

**STOKESLEY PROBUS CLUB**  
**Minutes of Members Meetings 2021-2022**

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# STOKESLEY PROBUS CLUB

## Minutes of Members Meetings 2021-2022

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### Minutes of Members Meeting held on 15/03/2022

#### Introduction

The Chairman welcomed all present and introduced the guest speaker Gary Clarke of the Cleveland Mountain Rescue Team who retired from the police command centre and is now a fully qualified rescue member after having initially served the obligatory “probation period” as a fund raiser and extensive training.

Gary introduced his talk by announcing that he was on call and in the event of an incident would have to leave immediately with his equipment, which he kept with him at all times when on call.

The organisation is national and comprises 9 regional groups throughout England and Wales. The Cleveland branch is a subdivision of the Northern Region group.

The group is organised into the following two teams (all unpaid volunteers)

- Support: administration, fundraising, promotions, sponsored walks, etc.
- Search & Rescue: experienced hill walkers, fully trained with a range of skills – medics, mechanics, IT, welder, etc.

Gary then gave an overview of the Search & Rescue team's equipment and activities.

Equipment:

- Vehicles – 2 Land Rover Defenders, 1 SUV, 1 van + trailer (support vehicle).
- Defibrillator, oxygen, stretcher, vacuum mattress (for spine stabilization), medicines & bandages.

Miscellaneous

- Ropes and climbing equipment, communications equipment, computer, maps, lamps, etc.

Personal equipment carried by each team member

- helmet, leggings, jacket, gloves, boots, torch, first aid kit, maps, compass, gps, radio, emergency blanket, food & water.

Activities

Regular training exercises. 60+ emergency call outs a year, mostly 2 to 3 hours in duration but occasionally all day/night. Mostly rescue activities but some flooding, snow emergencies and asset protection and sometimes body recovery.

Those usually in difficulty and requiring rescue are walkers, runners, cyclists, horse riders, para-gliders and climbers.

How to contact if in difficulty - call 999 ask for police, then Mountain Rescue.

#### Questions from Members:

Do you use dogs? Yes, but currently don't have any.

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Use of drones? No need yet, police have them if necessary.

How long does climbing rope last? All fully inspected and labelled twice a year. Shelf life specified by manufacturer.

Most frequent call out location? Roseberry Topping.

The Chairman thanked Gary for a most absorbing insight into the workings of his vital and commendable rescue team. Members showed their appreciation in the usual manner thanking Gary for his presentation.

### **Business Meeting**

Chairman presented a eulogy for Bill Graham (1942 – 2022) who recently sadly passed away. Members showed their respects in the customary manner by observing a one-minute silence.

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1. Apologies:

There were 20 members present and 14 apologies.

2. Guests:

Five guests attended and were warmly welcomed by the Chairman.

3. Minutes of Business Meeting held Tuesday 15th February 2022

Minutes accepted as a true record of proceedings.

4. Matters arising.

None

5. Committee Reports

Treasurer and Membership Secretary: Chris Lee unable to attend and had indicated there was nothing new to report this month.

Secretary: Nothing specific to report.

Speaker Finder: After stepping down at the AGM, Keith Burton offered to work with the new speaker finder during a transition period to ensure a seamless handover.

Website Manager: The website is all up to date and has been tweaked to make it more readable. Memorials will be taken down after 2 to 3 years.

6. Committee update

With the AGM in April the situation regarding the tenures of Committee Members is as follows:

Auditor: Maj Chuhan will stand again.

General Members Kevin Clifford, Graham Howard and Derek Whiting will all stand again.

Speaker Finder: Keith Burton will stand down. Bob Scott has put his name forward for election.

Chairman: Keith Waller considering his position and awaiting someone to step forward for election.

The Chairman stressed that all positions up for election at the upcoming AGM are open to all and encouraged Members to put their name forward.

7. Trips update

The following trips are confirmed:

Ushaw College: Thursday 9th June. 12 Members & nine guests currently attending.

Lunch at Castleton followed by "All Lies" at the Esk Valley Theatre, Glaisdale – 10 Members and 13 guests willing to attend.

