



# Inside the Dull Men's Club, where ordinary is a badge of honour

Those who marvel in the relatively mundane — from smooth Mars bars to fab bins — gather to celebrate the joys of missing out on glitz and glamour

Kaya Burgess

Sunday January 18  
2026, 6.35pm,  
The Times

Social media



The Dull Men's Club UK branch met on Sunday. Roy Palmer, a town crier, takes on St.John Burkett in a conker game overseen by James Packer, chairman of the World Conker Championships

JOSHUA BRATT FOR THE TIMES

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Forget the football — the biggest match of the day on

Sunday involved a man who collects photographs of dustbins taking on a pothole artist in a game of conkers.

The friendly contest took place under the watchful eye of the organiser of the World Conker Championships. One spectator was responsible for finding the world's smoothest Mars bar, and another has had a 50-year love affair with Britain's ornamental folly towers.

What could bring such a crowd together? A meeting of the UK branch of the now world-famous [Dull Men's Club](#).

Grover Click, 86, the DMC's American founder, gathered a small band of British aficionados from among the club's 2.1 million Facebook followers at a central London restaurant.



Grover Click, far left, with some dull friends

JOSHUA BRATT FOR THE TIMES

Click — who was born Leland Carlson, but believed that name was not quite dull enough for the club — said the DMC's occasional events were often “lively parties” despite the fact that members may be people who “don't

like to get out much”.

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The group is for people who prefer “a room without a view”, he said, and want to share how neatly they have arranged their sock drawer, or highlight a particularly beautiful drain cover.

Click founded the club while he was a tax lawyer in New York in the 1980s, when he realised there were not enough clubs or associations for people who just wanted an uneventful life. He brought the concept with him when he moved to the UK in 1996, accruing a legion of online followers on both sides of the Atlantic. Both men and women are welcome.



JOSHUA BRATT FOR THE TIMES

For four decades, Click's mission has been simple. "It's OK to be dull, it's OK to be ordinary," he said. "Enjoy what you've got."

The club, which exists mainly online, is "for people who want to avoid glitz and glam" and "are not constantly moving on to the next big thing".

Instead of suffering from fomo (the fear of missing out) they celebrate jomo (the joy of it).

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An advertisement for NTU Filtered Hot Taps. On the left, the text "NTU" is written in large, bold, black letters, with "FILTERED HOT TAPS" in smaller letters below it. In the center, there are two tap models: a gold-colored one and a silver one. Between them is a black water filter unit with a digital display showing "98°C". On the right, there is a gold-colored button with the text "Explore our ranges" in white.

Sunday's meeting was opened by Roy Palmer, 86, a Chelsea pensioner who has been a town crier for 25

years. He turned up in full ceremonial dress to proclaim that St. John Burkett was to be crowned the club's anorak of the year for his services to competitive conkers.



Palmer with Burkett

JOSHUA BRATT FOR THE TIMES

Most people use social media to make themselves and their lives seem more interesting than they really are by posting pictures of beautiful places, delicious food and exciting events. Those who post on the DMC's Facebook page are looking to do the precise opposite; to embrace the trivial and find beauty in the mundane. No hobby is too niche, no interest too boring.

Dave Clark, 55, from Caister-on-Sea in Norfolk, once posted a picture of a dustbin decorated like a Fab ice lolly. This led others to send him pictures of their own favourite bins. Going by the name Dustbin Dave, he now curates Bins Fantastic, an account which has more than 5,000 images of unusually shaped or exotically located rubbish bins. "They're all addicted to it now," he said.



Dave Clark

JOSHUA BRATT FOR THE TIMES

Harry Seager, 35, from Aylesbury, was on his way to a classic car show two years ago when he opened a Mars bar to find it was lacking the signature ripples on top. He took a photo and posted it on the DMC.



Within hours, it had been liked 15,000 times and he was being asked to give interviews to Australian and Indian broadcasters.

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Mars offered a £2 voucher to compensate him for the lack of ripples, sending him viral a second time.



JOSHUA BRATT FOR THE TIMES

Does he still have the famous bar? "I didn't know it was going to blow up," he said. "So I ate it."

Tim Webb, 69, from Orpington, has been on a crusade since 2023 to have all the potholes fixed in the London borough of Bromley. To make his point in what he described as a "quirky and quintessentially British" way, he creates and photographs art installations based around damaged surfaces, and even has a calendar showcasing his creations.



