting our new reality, even if it's less good than the one we had before.”
- O**vercome: “by first doing *what’s necessary*; then do *what’s possible*; and suddenly we’re doing *the impossible*.”
- B**enevolence: “a little common sense, goodwill, and a tiny dose of unselfishness could make this earth into a paradise.”
- U**ncertainty: “about the future is at the very heart of human creativity.”
- S**olidarity: “coming together is a beginning; keeping together is progress; working together is success.”

Maybe I am doing more than usual or taking more time over the various jobs but there seems a feeling of greater satisfaction and comfort developing. Possibly, with other interests on hold, the tasks are less of a chore and can be carried out at a more leisurely pace (which suits my age and resulting agility). A mixture of gardening and painting has turned out to be a soothing blend.

‘DIY continues’

Always stay safe and very best wishes.



EDITOR THOUGHTS – Ian Dickson

Good morning and welcome to another Probus Tuesday newsletter, the 4th edition.

The last 2 weeks have seen gentle easing of lockdown restrictions particularly in the parts of the country where the virus first had an impact. What seems to be most evident is the increasing level of statistical information now available to show the medical effect of the virus in each area of the country. These figures seem to show we still have a surprisingly high number of cases in Fife when comparing to the national figures. So perhaps we are not quite ready for local relaxation of lockdown.

This edition brings several new contributors with some fascinating insights into their lives, the times they have lived in, the people they have met and the interesting lives they have led.

We start with a follow up from David Brown. Still in lockdown in Spain, lockdown has not diminished his sense of fun. Interestingly his fellow member in Spanish lockdown, Keith Miller, has made it home to Dalgety. They left Spain in their motorhome on Monday arriving back on Friday after 1800 miles of driving. He tells me most motorway exits on the continent were closed, there were no camp sites open, so each evening they were in overnight lorry stops. Interestingly no extra health checks at the channel tunnel and no problems in clearing customs in any country. Sounds like an interesting adventure.

John Simons has many stories from his life in Manchester police. The first is a gentle tale, 'The Lollipop man', the first part is in this edition the final part will be in the next.

Alan McQuaker has written about the decision points in his long and interesting life from early roots in Glasgow during the war.

With our commemoration recently of VE day the war theme continues with muses from Shetland by George B Taylor.

Tommy Bryson continues with another interest which he tells us has now been developed into a Probus presentation. I knew of Tommy's passion for buses, now he tells us about a collection of vintage cars in Alaska.

Willie Allan, our webmaster and Digipix leader, has produced a fascinating list of websites to keep you interested during lockdown and talks about current Digipix projects. Golf and bowls follow. I am writing this on Sunday in the hope golfers may find our leader is allowing a controlled return to golf when she speaks tomorrow.

It is the time of year for the annual Dalgety Bay Art Club exhibition. Adrian Masson would be exhibiting, so instead has provided several pictures he would have shown at the exhibition, folks at the seaside. Ideally I would have included these in the e mail newsletter. I suspect they may have added just a little too much to the newsletter file which is increasing with each publication, so they are on the website copy of the newsletter with his covering comments. Also on the website copy is a photo from Peter Franklin who found a giant wasp nest on his boundary wall. Please do go to the website to see these photographs.

Many thanks to all who have contributed so far. Please keep the articles coming.

My e-mail is i.dickson@tiscali.co.uk.



LOCKDOWN IN SPAIN – Update from David Brown

Hi all,

Got a very nice message from Ian saying "HOW MUCH" you were looking forward to me updating you all on lockdown in Spain.

If you are going out for exercise and see Ian approaching, you may have to extend your 2 metre distance in view of the length his nose has grown.

Anyway I will do my best to as Robbie Williams used to say "let me entertain you" as I am sure many of you will also have been massive fans!!!

I had another "great idea" this time to show my appreciation to all the residents who have come to our assistance helping with shopping and one allowing me to borrow his guitar.

So decided just as many other top performing artists do I would put on a show from our balcony "FOC" but if some wished to put a donation in the large bin provided any contribution they wished to offer would go towards getting bigger and louder equipment due to the large numbers likely attending this event and then desperate to attend future concerts.



