



THE WARRIOR



Newsletter for ESVH & the Military Community In East Sussex

VOL. 2. NO 38

www.eastsussexveteranshub.co.uk

DECEMBER 2021



Seasons Greetings
from
ESVH Trustees & Team

East Sussex Veterans Hub
99/100 Group
Wish Everyone
A Joyous Festive Season &
A Prosperous New Year



Præsens, Assiste Postulantibus

Support Services Telephone Contact Numbers

NHS 111 Any suspicion of coronavirus, ring 111 IMMEDIATELY, for advice. Some GPs have a telephone triage service as well. Also ring 111 for veterans' mental health service HIS.

ESVH 07884263824/01424 446292/Freephone 0330 1077 808
STAR Freephone 0300 303 81600
ESRA 01424 435318
Seaview 01424 717981
Job Centre Plus Hastings 0800 169 190
Samaritans Hastings Freephone 0330 094 5717
Bexhill Caring Community 01424 215116
Hastings Covid-19 Community Support Hotline 01424 451019



East Sussex Veterans Hub 99/100 Group, 5 Harold Place. Hastings TN34 1JA
01424 446292 Email: ESVH99100@esvh99100.onmicrosoft.com

Registered with Charity Commission 1183583





New LGBTQIA+ Drug and Alcohol Drop-in

A new drug and alcohol drop-in in Hastings is one of the only services of its type in East Sussex to welcome and support people in the LGBTQIA+ community. It will be hosted by East Sussex Recovery Alliance (ESRA) in partnership with Hastings and Rother Rainbow Alliance (HRRA).

ESRA and HRRA is offering this safe and confidential service. Anyone can turn up on Thursday December 16th between 10:30am and 1:30pm at 5 Harold Place without a referral or an appointment. There will be no register or assessments, and attendance will not be disclosed to anyone.

There are changing facilities on location, and anyone who would prefer to arrive with a trusted friend or relative can do exactly that. The accompanying person will be permitted to stay for half an hour.

For more information contact:
<https://www.esrauk.org/lgbtqia>

Finding it difficult keeping warm, getting enough food or paying essential bills this winter?

You may be able to get extra help from the Household Support Fund which has almost £4 million to help East Sussex residents who are most in need.

Anyone can apply if they are struggling with the costs of food, of heating and lighting or of water bills. They must be 18 or older and receive a means-tested benefit.

To apply, please contact your borough or district council:

- [Lewes and Eastbourne Councils - Household Support Grants](#)
- [Hastings Borough Council - Household Support Fund](#)
- [Rother District Council- Household Support Fund](#) [Wealden District Council - Household Support Fund](#)

There's more information about the fund, and other forms of support and advice, on the East Sussex County Council site. If you are over 50 years old, contact Age UK on 01273 476704 and ask for Ashley. Explain you are with ESVH, and a veteran.



Latest Covid Changes

ESVH response government guidelines to counter the Omicron variant, include the following:

General Protection

- **Wellbeing meetings will be strictly controlled and attendance pre-arranged.**
- Clients/Veterans should make an appointment if they wish to attend ESVH/ ADDER Offices.
- **Ad Hoc visitors may be accommodated, in exceptional circumstances, providing they adhere to safety precautions and there are suitable facilities available. An alternative appointment may be offered.**
- Out-reach activities will continue subject to decisions of respective supervising staff member, meeting the needs of clients, and regulations in place at the time.

Office Precautions

All visitors will

- **Sign in and have temperature taken. Time in and time out. If client refuses then an assessment must be made as to whether access is allowed. Decision to be recorded.**
- Wear masks
- **Wash hands**
- Social distancing applies
- **Sanitise areas after use (staff may do this)**

Personal Responsibilities

- **Adhere to current government guidelines**
- Work from home where practical.
- **Take lateral flow tests before coming to the office or on entry.**
- Take weekly PCR test as appropriate (PCR unit opposite Icelands, Hastings)
- **Only work from office to meet appointments (of any kind)**
- Only participate in inter-agency meetings via Zoom or Teams if possible.



