



NEWENT & DISTRICT PROBUS CLUB

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MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT GORSLEY VILLAGE HALL

TUESDAY 26 OCTOBER 2021 @10.30

Chairman: John welcomed members and guest Ken Brown from Morecombe visiting John Atkinson. He also welcomed members Zooming, Michael Bennett, Peter Hines, Fred Bach, Terry Finch and a first, beaming Paul Dodd in from the Arctic Circle.

He said that there was concern over the increase in the number of Covid cases in the Forest of dean. He said that we will be keeping a close eye on anything that might affect our meetings and keep members informed of developments.

He also, mentioned that for those that have not yet had their covid booster, it may be booked online via the NHS website and attend the Malvern Showground.

Apologies: Roger Beard, Andrew Graham.

Minutes of last meeting: Minutes of the meeting held on 12 October 2021 displayed on the club website were agreed as a true record

Matters Arising: None

Finance: Mike said that he was preparing an updated version of the Members Handbook, he will also issue the Club Rules booklet to members who have not yet received one.

Speakers: Fraser said that if the Covid situation prevented us from meeting and having to revert to Zoom, he would probably have to change the speaker, as the speaker for the 9 November does not do Zoom. He said he would update members as and when we know what the situation is.

AOB: Christmas Lunch: John martin said that all was going well, with 51 people booked so far, which is a record. Because of the number attending we have been moved into the larger Edwin Talbot Suite, this will give us more space to circulate. He reminded members that the Hotel require masks to be worn in the public areas and asked those attending to take a Lateral Flow test on the morning of the lunch.
He asked those who have not yet booked to let him have their choices as soon as possible, so that he may make a start on the seating plan.

Speaker: David Terry – Are we alone in the Universe.

David gave a most interesting and thought-provoking talk, without notes or any visual aids, on the chances of there being terrestrial life elsewhere in the galaxy. He recounted a strange and amusing occurrence in Brazil, where a farmer was abducted by Aliens, treated very well and returned unharmed. There have been numerous accounts of Alien space ships being sighted, but most often there is a rational reason for the sightings. After some very detailed reasons, he concluded that it is improbable that there is life as we know it elsewhere in the Galaxies. He also commented that he thought we are spending far too much money on space exploration when our own planet needs some serious help.

Birthdays: None, but Fraser read out some unusual events that had occurred in the news this week.

Next Meeting: 9 NOVEMBER 2021

Speaker: Peter Petrie – 1300 years of Gloucester Cathedral.