

# Ledbury Probus Speakers Apr – June 2024



\* denotes Probus Member, Names in brackets thus [ ] denotes the member giving the Vote of Thanks

For General Distribution					
Date	Speaker	Subject	Summary	A/V	Notes VoT
1 <sup>st</sup> Apr	Easter Monday		NO MEETING		
8 <sup>th</sup> Apr	*Gerald Brooke	Ukraine: 1945 to Independence and then some!	Gerald will continue his revealing talk on the history of the Ukraine nation from its crushing by Soviet forces after the war, up to its current fight against tyranny.	USB Stick	[David Tombs]
15 <sup>th</sup> Apr	Max Hunt	Shelsley Walsh: the Story of a Village.	This is the story of Worcestershire's smallest parish From Domesday to the 20th century and international fame as the home of the Midland Automobile Club.	USB Stick	[Tony Wargent]
22 <sup>nd</sup> Apr	Rob Hemming	The Trouble With Trivia	This is a about my 30-year odyssey through TV and Radio quiz shows with varying degrees of success. It explores the agony and ecstasy of quizzes at a high level and the way stress manifests in different ways in different people before they have to sit in the dreaded black chair! I have been on fourteen shows to date and have many anecdotes about my tragi-comic quiz career. In 2016 I missed the Mastermind final by a whisker and would probably have gone on to win the final - it still haunts me!	USB Stick	[Paul Knott]
29 <sup>th</sup> Apr	PROBUS AGM				
6 <sup>th</sup> May	May Day	NO MEETING			
13 <sup>th</sup> May	Denise North	The Herefordshire Hoard	The Herefordshire Hoard is a hoard of coins and jewellery dating to the Viking period found near Leominster, Herefordshire in June 2015. The hoard originally contained an estimated 300 coins, of which 31 have been recovered along with a silver ingot, a rock-crystal pendant mounted in gold wire, a gold bracelet, and a gold finger ring. The hoard was buried in the late 9th century, from which most of the objects date. The rock-crystal pendant is thought to be 5th or 6th century AD.	USB Stick	[Mike Lincoln]
20 <sup>th</sup> May	Mike Townsend	Twenty years to Siberia	After providing an overview of the geography and history of Siberia and a consideration of how far it lives up to popular Western conceptions of it, I will explain how I came to have such an intimate professional and personal relationship with one of its cities and people in particular over the 20-year period from 1990-2010. I will look at what was achieved in that time - and what has happened since - and provide my reflections and several anecdotes on many aspects of life there e.g. customs, daily life, authority, gender relations, religion, means of travel (Aeroflot...!), the "banya", dachas, food and drink etc.	USB Stick	[John Campbell]
27 <sup>th</sup> May	Late May Bank Holiday		NO MEETING		



# Ledbury Probud Speakers Apr – June 2024

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3 <sup>rd</sup> June	Anthony Gerrard	RNLI - Saving Lives At Sea	The presentation gives an insight into the history of the RNLI, its development through two hundred years of service, how busy the organisation has become and how it runs proudly as a charity with mostly volunteers. I shed light on how much it costs to fund RNLI activities, where the funding comes from and the types of equipment used by RNLI teams all around the UK.	Own Apple Device - just needs the projector	[David Kettle]
10 <sup>th</sup> June	David Pepper	Technology in the world of secret intelligence	The world of secret intelligence has used technology, innovating to overcome successive challenges. It covers that early days of SIS into the 20th century history.	USB Stick	[Den Bannister]
17 <sup>th</sup> June	Phil Collins	What the Dickens - His Life, Times and Works.	Phil and Mike give a fun and light-hearted insight into one of England's most celebrated authors, Charles Dickens. Using PowerPoint slides and images, they tell the story of how young Dickens became one of the world's most famous story tellers. From poverty, working in a factory, to becoming a writer with a newspaper to eventually becoming the famous author who penned fifteen novels and many short stories. Dressed for the part, the two gentlemen also read and quote from some of author's great works. *GUESTS ARE INVITED TO THIS TALK*	Own Laptop - just needs the projector	[Nigel Mott]
24 <sup>th</sup> June	*Den Bannister	The Missing Year	This is a true story of one airman's participation in a clandestine and almost forgotten operation during WWII. He left home saying he was going on a special mission and would be back in three weeks. It was a year before he returned. It is a story of intrigue, twists and turns, leaving you with ample opportunity to search for answers and come up with conspiracy theories. Be aware, there are strong parallels with the current conflict in Ukraine.	USB Stick	[John Lee]