



NEWENT & DISTRICT PROBUS CLUB

Andrew Graham: Chairman

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Fraser Gunn; Honorary Secretary

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MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD

TUESDAY 8 NOVEMBER 2022

Chairman: Andrew welcomed everyone to the meeting, with an excellent attendance of 22 members. He thanked Mike Townsend for standing in for him at the previous meeting. He gave an update on John Slack, whose shoulder injury is improving although unfortunately he also has a reoccurrence of an old back problem.

Apologies: Apologies were received from John Slack, Peter Hines, Colin Chave and Fred Passant.

Minutes of last meeting: 25 October 2022 minutes previously displayed on the club website were accepted as a true record and duly signed.

Matters Arising: None

Treasurer: Mike confirmed that the club's finances were in a good state. He stated that to date 13 payments have been received for the Christmas Lunch and requested that everyone attending should pay as soon as possible. Following this month's Pub Lunch some drinks and a main course had not been paid for, and Mike asked everyone attending future Pub Lunches to check their bills and ensure that they had paid for everything before leaving.

Speaker Secretary: Nothing to report

Pub Lunches: Andrew thanked Peter Hines for organising all the 2022 Pub Lunches and confirmed that the next one was scheduled for February 2023. He said that Peter may be looking for some assistance in organising the lunches next year but Peter would confirm this at a later date.

John Martin updated the meeting on the Christmas Lunch, a total of 50 people have booked so far but some have not sent him their menu choices which he needs as soon as possible. He confirmed that the lunch is at The Hatherley Manor Hotel on 13th December – 12.30 for 13.00

Outings: Nothing to report.

Theatre Trips: Nothing to report.

Webmaster: Nothing to report.

AOB: Andrew thanked Kelvin Ashby for taking the minutes at the meeting as Fraser was doing the presentation. The location of 'Where am I' in November's Newsletter was Springfield Terrace in Westward Ho.

Today's Speaker: Fraser Gunn - The Great Fire of London - 1666

Our resident 'Firefighter' Fraser gave a very comprehensive, detailed and interesting presentation on the Great Fire of London. He started by giving an overview of conditions prior to the fire such as highly flammable timber & thatched building in close proximity to one another, 400,000 people living in a relatively small area, the population living in a state of fear due to plague and ongoing wars. He continued with an account of the fire that started in Thomas Farriner's bakery in Pudding Lane, which was allowed to get out of control by the indecision and lack of action from London's Mayor, Thomas Bloodworth, and which was finally extinguished by the actions of King Charles and his brother James the Duke of York. He concluded the presentation with details of the official report into the fire and how London was subsequently rebuilt and the population rehoused.

Andrew gave details on a book that he has – The Dreadful Judgement by Neil Hanson – about the fire which he is happy to lend to anyone that would like to read it, as long as he gets it back!

Birthdays: David Clowes and Michael Bennett, plus a couple of Fraser's 'fire themed' jokes.

Next Meeting: 22 NOVEMBER 2022

Speaker: Dr Tim Brain – The Gloucestershire Regiment at the Imjin River 1951