



Linlithgow & Bo'ness Probus Club

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Minutes of Meeting held on: 2nd October 2024 at Linlithgow Rose Club

WELCOME: President Neil Edwards welcomed all the members and visitors Randolph Murray and John Crawford. New member Bob McCaig was welcomed.

APOLOGIES:

John Aitken; Lyn Aitken; Raymond Corr; Anne Duncan; Bill Duncan; David Elliot; Dora Kelly; Jim Kelly; Donald Macdonald; David Olwa; David Robertson; George Wilson;

ALMONERS REPORT

Both David Robertson and John Aitken had fallen off ladders and spent time in hospital. Dora Kelly had also had a fall and was in hospital. Members expressed their best wishes for a speedy recovery.

Ross reported he had spoken to Dale McPherson's wife. Dale has been in and out of hospital and there is talk of him being moved to the Golden Jubilee. Again the club's thoughts are with them both

MATTERS ARISING

Christmas Lunch. It transpired that Linlithgow Golf Club were unable to have us on 11th December. That left the options being Linlithgow Golf Club on 10th December and The Rose Club on either 4th or 18th December. After a close run vote it was agreed that we should go for Linlithgow Golf Club on Tuesday 10th December.

The Secretary will finalise details with them and the President agreed to inform the Rose Club.

AOCB

George Bird agreed to convene a small group to work on the St Michael's Festival of Christmas Trees due to take place at the beginning of December.

INTRODUCTION OF THE SPEAKER

Garry introduced today's speaker, Keith Hewitt. Garry had heard him speak before and concluded that he would be an ideal speaker at Probus – and so he proved to be.

Keith had become interested in the true story behind Compton McKenzie's book Whisky Galore many years before when he bid for a bottle at an auction. He told us the story of the SS Politician (not Cabinet Minister) becoming wrecked on Eriskay with a mixed cargo including 20,000 cases of whisky. Contrary to the story, the Customs and Excise spent many months unloading the cargo before they sealed the ship up and left her to her fate. It was at that stage that the islanders became involved,

despite the best intentions of the local Exciseman and stripped the ship. Eventually, the Exciseman arranged for the ship to be blown up.

The first film was made in 1949 and was one of the first to be made on location, despite the primitive nature of Eriskay in the days before electricity and running water. It became wildly popular and is still a staple around Christmas.

Keith became involved in the making of the second film and had some fine stories to tell.

Keith answered a number of questions at the end of his presentation.

VOTE OF THANKS

A vote of thanks was given by Sheila Litster who said that all her memories were in black and white but today's talk had brought colour to it. She was supported by the members in the usual manner.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on 16th October when Iain Harrison will be talking to us about 'Designs on your money'

Chris Collen
Secretary
02/10/2024

