

NEWENT & DISTRICT PROBUS CLUB

Inaugurated 23rd March 1977
**MONTHLY
NEWSLETTER**

January 2022

Looking Ahead

February 8th

Robert Arley - Mapping
Motorways - creating the
M4, M5 & M6.

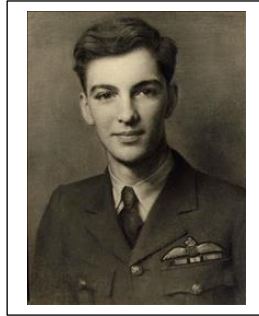
February 22nd

Nigel Thompson –
Gloucestershire Blue
Badge Holders.



January Diary

January 11th Phil Bevan – F/O Robert David Ackers



Phil traces the family and service history of 152010 F/O Robert David Ackers RAFVR, who was Killed in Action flying a Hawker Typhoon during the battle of Normandy.

He lived at Huntley Manor with his parents Major Charles Penrhyn Ackers and mother Dorothy Jane Ackers.

January 25th Mike Bottomly – “Jack in the Green” The revival of an old Gloucester custom



The Jack in the Green consists of a wooden or wicker frame that is covered in woven foliage, including green branches, leaves, and flowers. It is worn on the upper half of a human body and carried along in May Day processions. There is often a slot in the frame out of which the individual inside of it can see, and the individual's feet can often be seen below the framework.

From the Chairman

Dear Members,

Another strange year for us all. We have now had to hunker down for two Christmases in a row but somehow we have managed to have a number of in person meetings at our new meeting place at Gorsley Village Hall, which has been a great improvement on our previous venue. It has also been a relief to see each other in the flesh after over a year of zooming. With a recent pub lunch and a Christmas party, both of which were popular and well attended, it hasn't been all bad!

Omicron is clearly more infectious than its predecessor, but it seems agreed that it is comparatively less dangerous. Let us hope that is right, and that we can continue safely to hold our face to face meetings in 2022. The committee will be in touch to confirm whether or not we will meet in person on 11 January; we always have Zoom as back-up if required. If we do meet at Gorsley we will all need to carry out a lateral flow test beforehand as usual, so stock up on the test kits when you can. It would be wonderful to get back to normal later in 2022.

The Committee and I send you all best wishes for a Healthy and Happy New Year.

John

2021 Christmas Lunch

"Well, we're all still here!" was one lugubrious greeting. True, our staying power has to be commended: fifty of us at the Speech House on the 14th December. There were people I've known for years on every table but also some new to me, like the young man on my left who is also from Sussex and we exchanged reminiscences of Brighton and its surrounds: the Palace Pier with its slot machines that took our large old pennies; the Royal pavilion that I could see from my bedroom window, which my six year old self thought absolutely usual; the Lanes with their cages of singing birds outside small shops that sold probably valuable stuff, awash in Brighton after the war; the double decker bus over the cliffs to Rottingdean past Roedean, which, funnily enough I did not attend, my father failing the cheque book test. On my left were a couple who found their allotment in Newent a life-saver during lockdowns and opposite me a couple whose children went to school with mine. Such was the rich social mix at the event, reflective of the Probus club.

The room we were in was an add-on to the ancient building and nodded respectfully to its architecture with ceiling open to the rafters and beams across which were also handy for decorative lights. The tables were the dreaded eight-seaters, which require shouting across and someone like me with long arms and the chutzpah to take charge of the butter/sugar/ milk/mince pies plonked inaccessibly in the middle.

Fraser Gunn entertained us with stories which I found funny at the time but of course, now can't remember. The service was good as was the food: a triumph from what one hears of staffing difficulties at present.



The
SCOTTISH VARIANT
At least you can hear it coming.

Many thanks to all who organised the lunch. Everyone appreciated a proper (dare I use the word "gathering" ?)

Marian Moore

PUB LUNCHES

Following the excellent turnouts at the November Pub Lunch and the Christmas Lunch, we plan to include monthly pub lunches in our social programme next year. The plan is to hold a lunch on the first Tuesday of each month, starting on 1st March 2022. The lunches will be arranged by Peter Hines.



We aim to build a list of pubs which meet our basic requirements - open on Tuesdays, good and reasonably priced food, ample space and parking, friendly atmosphere and clean loos. Unfortunately many pubs fail to meet one or more of these, which restricts our choice. So all members who have had a good experience of dining out locally are urged (nay, begged) to pass the details on to Peter by phone or email. Your support in terms of attendance and suggestions is vital.

Peter Hines

Remember – partners are very much welcomed at these events, and not merely as drivers!!! - Ed

New Word



Testiculate
To wave one's arms about while talking bollocks

IN MEMORIAM

Rev Canon Allan Kemp

The Rev'd. Allan Kemp, a former member of Newent Probus Club, died on Boxing Day 2021 in Gloucester Hospital, at the age of 78. He had been in failing health for some time.

Allan trained for the Church of England ministry at Bishop's College, Cheshunt and Oakhill College, Southgate, London. He was ordained as Deacon in 1968 and as Priest in 1969. He was curate at St. James's Church, Tunbridge Wells, from 1968-1976, then Vicar of St. Mary's Church, Becontree, from 1976-1990. He was Rural Dean of Barking and Dagenham from 1981-1986 and Vicar of Great and Little Chesterford from 1990-2007. In 1999 he was made a Canon of Chelmsford Cathedral. He retired in 2007, when he and his wife Sandra moved to Newent.

Allan joined Probus holding the position of Almoner for a time. He continued his ministry by helping out at local churches, particularly St. Mary's in Newent. He was well known in Newent for his work in the charity shop. Once in a talk at Probus he mentioned how walking the dog enabled him to connect with people, and he would often walk his dog to the Arboretum to meet people. He was a very likeable person, with a good sense of humour. He had certain misgivings about where the church might be heading, misgivings some of which I share. In his latter days in Probus he began to walk with a stick and his health, and that of his wife Sandra, began to fail. He will be missed by many in Newent, and to his wife and family we extend our deepest sympathies.

Michael Bennett

Alf Lawrence

Former Probus member Alf Lawrence has sadly died. His cremation on December 21st was for immediate family only. He and Audrey had been married for 72 years. Alf left the club owing to his dementia and hearing. He was quite a character. When moved from Cheltenham Hospital to a Care Home he was less and less able to communicate. Our thoughts go out to Audrey and his family. An obituary will appear in the February newsletter.



Probus Quiz Night

King's Arms

Newent

**MONDAY 31
JANUARY 2022**

7pm

Prize for the winners

Teams of four

*Wooden spoon prize for the lowest
score*

Basket Food included

Price £10

inclusive of basket meal

*Chicken Goujons & Chips, Scampi &
Chips, Fish Goujons & Chips, Veg
option Mac & Cheese*