



# THE WARRIOR

Newsletter for ESVH & the Military Community In East Sussex



VOL. 3. NO 2

[www.eastsussexveteranshub.co.uk](http://www.eastsussexveteranshub.co.uk)

FEBRUARY 2022



## Queen & Country



SANDRINGHAM HOUSE

5th February, 2022.

Tomorrow, 6th February, marks the 70th anniversary of my Accession in 1952. It is a day that, even after 70 years, I still remember as much for the death of my father, King George VI, as for the start of my reign.

As we mark this anniversary, it gives me pleasure to renew to you the pledge I gave in 1947 that my life will always be devoted to your service.

As I look ahead with a sense of hope and optimism to the year of my Platinum Jubilee, I am reminded of how much we can be thankful for. These last seven decades have seen extraordinary progress socially, technologically and culturally that have benefitted us all; and I am confident that the future will offer similar opportunities to us and especially to the younger generations in the United Kingdom and throughout the Commonwealth.

I am fortunate to have had the steadfast and loving support of my family. I was blessed that in Prince Philip I had a partner willing to carry out the role of consort and unselfishly make the sacrifices that go with it. It is a role I saw my own mother perform during my father's reign.

This anniversary also affords me a time to reflect on the goodwill shown to me by people of all nationalities, faiths and ages in this country and around the world over these years. I would like to express my thanks to you all for your support. I remain eternally grateful for, and humbled by, the loyalty and affection that you continue to give me. And when, in the fullness of time, my son Charles becomes King, I know you will give him and his wife Camilla the same support that you have given me; and it is my sincere wish that, when that time comes, Camilla will be known as Queen Consort as she continues her own loyal service.

And so as I look forward to continuing to serve you with all my heart, I hope this Jubilee will bring together families and friends, neighbours and communities – after some difficult times for so many of us – in order to enjoy the celebrations and to reflect on the positive developments in our day-to-day lives that have so happily coincided with my reign.

*Tom Servant*

*Elizabeth R*

The Queen as Sovereign is Head of the Armed Forces. She is also the widow, mother and grandmother of individuals either having served, or are currently serving, in the Armed Forces. On enlistment, all members of the Royal Navy, Royal Marines, Army, Royal Air Force take an oath of allegiance to the Monarchy as Head of the Armed Forces.

The Queen holds the position of Colonel-in-Chief of numerous regiments in the United Kingdom and throughout the Commonwealth.

Her Majesty is supported by other Members of the Royal Family who have special relationships, such as honorary colonelcies (known as Royal colonels), with various Army regiments and corps.



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Continued from page 1

On official visits, members of the Royal family often wear their regiment's uniform or other objects, such as regimental brooches. They are also worn on special occasions, such as Remembrance Sunday.

Members of the Royal Family have personal experience of life in the Armed Forces. As Princess Elizabeth, The Queen joined the Auxiliary Territorial Service in 1945, becoming the first female member of the Royal Family to be a full-time active member of the Services. The Duke of Edinburgh served in the Royal Navy from 1939 to 1952, seeing active service throughout the Second World War. The Prince of Wales also served in the Royal Navy and also trained in the Royal Air Force. The Duke of York served for over 20 years as an officer in the Royal Navy before leaving the Service in 2001. He flew as a second pilot in Sea King Helicopters on anti-submarine and transport duties during the Falklands conflict in 1982. Prince William served as a regimental officer in the British Army before undertaking attachments to The Royal Air Force and The Royal Navy. In September 2008 it was announced that he would train to become a full-time pilot with the Royal Air Force's Search and Rescue Force (SARF). Prince Harry served as an officer in the British Army and a Lieutenant in the Blues and Royals, seeing active service in Afghanistan.

