



## NEWENT & DISTRICT PROBUS CLUB

**John Weeden; Chairman**

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### MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD

**TUESDAY 12 APRIL 2022**

**Chairman:** Chairman John welcomed a new or prospective member, Bob Phillips, and hoped that he would become a regular attendee. He further apologised for the constant changes in anti-Covid precautions that were bedevilling our meetings but he pointed out that the situation was very fluid and members' health and safety was paramount. Discussion on the Spring lunch and related issues was deferred to a later item

**Apologies:** Apologies were received from Fred Passant, John Martin, Roger Beard, Colin Chave, Ray McCairn, John Franklin (who is recovering at home after his recent operation) Gareth Williams and Fraser Gunn

**Minutes of last meeting:** 22 March 2022 previously displayed on the club website were agreed as a true record and duly signed.

**Matters Arising:** None

**Treasurer:** It was agreed that, due to the proximity of the Special Bank Holiday to a possible postponed Spring Lunch date and the fact that our chosen venue was the same one as for our June pub lunch, we would not go ahead with the former. It was further agreed that the monies already paid for this lunch should be retained by the Treasurer and credited towards members' individual annual subscriptions, when the amount has been confirmed.

**Speaker Secretary:** In Fraser's absence there was nothing to report.

**Pub Lunches:** Peter reported a disappointingly low take up so far for the **May** lunch at the **Trumpet Inn** and he urged members to reconsider whether they could attend. The venue for the **June** lunch was confirmed as the **Walwyn Arms**

**Outings:** Of the three options previously circulated by David, the one to the National Memorial Arboretum attracted the most support. Accordingly, he will try to arrange a visit for late Summer/early Autumn, A fourth suggestion was made – that of a visit to the Morgan Car Company. Members could make their own way there by car. The concept proved popular and he will find out further details and report later

**Theatre Trips:** In view of the prevailing uncertainty with Covid, no trips are currently being planned

**Webmaster:** Ray, in his absence, had left word that the club's site was up to date

**AOB:** NEWSLETTER. In his absence, Paul was thanked for producing the newsletter for so many years The search for his successor continues

**Today's Speaker:** Mike Bottomly, a fellow Probus member from Glevum Club entertainingly spoke of Folk Traditions in Gloucestershire and the South West, principally of the vaguely sinister figure "Jack in the Green". Jack has Chimney Sweep and woodland origins and is possibly a hangover from a long-forgotten fertility rite. He is not peculiar to Gloucester, appearing in some form or another throughout the South West. A close relation would be the Cornish Floral Dance, with its swirling "Obby Oss! which welcomed the coming of Spring. Wassailing and Gloucester's own Cheese Roll, also figured and it was generally accepted that most, if not all, members had learnt something new.

**Birthdays:** Chairman John congratulated Gareth on his birthday, in his absence, and told some of Fraser's jokes.

**Next Meeting:** 26 April, when it will be the AGM. A good turnout was hoped for.