The following trips have so far not elicited enough support to make them viable:

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“Singing in the Rain” at Bradford: 6 Members & 5 Guests

“South Pacific” at Leeds: 5 Members & 5 Guests

### 8. Members' Lunches

It was agreed to increase from 2 to 4 per year. Details on website.

Bookings can be made, but Members are also invited to just turn up on the day.

The next lunch will be on Wednesday 27th April at the Jet Miners, Great Broughton, at 12.30pm for 1.00pm

### 9. AOB

Derek Whiting will send PROBUS promotional material to S & D Times and to the Loop to raise profile of Club and to catch the interest of potential Members.

The Chairman offered several copies of PROBUS national magazine to anyone interested. Researched by Wilf Elliott.

### 10. Next Meeting:

Tuesday 19th April 2022, which will be the AGM.

The speaker will be Colin Hatton presenting his talk, “Field of Dreams”, about sport and sportsmen of the Great War.

There were four prizes for the fun draw; following the theme of the talk, two copies each of the books, “Big Walks of the North” and “Walking the County High Points”

The lucky winners were Richard Rose, David Warburton, Norris Wilson and Mike Lawrenson.

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### Minutes of Members Meeting held on 15/02/2022

#### Introduction

The Chairman welcomed all in attendance after a 3 month gap since the previous meeting and introduced the Guest Speaker, David Smith; currently living in Hutton Rudby and now retired after a long and successful career in the haulage industry. David presented a talk entitled "Transport: Levelling up the North East".

David, a local lad, was born on a farm up Station Road near to where the Quorn factory is located. As a sixteen year old he started work at Sanderson Haulage in Hutton Rudby when the bulk of the business was taking fertilizers to local farms then loading milk and potatoes and delivering to markets and shops, especially the fish and chip shops of Teesside. When David became transport manager the business expanded and established longer haulage routes initially collecting potatoes from Lincolnshire and later capitalising the opportunities of manufacturing in Teesside. Often in those days, trucks would travel empty on return runs but the ideal opportunity arose when delivering steel products from the factories of Teesside around the country and returning with various goods.

The conditions for drivers were arduous with extremely long days and heavy work loading and unloading. It was commonplace for the rules of employment to be bent but the drivers were willing participants as they were adequately compensated. The lorries were very basic and much strength was required – no power steering, no brake servo, no automatic gears. No comforts either – hard seat, no air conditioning, no radio, very noisy. In addition, there were no motorways and the main roads passed through the centre of cities, towns and villages.

The transport industry was then dominated by a handful of transport "dynasties" and Sanderson was a small player. After a change of management (arising after the "boss was murdered), David decided to leave and joined Sunter Brothers Ltd heavy haulage. David recounted tales of extra-large loads negotiating narrow streets and other hazards when any mishaps resulted in their operating licence being endorsed. David represented the company in defending everyone in court; a damaged village cross, bridge parapets, walls, etc. The routes had to be carefully planned to avoid narrow streets, low bridges, street lighting, overhead cables etc. often resulting in extraordinary long indirect journeys. On one occasion the route for transport of a large boiler had been meticulously planned only to find that one town's main street had been decorated with strings of Christmas lights. The crew had to improvise – standing atop the boiler and with the aid of clothes props to lift the lights, the load was carefully driven down the street to a standing ovation from the bystanders.

David then joined Crossley Bricks where the demand for bricks spanned a busy three months in Spring followed by 9 months of relative quiet. In the early 1980's the economy stalled and demand fell but the drop in the value of the pound presented the opportunity to export bricks and they built a good market in Holland and Germany. They were sent in shipping containers.

Around this time road haulage transformed with the introduction of specialised containers for various goods and bulk materials which could be transferred to trains or ships for onward shipping and delivered to recipient again by truck. At the same time many new haulage companies entered the market often specializing in particular bulk products.

David moved into this area working as a business development manager working in various overseas locations – Sweden, Finland, Czech Republic and later in Poland where he opened an office in Warsaw.

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### Questions

David answered various questions asked by Members:

1. Why are roadside welfare conditions so poor for drivers?

Pressure has overtaken provision and neglect by successive Governments and authorities. Cabs in modern trucks are reasonably comfortable with sleeping facilities but more safe parking, catering and proper accommodation required. Very good facilities on the Continent.

2. Will road haulage of bulk liquids and hazardous goods reduce in UK and pass to railways?

No. UK is too small to justify frequent load transfers and rail network not extensive enough.

