



Linlithgow & Bo'ness Probus Club

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Minutes of Meeting held on: 30th October 2024 at Linlithgow Rose Club

WELCOME: In Neil's absence, Vice-President George Bird welcomed all the members and visitors Laurie Cunningham and Valerie Withnell.

APOLOGIES:

Margaret Cunningham; Bruce Jamieson; Dora Kelly; Murdoch Kennedy; Bob McCaig; David Olwa

MINUTES

Last meeting's minutes available on the website were approved.

ALMONERS REPORT

Garry welcomed back the walking wounded acrobats who had fallen from ladders, John Aitken and David Robertson. Dora Kelly was currently under the weather but Jim had managed to escape for today's frivolities.

Garry also requested that members able to offer lifts and those wanting lifts to meetings over the winter months to contact him. Details on website.

Ross reported that Dale should be home from hospital by now. He had tried to contact Phil Bullen but to no avail.

Best wishes were expressed by the members for speedy recoveries for all our colleagues.

MATTERS ARISING

George reported he now had enough volunteers for the Christmas Trees Festival to be held in St Michael's Church on 6th, 7th and 8th December and would be organising a meeting soon.

We had approximately 35 tickets booked for the Christmas lunch to be held at Linlithgow Golf Club on 10th December. The next stage was to make menu choices which should be made by the end of November. [Secretary's Note: Copy of the menu is attached to these minutes]

Concern had been felt about the drop off in members from Bo'ness in recent years. The Club membership was fairly evenly split when we used to meet at Bo'ness Bowling Club but once it moved to the Rose Club, Bo'ness membership had fallen away. George and Ross propose making a membership drive over the next few months with posters in pubs and shops as well as an article in the *Gazette* Journal. Members strongly supported this plan.

AOCB

None

INTRODUCTION OF THE SPEAKER

George then asked Stuart Smith to introduce today's speakers, Lesley Watson and Dougal Philip, long time owners of New Hopetoun Garden Centre. Dougal set up in the Walled Garden at Hopetoun then when the lease was up, moved to New Hopetoun. There are now 38 members of staff and the business is now majority owned by the staff, During this long term, Lesley was a presenter on BBC's Beechgrove Garden for 16 years.

Lesley and Dougal then investigated what was considered as 'wet' food and what, 'dry' After a while they moved on to gardens and flowerbeds. The general consensus was that 'wet' gardens were messy with clusters of different sorts of plants grouped together while 'dry' gardens were very formal with each plant by itself.

They finished up by answering many questions on a variety of topics.

VOTE OF THANKS

A vote of thanks was given by Bert Lawson who admitted that he didn't do all the gardening at home but found the talk of great interest. He worried that it could contribute to marital disharmony when members returned for lunch and started identifying whether the offering was 'wet' or 'dry'. His thanks were supported by the members in the usual manner.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on 13th November when Liz Park, Provost of the Deacons' Court, will talk on the subject 'The Rise to Provost'

Chris Collen
Secretary
30/10/2024