RA Get Sky Sabre

A totally integrated state-of-the-art air defence system recently delivered to the Royal Artillery is propelling the British Army to the very forefront of ground-based air defence missile technology, the British Army reports on its website. Indeed, the Royal Artillery has accepted into its arsenal the Sky Sabre air defence system, providing a step-change in the British Army's medium-range air defence capability and with it, unprecedented speed, accuracy, performance, and target acquisition.

Sky Sabre, as the name implies, is very much at the cutting edge replacing its venerable predecessor Rapier which recently entered its fifth decade of operation with British Forces. Rapier has seen service in Kuwait, the South Atlantic, and probably most visibly when it deployed to numerous London parks to combat any security threats during the 2012 Olympics.

The new system is operated by 16 Regiment Royal Artillery, part of 7 Air Defence Group, based at Baker Barracks on the South Coast's Thorney Island. The Regiment is currently rolling out an extensive training package to transition from Rapier to the new system, and what a system that is.

To put into context how advanced Sky Sabre is, Major Tim Oakes, the Senior Training Officer for the training programme and one of the lynchpins in the delivery of the system, said: "Sky Sabre is so accurate and agile that it is capable of hitting a tennis ball-sized object travelling at several times the speed of sound. In fact, it can control the flight of 24 missiles simultaneously whilst in flight, guiding them to intercept 24 separate targets. It is an amazing capability."

Delivered by the MOD's procurement arm, Defence Equipment and Support, the system comprises three separate components. Although pictured in the accompanying photographs together, in reality, in the battlespace, they would be expected to operate at distances of up to 15km apart.

First of all, there are the eyes and ears of the system and for Sky Sabre that is the Giraffe Agile Multi-Beam 3D medium-range surveillance radar. This rotates atop an extending mast which allows it to be elevated above tree lines and other obstructions to identify low flying intruders. The Giraffe can see a full 360 degrees out to a range of 120km. It is a tried and very much trusted system that has seen numerous upgrades since it first entered service.

The second component lies at the very heart of the whole system. It is the Battle Management and Intelligence suite. In essence, the command and control centre. This capability links up the radar with the missiles and sends them to their targets. It also provides what is known as Link 16; this is a tactical datalink that allows Sky Sabre to share its information with Royal Navy vessels, the Royal Air Force, and our allies. It means that the system can be integrated wholly and contribute fully with joint, combined, or NATO operations.

Finally, we get to the sharp end; the third component is the Land Ceptor intelligent launcher and missile itself. At 99Kg each, the missiles are double the weight of the Rapier it replaces and have three times the range. This is the Common Anti-Air Modular Missile (CAMM) that reaches speeds of 2300mph and can eliminate fighter aircraft, drones, and even laser-guided smart bombs.

They are housed in eight silos mounted on the rear of their mobile launcher and when fired they launch in a unique



omnidirectional manner that significantly reduces its signature making it less of a target for enemy countermeasures. When exhausted, the Land Ceptor launcher can be replenished with a new set of eight CAMMs in less than half the time that it took to re-arm Rapier.

Sky Sabre's CAMM is the same missile that is used onboard ships (Sea Ceptor) and shares components with the Royal Air Force munitions (ASRAAM). This commonality across all services brings with it huge logistical efficiencies as well as significant cost savings.

The Commanding Officer of 16 Regiment Royal Artillery, Lieutenant Colonel Chris Lane, said: "We will be able to compete with our peers and take on some of the toughest adversaries. It gives us a capability we have not had before; this new missile system with its new launcher and world-class radar will absolutely put us at the forefront of ground-based air defence."

16 Regiment Royal Artillery is now accepting into service the first tranche of this significant upgrade in the UK's ability to defend itself from the air. Intended further procurements of Sky Sabre-based systems will be configured to operate in all parts of the globe. This means it could expect to see service worldwide much like its predecessor Rapier that will now gradually be phased out of service and returned to its scabbard!



