**Omagh Probus Club**

**Zoom Meeting Wednesday 3rd February 2021 at 10.30am**

In Attendance : Jim McBain, Bob Lingwood, Kenneth Collins, David Haddow, Michael Cooney, Hugh Ward, Desmond Smart, Harman Scott, Oliver Loughran and Alistair Orr.

Jim McBain as host to the Zoom meeting admitted and welcomed members to the meeting.

**Updates**

Jim McBain and Alistair Orr updated members on the following:

**Application for funding from SWAP for Zoom licence.**

An email had recently been sent to SWAP re funding.

**Invitation to other Probus Clubs to join in proposed joint meeting.**

Jim McBain had posted invitations to the Probus Clubs who participated in the annual Quiz. Replies to be sent to Alistair Orr. (Invitation attached to minutes)

**Invitation to Omagh Ladies Probus submit stories.**

An invitation to submit stories for the proposed “Book of Memories” has been sent to Ladies Probus and this has been forwarded to their members. It was hoped there would be a good response.

Hugh Ward said he had nine stories at present but that a number of the submissions could be made into more than one story.

**Probus Leadership**

Members noted that there did not seem to be any leadership from Probus in the present lockdown. There were two representatives from the past, one from Northern Ireland and one from the Republic of Ireland. However the Northern Ireland Representative had recently died and there did not seem to be a replacement at present.

Oliver Loughran informed members that Omagh Rotary had planned a quiz via Zoom.

**Talking Newspaper**

Hugh Ward informed members that the Talking Newspaper in the Omagh Area has ben active for 40 years this year. He detailed the history of the project from cassette tape recordings to memory sticks to internet delivery. He stated that there had been a quarter of a million “postings” in the 40 years, not all confined to the Tyrone/ Omagh area with some going to England. He outlined the difficulties there had been over the years, with the changes and challenges of technology and now Covid, which prevented team members getting together.

He expressed the hope that the Talking Newspaper would continue to provide information to blind and partially sighted people in the Omagh area and beyond.

**AOB**

Members also mentioned two television programmes that they had viewed recently and would recommend. They were “The Dig” on Netflix and” Edward Carson and the fall of Oscar Wilde” on BBC.

The meeting ended at 11.05 pm.