3. When are electric trucks likely to be introduced?

Development underway. Cummings plant in Darlington has a research project underway. Will require extensive support facilities. Not yet feasible but likely to come.

Following questions Members showed their appreciation in the usual manner thanking David for a most enjoyable and absorbing presentation.

### Minutes of Members Meeting

11. Apologies:

There were 26 members present and 13 apologies.

12. Guests:

Chris Taylor, Guest of John Edwards and Stephen Lindo,  
Guest of Graham Howard who were welcomed by the Chairman.

13. Minutes of Business Meeting held Tuesday 16th November 2021

The minutes were accepted as a true record of proceedings.

14. Matters arising:

None

15. Committee Reports

With Committee Member elections due in April, the Chairman outlined the status of current tenures:

Speaker Finder:

Keith Burton – confirmed that he will not stand for re-election. Bob Scott has offered to stand for election and was Co-opted as a GM by the Committee for the period 1.1.22 to 19.4.22. To help make the transition smooth, Keith has almost completed

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putting together next year's programme. This will be ready for inclusion in the next programme card to be issued at AGM in April 2022.

General Members:

Derek Whiting, Graham Howard, Kevin Clifford – all willing to stand again. (note to any Members interested in standing for election – minimum number of General Members is three).

Auditor:

Maj Chuhan – confirmed that he will stand for re-election.

Chairman:

Keith Waller – Members invited to stand.

The Chairman pointed out that all positions up for election were open to the General Membership and encouraged anyone interested to give their name to the Secretary.

### 16. Christmas Lunch

Well attended (51) but seating had to be re-arranged numerous times due to cancellations. Members who attended were full of praise for the meal, venue and organisation. Vote of thanks for Chris Lee. This year's Christmas lunch is booked for Tuesday 13th December 2022 again at the Wainstones Hotel, Great Broughton.

### 17. Committee Reports

Treasurer:

Card reader had been purchased but subsequently informed that it could not be used for collecting club subscriptions so returned and refund long awaited. Consequently, payments may be made only by cash, cheque or bank transfer.

Secretary:

No activity to report during period since previous meeting.

Website Manager:

Website has been streamlined for easier use; an active strap-line and a views counter have been added. No fees due this year for domain name and licence (two-year plan paid for last year).

Speaker Finder:

Keith is stepping down from the role in April 2022. The average speaker's fee is around £30, and the budget allowance is £330. As always, suggestions and contacts for speakers invited.

### 18. Members' Lunches

The previous lunch held at The Falcon at Hilton (attendees 14, apologies 2) was enjoyed by all present. Thanks given to Keith Waller for the suggestion.

The next lunch is proposed to be held at the Jet Miners at Great Broughton on Wednesday 27th April 2022 arriving 12.30pm to 1.00pm. Peter Robinson will proceed to make booking.

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For the Autumn lunch the following were suggested: The Tontine, The Fox Covert, The Cross Keys, The Crathorne Arms (recent feedback disappointing), and Pinchinthorpe Hall (3 courses for £20).

It was reported that numerous pubs had dropped their lunchtime menus resulting in higher prices, and more often than not their websites are not updated yet to reflect this.

Autumn venue to be discussed and decided in due course.

### 19. Trips

The cost of joining trips varied significantly according to the number attending as the fixed cost of transport was shared equally. Some clubs and societies used their funds to provide a flat rate subsidy or ad hoc amounts to keep the attendees' costs within a reasonable limit. Members generally considered these measures are unfair on those not attending trips and it was decided not to pursue these further.

In order to set cost as early as possible it was agreed that a cut-off date for booking should be applied. Furthermore, to avoid unnecessary work for the Chairman, indicative numbers of attendees would be sought based on estimated guide price. Only those trips deemed to have sufficient support would then proceed to the stage of obtaining coach quotations and detailed event costs.

This procedure was put into practice when the Chairman outlined the current suggestions for trips together with guide prices. Members were requested to indicate their interest in attending, with the following results:

Ushaw College – approx £25. Interested 12. A possible trip.

Singing in The Rain, Bradford - £70. Interested 6. Non-runner.

Eskdale Valley Theatre - £60. Interested 8. A possible trip.