HMS Queen Elizabeth Back in Gus

Royal Navy's flagship aircraft carrier HMS Queen Elizabeth returns to Portsmouth today after her global seven month maiden operational deployment leading Carrier Strike Group 21 (CSG21). Sailors, aviators, ships and aircraft have returned to their home bases in the Netherlands, United Kingdom and United States of America.

HMS Queen Elizabeth's crew are being welcomed back to their home base of Portsmouth after sailing 49,000 nautical miles to the Indo-Pacific and back. HMS Kent joined her later.

3,700 personnel from nine ships, a submarine, five air squadrons and a company of Royal Marines will arrive home in time for Christmas having departed the UK in early May.

Defence Secretary Ben Wallace said:

Today we pay tribute to the 3,700 personnel in the Carrier Strike Group that have been our global ambassadors on this historic and ground-breaking deployment.

The personnel and their families have made considerable sacrifices to make this deployment the success it has been. We thank them for all their efforts in strengthening our relationships with our allies and partners around the world.

Families and friends gathered in Portsmouth to meet their loved ones. Those deployed will transit straight home where they will take a PCR test and quarantine until they receive the result. 25 of those deployed on CSG21 met their babies who were born in the last seven months for the first time today.

Chief of the Defence Staff Admiral Sir Tony Radakin said:

Throughout the past seven months HMS Queen Elizabeth and her Strike Group have been furthering the UK's interests and strengthening our partnerships around the globe. With involvement from across the Armed Forces, and our allies integrated throughout, this deployment has been a truly joint, truly international endeavour, which represents the very best of Global Britain.

I thank everyone involved for their efforts to make this deployment such a resounding success, and I wish our returning sailors, aviators, soldiers and marines a very happy reunion with their families this Christmas.

Earlier this week, the Carrier Air Wing departed the group after clocking up 4,723 flying hours. The Air Wing consisted of UK F-35 jets from 617 (The Dam-busters) Sqn based at RAF Marham, Wildcat helicopters from RNAS Yeovilton and Merlin helicopters from RNAS Culdrose.

US Marine Corps F-35 jets from VMFA-211 departed CSG21 in late November. United States' Destroyer USS The Sullivans returned to her base port of Jacksonville, Florida in time for Thanksgiving last month and Dutch Frigate Evertsen recently returned to her home base of Den Helder.

Many families and friends greeted frigate HMS Richmond who arrived in Plymouth today, meanwhile HMS Defender and HMS Diamond returned to Portsmouth.

The Carrier Strike Group sailed across three oceans and five seas, cumulatively covering around 500,000 nautical miles. The group has engaged with 44 countries, strengthening partnerships with allies including Australia, Canada, New Zealand, France, Greece, Israel, India, Italy, Japan, Oman and the Republic of Korea.

The most significant peacetime deployment in a quarter of a century, Carrier Strike Group 21 has been more than just a military endeavour, bringing together elements of defence, diplomacy and prosperity and flying the flag for Global Britain.

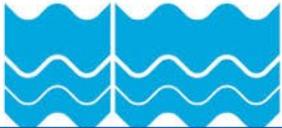




**A big
thank
you**
for all your
support.

**DURING
2021 & COVID 19**

East Sussex
County Council



THE SILVER LADY FUND
CHALLENGING POVERTY SINCE 1880

OpCOURAGE



The Veterans Mental Health
and Wellbeing Service

Sussex
Community
Foundation



**ARMED
FORCES
NETWORK**

NPF | **NETHERFIELD
PLACE FARM**

**SURVIVING
CHRISTMAS**



Hastings Voluntary Action

**MODELS
FOR
HEROES**



Bexhill Caring Community

"Serving the people of Bexhill for over 50 years"



GOLD

Scanmer Stone Works
Sculpture, Lettercutting, Masonry

**Change
Grow
Live**

**THE
NOT FORGOTTEN
ASSOCIATION**
From Comradeship To Challenge™

Hastings DIRECT
Refreshingly straightforward insurance



**VETERANS'
GROWTH**



ASDIC

Cobseo
The Confederation
of Service Charities

ALONG WITH
everyone who kindly made
donations to support our
Veterans In Need



Armed Forces Relax Criteria for Enlistment

People living with HIV will be allowed to enlist in Britain's army if they no longer carry a detectable amount of the virus.

