

Denbigh and District Probus Club – precis of meeting – 6/2/23

Remarks by John Barr, President

After welcoming all, I opened the proceedings on a sad note.

As you are aware, Neville Pratt passed away last month. Neville was a Member of the Club for many years and on the Committee as Press Correspondent for a number of those. Personally, I didn't know Neville very well, but I do know he was a lovely gentleman and I am sure he will be greatly missed by his family and friends.

As a mark of our respect, we stood for a minute's silence, then raised a toast to Neville.

Sitting down to lunch, we were, 29 Members out of 37 – including our latest Member Andrew Faulkner. Plus, we had 2 guests - Alison Henshaw on her second visit as Avril's guest' and Gareth Davies as a guest of Graham Evans - who were both most welcome.

Our speaker this month was one of our Members – our very own Ian Glass.

We had apologies from Members ... two who were in Italy, and four others who were simply elsewhere. Then on sick parade were ... again ... two. We wish them both well.

We then had an “offering of thanks”. Since we'd just passed Burns Night and I am, despite living much longer in Wales than in Scotland, still at heart a Scot, I thought that this month we would use Burns' Selkirk Grace. I took the liberty of adapting it from the Old Scots, in the hope that those present could comprehend it:

*Some have meat but cannot eat,
Some have none but want it;
But we have meat and we can eat,
So, let's all give thanks for it.*

We then had a very nice lunch of traditional meat, potato and two veg followed by a pie and cream after which we toasted the King and I made the following remarks.

1. I enquired if the lunch was satisfactory, as last month, some of you were less than pleased with the main course whilst others thought it was very good and a welcome change. Which just goes to show that you can't please all the people all the time. There were no adverse comments and general praise all round.
2. Steve Tootell was applauded for a good job well done, ... yet again, the hero of the hour.
3. Two Birthdays, this month - HAPPY BIRTHDAY to both.
4. Before moving on to Club Business – a Member told this short anecdote.

Our president has just commented on the meal at our January meeting, which some loved some hated. I personally loved it although I am not supposed to have spicy meals. I had a heart attack the following day – the 10th January and my wife took me straight to the doctor's surgery. He took my blood pressure, gave me a dispersible aspirin and a doctor's note and sent me straight to Bodelwyddan Hospital.

The enzymes around the heart are supposed to be no more than 14 and mine were 31. They asked for a further blood test which read at 51. So they admitted me to hospital. I was lying in A&E all wired up with ECG plugs all over my shoulders, body and legs and an overhead screen was reading out my pulse, blood pressure and audible heartbeat. I lay like this all night.

My wife and I never open each other's post, so she brought my letters in the following morning. Imagine it. I am all wired up and being monitored and the first envelope I opened was: “PURE CREMATION”. I roared with laughter and showed it to all the nurses and doctors.

Then we moved on to Club Business.

- A. We welcomed our latest Member - who gave us an introduction to himself:
- B. Our Membership Officer, has put together an update to GDPR permissions which has been / will be given to everyone and he will appreciate rapid return of the letter duly signed.
- C. At the last meeting I appealed to you all to give Steve a break and respond promptly to his lunch invite. Steve tells me things have improved a bit – which is great, thanks to most of you. However, there is still room for improvement. You know who you are! If you can't come, please let Steve know promptly.
- D. Thanks went to our Finance Officer's with gathering the readies and thanks to ... for volunteering for next month.
- E. You may recall that last month we decided to gather back-up contact details for each member? Well, as you know, I sent out an email request for this information and so far, I've received 19 responses. Those who haven't responded, if you don't want to provide the info, that's fine – but, please, just let me know, and I won't chase you for it.
- F. Lastly and most importantly I reminded everyone that we still seek a Vice President for this year – to be President next.
I expressed my disappointment that no-one has yet come forward and pointed out that “No President – No Club”. After all ... a ship doesn't sail without a Captain.
So, please, no more “well I would, but”.

Then we had a break before Ian Glass's discourse on “Classic Car Rallying and Touring”.

In my introduction to Ian, I pointed out that in the little biography that Steve sent out with the lunch invite, I read that ... *Ian has “an abiding interest in scrap and rust”.*

Now we know why Ian joined Probus!!!

See Julia's synopsis of Ian's talk.

After a number of interesting questions ... gave a Vote of Thanks.

Then we had the toast to 'Denbigh and District Probus Club' and closed the meeting with a reminder that the next is on 6th of March

Our March speaker will be Mark Wilson of the Principality Building Society; talking on “fraud and scam awareness”.

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

Speed, Scrap and Rust - Classic Car Rallying and Touring

Members of the Denbigh and District Probus Club were delighted to welcome one of their members Mr Ian Glass to their February meeting in the Oriel Hotel, St Asaph to speak about Classic Car Rallying and Touring.

Ian, who was born in Nigeria and spent his early childhood years there, started his love of cars and speed on a solid tyred tricycle. This was soon replaced when he was 5 years old by a bright red Austin J40 pedal car complete with working headlights, horn, pneumatic tyres and a bonnet that opened to reveal an imitation engine and at that point he believed he was a fully fledged racing driver!!

With five of his young friends, he took it for a spin down a steep hill to see how fast it could go and ended up with it embedded into the wing of a police Landover!! Following many incidents and scrapes and the confiscation of the car, it was assumed that Ian's thirst for speed and the love of all things mechanical would have been dampened – how wrong they were!! Back in Wales he bought his first car (an Austin 7 in appalling condition) aged 9 to drive around his grandfather's field.

Ian ran a transport business for 30 years and for the last 20 years has been organizing classic car tours throughout the U.K. and Europe.

He got hooked after his first competitive classic car rally in 1993 and his numerous events since include completing six Monte Carlos!

He explained how classic car rallying works and the rules and regulations with the details peppered with anecdotes of rule breakers, close shaves and scrapes! The cars never go over 30 miles per hour and the driver does as he is told as the navigator is most important! More people are killed in classic car rallying and vintage racing than any of the other motor sports due to the cars not being as safe.

In most of the rallies he has driven in, he raises money for charity including for pancreatic cancer during the Monte Carlo Clasiq and for a children's hospice during the 20th version of Le Jog – Land's End to John O' Groats.

Ian definitely still has “an abiding interest in scrap and rust” and has an eclectic collection of older vehicles which he can regularly be seen driving in and around Llandyrnog as well as all over the UK and abroad!

Denbigh and District Probus Club welcomes new members to join their group for monthly meetings (held at the Oriel Hotel, St Asaph) where they enjoy lunch, friendship and a talk from a guest speaker. For further information have a look at the club web site denbighprobus.com or contact -

Membership Officer

The speaker at the next club meeting on Monday 6th March will be Mr Mark Wilson from the Principality Building Society, who will raise awareness about fraud and scams in his talk.