

Denbigh and District Probus Club – precis of meeting – 15.5.23

remarks by Graham Evans

The meeting was attended by 24 members and 2 prospective members. Our speaker was Jane Moore.

We had five apologies, plus two on sick leave. We all extended our good wishes for a speedy recovery.

We gave an offering of thanks

For the gardens we enjoy
For the good weather which allows us to visit them
and for all the flowers, plants and trees
we are thankful.

We then sat down to a turkey lunch and good conversation.

After lunch we gave a toast to the King and thanked the hotel staff for a good meal.

We had lots of birthdays this month - seven.

We moved on to club business

Keith Lester has arranged a visit to the Woodland Trust at Bodfari for July 4th at 2.30pm

Meet for tea and biscuits, visit the workshops and polytunnels, orchard, herb gardens, allotments etc for about an hour. A longer walk through the woodland later if people wish to do so.

We have directions available if anyone needs them. As it is a charitable organisation it is suggested that attendees contribute £5 for the visit. Further details nearer the date.

We then introduced our prospective members.

We look forward to welcoming them as future members should you vote for them.

We then thanked the lunch money collectors and our Finance Officer asked me to remind everyone that their membership fees are now due, if not already paid.

Julia mentioned a Local History Society talk on “Daily skills of our ancestors” at Llandyrnog village hall on May 17th.

We then had a ten minute break following which we heard from Jane Moore, County Organiser for the National Gardens Scheme in North East Wales. I attach the details of her talk provided by Julia.

Following questions, a vote of thanks to Jane was extended on behalf of Probus.

We closed the meeting with a toast to Denbigh and District Probus Club.

Our next meeting is on June 5th, when our speaker will be Vicky MacDonald talking about the Building of the Mulberry Harbours.

{Note: All names have been removed except for those of prominent Committee Members and Speakers.}

The history of the National Garden Scheme – a talk for Denbigh and District Probus club

At the May meeting of the Denbigh and District Probus club, members were delighted to welcome Jane Moore who presented her illustrated talk on “The history of the National Garden Scheme and open gardens in 2023”.

Jane has been County Organiser of N.E. Wales for the last 13 years and opened her previous garden in Llanrhaeadr near Denbigh many times but her new garden in Denbigh only once so far.

The story began in Liverpool in 1847 when William Rathbone, a wealthy Liverpool merchant employed a trained nurse to care for his dying wife, and realised the huge difference nursing would make to the lives of the general people in his city.

Rathbone retained Mary's services (the nurse) so that people in Liverpool who could not afford to pay for nursing would benefit from care in their homes. Seeing the good that nursing in the home could do, William Rathbone and Florence Nightingale worked together to try to develop the service – and so organised ‘district nursing’ began.

The National Garden Scheme (an enabling charity) has evolved and grown over the years since being established in 1927 to raise funds to support the nursing and caring charities and this year it gave £3.11 million from the proceeds in 2022, with N.E. Wales contributing £18,000 of that total. The core beneficiaries include Macmillan Cancer Support, Marie Curie, Hospice UK, and The Queen's Nursing Institute. In 2016 the Scheme began an annual funding programme to support gardens and health-related projects run by charities. The first gardens and health beneficiary was Horatio's Garden who received a donation of £130,000.

For every £1 raised, 82 pence is donated and garden owners can also choose to donate 20% of the proceeds of their opening day to a charity of their choice.

The Scheme opens over 3,500 private gardens to the public each year with many opening their gates to everyone on set days, but others opening exclusively for groups or friends and family by arrangement with the garden owner. This year, 25 gardens in the N.E. Wales area will be open through the scheme.

Health and Safety is a key area in the organising of the opening of the gardens and there is emphasis on how gardening benefits people's health and wellbeing but also tea and cake are an extremely important part of the opening day. Mary Berry is the President of the scheme and opens her own garden to the public.

Gardens in the N.E. Wales area still to open this May are Aberclwyd Manor, Hafodunos Hall and Garthewin with Brynkinalt Hall, Aberclwyd Manor, 33 Bryn Tŵr and Lynton, Scott House, Glasfryn Hall, Gwaenynog, 17, Ffordd Walwen and White Croft due to open in June.

Our next club meeting will be on Monday 5th June when Vicky Macdonald will speak about Conwy and Mulberry Harbour.