In an announcement on World AIDS Day on 1 December, the Ministry of Defence said it also plans to change the fact that those who have the virus in the army are classed as not fully fit. Under current rules, people with HIV cannot join the armed forces and those diagnosed with the virus while serving are no longer viewed as "fully fit" and therefore banned from certain military operations.

From early 2022, serving military personnel in Britain who no longer carry a detectable viral load will be classified as fully fit and therefore able to partake in military operations.

In the past, anyone taking regular medication has typically been prohibited from joining Britain's armed forces, but those taking drugs to lower the risk of contracting HIV, such as PrEP, will now be included in the exceptions to this rule.

Leo Docherty, Minister for Defence People and Veterans, said: "Drug treatment has revolutionised the lives and outcomes of people diagnosed with HIV. As a modern and inclusive employer, it is only right that we recognise and act on the latest scientific evidence."

When someone living with the virus takes the right treatment, the amount of HIV in their blood can be lowered to such a level that it is undetectable and therefore untransmittable.

Ian Green, chief executive at the Terrence Higgins Trust, said: "This is a momentous day which shows how far we have come in the fight against HIV.

"It is absolutely the right decision and there is no reason why people living with HIV shouldn't serve in our armed forces.

"It's crucial that all the medical progress that's

been made in HIV is reflected in our rules and regulations with the armed forces a clear outlier up until today.

"These changes must now be urgently implemented. Many people will be surprised to learn that this ban was still in place and its removal will mean a huge amount to people living with HIV wanting to join or already serving in the military."

Those living with HIV remain banned from enlisting in America's armed forces.



No Government Waiver on Visa Fees

Army veteran MP rues 'missed opportunity' as Commons rejected visa fees amendment
House of Commons voted against an amendment to waive £2,389 visa application fee for foreign and Commonwealth service personnel.

MPs have rejected proposals to scrap visa fees for foreign-born UK veterans who want to remain in the country.

Two British Army veteran MPs – Labour's Dan Jarvis and Conservative Johnny Mercer – had tabled an amendment to the Nationality and Borders Bill to remove fees of more than £2,000 for personnel and their families who settle in the UK after five years' military service.

The House of Commons voted 296 to 251, a majority of 45, against the amendment. Dan Jarvis, a former Army officer, said the vote against the amendment was a "missed opportunity", accusing the Government of a "complete disregard for our foreign and Commonwealth-born servicemen and women". Johnny Mercer, also a former Army officer and a former defence minister, criticised the Defence Secretary and said Mr Jarvis and himself will continue to follow up the case of visa fees.

The Government has proposed that troops from non-UK nations who have served in the British Armed Forces for 12 years may be able to stay in the country for free.

Mr Mercer described the 12-year figure as being "plucked out of the air".

In May, the Ministry of Defence (MOD) said there was a proposal to waive the £2,389 visa application fee for Commonwealth service personnel, in order to "recognise their contribution".

A MOD spokesperson said: "The government is determined to address the issue of visa fees for the UK's foreign born service personnel and earlier this year we launched a consultation to see if more could be done.

"Any new policy must be fair, and this amendment would have unfairly impact British service personnel who marry or have dependents from countries outside the UK.

"The proposed period of 12 years is in line with the length of time personnel initially sign up to serve, and takes into account the significant investment in their skills and training."



Aid to Civil Powers

The Ministry of Defence said 297 personnel from the British Army and Royal Marines supported civil authorities in areas impacted by Storm Arwen, conducting door-to-door checks on vulnerable people in their homes and providing reassurance to local communities.

Eighty soldiers of 4 Royal Artillery based at Alan Brook Barracks in Topcliffe have deployed to Northumberland on Saturday to check on vulnerable people and identify where additional support is required, a statement said.

