

# Ledbury Probud Speakers for April – June 2025

For General Distribution				
Date	Speaker	Subject	Summary	A/V
07/04/2025	John Reid	Margaret of Anjou, Queen of England	No queen of England has been more reviled than Margaret of Anjou. She was blamed for England's defeat in the Hundred Years War with France, the outbreak and length of the Wars of the Roses, as well as the ultimate collapse of the Lancastrian dynasty. Margaret has had her reputation most irredeemably trashed by William Shakespeare who described her as "She-wolf of France. Is this portrayal of Queen Margaret accurate? Was she indeed a blood-spattered harpy, or was she a tragic heroine who has been unjustly demonized merely for being a woman?"	USB Stick
14/04/2025	Peter Ashburner	Flog it!- antiques & auctioneering	I am an antique and fine art auctioneer and valuer specialising in toys with 45 years experience of working in a Saleroom in Cheshire. I've been on most of the tv antiques programmes and done talks and charity auctions all over UK. **GUESTS ARE INVITED TO THIS TALK**	NO VISUALS, just needs a large table for articles
21/04/2025	Easter Monday	NO MEETING		
28/04/2025	Probus AGM		The AGM will be followed by Members Memoirs, concluding at noon.	
05/05/2025	May Day	NO MEETING		
12/05/2025	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
19/05/2025	Richard Chatham	Concorde - The Amazing Icon of Supersonic Passenger Flight.	Concorde has been a passion of mine since July 16th 1969 and Brian Trubshaw and André Turcat provided my wife and I with a personal Flypast the night before we were married. Since that date I have met many of the team that designed, built and maintained her and the Captains and crew who flew her. and even some of the celebrities who were regular passengers.	USB Stick
26/05/2025	Late May Bank Holiday	NO MEETING		
02/06/2025	*John Lee	Per Ardua ad Astra - The Beginnings	John's talk will cover a brief history of military aviation culminating in the formation of the Air Battalion of the Royal Engineers and subsequently the formation of the Royal Flying Corps. It will include details of the aircraft used by the RFC and also some of the pilot's experiences in the early days.	USB Stick
09/06/2025	Dr Timothy Brain	The Duke of Marlborough and the Battle of Blenheim 1704	The battle of Blenheim is one of the most important battles in European history, but after over 300 years it is now largely. Dr Tim Brain will relate the background and story of the great battle that announced the arrival of Great Britain as a world power.	Will use an iPad and shall bring the required connector.
16/06/2025	*Gordon Lee	From the Sea to the Sky	A brief history of Flying Boats of the Short Bros and others. Glen Curtiss developed the first float-plane in 1912, and the aircraft became more militarized due to World War I. Towards the end of the 1930s, forty-two Short Bros' S23 Empire Flying-Boats were built for the British Empire for travel.	USB Stick
23/06/2025	Bruce Williamson	Some unusual secret operations during the Cold War	Bruce's talk will cover top secret operations - Jiu Jitsu, Project Home Run and Project Dark Gene (Deep penetration flights into the Soviet Union); Operation Chrome Dome (B-52 strategic bombers armed with thermonuclear weapons), and The Vela Incident (an unidentified double flash of light detected by an American Vela satellite).	Own Laptop
30/06/2025	Poetry Festival	NO MEETING		