## **Commando 80**

**Celebrating the anniversary of the formation of the commandos in 1942, the Royal Marines Commando 80 Challenge will take place this Summer. Royal Marines will retrace their heritage back to 1942 by running 80 back to back marathons in 80 days. All Commando and Reserve units will take part .**

The run will take 80 days covering 26.2 miles a day. A team from across the Corps will complete the whole challenge, supported by all the Commando Units. The intent is to start the run at Commando Training Centre and finish at Spean Bridge where Commandos first trained in the 2nd World War.

## **Falkland's 40**

**Thousands of veterans, civilians, and bereaved families will be invited to attend an event at the National Memorial Arboretum on Tuesday 14 June to mark 40 years since the end of the**

**conflict. Our commemorations will focus on the broad range of military and civilian involvement in all aspects of the Falklands campaign, which was unprecedented in modern times.**

The Falklands Conflict started on 2 April 1982 and was the first military action since the Second World War that utilised all elements of the Armed Forces. The conflict lasted 74 days, during which seven ships were lost to enemy action, nine aircraft were shot down, and 255 British personnel lost their lives. Their names are all inscribed on the Armed Forces Memorial at the Arboretum.

## **Europe Today!**

**The UK is currently doubling the number of personnel in Estonia and sending additional equipment, including tanks and armoured fighting vehicles. The troops and equipment will begin to move to Estonia today.**

The Royal Welsh battlegroup, which includes armoured vehicles and personnel, will leave Sennelager in Germany and bases in the UK and begin to



arrive in Estonia during the coming week. They will join the Royal Tank Regiment already in Tapa. Apache helicopters will also be making their way to conduct exercises with our Allies and partners in Eastern Europe.

Four additional UK Typhoon jets have also landed in Cyprus and will shortly begin to patrol the skies with NATO Allies in Eastern Europe.

HMS Trent – a UK Warship – has already begun conducting patrols in the Eastern Mediterranean Sea alongside NATO Allies from Canada, Italy, Spain and Turkey.

HMS Diamond is also destined for the Eastern Mediterranean and will join up with NATO allies. The majority of the 350 Royal Marines of 45 Commando committed to Poland have already arrived. 1,000 more British personnel are at readiness in the UK to support a humanitarian response, if needed.

## UK Today!

**The Ministry of Defence placed 800 personnel at higher readiness against Storm Eunice. Similar support was provided during Storm Arwen only in December.**

Millions of people were urged to stay at home on Friday 18th February, due to safety fears over the impact of Eunice, one of the worst storms to hit the UK in a generation

Tens of thousands of homes were left without power, while flights, trains and ferry services have

been suspended, and roads, schools and businesses shut as potentially record-breaking gusts of more than 120mph have been recorded in some areas.



A £70m hangar has been damaged at the RAF's



**The roof that was!**

biggest base and an Army building has suffered serious damage as Storm Eunice batters the UK. A video on 'Fill Your boots' twitter account shows

parts of the hangar's roof being ripped off by the strong winds.

The Army office building is at Larkhill Camp in Wiltshire, it has been confirmed, while the hangar is at RAF Brize Norton in Oxfordshire.



## Boxing on Board



**HMS Queen Elizabeth has held her first on-board boxing show with Combined Forces competitors making an impression on Britain's biggest warship.**

Eight amateur bouts saw high-quality boxing including a highly-anticipated Navy vs RAF women's battle. Britney Walker defeated her Air Force opponent in that fight while, in the main event, a TKO saw the Navy's Keohen Williams beat the Army's Mason Small.

Here's the full results from the show:

- Ewan Thomas (Navy) beat Harry Fuller (Army) by unanimous decision
- Chris Murray (Royal Marines) beat Josh Buckley (Army) by split decision
- Mikey Lennon (RAF) beat Gabriel Knowles (Royal Marines) by split decision
- Billy Watson (Royal Marines) beat Sapulo Logan (Army) by unanimous decision
- Drew Webb (Navy) beat Will Arthur (Army) by split decision
- Britney Walker (Navy) beat Frankie Lyall (RAF) by unanimous decision
- Jack Power (Army) beat Jason McCormick (Navy) by unanimous decision
- Keohen Williams (Navy) beat Mason Small (Army) by TKO



**Appreciate what you have. Nobody knows when the last goodbye is.**





## 50 Years in Cyprus!

**84 Squadron has marked its 50th anniversary of operations in Cyprus.**

The squadron is based at RAF Akrotiri and is the RAF's last remaining Search and Rescue squadron. Its members have been conducting non-stop flying operations since 1972.



