

KYRLE PROBUS CLUB – 16 JULY 2015

The rugged grandeur of the 'Land of Ice and Fire' – Iceland – was revealed to members of Kyrle Probus Club on Thursday (July 16th).

Club member Jim Hamilton presented an entertaining slide and video show based on his two-week voyage to the edge of the Arctic on the cruise ship *Minorva*.

Although its climate may often be grey and cold, Iceland, with its volcanic ash, glaciers and hot springs (a major source of heat), has many natural features which attract thousands of tourists every year.

Jim's cruise was launched from Portsmouth, on to Dublin through the Irish Sea north to the St Kilda group of islands, which the passengers were able to visit despite its frequent inaccessibility due to a formidable high swell.

After their first sighting of a whale was recorded, the group arrived at Reykjavik, which boasts a so-called 'Golden Triangle' of spectacular waterfalls; sprouting geysers; multi-coloured carpets of wild flowers; horses indigenous since Viking times, and rock-bound fiord inlets. Next on the itinerary was a famous herring museum set below eye-catching snow-capped mountains.

A whale-watching expedition and puffin-spotting were among other highlights as the group returned round the Faroe Islands to Portsmouth.