Shown in the photo attached you will see that the area for standing room is very limited due to all the apartments in our complex being surrounded by water. But you can see many would be able to stand at the other side of this area and with the new equipment from the proceeds would allow them to hear and enjoy my concerts far more clearly.

I must say from just finishing my first concert that I do hand it to the Spanish Police. There is no messing about as there was absolutely no problem with the 2 metre distancing, as I actually had difficulty in seeing anyone apart from an elderly chap with a dog which I think on looking at it, was a greyhound. I assume the police had told the owner not to stand stationary as he was almost sprinting past our block and the poor dog was being dragged behind although clearly trying to keep up with its owner.



I think you will all agree that the police here are maybe being a bit too strict.

Although it was a disappointing turn out from the residents, I was amazed at the number of fish jumping out of the water and throwing themselves onto the bank clearly trying to get a bit closer. I had been unaware up until now that they enjoyed music so much.

When I went down to get the money in the bin, it was empty but as they say there is more than one way to skin a rabbit or in this case a fish so filled the bin and sold the residents fresh fish for them to use to "coin" a phrase for their last "FISH" supper.

Update from my first lockdown notes

I sent two of my books mentioned in my first message to 10 top publishers but have not yet had a response from 8 of them. I assume due to having ongoing discussions at director level how much they need to offer to ensure I sign with them.

One who replied said they would be sending staff to sit down to discuss my books so clearly we're very interested. But did not expect to get such a quick a response, as Margaret looking over the front balcony

the following morning rushed in and said two men in white jackets had just got out of a big van and were heading in the direction of our apartment block.

My first reaction was that someone nearby had taken ill until they started banging on our door. I told her not to answer because it was obviously the publishers and if they were that keen, I would wait to see what offers the others made.

She went out and had a look after the banging eventually stopped and came back in saying they were carrying a white jacket with straps. So I then realised it was not the publishers and the jacket must have been for another resident, as I already had a white jacket.

Those of you that are concerned that the lockdown is having an effect on my health need not worry as if you speak to other members they will assure you I have always been this normal.

But for extra reassurance that I am ok have just called my very good friend Donald Trump, a lovely intelligent man whom I, like so many others trust implicitly and asked him if he felt I had changed since lockdown and he immediately confirmed that I was also highly intelligent and not to ever doubt my incredible talents and ability in making the right decisions at the right time.

Sorry must end now because I need to get some disinfectant before they run out of supplies.

ps. On a more serious note Margaret and I are actually getting on really well considering the circumstances and she now having had the fortunate opportunity to spend so much more time with me realises just how lucky she was meeting and then getting the chance of marrying the man of her dreams, which I am sure you will all agree was probably the best decision she ever made.

Well suppose I better “really go” now because my nose has just grown longer than Ian's.

PROBUS MAGAZINE

The Summer edition of Probus magazine has just been delivered to me. We get twenty five copies and there being eighty five members in the Club not everyone can have a copy. Having said that, we normally have one or two copies left over. Would members who would like a copy let me know by e-mail please at standfast2019@btinternet.com

It would need to be on a first come first served basis. I am prepared to deliver copies personally to any address in Dalgety Bay.

Iain Grant
Secretary



LUKE THE LOLLIPOP MAN – John Simons

In the late fifties as road traffic increased concern was expressed regarding the growing number of accidents involving children on their way to and from school. In consequence the Road Traffic Act 1960 saw the introduction of School Crossing Patrols. As the remuneration for such posts would be minimal it was expected that a retired generation of men looking to supplement their pensions would apply. This

proved to be the case (It was considered the men would be more appropriate, as in those days women were still expected to be more tied to household duties and therefore would be less available) Suitably attired gentlemen appeared on our roads equipped with uniform and a large pole on top of which was attached a round metal circle bearing the single word STOP below which was a graphic of hand in hand small children. (The shape of the equipment and the gender of its holder soon attracted the name "Lollipop Men". A name that applies to this day.

