

NORWAY and its fjords, the first section of a cruise from Portsmouth, via Kirkness, to Russia and the White Sea, was the subject of a well-illustrated talk by member Jim Hamilton at a recent meeting of Kyrle Probus Club.



The first stop on the cruise for Jim and his wife Louise, was Bergen. Famous for its fish market, this is a city of old and new buildings and attractive boulevards. Something that also interested Jim and Louise, was a plaque to commemorate the brave men of the Norwegian merchant navy, who were made available to the Royal Navy in the First World War.

The cruise then took them into Sognefjord, the largest fjord in Norway and whose shoreline is dotted with lots of tiny settlements. At the end of the fjord was Flam, famous for its railway and a notable tourist attraction. From Geirangerfjord, they went on a hike that took them behind the Seven Sisters waterfall.

The next port of call was Kristiansand, where they visited a stave church, so called because it was propped up by poles. There are several of these churches and each one has a model of a ship hanging from the ceiling.

They next visited the Lofoten Islands, which Jim thought was the best part of Norway. Here they visited a reconstruction of an original Viking longhouse, the biggest in the whole of Norway. At Tromso, within the Arctic circle. they went up in a cable car and also visited the Arctic Cathedral with its triangular-shaped stained glass window.

From there it was on to Hammerfest, well above the Arctic Circle, which boasted a very prosperous fishing fleet, while not being part of the EU's Common Agriculture and Fisheries Policy. They also found here a Greenwich Meridian marker. Finally to Honningsvag, the most northerly town in Norway, where they saw thousands of sea birds.

Jim told his audience that part two of his talk, would take them to Murmansk and Archangel.