

Ledbury Probus Speakers Jan – March 2025

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For General Distribution D R A F T					
Date	Speaker	Subject	Summary	A/V	Notes VoT
6 th Jan	Martin Firman	Policing of the 1970s and 1980s	Former Detective Inspector Martin Firman will explore perhaps lesser known but intriguing aspects of policing in the 1970s and 80s including his experience of being held hostage at gunpoint.	NEEDS AUDIO FEED	[Martin Perry]
13 th Jan	*Den Bannister	Alaska, the Last Frontier	A land of majestic beauty, incredible wildlife and international strategic importance; Alaska is often overlooked and misunderstood.	USB Stick	[Roger Gates]
20 th Jan	Stephen Chowns	Escape from occupied France in 1943	This is the story of James Paterson, an RAF navigator shot down near Lyon in August 1943, his concealment by the local Maquis and his eventual escape on foot over the Pyrenees in December 1943. His elder daughter Gillian and I have reconnected with some of those who knew him in those dangerous days. We'll bring a small number of artefacts (his false ID, a model of the Short Stirling bomber, debriefing reports, etc.).	USB Stick	[David Kettle]
27 th Jan	Robert Toseland	The Schneider Trophy and how it influenced World War aircraft design	The Schneider Trophy is famous for giving birth to the Spitfire, but did it? Yes, but not as directly as you might think. What else did the Schneider Trophy do for World War aviation of other countries? In an hour I'll attempt to give the audience a flavour of the contest and the daring-do of the pilots and influencers of the time.	USB Stick	[Bryan Jewkes]
3 rd Feb	Ian Cooper	The 'Other' Michelangelo: The Life and Loves of Caravaggio	Michelangelo Merisi da Caravaggio (1571-1610) was the foremost religious painter in Rome at the start of the Baroque period. We explore not only his masterpieces found mostly in Italy but also describes a turbulent life of passion, violence and ultimate loss. Although he was a lone artist, his works had a profound influence on many subsequent painters and despite being ignored for several centuries his paintings, particularly of religious subjects have become universally admired in the last 50 years.	NEEDS AUDIO FEED	[Andrew Beech]
10 th Feb	Tim Riley	Sailing the Northwest Passage – a real adventure!	This is a true story of how a couple of sailors from Newent took their yacht through the ice to become only the 169th sailing vessel to transit the Northwest Passage since Amundsen in 1906.	Own Laptop	[Eric Watson]
17 th Feb	Ian Johnston	Underwater Photography	The talk starts with a brief explanation of the difficulties associated with photographing underwater and a description of the equipment needed, this is not very deep and is intended as "scene setting". Then a tour of my experiences of about 1000 dives in the UK and around the world. We will explore wrecks, reefs, caves, cold water, tropical water and sharks.	Own Laptop	[Steve Loverage]
24 th Feb	Rod Barker	City of London	I've worked in the City of London for 30 years - its history and traditions are fascinating. The talk of a mixture of history, facts about and some of its institutions and anecdote leading up to the present day.	USB Stick	[Robert Street]

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3 rd March	Pamela Holland	Tales of a Travel Rep	The expression "There's Nowt so Queer as Folk" is known to many, but is rarely proved more true than when working with people in the travel industry. This is about some of the beautiful places I have worked, but more importantly, the people I have met and the experiences! The talk is enhanced by some beautiful slides. **GUESTS ARE INVITED TO THIS TALK**	USB Stick	[Guy Hickman]
10 th March	Elizabeth Tebby Germaine	Extracts from Accounts of Dangerous Journeys in Burma WW2	This talk relates to my book, STORIES OF SURVIVAL IN BURMA WW2 and begins with background about Myanmar. There are extracts from three striking stories written by very different individuals who escaped to India from the Japanese Invasion of 1941/2. Dr Stanley Farrant Russell, Captain Gribble of the Burma Frontier Force and a missionary, Josephine Chapman (my mother) who wrote a detailed diary about her 700-mile journey, the last 200 miles of which were on foot through dense mountainous jungle to Imphal in India. I include a quick look at the life of General Aung San, (Aung San Suu Kyi's father) an inspiring leader whose life was tragically cut short in 1947.	USB Stick	[Ted Willmott]
17 th March	Ken Ingamells	Falklands Conflict Pt 1 - War is Total Chaos	Ken was the only member of the Met Office who had the high security clearances necessary and the necessary communications to get the required data. The result was that I worked that conflict 24 hrs per day for whole 74 days on my own, sleeping whenever I could.	USB Stick	[Eric Porter]
24 th March	Kenneth Pinfield	The Last Great Air Race	The Last Great Air Race took place in 1953 and traversed halfway across the world from London Heathrow to the newly designated International Airport at Harewood, Christchurch, New Zealand and was designed to put New Zealand on the map for international travel. The RAF saw this as an opportunity to demonstrate its expertise and prove that it was possible to disperse modern jet engined aircraft rapidly around the world in time of emergency and to do it in less than 24hours.	USB Stick	[Trevor Campbell]
31 st March	Nigel Thompson	Pioneers of Aviation	The talk is biographical and well-illustrated and features such aviation luminaries as Anthony Fokker, Sir Frederick Handley-Page, Chuck Yeager (First man to break the sound barrier) etc.	NEEDS AUDIO FEED	[David Steel]