These men were appointed by Local Authorities but training was to be "on the job" provided by the local beat bobby. Now having a full 12 months experience my beat (an area of specific responsibility) covered Higher Openshaw, Manchester. This was an area of mixed light and heavy industry but was mainly residential. Two up and two down terraced houses being the ubiquitous accommodation.

One such applicant was Luke Jordan, a retired security officer who previously had spent over 20 years in the Army as a regular soldier with considerable war service. On his first day of duty I joined him at his designated place of duty on Ashton Old Road, a very busy approach road to Manchester.

There he was, six feet tall. ramrod straight, short back and sides, clipped moustache with shiny boots. The peak to his cap had been slashed covering most of his forehead. A dazzling white shirt and dark tie was covered by his white cotton coat which looked as if it had been starched and bore his campaign medals. His lollipop stick which appeared to have been polished was gripped tightly to his side and white gloves (not Issue) were clearly visible. I was sure he was going to salute me and had he done so I would have felt obliged to return the compliment. After introductions he told me he had spent the last part of his career in the Army as a Drill Sergeant in the Lancashire Fusiliers. Had I not politely interrupted him I am sure I would have been treated to his full career record. Nevertheless, he appeared to be very suitable for his new duties. I explained that children attended the local primary and junior school and would appear in dribs and drabs in the morning, girls usually first and keener to get to school followed by a more reluctant stream of boys. I told him that the reverse would happen at lunch time and home time and to be careful not to be knocked over by a stampede of children led by boys. "Don't worry" he assured me "I'll soon ave em trained" (Trained? I let it pass) I advised him that he should not rush into the roadway but wait for a gap in the traffic to allow vehicles especially H.G.V.s and buses some breaking distance. Furthermore, he had to hold his pole erect so that it could be seen and to extend his free arm sideways and then he would be in control of the situation. "Don't worry" he said "I'll sort the buggers out" (Again I let it pass) I pressed upon him that the children must not be allowed to step onto the road until all traffic was stationary and then and only then should he indicate for them to cross. "Quite right" he snapped "It'll all be down to training" Furthermore I advised him that he should be aware of any stragglers running across the road before allowing the traffic to precede. Set to go I watched as he guided his first charges safely across the road. He seemed to take great pleasure in controlling the rush hour traffic. After the last child finally crossed I congratulated him on his performance. "Not a problem. It WILL get better" he assured me. I reminded him of the times for duty at lunch time and afternoon school. Returning at lunch time the timely Luke was in position and I watched as he had everything under control. As the days passed I made casual appearances to watch as Luke made satisfactory progress, sufficient for him to continue unsupervised.

Some weeks later on an afternoon shift I strolled up to the crossing point to see how Luke was coping with the school- out stampede. There he was stood on the pavement back from the road, pole erect with his free hand stretched across the waiting children. Amazingly they were stood almost to attention in ranks of three lined up on what appeared to be his right marker. They remained there motionless. Luke moved into the middle of the road and having stopped the traffic nodded to the children, still waiting on the pavement, that it was safe to cross. As they moved I swear they were marching forward almost in step and I could just about hear Luke's orders "Left Right, Left Right". Unbelievable, but a man clearly in charge of the situation.

I watched until he had finished his duty and congratulated him warmly on how well he was doing."Nearly trained" he said with a wink.

All went well until some weeks later when my sergeant told me to go and sort out a problem with MY lollipop man.

(Part 2, the concluding part of this story will be in the next edition of the newsletter)



DECISIONS, DECISIONS – Alan McQuaker

I was lucky, nothing to do with me. I was born in Glasgow in 1934, and after the Second World War in 1946 my life in the UK has been through a long period of peace and relative prosperity. And again, nothing to do with me, my family and I were free of serious diseases.

So what influences could I have on the course of my life? That is what this is about. Decisions - not necessarily moral, political, or economic decisions with earth-shattering effects - just decisions made during an uneventful but longish and happy life. This is not something we normally think about, so quickly re-living your life surely passes the time (thanks to our Probus President who wanted contributions).

