

## **LINLITHGOW AND BO'NESS PROBUS**

**Minutes of meeting held on Wednesday, 6 March 2024 in the Rose Club, Linlithgow**

### **Welcome**

The President welcomed members to the meeting and guests John Crawford Jnr, Robert McCaig and William Ross.

### **Badges**

Members who did not have a name badge were encouraged to notify the Committee. Hamish MacIntyre's name was noted.

### **Apologies**

Chris Collen; Jim Hannon; Jim Kelly; Stuart Smith.

### **Almoners' Reports**

Dale Macpherson and Phil Bullen were welcomed back to the Probus.

### **Budget**

There would be a full statement of our financial position at the AGM.

### **Audio-visual technology**

The Rose Club had agreed to the possibility raised by the Probus that a large-screen TV be purchased to replace the projector and screen. John Aitken explained the choices now open to the Probus:

- (a) A TV screen mounted on the west wall. It would be easy to use, and provide a sharp, bright picture. It could be 75 inches – probably too large – or 65 inches, costing about £700, which the Club could afford.
- (b) Keep the current projector. However, it is not very bright; gives a slightly fuzzy image, and has no zoom, meaning its position has to be manipulated to get the right image size.
- (c) A new projector, with a powerful light, a zoom lense and good 'keystone' adjustment. Such a projector would cost £700, but Linlithgow Burgh Trust, who owned the one borrowed for the day, might rent theirs to us for about £150 per year. The Trust used it only in the evenings, about six times a year.

It was agreed a decision on which option to pursue would be taken at the AGM.

### **Gala Day arches**

The Linlithgow Gala Day committee had been in touch to request that the Probus carry out the judging of the Gala Day arches and decorated gardens (on Friday, 21 June). Last year it was carried out by five members which would have been insufficient had not the judges' wives also become involved. About 12 members expressed interest in being involved this year. The list of those willing to commit to judging would be compiled at the AGM, after which our willingness would be signalled to the Gala Day committee.

## **St Michael's Parish Church Festival of Christmas Trees**

The festival had grown over the years and last year comprised 78 trees and over 3,000 visitors. So far, the Probus had not been involved and Neil suggested we were missing an opportunity to publicise the Probus. Accordingly, we have registered an interest, with a firm commitment required by October. Members wishing to be involved should let Neil know.

## **Seagull Trust**

Member Alan Gurhrie asked to address the meeting. Alan spoke about the Seagull Trust of which he was a member, based at Ratho. The charity operates canal boats for people with special needs. It was a rewarding activity but the charity needed new members. Those interested were to see Alan at the end of the meeting.

## **Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo**

Anyone interested in taking up the offer of half-price tickets for the preview at 21.30 on 1 August should see David Elliot.

## **The Day's Speaker**

The speaker was John Aitken and so no introduction was necessary. John related that when he was growing up his father was working in India and John spent his school holidays exploring the country. This gave him a real insight into the culture of India. Using stills and videos, John took us on a tour from Amritsar and the Golden Temple to Simla, Darjeeling, Kolkata and its flower markets, Varanasi and the step well, the Taj Mahall and its now polluted atmosphere, ending in Mumbai. The searching questions put to John by members showed how much interest the talk had generated

## **Next Meeting**

The next meeting would be on 20 March and would comprise the AGM followed by a team quiz.

DME

6 March 2024 (Rev 2)