



NEWENT & DISTRICT PROBUS CLUB

John Weeden; Chairman

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MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD via ZOOM

TUESDAY 10 AUGUST 2021 @10.30

Chairman: John opened the meeting and asked members to observe a minute's silence in memory of Michael Keene, who died last week.

He welcomed new member Chris Johnson.

He confirmed, that subject to any new restrictions, we will be resuming our normal meetings at Gorsley Village Hall on **Tuesday 28 September**. We hope to organise a "Welcome Back" event and a recruiting campaign at the end of October.

John also announced that this year's Christmas Lunch will be held at the Speech House Hotel, Speech House Road, Coleford GL16 7EL the cost will be £32.50 per head. Organiser John Martin asked for a show of hands as to who would likely to be attending. It was calculated that the number would be 40, plus a few extras for people, who are not attending today's meeting but may be interested. John Martin thanked the committee for their assistance and ultra-quick decision making. It was also announced that as a thank you for members "Sticking with us" during the pandemic that the club would pay for the drinks at the lunch.

Apologies: John Slack, Julian Oxley

Minutes of last meeting: Held on 27 July 2021 by Zoom previously displayed on the club website. Agreed

Matters Arising: None

Finance: Nothing to report, it was confirmed that Mike Warburton would take over the role of Treasurer at the end of August 2021

Speakers: Fraser announced that all speakers have now been booked up until the end of March 2022. **From the 28 September all speakers will be face to face.**

Webmaster: Ray said that the club had purchased the HDMI cable necessary for connecting to the overhead projector thus allowing our speakers to present talks with slides. Gorsley Village Hall still have to do some work on the system ready for their “Flicks in the Sticks “ show mid- September. John Franklin said that they will be carrying out the installation of the new HDMI cables and final test later this week. Then arrange for John Weedon to try his WiFi booster with the aim of transmitting Zoom talks from the hall.

AOB: Fraser announced that Sadie Baker widow of former chairman Nick Baker and loyal supporter of our club is moving to Norfolk. He said he would send a card from the club wishing her well.

Speaker: Barry Dent: George Stephenson – The Man and the Myth.

Barry gave a most enlightening look at the life and work of George, known famously and generally accepted as the designer of the Stephenson Rocket. But, in fact designed by his son. As so often happened in that period the innovative design details sometimes got blurred. Some very interesting people of that time were also involved with the same ideas and designs.

Birthdays: The birthday boys were Peter Hines and John Atkinson both celebrated on the 1st August. The club wished them well. Fraser said that it was sad that Michael Keene would have celebrated his 88th birthday on 25 August. Fraser dedicated a farming joke to Michael.

Next Meeting: Tuesday 24 August 2021 @10.30

Speaker: Dennis Harvey – A shot in the arm – The Pandemic in perspective.