

For General Distribution		
Speaker	Subject	Summary
*John Lee	The African Campaign WW I	A brief history of the war in Africa to take over the German colonies and which lasted from almost the outbreak of war on 4th August 1914 till after the Armistice in November 1918.
Matt Johnson	No Ordinary Day	April 2026 will see the 42nd anniversary of the murder of WPC Yvonne Fletcher, shot outside the Libyan People's Bureau in London. Former police officer Matt Johnson will share a gripping mix of heartbreaking personal emotion and efficient police-style summing up of the complex search for the truth behind the murder, and justice for Yvonne.
Sally Ferrers	Donatello et al	The Renaissance produced brilliant artists. Donatello for his lifelike sculptures, Leonardo for the Mona Lisa, his inventions and so much more. The criminal Caravaggio, who produced outstanding paintings, even while evading capture. All brought to life with a dip into the turbulent Italy of the 1500's. (55 images)
Richard Jeynes FRGS	The Foreign Legion	Surrounded by a unique aura of mystery and adventure the French Foreign Legion has been the centre of global fascination since its creation in 1831. This talk will follow it's progress from the deserts of North Africa to the jungles of Vietnam and into the present day dispelling some myths and revealing the true story of the Legion Etrangere.
Les King	Cornflakes with Whisky	an affectionate and humorous gallop through the authors four decades of community policing across the Midlands counties of England from the dinosaur days of the 1970's 'Life on Mars' era until retirement in 2003, relating, humorous, sad, tragic but also bizarre events such as the poacher who nailed his ear to a tree!
Harold Armitage*	Imperial Prussia/Germany	
Ash Jones (MBE)	Uncle Bill: Britain's Forgotten Hero – Field Marshal William Slim	The life of Bristol-born soldier, Field Marshal, Viscount William 'Bill' Slim. Known affectionately as 'Uncle Bill' by his soldiers. Slim commanded the 14th 'Forgotten' Army in the bitterly fought Burma Campaign of WW2, recovering from the 1000-mile retreat from Burma to India, only to return 2-years later to defeat the Japanese in the steaming jungles of South East Asia. In 2011, a survey conducted by the National Army Museum saw Slim voted as Britain's greatest general. Now largely forgotten by the British public, this presentation reminds us of his humble beginnings, his early military career and his later life as Governor General of Australia, as well as the high-points of his Second World War successes. This presentation includes video and sound and is aimed at all audiences
John Butterworth	Tale of Two Brothers at the Siege of Ladysmith	Our family discovered the amazing story of an ancestor who was trapped in the South African town during the siege of Ladysmith during the Boer War and how his brother was sent to rescue him. Former newspaper editor John Butterworth, MBE
Howard Robinson	The Monarch's way- Charles II escape after the battle of Worcester 1651	The Monarch's Way is the route Charles was forced to take whilst escaping from the battle of Worcester on 3rd September 1651. He had many close shaves including hiding in an oak tree at Boscombe but, after failing to procure a ship twice, it was third time lucky as he sailed across the Channel to safety in France from Shoreham Harbour = a total of 42 days on the run.