Using the Griffin HAR2 Bell helicopter, they provide aerial Search and Rescue and firefighting capabilities for all of the Sovereign Base Areas and often work alongside The Republic of Cyprus emergency services.

The squadron, lead by Officer Commanding Squadron Leader Jean-Marc David paraded the squadron standard in front of Station Commander Group Captain Nikki Thomas and an audience that included The 84 Squadron Association – many are ex-serving 84 Sqn personnel.



## Speaker Visits Cyprus

**The Speaker of the House of Commons has met with UK military personnel in Cyprus.**

Honorary Colonel (3 Medical Regiment) Sir Lindsay Hoyle made history as the first Speaker of the House of Commons to make an official visit to the island at the invitation of his Cypriot counterpart.

During the visit, Sir Lindsay stopped at RAF Akrotiri where



four Typhoon jets landed earlier this week to patrol the skies of Eastern Europe amid tensions with Russia – he mentioned he was on standby should Parliament need to be recalled.



## Airborne Guardians

**From disruptive passengers to hijackings, meet the people keeping order in the sky. UK Military Aviation Protection Officers have to be ready to deal with everything, ensuring everyone on board flights are kept safe.**

Last year, Operation Pitting saw thousands of British nationals, former Afghan staff and families and entitled personnel evacuated from Kabul.

During the operation, Military Aviation Protection Officers (MAPOs) were

thrown into the spotlight. Responsible for ensuring everyone on board a military



aircraft is safe, MAPOs must be ready to deal with everything – from nervous or disruptive passengers to hijackings and bombs. There are currently 136 trained MAPOs in the UK.

## ESVH Programme for March

**99/100 Group**

**Saturday February 26  
March 5 12 & 26 @ Hub**

**Veterans & Families' Weekly Drop In**

**Monday February 28  
March. 7, 14, .21.28 1000 - 1400 hrs @ Hub**

**Other Activities**

**Carving Friday 4 March @ Hub**

**Modelmaking Mondays TBA**

**Sculpture Days 23/24/25 March (on the farm)  
transport provided where necessary**

**PLEASE GET YOUR NAMES DOWN ASAP  
IT HELPS WITH ADMIN.....CONTACT BS OR  
STUART**



## Save HMS Bronington

**Enthusiasts are staging a final bid to save 'Prince Charles' warship' HMS Bronington.**

The minesweeper, which was commanded by the then Lieutenant Wales for ten months in 1976, sank at her mooring on Merseyside six years ago.

The recently-formed HMS Bronington Preservation Trust Ltd believes there is a last chance to save the ship – now nearly 70 years old – before the elements finally take their toll.

It's looking to raise around £5,000 for a dive survey – the first stage in a grand plan to raise Bronington, pump-out the flood water and then turn her into a working ship once more through continued fund-raising, sponsorship and grants.

The trust wants to see the wooden-hulled ship used to deliver yachting and diving courses, teach navigation, be hired for fishing/diving trips, filming, and used by Sea Cadets and the Prince's Trust. If those goals prove too much due to cost and unavailability of equipment, then Bronington would revert to becoming a static display alongside or in a dry dock, open to the public, similar to her successful years as a museum ship on the Manchester Ship Canal.

World-famous Merseyside shipbuilder Cammell Laird has agreed to take Bronington into their dry dock for restoration under their apprenticeship scheme in stages if the funding can be found.