Defence Secretary Ben Wallace said: "Our dedicated Armed Forces personnel are working side by side with civil authorities to provide essential support to communities impacted by Storm Arwen.

"The ability to deploy quickly to wherever in the UK assistance is requested makes us all safer and ensures we are able to look protect the most

vulnerable in our society."

The head of the energy market regulator has also agreed with electricity companies to lift the cap on compensation for customers whose power was not restored quickly enough following Storm Arwen.

Ofgem announced on Friday it was launching a review of the companies' response to the storm which left thousands of homes without electricity.

The agreement between the regulator and companies means customers could receive more than the cap of £700 if firms are found to have fallen short of their obligations.



Felix Gets to Bottom of Problem

EOD Bomb squad raced to hospital after a WW2 artillery shell was removed from man's rectum.

The hospital removed a "chunky, pointed lump of lead designed to rip through a tank's armour" from the patient's backside.

A team from the British Army's Explosive Ordnance Disposal Unit had to rush to Gloucestershire Royal Hospital in Gloucester on Dec. 1 in response to a call about a World War II artillery shell that was retrieved from a man's backside.

The man was reportedly left in pain after he "slipped and fell" on the 17cm by 6cm ammunition while cleaning his private collection of military arsenal.



A police spokesperson said a team from 11 Explosive Ordnance Disposal Regiment raced to the hospital where they "confirmed it was not live and therefore not a danger to the public."



CLAUSTROPHOBIA

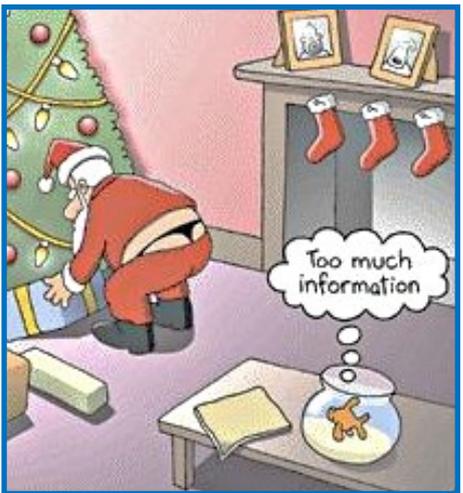
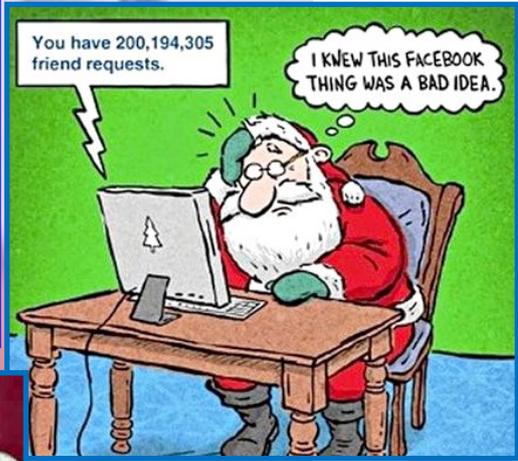
SANTA'S LOLS



"Before you get too excited, all those emails aren't from adoring kids. They're spam, so don't answer them or open attachments."



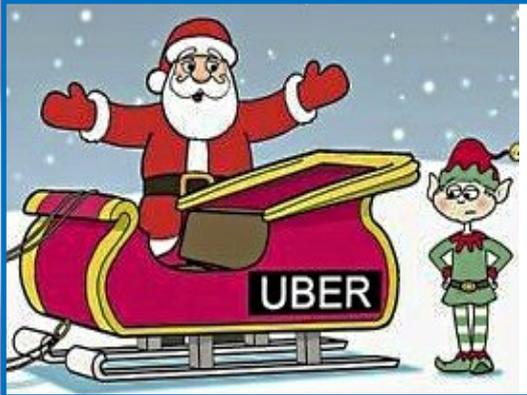
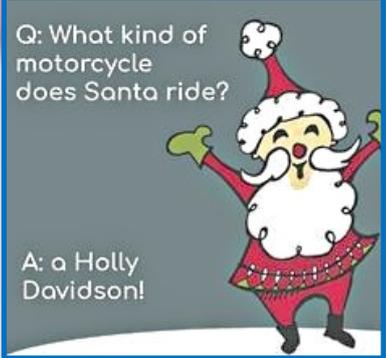
"Of course Santa is real, with real shipping and supply problems. Your presents are going to be late."