• [How good is your council at fixing potholes? Check our map](#)

Webb is among past recipients of the anorak of the year title. Rachel Williamson won in 2021 for making crocheted art to put on postboxes.

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Rachel Williamson

EYEVINE

Since setting eyes on Broadway Tower in the Cotswolds as a five-year-old, Glyn Headley from London, 79, has been in love with folly towers, built as indulgent flights of fancy around the British countryside, and has written books about them. “My wife has put up with this for 50 years and has been very patient,” he said.

The club offers an antidote to the frenetic pace of the world and the apocalyptic nature of the news, according to Burkett, 65, from Peterborough.



JOSHUA BRATT FOR THE TIMES

“All of this is just such nonsense,” he said. “It’s not miserable, it’s not got anything to do with [Donald Trump](#), it’s not a war. And people just seem to love it.”

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**Leland Carlson**



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**John Dyer**

18 JANUARY, 2026

“I didn’t know it was going to blow up,” he said. “So I ate it.” Worthy of James Bond!

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**Michael Howell**

19 JANUARY, 2026

Although if It had been a snickers with no nuts in, I would want a refund..

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**L Louise McElhone** ...  
18 JANUARY, 2026

I follow the dull men's club on fb, very funny  
I have recently joined the We Do Not Care Club (WDNC) a space for peri menopausal, menopausal and post menopausal women who are putting the world on notice that we simply do not care much anymore.

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**A A Speakman** ...  
18 JANUARY, 2026

How does one sign up to the WDNC Club?

Asking for a friend . . .  
*(Edited)*

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**M Matthew Smith** ...  
18 JANUARY, 2026

All this publicity and media frenzy is most unbecoming. Not really in the spirit of the DMC. I harrumph with mild disdain.

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**M Mike Poland** ...  
19 JANUARY, 2026

Yes, quite.

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- S** **Steve Tarantonio** ...  
18 JANUARY, 2026  
So my hobby of photographing sewer vent stacks( the ones that terminate in a crown shape) isn't so boring after all.  
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- D** **David Groundwater** ...  
18 JANUARY, 2026  
No, that really is dull  
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- P** **P Linnell** ...  
18 JANUARY, 2026  
At our local quiz, one team is made up of citizens originating from Dull in Scotland, in fact they live on the other side of town and so the Team has the imaginative name of 'Beyond Dull'.  
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- P** **Paul Gant** ...  
19 JANUARY, 2026  
Not so dull, but Dull is twinned with Boring in Oregon. And, completely unintentionally, I've visited both!  
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- J** **J Arthurs** ...  
18 JANUARY, 2026  
Where is the banana for scale?  
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- J** **J Prawer** ...  
18 JANUARY, 2026  
I thought everyone knew how big a Mars bar is.  
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- J** **Jonathan Chadwick** ...  
18 JANUARY, 2026  
Dull men's club is ace - please don't ban social media for the under 60s  
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  - B** **Brian Meharg** ...  
19 JANUARY, 2026  
Or the over 70s  
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- C** **Colin Traser** ...  
18 JANUARY, 2026  
This read was the highlight of my week. Should I join?  
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  - D** **Davina Domville** ...  
18 JANUARY, 2026  
Yes  
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- D Deepak Puri** ...  
18 JANUARY, 2026  
I used to be a member but it got a bit too racy for me  
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- P Peter Nicol** ...  
18 JANUARY, 2026  
I can see why after looking at the photos in the article. Some of the gentlemen are far too colourfully dressed to be genuinely dull.  
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- K Keith Lucas** ...  
18 JANUARY, 2026  
Sometimes the comments/replies are incredibly witty and funny, well worth mentioning in despatches.  
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- D Don Harris** ...  
18 JANUARY, 2026  
no offence meant Keith, but aren't 'incredibly witty and funny' comments incongruous on this topic?  
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**W** **W Giles** ...  
18 JANUARY, 2026

I once saw a sunlit field littered with those big black bags full of silage. The bags glinted in the sun and I wished that I was not doing 70 down the M4 at the time so that I could photograph the scene. Since then it has been my ambition to create a portfolio of these black bags in various locatio...

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**K** **K Baber** ...  
18 JANUARY, 2026

Most definitely,I'd have thought.

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**M** **Michael Fanning** ...  
18 JANUARY, 2026

Where do I sign up? I've been as dull as dishwater all of my life.