Bronington is one of around 120 Ton-class minesweepers built in the 1950s. With hulls of mahogany, the Tons were among the last wooden warships built for the Royal Navy before it switched to today's plastic-hulled minehunters in the 1970s. She served for nearly 35 years, finally decommissioning in 1988 after which she became a museum ship firstly in Manchester, then on the Wirral Peninsula.

The trust looking after her – and other vessels,

including Falklands veteran HMS Plymouth – folded in 2006, since when Bronington has been neglected, eventually sinking at her moorings in Gilbrook Basin in 2016.

Despite being on the list of 200 key vessels relating to the UK's rich maritime history, her status as part of the 'National Historic Fleet' will not spare her the breaker's yard (HMS Plymouth was broken up nearly a decade ago).

Mike McBride, who served as the Weapon Engineering Officer of sister ship HMS Iveston, which frequently conducted minehunting/sweeping duties side-by-side with Bronington, said Prince Charles continued to take a keen interest in the fate of his former ship and was "humbled" by the renewed efforts to save and restore her.

"Due to her worsening condition, this will be the final push to save HMS Bronington," said Mr McBride.

"We are asking for help to get his project off the



ground. Any donation – large or small – will be gratefully received.

Should the project be abandoned, all donations will be donated to Forces charities."

So far, the trust has raised just over £3,000 towards its target. Further donations can be made via [www.gofundme.com/f/help-restore-hms-bronington](http://www.gofundme.com/f/help-restore-hms-bronington)



**First Floor, 5 Harold Place, Hastings  
TN34 1JA**

**information advice & guidance  
Ring : Iain on 07869688038**



## Fall of Singapore Remembered

**A special service has been held to mark the day – 80 years ago – that Britain and her Commonwealth allies were defeated by the Japanese in the battle for Singapore.**

The island's loss marked the single largest surrender in British military history and was described by Winston Churchill as the "greatest capitulation". The day also marked the moment 80,000 British, Australian, and Indian soldiers became prisoners of war.

Eighty years on, the children, grandchildren, and families of those who became prisoners of war that day met at the National Memorial Arboretum in Staffordshire to commemorate the loss of Singapore and the moment their relatives' lives changed forever.

The service, organised by the Children and Families of Far East Prisoners of War (COFEPOW) charity, was attended by the surviving relatives and younger generations of those involved in the battle for Singapore and included an inspiring address by the organisation's patron, Terry Waite CBE. Mr Waite, who from 1987 to 1991 was kidnapped and held captive in Beirut while working as a special envoy to the Archbishop of Canterbury, was given a round of applause after reciting a poem about reconciliation with a powerful message.

After the church service, which was led by COFEPOW's padre David Childs CBE, the commemoration continued at a memorial within the Far East section of the East Staffordshire arboretum, which included the laying of wreaths and a two-minute silence.

The Japanese occupied Singapore from February 1942 for the remainder of the war. It was re-occupied by the British in September 1945 and gained independence in 1965.



## It's a Dog's Life!

**'A lost dog is now safely back at home after British troops worked with locals to find his owner.'**

The animal, nicknamed 'Socks' by his rescuers, was found in the soldiers' training grounds in freezing conditions in Estonia, after going missing for days.

British soldiers, deployed as part of the annual NATO Winter Camp in the country, cared for the dog and worked with local authorities in the Baltic country to reunite him with his owner. Captain Styles, one of the rescuers, said they are "glad that his story has a happy ending".

He said: "It was a privilege to find and locate Socks with my team today, returning

### First Point of Call for Veterans of HM Forces in East Sussex

## VETERANS' WEEKLY DROP IN

First Floor  
5 Harold Place  
HASTINGS  
TN34 1JA  
10AM TO 2PM  
EVERY MONDAY



Welfare Information, Advice and Guidance

- Specific Support for those with PTSD and Mental Ill Health
- Close Liaison with other Agencies & Military Charities

Contact Details:  
Freephone: 0330 1077808  
Landline: 01424 446292  
Mobile: 07884263824

Email: [esvh99100@btinternet.com](mailto:esvh99100@btinternet.com)  
Office: 5 Harold Place, Hastings TN34 1JA



- Refreshments

**An opportunity to meet others over a cuppa**



Registered with Charity Commission No 1183583

him to safety and reuniting him with his owners." About 900 British soldiers work alongside allies from



Belgium, Denmark, and France in Estonia, as well as host nation forces in joint exercises during the NATO Winter Camp.