The first decision I think I made was when I was six years of age. Many Glasgow school pupils were being evacuated and my parents wanted to know if I would like to be evacuated to Canada to live with colleagues of my father. The choice arose at the time that a passenger liner to Canada had been torpedoed by a U-boat. I thought I would prefer to stay at home, to which my parents agreed. Instead, I was sent to Kilmarnock until the Luftwaffe started looking for Glacier Metals. I returned home again, but with no school for a while. Of course I wonder what would have happened if I had gone to Canada for five years? Torpedoed, or brought up as a Canadian in a strange family?

Second decision. At the end of year one at secondary school in 1946 our class teacher asked us to record privately whether we believed the story of Genesis. Did I follow my mother's teaching over 12 years, or make up my own mind? The consequence went further than Genesis.

Third decision, at the time of the second decision, I had to make a choice, to continue with Science or with German, one or the other? My English and French subjects were going well. Why not German? And I loved the German teacher. I chose German. Then my German teacher left to get married. Dismay. The new teacher was a good teacher and I put it into practice in 1951 when I was 17 and hitch-hiked round German youth hostels and spending two nights with a German family, the Domms. At a hostel I met Gotz Buchbinder, also 17, who told me about life in school during the war - Heil Hitler and Deutschland uber Alles.

Jump a year, now 18, and called for National Service.

"Would I like to learn Russian, since I had Higher French and German?"

"No, I would like to be a fighter pilot"

"You could go to Korea."

"I want to be a pilot"

In fact, after tests at Hornchurch and flying Tiger Moths in Lincolnshire the RAF said no pilot training, it was navigator training in England.

Fourth decision. I heard that some of us were going to learn navigation in Canada.

"Can I train in Canada?" I asked.

"Someone on the list has failed and cannot go to Canada, so you can take his place" was the reply.

A year later, after taking five star fixes at night with a sextant, even pretending to do so against a spectacular, colourful shifting background of the Aurora Borealis with my navigation wing on my pilot officer uniform, I was told at the Air Ministry that I had been trained for Canberra bombers. But they had not yet been delivered, so I could leave the RAF early after eighteen months if I wished.

"Meantime what would you like to do?" I was asked.

"I would like to continue flying, say in Germany"

The posting was to Gutersloh in North Germany which enabled me to meet up with Gotz in Hamburg and to spend time with the Domm family in Rothenburg. Twice I volunteered as officer in charge of the nightly military train through the Russian Zone to Berlin. Order: Stop the Russians boarding the train. No problem.

Fifth decision. Two years later and having worked in various jobs I resolved to ask my parents, who were not wealthy, to put me through university, keeping costs to the minimum. A big decision for them and for me. None of the family had ever been to university.

They knew that I did not want to or could not study medicine, law, or teaching. I felt, regardless of a career, doors would open wider with an arts degree than without.

Sixth decision, for me the greatest decision - who could I persuade to marry me, as a student? I do not often use the word, bless, but I was blessed with a Danish wife, now on our Diamond Anniversary Year, with two grown up children (one daughter, one son), three grandchildren (two girls and one boy) all of whom I adore.

Seventh decision. Living in Billericay we decided to settle down and that I would stand for the Basildon Council. Against the view of my employer I was elected to represent Billericay in a challenging, but fascinating atmosphere in Basildon.

Rounding up, I specialised in Industrial Relations through the pre-Thatcher years in consultancy and in the post Thatcher years in the whisky industry and on the Employment Appeal Tribunal. Plenty of decisions then. Subsequently, as cereal director, business took me back to Canada and Germany.

Thirty years after learning navigation I bought a yacht, a 28' Twister, before current technology, and with dead reckoning, a compass and sextant sailed to Denmark, Norway, Orkney and Galway.

These are some of the decisions in my life. Nothing is wasted, good or bad.



WARTIME IN SHETLAND AND VE DAY – George B Taylor

I have been encouraged by the President to write a few words for the newsletter.

As there was no mention of VE Day in the May edition, I thought I could add a few muses.