South Pacific, Leeds - £80. Interested 4. Non-runner.

Other destinations suggested were Windermere boat museum (considered too far), and the National Railway Museum at York which was deferred.

The rising cost of transport was a concern and the Chairman had approached coach companies for guide prices (based on 40 seat vehicles) and reported as follows:

Coatham Coaches: too expensive

Atkinson Coaches: too expensive and availability issue

Jack's Coaches: reasonable prices but availability and accessibility issues

Generation Coach: reasonable prices but accessibility issues

Compass Coaches: under review

David Storry informed the meeting that Oggie's Coaches charge £200 for a daytime return trip to York in a 16 seat mini-bus (feasible for trips with 16 or slightly fewer attending). Checked by Chairman – no accessibility. Many other Mini-bus companies do offer this service.

### 20. AOB

The Chairman led a vote of thanks for Keith Bell for his generosity in bringing a plentiful supply of delicious mince pies and biscuits for the delectation of Members

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during the coffee session. Thanks also to Derek Whiting and John Edwards for keeping the coffee flowing.

Vote of thanks for the Chairman for sustained work for Probus through Pandemic period. The Chairman offered a spare 2022 pocket diary to the floor. Norris Wilson was the grateful recipient.

### 21. Fun Draw

The Chairman brought three books; The Times "Britain's Hidden Railways";

The Times "Britain's Lost Railways" and Dorling Kindersley "Cars, Trains, Ships and Planes" which were won by Mike Humphrey, Wilf Elliot and Jim Gannon respectively. Guest, Stephen Lindo, kindly drew the balls from the bag.

### 22. Next Meeting:

Tuesday 15th March 2022

The Speaker will be Gary Clarke presenting, "The Cleveland Mountain Rescue Team".

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### Minutes of Members Meeting held on 16/11/2021

#### Introduction

The Chairman welcomed all present and introduced the guest speaker, Dr Guy Hinton, son of fellow club member, Colin Hinton.

Guy is a historian living in Hexham and lecturing at Newcastle University. With several publications to his name, he presented his talk around his latest book, "Symbols of Consolation or Politics? War Memorials in the North East from the 1850's to the 1900's".

#### Speaker

Guy introduced his talk by outlining the main motivations behind War Memorials:

Offer consolation to the bereaved showing gratitude for those who have fought and died in a nation's war

A means of rationalising a war Reinforces pre-war social narratives perhaps interrupted by the war

Fosters reconciliation after acrimonious wartime divisions Defines or bolsters a sense of identity Justifies the war and endorses the socio-economic and political status quo.

Prior to the Crimean War memorials were mostly statues of the kings, generals, admirals and other military leaders represented as glorious figureheads.

Following dynamic changes and democratisation within society such as voting for men, and growing acknowledgement of the public opinions of working classes around that time, there began a proliferation of memorials paying tribute to the common man to reflect these changed attitudes.

In addition, the increase in the popularity of newspapers led to correspondents witnessing and reporting events allowing the public to fully appreciate the horrors and deprivations of the serving troops.

During the final three decades of the 1800's the increase in militarisation and patriotic imperialism, in addition to memorials to the participants of wars, there began a period of displaying trophies and booty of war such as weapons - captured cannons (e.g 300 Russian from the Crimean War) and later, tanks. These were proudly displayed in parks and squares of North East towns as emblems of prestige and civic pride. Guy gave examples of these displays in several locations in the region.

Opposition to these jingoistic displays of triumphalism grew driven by Quaker movements and then the feeling that they were at odds with the easing of tensions with Russia.

Four years after the Crimean War the Indian Rebellion witnessed the bloodiest insurrection in the history of the Empire and involved the relief of Lucknow in 1857. The military commander was William Havelock from Sunderland; a middle-class self-made man who lacked the arrogance of the aristocratic Crimean campaign leaders. Due to the significance of this campaign in securing control of India when it was potentially in jeopardy, Havelock was regaled as a local hero in Sunderland and memorialised in a noble statue but with less emphasis on his military achievements. By contrast, the memorials in London claimed him as a national hero celebrating his military actions. This was seen by some as a retrogressive step harking back to the Napoleonic wars.