Temperatures in the Eastern European nation regularly drop well below zero, with heavy snow also adding to the formidable weather.

Elements of the Parachute Regiment and the Yorkshire Regiment, together with colleagues from a number of other cap badges, are currently deployed as part of the NATO Winter Camp, with the Royal Tank Regiment based in Estonia for longer as part of Operation Cabrit.

The operation is the British contribution to NATO's Enhanced Forward Presence (eFP) across the Baltics and Poland.



### Chinese Murmurs

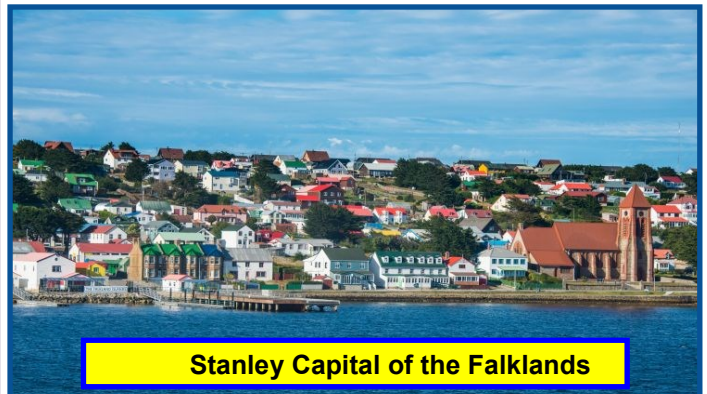
**Liz Truss has defended the Falklands as "part of the British family" after China backed Argentina's claim over the South American islands. The Foreign Secretary tweeted that "China must respect the Falklands' sovereignty" after Argentinian president, Alberto Fernandez, met with China's President Xi Jinping.**

According to a statement on London's Chinese Embassy website, the two leaders spoke of their "deep friendship" and Argentina signed up to China's Belt and Road infrastructure initiative, a state-backed campaign for global influence.

But they also signed an agreement in which China reasserted its support for Argentina's claim to the Falklands, while President Fernandez backed

President Xi's one-China policy, which claims Taiwan as its own. The statement said Argentina should be able to "fully exercise its sovereignty over the Malvinas (Falklands) Islands issue".

Ms Truss said: "We completely reject any questions over sovereignty of the Falklands. They are part of the British family and we will defend their right to self-determination. China must respect the Falklands' sovereignty."



**Stanley Capital of the Falklands**

Chen Weihua, a journalist for China Daily, an English-language newspaper owned by the Chinese Communist Party, replied to Ms Truss to say: "But it's okay for UK to challenge China's sovereignty in the South China Sea by sending navy vessels? At least China has not sent its navy near the Malvinas, or what you call the Falklands."

Last month, the official Twitter profile of the Argentine Embassy to the EU posted a series of claims about the Falkland Islands, including a tweet that said: "The Malvinas Islands are an integral part of the Argentine national territory."



### Hat Trick for Stephen

**The Army's Stefan Hurst has made it three wins from three Telemark events at the Inter Services Snow Sports Championships in the Sprint race.**



Earlier he had won both the Classic and Giant Slalom. In the team event, the Army were the winners with the Royal Navy, and the RAF came third.

