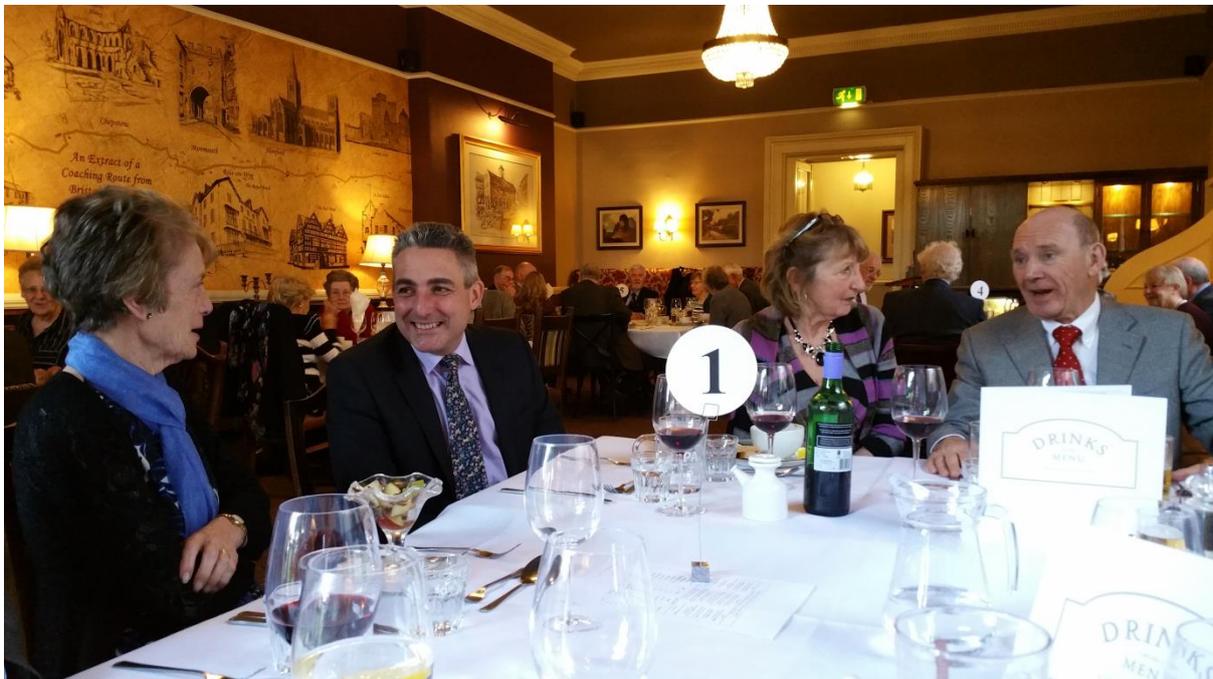


## KYRLE PROBUS NEW YEAR LUNCH

Award-winning Wye Valley author Matthew Hall, who has just published his seventh novel about a woman Coroner, revealed in an entertaining talk to Kyrle Probus Club how his fictional character 'insisted on being heard'.



Mathew Hall – 2<sup>nd</sup> from left

Matthew, the guest speaker at the Club's New Year Lunch on Wednesday 25 January, told members and guests that the idea 'had been bubbling up for years'

The first book in the successful series took him six months to write, and he was then commissioned to write a book a year ever since.

"It was going to be a male character", Matthew said. "As I began to write a female character started to impose herself on the material. It was not planned, but she insisted on being heard."

Matthew's heroine is based on a woman in her early forties, recently divorced, 'very sceptical', but determined to fight for justice and for the truth to be told despite opposing forces.

"I have met several women Coroners, and they are incredibly tenacious," said Matthew.

His new novel, titled "Life to Kill" is now out in hardback form and due to be published as a softback in the autumn.

Matthew, educated at Hereford Cathedral School and Oxford University, where he met his wife, went first into civil law as a barrister, before he became a TV scriptwriter and later a novelist.

Members were also taken back in time at their previous meeting on 19 January. Memories of Exmoor were related by Club member Andrew Chalmers, with the focus ranging from Lynmouth to Porlock and Minehead. He told of the true story concerning Lynmouth Lifeboat's overland launch to rescue a drifting ship in 1899. Severe weather and flooding forced the lifeboat crew to manually haul the boat 13 miles by road to Porlock Weir's sheltered harbour, aided by 20 horses and 100 men.

Andrew also recalled the time when a German Junker 88 aircraft was shot down by a Spitfire aircraft during the Battle of Britain in September 1940 and later in both 1952 and 1960 the dramatic Lynmouth Floods.