I was about to have my 6th birthday just after VE day and as a present I got a group of marching soldiers, sailors and airmen. No, not tin or lead ones, but pictured on sheets of cardboard, each group popped up in marching formation. The rest was left to the imagination as I marched them up and down the table!

Shetland was a busy place during the war, due its strategic position. Totally surrounded by water from the west by the Atlantic Ocean, the North Atlantic, and the Norwegian Sea round to the North Sea in the east. Sunderland and Catalina “flying boats” were stationed at Sullom Voe for anti-submarine patrol. (voe being a sea loch or mini fjord). In 1940 an aerodrome was built nearby at Scatsta and other aircraft were flown from there. Those of you who have worked in the oil industry will know of the oil and gas terminal at Sullom Voe and of Scatsta as a nearby base for chartered flights for oil and construction workers. It is now also used for transit flights for helicopters to and from Oil Rigs. I can remember a Sunderland moored in Lerwick harbour and of under-age driving at Scatsta – long after the war of course.

During the war there were up to 20,000 troops stationed there, and “they all needed fed”, which was handy, as my father and grandfather had a bakery business. Two of the bakers were called up and replacements were assigned from the army in order to keep the troops supplied.

My own memories of the war are scarce and stories are anecdotal.

My grandfather took shelter in a doorway as an enemy plane flew over leaving a trace of bullets up the pavement in front of him. During the summer months we lived in an old cottage about 7 miles from Lerwick. I was the youngest of three sons, and we had great fun playing in the burn and rock pools. My mother said the most difficult thing was getting us in to go to bed because during the war the clocks were 2 hours forward. The sun would be shining at 11 o'clock at night!

Because my father was in the supplies trade, he had extra petrol coupons so was able to travel into work. Early one morning, probably at 5 a.m., he was stopped by a man in uniform, who drew a revolver and demanded he be taken to someone in authority. “Take me to your leader!” He turned out to be a Norwegian officer, who had presumably come across by “Shetland Bus”.

He had walked miles before he “hitched” a lift. He was pacified for 2 or 3 hours at the bakery with cups of tea and fresh rolls until the person of authority was available. No bullets fired this time! The “Shetland Bus” ferried secret agents to and from Norway as well as refugees fleeing from their Nazi occupied country. The book of the same title is available in Fife libraries, as is an excellent video on YouTube.

My father was a sergeant in the Home Guard (nothing like John Le Mesurier!) and Friday night was drill night, not for the men, but for the three sons. I, being the youngest of three, was always the tail end

Charlie, rather like Corporal Jones. We paraded and then did rifle drill, lying on the floor with a walking stick as a rifle. Again no bullets.

*I was in **my own** Dad's Army!*

I am sure that most, if not all of us, have been clearing out drawers and cupboards over the last few weeks with some memorabilia found.

I came across an item of thanks from the King, no less! Yes King George VI.



The text of the King's message read:-

8th June 1946.

Today, as we celebrate Victory,

I send this personal message to you and all other boys and girls at school. For you have shared in the hardships and dangers of a total war and you have shared no less in the triumph of the Allied Nations.

I know you will always feel proud to belong to a country which was capable of such supreme effort; proud, too, of parents and elder brothers and sisters who by their courage, endurance and enterprise brought victory. May these qualities be yours as you grow up and join in the common effort to establish among nations of the world unity and peace.

George R. I.

I did, indeed, feel proud, as a boy called George, to have a personal message from King George. I wonder how many of us remember getting such a copy and perhaps even have it to this day.

George B Taylor.



SHIELDING & SELF ISOLATING - The Brysons continued!!