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In the years of peace before the Boer War the desire for statues by civic authorities gave rise to a period of celebrating local industrialists – George Stephenson, Joseph Pease, Ralph Ward Jackson, etc. - with statues.

The advent of photographs and film brought to the public a sense of participation in the Boer war in 1899. With 100,000 combatants, many volunteers, there was a plethora of imagery and subsequent memorials, of which there were around 11,000, depicted for the first-time scenes from the front-line showing soldiers in action with details of uniforms and weapons. All ranks were represented, and not just leaders, reflecting social changes and democratisation taking place. In addition, lists of all the fallen were shown for the first time.

These statues democratised the involvement and sacrifice, perpetuated the memory of those who died, and served as consolation to relatives seeing recognition of their loved ones.

This sense of involvement gave rise to a large increase in civic war memorials around the country that celebrated local soldiers. This shared experience, together with increased social freedoms at the time, came with an expectation that people should embrace their duty as citizens and be willing to enrol to serve their country to protect their new found freedoms. Memorials, therefore, often adopted a didactic nature during this period spurring citizens into self-sacrifice.

With the vast numbers of fallen and wounded during WW1 affecting every corner of the nation a proliferation of sober memorials followed, which were erected in every town, city and village finally honouring each and every lost soul in the nation; an estimated 55,000 are in existence around the country. This is a far cry from 60 years earlier when grand statues of military leaders were the only tangible form of remembrance and celebration of the country's military conflicts.

Following several questions Members showed their appreciation in the usual manner thanking Guy for a most enjoyable and absorbing presentation.

### Members Meeting

1. Apologies

There were 26 members present and 13 apologies.

2. Guests.

Of five invited Alan Nixon and John Williams attended and were welcomed by the Chairman.

3. Minutes of Business Meeting held Tuesday 19st October 2021

Minutes accepted as a true record of proceedings.

4. Matters arising

None

5. Committee Reports

Treasurer and Membership Secretary: Nothing specific to report.

Secretary: Nothing specific to report.

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Speaker Finder: Suggestions and contacts requested to assist in finding speakers to fill slots in the remainder of the programme.

Website Manager: The previous meeting minutes and Christmas lunch menu now uploaded.

### 6. Christmas Lunch

Wednesday 15th December at The Wainstones Hotel: 33 members booked. Others wishing to attend please contact Chris Lee.  
Menu more up market this year.

### 7. Future Trips

The following suggestions were discussed

*Windermere Steamboat Museum*: considered too far to travel.

*Teesside Princess*: tea and sandwiches boat trip along the Tees.

*Ushaw College* (near Durham)

*National Railway Museum, York*

*Singing in the Rain*

*South Pacific*

The Chairman will research further for next Meeting.

### 8. AOB

In place of a fun draw this month the Chairman brought a box containing 40 copies of "A Rising Man" by Abir Mukherjee, a murder mystery novel set in Calcutta 1915.

A copy was offered to each Member present.

### 9. Next Meeting:

The next meeting will be on Tuesday 18th January 2022

The speaker will be Mark Braithwaite presenting his talk, "The Hartlepool Canoe Man".

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### Minutes of Members Meeting held on 21/09/2021

#### Introduction

The Chairman welcomed all present to the first Business Meeting since 19th February 2020 and introduced our guest speaker, Alan Townsend, Vice Chair of the Friends of Stockton and Darlington Railway.

#### Speaker

Alan Townsend presented his illustrated talk entitled "The Stockton and Darlington Railway: The Line that got the World on Track".

2025 will mark the 200th anniversary of the opening of the Darlington and Stockton Railway running initially 26 miles from Shildon to Stockton. The Friends of the railway are planning a commemoration in the form of exhibitions and events. In addition, the group is restoring and preserving some of the remaining buildings and features along sections of the route. Also, some short sections of the original track bed are being restored.

Alan explained the origins and development of the railway and how it gave rise to the introduction of railways around the world and their impact on industrial development and travel.

Localised short distance railways, tramways and horse drawn wagonways had existed for some time to exclusively transport materials from their source to a nearby canal, river or harbour for onward shipment. Many of these existed in the north east of England to serve the coal fields, iron ore mines and extraction of other minerals.

