



## 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 14 MARCH 2023**

**Chairman:** Andrew welcomed members to the meeting and in particular our guest Chris Yates and hoped he will join as a member.

**Apologies:** David Clowes Chris Lathan, Chris Johnson.

**Minutes of last meeting:** Held on 8 March 2023 previously displayed on the club website were accepted as a true record and duly signed.

**Matters Arising:** None

**Treasurer:** Mike was pleased to announce that all is well and the club is solvent

**Speaker Secretary:** Fraser said that all is good, he has however a space for a speaker on 27 June. So if there is anyone who would like to give a talk, then please let him know.

**Pub Lunches:** Andrew said that he was rather disappointed with the Pub Lunch at the Trumpet. The restaurant area was cold and the food wasn't up to the standard that was received on our last visit.  
Paul Dodd, who is organising the next pub lunch at the Bunch of Carrots on 4th April, was confident that we won't be disappointed with our visit there. He will circulate the menu options shortly.

**Outings:** None organised

**Theatre Trips:** Non Organised

**Webmaster:** Ray said that all is well, he is at present updating information and the events page is up to date until the Summer Party in July.

**AOB:** None

**Today's Speaker:** Philip Bowen – The decline of the Aristocracy and Stately Homes.

It was nice to welcome Philip in the flesh, as he had given us a talk via ZOOM back in 2020. Philip gave a most interesting and detailed talk on how the Aristocracy have fared over the last century and its position in our society today. He surprised us with the fact that so much of our land, is still in the ownership of such few people, especially in Scotland where the figure is 92%. He showed us pictures of so many magnificent buildings that have been demolished, primary as a result of Inheritance Tax making the owners no longer able to fund the maintenance of the buildings in a state of good repair. He also talked about the political pressures the owners of the houses that had been put under. Fortunately a lot had been purchased or bequeathed to the National Trust. He said that many of the fine houses have had to diversify and open their doors to the general public to survive.

**Birthdays:** Fraser announced the birthdays of Chris Johnson and himself. This was followed up with his usual jokes.

**Next Meeting: 28 MARCH 2023**

**Speaker: Pamela Holland** – Tales of a Holiday Rep