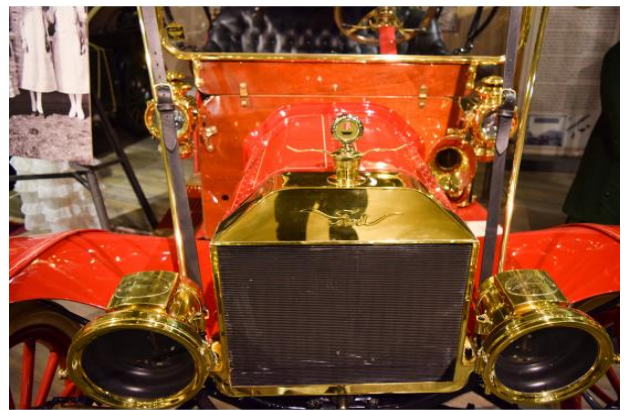
During the past few weeks I have completed a new “Probus Style” presentation on American Antique Automobiles. I took the photos in 2017 during a 1500 mile land tour of Alaska.

The museum the Fountainhead Antique Auto Museum is in Fairbanks. It is owned by Tim Cerny a Real Estate Developer and he was at that time owner of at least 3 hotels/resort sites in Fairbanks.

It is amazing how much info you can gather from the WEB to create a presentation. The cars in the museum range from the late 1890's to 1936. One of them was bought and brought to Alaska for \$475,000, by the museum owner.

Fountainhead Museum is rated as one of the premier vintage car museums in the world.

The majority of the cars are roadworthy and those that are drive out of the museum at least once a year. Their condition is immaculate and no expense has been spared on their restoration. They could be coming to a Probus club near you soon!!!





KEEP YOUR DISTANCE!

Last week a worried neighbour rang my doorbell.

'There is a giant wasps nest on our joint boundary wall'! A quick look and an even quicker retreat from the large number of buzzing and angry insects. The so-called nest was a huge swarm of bees.

A call for help was answered by my other neighbours who unbeknown to us were beekeepers and soon donned the gear and after capturing the queen solved the problem. The hive are now on a farm with others.

This event is one that few of us are liable to witness in our lifetime and was fascinating. Taking photos was at a distance but here is one from my phone.

Peter Franklin



FROM ADRIAN MASSON

At this time of the year I am usually encouraging Probus members to go to the Dalgety Bay Art Club (DBAC) exhibition which this year is, of course, cancelled. In recent years as a change from traditional landscapes I have produced a series of smaller oil paintings of folk beside the sea and some of these are below as a gentle reminder of where we would probably prefer to be on these lovely sunny days rather than in lockdown. Visitors to the DBAC exhibitions may have seen one of the them before but not the other three!

Best wishes

Adrian Masson





These can also be viewed and enlarged at <https://www.dalgetybayprobus.club/adrian-masson-paintings>



INTERESTING WEBSITES TO PASS TIME CONSTRUCTIVELY

A little used resource is the Links section on the club website which provides links to a host of useful websites, some relating to essential and helpful services and others to some fascinating sites that are interesting and educational. Here are a just a few websites that are well worth taking a look at but beware, these can become compelling!

FLIGHT RADAR

Flightradar24 is a global flight tracking service that provides you with real-time information about thousands of aircraft around the world. It tracks 180,000+ flights, from 1,200+ airlines, flying to or from 4,000+ airports around the world in real time. See <https://www.flightradar24.com/55.33,-2.36/7>

FORTH SHIPPING

VesselFinder is a free AIS vessel tracking website displaying real time ship positions and marine traffic detected by global AIS network worldwide. Use it to zoom into the Forth and see what ships are currently in the area. See <https://www.vesselfinder.com/>

HISTORICAL MAPS OF SCOTLAND

This website, run by the National Library of Scotland, contains maps covering the whole of Scotland published between 1560 and 1969. For more detailed maps of parts of Scotland, you can view historical county maps, town plans, or Ordnance Survey maps and use a slider to compare each map with current satellite view. For maps covering Dalgety Bay see

<https://maps.nls.uk/geo/explore/#zoom=14.833419296835643&lat=56.03240&lon=-3.36116&layers=170&b=1>

NATIONAL RECORDS OF SCOTLAND

You can use the ScotlandsPeople website to access a wide range of records kept by the Scottish Government, churches and courts of law. Six categories of records are indexed by personal name: civil registers of births marriages and deaths from 1855 onwards, church registers from 1560 onwards, census returns from 1841 onwards, valuation rolls from 1855 to 1987, legal records including wills and testaments between 1513 and 1925 and Highlands and Islands migration records. You can register to use the site and search the records free of charge but a charge applies to print off copies of any record. See