Why is Santa Claus always a man?
Because...
No woman will wear the same dress year after year...

w3mirchi.com

Well what do you expect me to do the other 364 days of the year?



Steve's Festive Special-Everyone's Favourite Mince Pies!



Ingredients:

360g plain flour
230g cold butter, diced
100g golden caster sugar
300g mincemeat
1 small egg, beaten
icing sugar, to dust

Chef Says:

For the pastry, in a mixing bowl, gently rub together the flour and butter, and then mix in the caster sugar, adding a small pinch of salt. Knead the pastry briefly and then press it into a ball shape, do not add any liquid. Wrap the dough in clingfilm and chill for half an hour or more.

Heat the oven to 200C/180C. Take, ideally non-stick, tartlet tins with at least 18 spaces, line each by pushing in a gobstopper sized pastry ball. Spoon the mincemeat into the pies and using smaller balls of pastry than before, shape them into circles big enough to cover the pies. Place the lids onto the pies and press the edges together gently to seal, they will stick on their own.

Finally brush the pies with beaten egg and bake for 20 mins until golden. Leave them in the tin to cool for 10 mins and then place them on a wire rack.

Dust lightly with icing sugar.

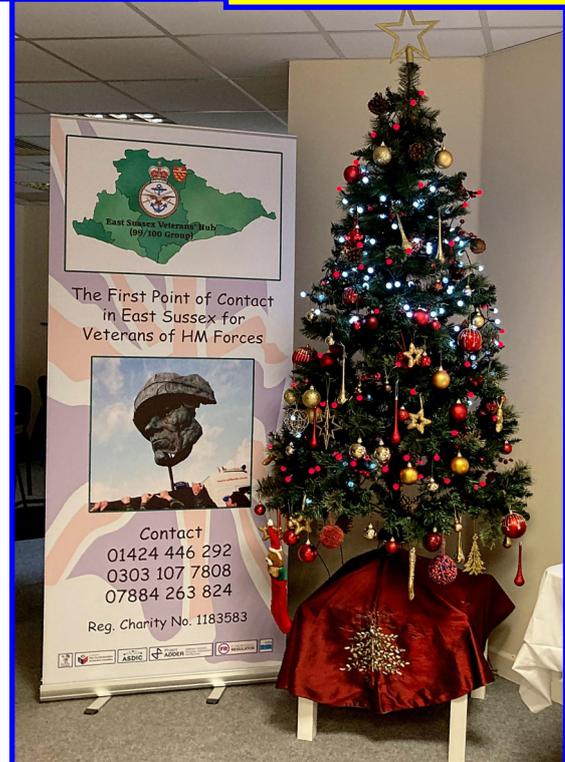
Serve and devour!

Enjoy!



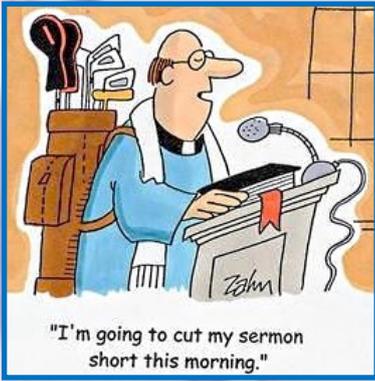
Milo Says:

Thank you Joan, for your kind donation of a Christmas Tree to ESVH
It's Great!

