



## NEWENT & DISTRICT PROBUS CLUB

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### MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT GORSLEY VILLAGE HALL

**TUESDAY 09 November 2021 @10.30**

- Chairman:** John welcomed members both in person and on Zoom.
- He reminded members of 3 remaining dates for Probus this year. A committee meeting on 15 November, a pub lunch on 16 November and the Xmas lunch on 14 December.
- He mentioned that the Treasurer was keen to reintroduce our raffle for a bottle of wine at each meeting starting in January. There was general agreement to this proposal.
- Apologies:** David Clowes, Fraser Gunn.
- Minutes:** Minutes of the meeting held on 26 October 2021 displayed on the club website were agreed as a true record.
- Matters Arising:** Mike Warburton confirmed that he was awaiting full details and a photograph regarding Colin Chapman, one of our new members, and he can then issue the new Members details handbook. Colin agreed to send the necessary information to Fraser for onward transmission to Mike.
- Finance:** Mike confirmed that he was hoping for all payments for the Xmas lunch to have been made by 24 November. It was £32.50 per head.
- Speakers:** Fraser was not present but John confirmed the speaker programme was fully booked for several months.
- AOB:** There was no other business
- Speaker:** Peter Petrie – Gloucester Cathedral

Peter had been a guide at the Cathedral for 16 years and gave us a very interesting and knowledgeable talk on its history, starting in Roman times. His talk was illustrated by numerous slides and much was packed in to his 45 minutes. He explained how the current structure was begun in Norman times around 1089 by Llanfranc, and an “early English gothic” church was created in stone with 14-15 foot diameter pillars which are still visible.

Originally there were twin towers at the west end but one collapsed during a service held by the Bishop of Worcester. Both towers were removed and replaced by a higher central end in 1350, in Peter's view making the west end far less attractive.

In 1327 Henry II, who had been very unpopular, was murdered in Berkeley Castle. However he is buried in the cathedral in what has been described as the finest medieval tomb anywhere. For the first time the carved representation on top of the tomb looked like the incumbent.

The east window was built in the 1350s and was then the biggest in the world. The cloisters are an intact square created about the same time. They follow the Mediterranean style of being built to the north of the Church, to shelter the working monks from the sun, but in Gloucester can be an extremely cold place. The cloisters are famed for their fan vault ceilings. The fans themselves are hollow and during the Second World War there was a worry that if they were set on fire the water from fire fighting would fill them up and they would collapse. Accordingly drain holes were inserted which are still visible.

Henry VIII was persuaded to allow further building to the cathedral but only if it continued other than a catholic church. It became protestant, with its own Bishop, and was therefore formally a cathedral.

In modern times the Cathedral has a large educational department and a famous Three Choirs festival in July/August.

**Birthdays:** Jack Porteous, David Clowes and Michael Bennett  
In Fraser's absence no jokes were allowed

**Next Meeting:** 23 November 2021 (LAST OF THE YEAR)

**Speaker:** John Gove - The causes of WWI, an alternative view