<https://www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk/search-our-records>

NIGHT SKY

If you ever find yourself looking up to the sky at night and wondering what stars and planets you are seeing, take a look at Stellarium, which is a free planetarium for your computer. It shows a realistic sky in 3D, just like what you see with the naked eye, binoculars or a telescope. Just set your location at the bottom left of the screen and go. See <https://stellarium-web.org/>

WINDY

There are hundreds of weather websites but Windy is an extraordinary tool for weather forecast visualization. This fast, intuitive, detailed and most accurate weather app is trusted by professional pilots, paragliders, skydivers, kites, surfers, boaters, fishermen, storm chasers and weather geeks, and even by governments, military and rescue teams. There isn't another weather site like it on the web. See <https://www.windy.com/?56.035,-3.498,5>

The more you delve into any of these sites, the more fascinating and compelling they become and do give them a try if you have a spare moment! They also all appear, under the same headings, on the club website Links page and if you are not familiar with that page, have a look to see the scope of websites it provides links to. See <https://www.dalgetybayprobus.club/links>

Happy surfing,

Willie Allan



DIGIPIX

Thanks to all who have contributed photos for the May project of Everyday Objects. It has really caught the imagination of our members. The gallery is growing daily and we still have the best part of two weeks left so please keep them coming in and keep an eye on the gallery. Equally, I am happy to take photos of bluebells or clematis to add to the blossom gallery as it would be a shame to wait another year before getting these again. Similarly, I am very happy to put more general photos in the general gallery. You can see all the galleries at <https://www.dalgetybayprobus.club/digipix-members-photos>

Getting back to everyday objects, I thought it would be valuable to get a professional opinion so asked John Pow, who ran our Forth Bridges workshop and was going to run our Kelpies workshop in April, if he could take a look at our gallery and pass on any comments or his professional advice. He not only obliged but sent in a photo of his own as well! Here are his comments:

When asked to photograph anything you should think of the viewer and how they are going to react to your image. With a subject like everyday objects the danger is that you take a photograph of an object that your viewer sees every day and therefore finds your photograph uninspiring and boring. The trick then is to present your subject in a way that your viewer hasn't seen before, that may be from a new perspective, as with the pencil shot in the gallery or with a new clarity, as per the marmite jar. In the latter case the photographer has entirely uncluttered the photograph and used a very simple palette which compliments the lid to emphasise the product. You could easily see this photograph featuring in a glossy magazine.



Some of the subjects are clearly very personal to the photographer and act as good documentary information. However, viewers may not have that same level of interest and so the trick here is to use your knowledge and understanding of the subject to presents its unique features. The fly fishing rod

photograph is a good example where this applies, the shot might have been stronger by focussing on the detail of a single fly.

Use of humour is always a good way of engaging with the viewer and there are good examples of this in the gallery. I particularly like the steering wheel with the googly eyes.

Lighting is always important in photography and the use of lighting to create contrasts within the image is always appealing. If you are not using flash place your subject close to a window to make use of the soft light, but if you are photographing reflective surfaces always check the reflection to make sure you are happy with what is caught in it. I have seen photographs with some rather embarrassing reflections in my time.

Christmas lights placed in the background and out of focus is a good way to add depth and atmosphere to your shots.

The subject here was everyday objects and all the shots are still life, another way to make your shot stand out is to add movement, water dripping into a glass is a simple and effective way of making a dynamic image of an everyday object.

I really enjoyed looking through your gallery and can't wait to see your future shots.

John also helped me come up with an equally interesting project for June, which I will announce at the end of this month. Meanwhile, please continue to exercise your imagination on everyday objects and keep sending me your photos for the gallery. As said before, this is open to all club members, not just those in the Digipix group.

Willie Allan



GOLF

As you will all be aware, golf courses in England have opened. We are now told courses in Scotland may open on the 28th May, the rules around opening expected to be announced that day.

