



NEWENT & DISTRICT PROBUS CLUB

Inaugurated 23rd March 1977

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

January 2020



*Happy New Year
to all members,
partners and
friends of the club*

February 2020 Onwards

Tuesday 4th February
Pub Lunch

Tuesday 11th February

Blind Interaction – Paul
Holiman

Tuesday 25th February
The Chartists of Snigs End
– Alex Bailey

January Diary

Tuesday 7th January Pub Lunch at the Royal Exchange, Hartpury
12-30

Tuesday 14th January Mike Warburton - "Do as I say, not as I do"



Today's talk is about several powerful politicians who have pontificated about how we should live our lives but then failed to live up to these standards themselves. Mike speaks with inside knowledge as, in some of these, he played a part in exposing their failures.

Monday 27th January Quiz Night

Tuesday 28th January Roger Davies - Korea – The Forgotten War



June 2020 is the 70th anniversary of the outbreak of the Korean War. A war fought on behalf of the UN in which millions died and for over three years threatened nuclear Armageddon. However, it is now often called "the forgotten war" (despite the heroic rear-guard action of the Glosters on the Imjin River in 1951). As we speak, with no peace treaty, we are still technically at war with North Korea and the family dynasty established there in 1948 remains in power.



Probus Quiz Night

Kings Arms Newent

MONDAY 27 JANUARY 2020

7pm

Teams of FOUR

Prize for the winners

Wooden spoon prize for the lowest score

Food included (Basket meals)

Price tbc

Christmas Lunch 2019

Forty three of us, members, spouses and widows of former members sat down to a delicious meal at the Corse Lawn hotel. The canapes on arrival and petit fours after lunch added a nice touch to the occasion.

After the meal we were entertained by Fraser in his usual and inimitable manner.

Now the Chase is no longer available, the Corse Lawn is a welcome choice in terms of quality of food and service, though the L shape of the dining room tended to divide us into two groups. Nevertheless a good time was had by all.

Yvonne Slack

PS. For those of us who had the beef, we were surprised that they had no horseradish sauce!

The History of Pantomime

I made the mistake of telling Paul that I disliked pantomime and have not been to one since I was a boy, making a reluctant visit with my mother and two siblings. Therefore he immediately asked me to write this report.

Pantomime is a very British Christmas tide institution which invites and needs the audience to provide the necessary verbal responses. It is generally based on children's stories as they are the main target audience with singing, dancing, dreadful corny jokes (Oh yes they are) and slapstick. There are the 'baddies' and the 'goodies' and there is always a happy ending.

The origins of pantomime go back to 16th c. Italy with travelling actors putting on plays where Good overcomes Evil. This was expanded on by John Rich in the 18th c. and the Harlequin became an integral character in the story. Enter David Garrick who on finding that audiences were not greatly interested in serious plays over Christmas decided to compete with Rich and produced more family appropriate shows which were light and amusing. In the early days all parts were played by men but eventually it became the norm for the Principal Boy to be played by a woman, Vesta Tilley being the first. The main female character is still generally played by a man.

Stop Press: if you drive to Probus meetings, be aware of new parking restrictions at the Co-Op!

Christine Morgan expanded on many aspects of the history ranging from the stories to the writers, players and onto the rivalries between them. Modern day pantomime continues to do well with serious actors taking part and there is now a mix of new stories together with old traditional ones. However, the one thing that never changes is that the Good Fairy always has the last word on first night.

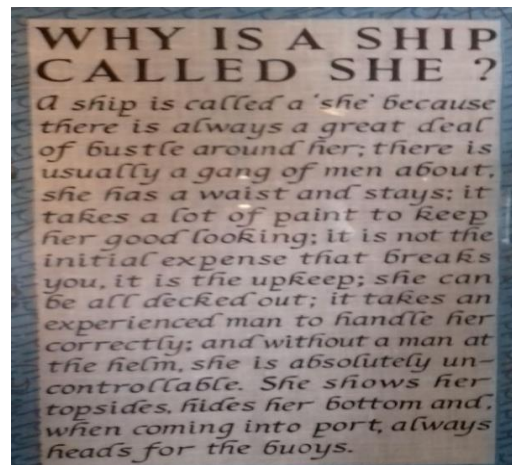
Andrew Graham

Member of the Month: Chairman Tony

(an occasional feature for newer members)



The team keeping Newent Probus running is, of course, this year headed up by Tony Pearson. Although he sometimes may appear rather bemused or perplexed, now that he's not jetting off to hunt down Russians, he's extremely good at the essential task of finding decent pubs (sometimes even in Hampshire), ensuring that speaker meetings run to time and generally piloting the club through the Grim Reaper's storm clouds and landing us in sunlit uplands. Or whatever. We should all be grateful to Tony, his predecessors and successors, for giving up so much of his time to club matters.



Seen at The Farmer's Boy, Longhope, destination of the October Probus Pub Lunch