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David Withey	Work is a Four Letter Word	This is a light-hearted talk, with stories and anecdotes from the world of work. It's a frivolous, non-serious talk, intended to amuse and entertain the listeners, and it ranges across many types of work . It sets out to get a few laughs from the work environment where people have to spend so much time.
Max Hunt	Morgan Cars	Max Hunt's interest in Morgan car history derives from his long-term involvement with the motor hill climb at Shelsley Walsh, where Morgan cars have been competing since the 1920s. He will trace the company's development from its origins in a Victorian Herefordshire parsonage, through the production of inexpensive Edwardian "cyclecars", to the marketing of motoring nostalgia in the present day. Did you know that the first Morgan model sold for £65 in 1910!
Ian Caskie	SS Great Britain from Launch to Re-Launch	In building SS Great Britain, the second of his three great ships, Brunel successfully combined and adapted the very best of cutting-edge technologies to create the world's first transatlantic liner – a true wonder of the Victorian age. She was the first ocean-going steamship with an iron hull, and the first driven by a propeller. This extraordinary ship, launched in 1843 as the largest and fastest afloat, transformed shipbuilding and sea travel for ever. Ian's enthusiasm for his subject is clearly evidenced in his illustrated talk which tells the ship's remarkable story from her original design through the different phases of her working life. It also describes life on board and her incredible salvage and return to Bristol in 1970, and finally her restoration, preservation and 're-launch' as a multi-award winning museum of international renown
Phil Collins	Gloucestershire Inventions	'Champagne, Spend-a-Penny slot-machine, The Lawnmower, Horlick's Malted Milk. These are just some of the inventions accredited to Gloucestershire. Phil has been on a trail to discover just what inventions the county is responsible for. A fascinating hour-long presentation with slides, video and props as he shares his findings with you.'
Easter Monday Bank Holiday	No Meeting	No Meeting
Alan Grey	Yom Kippur War 1973	The Yom Kippur, Ramadan or October War can be considered as the last "conventional" war in the long and continuing Arab - Israeli conflict. It was fought by adversary nation states with, for the time, advanced weapons supplied almost exclusively by the USSR and the US. As such, it can be described as a proxy war between the West and Soviet blocs. This talk will cover the military operations and the key outcomes rather than detailed political issues.
Angela Dunsby	Tasting the Tudors: Food of the Tudor Period	Why shouldn't you put your elbows on the table? Who had a better diet, the rich or the poor? Why might rotten teeth get you a husband? Find out about table etiquette in the past, what the Tudors ate and what this tells us about society at the time.
AGM	No Meeting	No Meeting
May Day	No Meeting	No Meeting
Dr Timothy Brain	Gettysburg	Gettysburg: a personal perspective
*John Lee	The Heroines of Pervyse	The Heroines of Pervyse The story of two remarkable British women who spent years in the front line during World War One tending injured troops.
Bank Holiday	No Meeting	No Meeting
Peter Gill	Butch & Sundance: Heroes or Villains?	In 1969 Paul Newman and Robert Redford immortalised two of America's most notorious bank and train robbers of all time in George Roy Hill's cinematic spectacle. Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid were represented as two affable and likeable Robin Hood style outlaws, but how accurate a reflection was this? A 45 minute talk with visual
Andy Cole	Mothers Ruin – The History of Gin	Gin: Understanding its roots within the British culture from Holland to London and from India to Manhattan, how Gin has taken over the world and evolved over time.

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Paul Willerton	Yellowstone	The presentation is a tour of the world's first National Park, viewing most of the Parks attractions that a visitor may see on a typical 2-3 day visit. We will also discover many facts about the park-not least how long before it is no longer there!
Max Hunt	William Morris	William Morris, later Lord Nuffield, was born in Worcester in 1877 and moved to Oxford as a child. A keen cyclist, he began building bicycles and later motorcycles. By the early 1900s, he ran a motor business in Oxford offering repairs, car hire, and taxi services. In 1913, he began producing cars, starting with the Morris Oxford, using bought-in parts. He adopted mass-production methods inspired by Henry Ford and built the Cowley factory in 1920...He launched affordable cars like the Morris Minor (1927), MG Midget (1929), and the first £100 car (1931). Known for spotting talent, he brought in Leonard Lord to modernise production and Alec Issigonis, who later designed the Mini. Though not an inventor, Morris was a skilled assembler and businessman who built one of Britain's top motor companies.
Maybe Poetry Festival	No Meeting	No Meeting
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*Eric Watson	South East Passage (Five Go On a Sail to Calais) Or Eel Pie Island	South East Passage (Five Go On a Sail to Calais)
Richard Jeynes FRGS	Medieval Archers	
Nigel Thompson	Brief History of Popular Music Part Two - The Renaissance of Swing 1946 through 1960	Looking at the Renaissance of Swing, and the greatest era of American songwriters and singers, such as Sinatra, Fitzgerald et al.
Bank Holiday	No Meeting	No Meeting
* David Kettle	The life and times of an endoscopy solution provider.	
Gillian Cane	A Girls Life in the Army	
Dr Timothy Brain	The Gloucestershire Regiment at the Imjin River 1951	
*David Kettle	Experiences as a musician	A talk by David Kettle about his experiences as a musician
*Andrew Beech	Why did trams disappear in England but thrive on the Continent	
* Alistair Patrick	Panama Canal (Or OTHER)	
Max Keen	Anglo Zulu War	https://www.keenhistorytalks.com

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Mike Warburton	A little known conspiracy and scandal at the very top of government	An exposure of a disgraceful but little-known scandal in the government of John Major involving Octav Botnar. He was one of the most remarkable men ever to have lived in this country, one of our greatest philanthropists and in many ways the saviour of our engineering industry. Even if you have heard about him you will almost certainly not know the true story, but I do
Nigel Thompson	Brief History of Popular Music Part Three	More Swing, Blues and all that Jazz, with greater emphasis on the United Kingdom
Christmas Cracker	Christmas Cracker	Christmas Cracker
Christmas No Meeting	Christmas No Meeting	Christmas No Meeting
Christmas No Meeting	Christmas No Meeting	Christmas No Meeting