Local industrialist Edward Pease had the vision and means to exploit the potential of railways to provide transport linking directly the source of materials and their market and to connect towns and cities. He raised the capital to construct the 26-mile-long Darlington and Stockton Railway mainly to carry coal from the coalfield around Shildon to Stockton quayside and later to Middlesbrough enabling the establishment of steelworks to utilize the locally mined iron ore. In addition, passengers were carried by rail for the first time. The success of the railway attracted worldwide attention and the concept was replicated around the globe warranting the epithet, "the line that got the world on track". It was noted that two thirds of the original railway route is still followed by today's rail network.

The Friends of the railway have lobbied councils, tourist boards, educational establishments, etc for support in organising and arranging numerous events for the 200th year celebrations.

Events and displays are planned (from west to east) at Etherly Incline, Gaunless Bridge, Bussleton Incline, Masons Arms, Shildon (Timothy Hackworth House and other features), Heighington Station, Darlington North road Station, Skerne Bridge, Preston Park and Stockton.

Following a questions and answers session, Members showed their appreciation in the usual manner thanking Alan for a most enjoyable and absorbing presentation.

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### Members Meeting

1. Apologies

There were 24 members present and 12 apologies.

2. Guests

Wilf Elliott invited Paul Hayton who joined the Club.

3. Minutes of Business Meeting held Tuesday 19th February 2020

Minutes accepted as a true record of proceedings.

4. Matters arising:

None

5. Committee Reports

Treasurer and Membership Secretary: Annual payment of subscriptions was going well and outstanding amounts chased up. A charge of £11 is now required for hire of the kitchen for meetings.

Secretary: Nothing to report

Website Manager: The website is up to date. Details of upcoming lunches are included.

6. Member Lunch

Arranged for 5th October 2021 at The Falcon Inn at Hilton. Arrive 12.30pm, meal commences at 1.00pm. Pre-orders requested – please see circulated menu and advise of choice to Chairman. If you decide later to join, just turn up on the day.

7. Trips

26th August 2021: 9 Members and 9 guests (17 apologies) attended lunch and a Shirley Valentine performance at the Esk Valley Theatre in Glaisdale. The trip was a success and enjoyed by all.

Suggestions for future trips:

Alwyn Boulby – The National Railway Museum at York – little interest, so dropped.

John Richardson – Ushaw College on 7th June 2022. Members considered it too early to commit, therefore, expressions of interest will be invited nearer the time.

8. AOB

The Chairman raised the following:

A poster/invitation for new members was now on the website. Members encouraged to bring guests and encourage new members to keep the Club going.

An article and photograph showing Derek Whiting riding atop a train in Afghanistan has been published in several newspapers. Derek visited the country on a world tour in his

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younger days and his fond memories of the Afghan people led to his current plea for help for those in peril in Afghanistan during the present crisis.

On behalf of the Club, the Committee made a donation of £50 towards the Middlesbrough food bank, but subsequently decided that a precedent may be set which is not aligned with the Club's objectives. Consequently, it was decided that several members would reimburse the Club. The issue is now closed.

To celebrate the 100th Meeting of the Committee, the Chairman handed presentation dictionaries to Committee Members present at the recent Committee Meeting. Two further copies were available to those not in attendance at the time – Kevin Clifford and Alan Reed. The Chairman will arrange delivery.

Walter Gregory is unwell and in acknowledgment of his 22 years of supplying mince pies and sherry at the January Meeting, the Chairman will deliver to him a book of quotations as a token of thanks.

To thank Alan Reed, who is moving to be closer to family, for his excellent service as Secretary, the Chairman will present to him a book all about Middlesbrough Football Club.

### 9. Fun Draw

In keeping with the theme of the meeting, this month's prizes were books on the history and development of railways.

After numerous balls were pulled from the bag the lucky winners were:

*Maj Chuhan, Dan Humphrey, David Bryson, Chris Stirk,  
Jim Gannon and Derek Whiting.*

Reflecting on the ingenuity and foresight of the early railway pioneers, the Chairman delivered a closing thought:

“Talent hits the target no one else can hit,

Genius hits the target no one else can see.”

*(Arthur Schopenhauer 1788 – 1860, German philosopher.)*

### 10. Next Meeting: Tuesday 19th October 2021

The speaker will be Ted Parker presenting “The River Tees from South Gare to Yarm”.