## Steve the Chef's Special

### Toad In The Hole

Serves 4



#### Ingredients

- 250g plain flour
- 4 medium eggs
- 1 tbsp wholegrain mustard
- 325ml milk
- 1 tbsp vegetable or olive oil
- Mixed herbs, optional
- 8 fat, good-quality pork sausages
- 40g lard

#### Chef Says

Preheat the oven to 220c/200 fan. Sift the flour into a bowl with a dip in the middle. Crack the eggs into dip, add the mustard and begin to stir into the flour. Add the milk bit by bit, stirring all the time until you have a smooth batter with no lumps. Stir in the herbs and then set aside to rest for half an hour or so.

Heat the oil in a frying pan over a medium heat and fry the sausages until they are browned all over, this should take 3-4 minutes. If you haven't put your pinny on yet, you may wish to do so now! Add the lard to a medium sized roasting tin on the hob, on a high heat. Once the fat is really hot, carefully add the sausages and pour the batter on and around them. Quickly transfer the tin to the hot oven and roast for 25-30 minutes, until golden and nicely puffed up. **Enjoy!**

Welcome to the following veterans who have joined us via the drop in and referrals:

Darren, Daniel, Tom, Karl, Vincent, Daren (2), & Sam.

Sam (Ex Royal Fleet Auxiliary RFA) has re-joined his ship and is likely to be Falklands bound at some stage. He is keeping in touch by zoom, so when he is back on terra firma he'll join us again. Good Luck Big Ships!

**Congratulations to Steve the Chef for keeping up to date.**

highspeedtraining.co.uk

#### Certificate of achievement

High Speed Training certifies that

Steve

has completed

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A high quality, interactive training course that ensures food handlers meet the UK/EU standards for Food Hygiene and Safety.

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Recommended Renewal Date: 05/02/2025  
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Qualifications

Institute  
of Hospitality

D. Turner  
On behalf of High Speed Training



## The Military Covenant

Many may wonder if the Military Covenant is fully understood or even considered when veterans are faced with challenging situations whilst dealing with statutory bodies and government agencies.

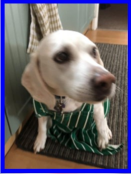
The Covenant is a promise between the Government, the Nation and the Armed Forces. It's there to make sure that people in the Armed Forces Community aren't disadvantaged because of their Service, and that the people who have given the most like the wounded and the bereaved receive special consideration for the sacrifices they have made for the country. Government use it to look out for any problems veterans experience because of their part in the Armed Forces Community, and then to find solutions to such problems.

The Covenant may be significant in addressing issues relating to military pensions and compensation, housing and in England for those accessing NHS services, when they should expect to be given priority treatment for conditions related to Service, subject to the clinical needs of others.

To read the full report on the Armed Forces Covenant and see details of what the government has committed to, go to [www.mod.uk/covenant](http://www.mod.uk/covenant)



**Sam's home, he's one of only 13 crew!**



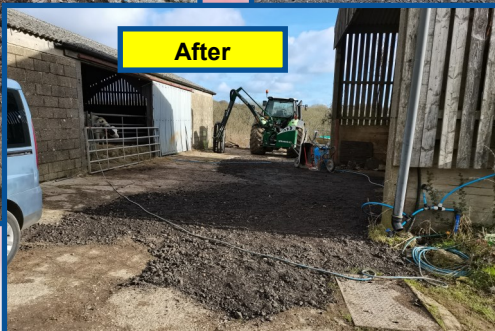
**Milo Says:  
Just Easing Out of Covid**