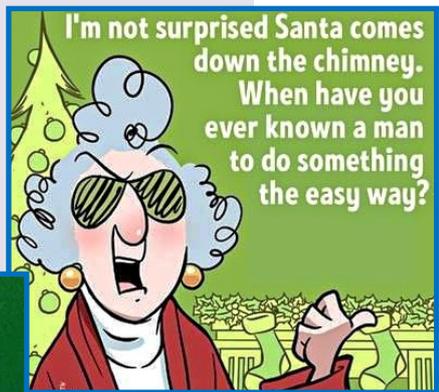


Spiderman 'Dropped In'
Now awaiting his
Verification of Service....

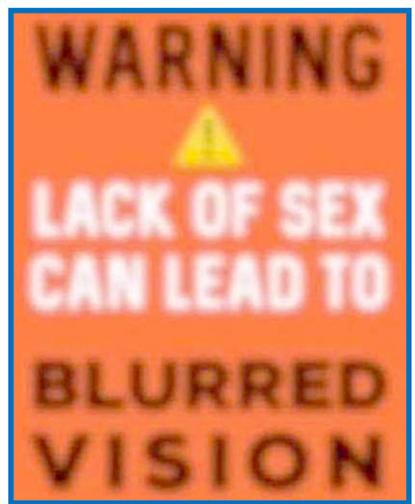
LoL



"I'm going to cut my sermon short this morning."



I'm not surprised Santa comes down the chimney. When have you ever known a man to do something the easy way?

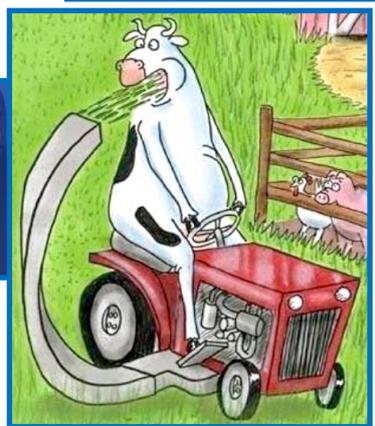


ABCDEFGH
IJKL MNOP
QRSTUVWXYZ

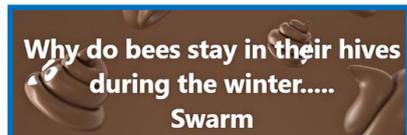
Get it?



My mate was trying to explain the technical aspects of the Red Arrows. But to be honest, they went right over my head.



I've just opened an Elvis Presley themed steak house. It's aimed at people who love meat tender.



Why do bees stay in their hives during the winter.... Swarm



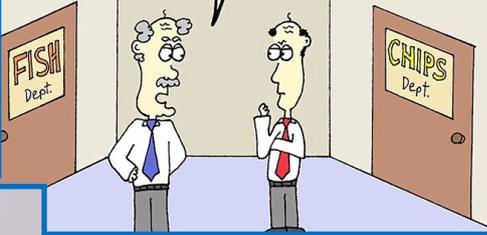
"Spider in the shower. Spider in the shower. Drama, drama, drama."



NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH
YOU'RE BEING JUDGED BY OLD PEOPLE AND CATS



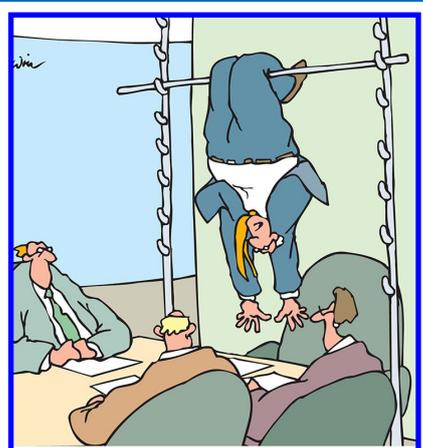
I just have this feeling... If our two departments could just collaborate, we could come up with something that's truly amazing.



I ASKED MY GRANDPA, "AFTER 65 YEARS, YOU STILL CALL GRANDMA DARLING, BEAUTIFUL, AND HONEY. WHAT'S THE SECRET?" HE SAID, "I FORGOT HER NAME 5 YEARS AGO AND I'M SCARED TO ASK HER."



PRINTER'S DOWN!



"And I'll keep raising the bar until someone comes up with a better business metaphor."