There will be very strict conditions in place. The golf governing bodies have jointly agreed on their conditions for play for Golf England who have released information on what will be permitted. In Scotland these will also be the likely rules. These are:

- Individuals playing on their own
- Two-balls consisting of individuals from different households.
- At the discretion of the golf club, members of the same household playing in two, three or four-balls

A detailed document has been compiled with guidelines to ensure the continuing safety of staff working on the course. Some of the issues around the course are likely to be:

- Reduced pace of greens through higher cutting heights
- Higher cutter heights in all/ most maintained areas
- Lengthier rough areas, particularly in 'out of play' areas
- Untidy bunkers
- Lack of golf course furniture such as bunker rakes, bins, ball washers, benches.

Having said that, Aberdour looks to be in excellent condition but with all the items in the final point, including the benches.

When we receive the go-ahead, management of play will be changed. Procedures have been suggested to allow safe play:

- The guidance should be posted online and tee booking will also take place online. In some cases the number of holes may be restricted to nine, although there is no suggestion of that at Aberdour.
- Time between tee times is likely to be increases to ease social distancing.
- Clubhouses are likely to remain shut and members will be asked to arrive shortly before their tee time and change shoes in the car park. Limited access to toilets may be allowed by the club.
- Some courses are likely to employ marshals to ensure social distancing but, once again, there is no suggestion of that at Aberdour.
- Flagsticks may remain but it is recommended that a sign is put on the flagstick stating it is not to be touched. The Aberdour Captain has said to me they have acquiring new shorter pins, rather like the pins on some putting greens, which can be lifted out of the hole using a putter head and have a bowl on the cup, attached to the pin, which lifts the ball out of the hole with the pin.
- The hole liner should be inserted to ensure the ball can be retrieved by handling the ball only.
- Practice nets should be closed unless safe sanitising practices can be guaranteed.
- No trolleys or buggies can be hired unless safe sanitising procedures are in place
- Priority on the practice putting green may be given to the group of players in the next group off.

Most importantly, players should be reminded at all times to keep two metres apart.

How is the rest of the world faring as golf courses start to re-open? The transition has not been without its problems as highlighted by Germany where it has been chaotic. Each club is regulated by the local authority which means that, for instance some clubhouses remain open while others are closed. Some clubs in Berlin had to close as soon as they were opened because they didn't follow security rules. One club in Bavaria opened before they final permission and have to pay a fine of 25,000 Euros per day for every day they are open before they have that permission. In general, despite a few hiccups most countries have eased back into golf gradually and without too many unforeseen problems.

One of the biggest challenges for returning golfers is the lack of golf fitness with muscles left weaker by months of inactivity complaining loudly after the first game. So, should we all be practicing our swings and loosening our golf muscles in readiness for our first outing.



BOWLS

Hope you all are busy practising and getting plenty exercise preparing for this season as It will hopefully commence sometime soon. Fingers crossed.

As Margaret and I have had 6 flights cancelled already, doubt if we will get back before July at the earliest, but at least as of Saturday full lockdown has been adjusted although we are still not allowed to go for a walk outside the complex. Meantime spending some time practising my bowls on the balcony with a new "Outdoor " set which although very light are far superior to my previous bowls which Margaret has now devoured.

VOTE OF THANKS – Willie Anthony

It is amazing that we are now in week 8 of lockdown, where has the last 8 weeks gone?

Thankfully the weather has been very dry allowing us out in the garden for most of the time.

Our garden has never had so much attention in such a short time. Pam and I share the tasks. I do it if you can use a machine, a tool or an implement, Pam does the hands and knees bit, good teamwork.

Normally we would all have been looking forward to, or just come back from holiday, but that is not going to happen any time soon.

It is good to read all the contributions from members in the regular newsletters, we never stop learning something new.

Many thanks to all members who are contributing to keep in touch with our members.

We will not be meeting in 2 weeks' time for our Summer lunch but do continue to look forward to our Christmas Lunch on the 1st of December.

Keep busy and stay safe.