**Before**



**During**

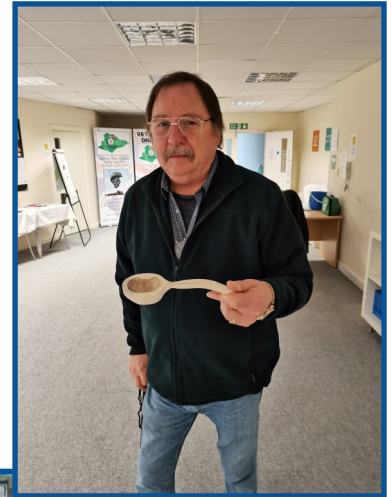


**After**

**Karl orchestrating improvements for the barn**



**On the Farm  
Introducing 'Brian'  
A tea loving bull calf  
Only from the cup of  
course!**



**Spoon Carving In Brighton**



**STOP PRESS  
It's all Happening**

**H4H have agreed to 'pop in' once a month as have TILS**

**Karen is continuing her monthly visits also.**

**We have the services of ADDER hypnotherapist and acupuncturist by appointment**

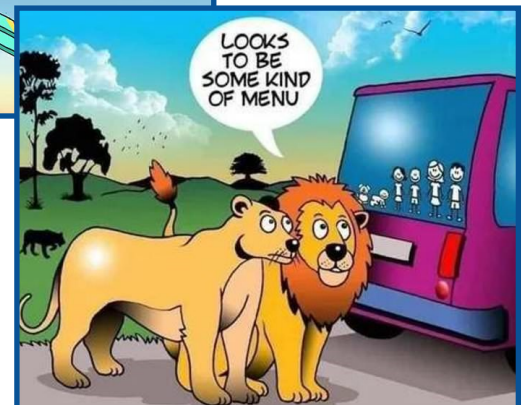
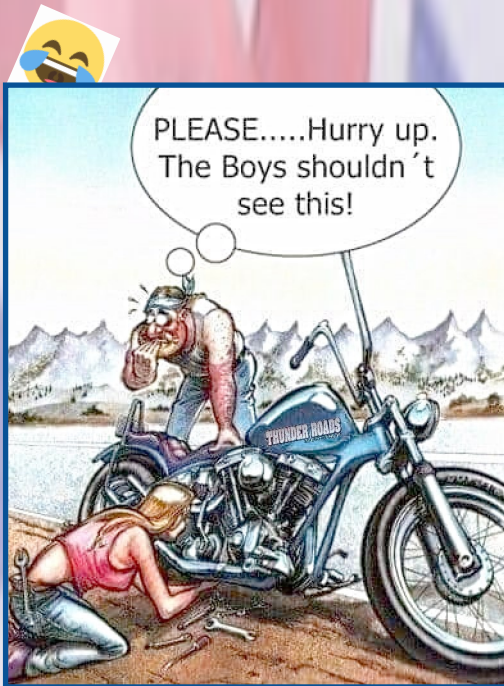
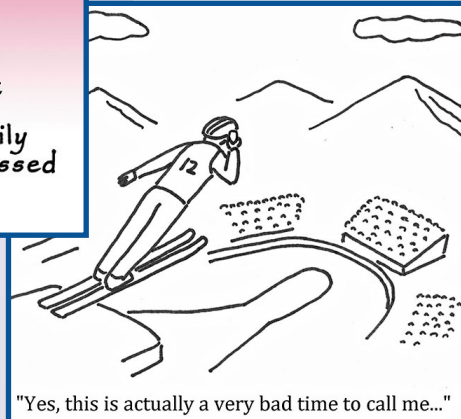
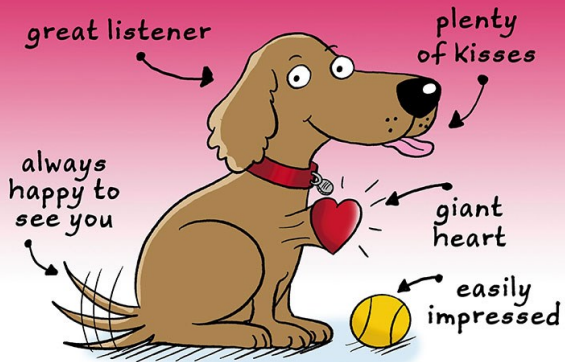
**It is intended to commence modelmaking sessions on Mondays. Models for Heroes will be visiting again on 12th March (Saturday) Clem & Doug will lead with this.**

**See diary dates on page 4**



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### WHY DOGS MAKE THE BEST VALENTINES



# CANADA

Come for the culture and scenery  
Stay because your car won't start

