

Kyrle Probus Club.

The story behind one of Ross's more unusual landmarks – the Ross Weather Station – was related to members of Kyrle Probus Club on Thursday (May 6).

Retired Ross GP Dr Andrew Rogers, an observer at the weather station with his wife Jackie since 1996, also unravelled some unique elements of the local climate. Dr Rogers has led a team of observers since 2009.

And together they have charted and reported the area's sunshine figures, thermometer readings, wind and rain, on a regular basis.

"We do live in a 'rain shade area'" Dr Rogers said. "Most of the rain falls on the Brecon Beacons. We will never be the hottest town – we are too far from the South- or the coldest." Between 1980 and 2014, Ross's highest average monthly maximum temperature was 26.8C in July 2006.

The present weather station, just off Walton Road, was the Mayoral Project of Councillor Arthur Clarke, who was Mayor of Ross in 1984-85. It was opened by Ian McCaskill on May 16, 1985. Now owned by the Town Council, with the equipment belonging to the Met Office, including the rain gauge and wind indicators, it was the original site of the Civil Defence siren and air raid alert during World War 2. It was also used to call firemen to the Fire Station when needed.

Among the personalities involved in the former years was Frederick Parsons (1892-1980), one of five observers during World War 1. He worked from 6am until 9m at three-hourly intervals for 60 years throughout the year. "It was a British and probably a world record," said Dr Rogers. He became friends with Henry Southall, who established a site at 'The Craig' in 1859 and his own station at the 'Chase Dale.'

Mr Southall became the 'Grand Old Man of Ross.'