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**M** **Mrs J Spray** ...  
19 JANUARY, 2026

Interesting, I've always thought it was ditchwater that was dull - and arguably it is duller than dishwater, which can be full of frothy bubbles. But then, I suppose so can ditchwater in the wrong place...

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- S S Buckley** ...  
18 JANUARY, 2026  
Well I read and comment on the TOL . Does that qualify me??  
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- D D Burns** ...  
18 JANUARY, 2026  
That is a good, if not dull, question. I would say that it does not necessarily qualify you. But on the other hand you would not be necessarily disqualified. More evidence would be needed. Do you have an allotment?  
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- R R Rankin** ...  
19 JANUARY, 2026  
I am surprised the Times has allowed comments on this article. It's absolutely anarchic and likely to cause serious division throughout the country.  
*(Edited)*  
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- A Alison Dow** ...  
19 JANUARY, 2026  
So far every comment I have made here (gently appreciate nothing aggressive) has been removed for questioning by the Stasi... so I assume they are finding it all a bit dodgy.  
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- B B Potts** ...  
18 JANUARY, 2026  
I think I've found my people!  
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- B Barry Kneller** ...  
18 JANUARY, 2026  
Great to there's still a sense of humour in the mad world!!!!!!  
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- K Keith Stockwell** ...  
19 JANUARY, 2026  
The exclamation marks are most inappropriate Barry.  
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- J James Edge** ...  
18 JANUARY, 2026  
His shoes looked quite comfortable.  
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- J J Praver** ...  
18 JANUARY, 2026  
Quite hard wearing too. Cushioned insoles, do you think?  
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- R Richard Griffiths** ...  
18 JANUARY, 2026  
One of the funniest articles that I've read for a while. God bless eccentricity.  
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- S Stephen Crisp** ...  
18 JANUARY, 2026  
Great stuff. Rachel Williamson is my hero.  
*(Edited)*  
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**S Sam Keepse** ...  
18 JANUARY, 2026

I expect I'm alone in this thought: that crocheted covers, on postboxes look ridiculous and, although I don't give into it, my internal urge is to rip them off and have them look like ordinary postboxes.

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**M Mike Davis** ...  
18 JANUARY, 2026

Sorry, I love them. If you're ever in Hawes, the Yarnbombers make some wonderful things.

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**D Dr David Baker** ...  
19 JANUARY, 2026

Why no mention of the banana for scale?

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**E E Fox** ...  
18 JANUARY, 2026

Even the dullest activity is vulnerable to extremism:-  
<https://www.thetimes.com/uk/scotland/article/extreme-ironing-blamed-for-board-left-on-ben-nevis-vrrrqwc57>



**'Extreme ironing' blamed for board left on Ben Nevis**  
thetimes.com

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**M Mr Walter Ford** ...  
18 JANUARY, 2026

I tried to think of something dull enough to qualify but then fell asleep. Not sure that counts.

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**J** **JOHN LEIGH** ...  
18 JANUARY, 2026

Love it.

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**N** **N Marsh** ...  
18 JANUARY, 2026

We need more and less of ... you know.

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**J** **Jerry Beere** ...  
18 JANUARY, 2026

Conkers is a little too competitive, surely? And the added risk of digital injury is surely too much of a frisson on for the DMC?

*(Edited)*

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**S** **Steven Desoisa** ...  
18 JANUARY, 2026

The Dull Men's Clubs are all on Facebook however a word of warning, there are English and American versions. The latter has 2.1 million members and therefore only suited for adrenaline junkies. In fairness they do occasionally come up with some very dull post.

Under our glorious grey skies there seem...

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**D** **David Proud** ...  
19 JANUARY, 2026

Can you join both, or is that a bit racy.

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**B B Deeks** ...  
18 JANUARY, 2026  
I started off as an accountant but found that far too racy so switched to being an actuary. Does that qualify?  
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**W W Shallcroft** ...  
18 JANUARY, 2026  
That was risky.  
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**T Tom Stanley** ...  
18 JANUARY, 2026  
Wow never knew about the DMC. I am extremely boring and probably if I typed anything more fellow readers would be asleep! Must investigate this further. R.Stanley  
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**M Mark Thomas** ...  
18 JANUARY, 2026  
Didn't DMC have a collaboration with Aerosmith?  
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**M Michael Love** ...  
18 JANUARY, 2026  
What an outstanding club that is. I want to join, and so does David Beckham  
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**J J Prawer** ...  
18 JANUARY, 2026  
Sorry, Steve Davis blackballed him.  
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