

MONTHLY MEETINGS 2025

THURSDAY JANUARY 16 – Jennifer Harrison

THE CHINESE LABOUR CORPS

The Chinese Labour Corps. Jennifer will reveal another lesser-known aspect of the First World War using family correspondence to illustrate the story of how in 1917 Britain recruited about 100,000 Chinese labourers to work in Europe, behind the front lines.

THURSDAY FEBRUARY 20 – Julie Mackay

TO HUNT A KILLER

Retired Detective Superintendent Julie Mackay talks about her 32 years in policing. Starting from walking the beat in 1980's Bristol and culminating in being the head of a Tri-force murder team. She was instrumental in solving a cold case murder and tells the story of her journey through policing, in tandem with bringing up three children and her own personal trials and tribulations. Alongside this the bond formed with the victim's mother and her unwavering quest to achieve justice 31 years after the murder

THURSDAY MARCH 20 – Kate Bristow

MIDLANDS AIR AMBULANCE CHARITY

Kate will tell us all about our local air ambulance charity and how the service operates.

THURSDAY APRIL 17 - Barry Faulkner

MAJOR UK HEISTS AND THE GEEZERS WATT DID 'EM

Barry's talk covers the major crimes and criminals from 1930 to today, including Brinks Mat, Great Train Robbery, Hatton Garden, Baker Street Bank, Krays, Richardsons, Frankie Fraser and more. He was born into an extended family of petty criminals in Herne Hill, South London, his father, uncle, elder brothers and cousins ran with the notorious Richardson crime gang in the 70s-90s!

THURSDAY MAY 15 – Anna Ralph

PIXLEY BERRIES, THE JOY OF JUICE

Deep dive into Pixley Berries and their vertically integrated farm and juice business. Supplying well-known brands such as Coca-Cola to craft drinks producers. Immerse yourself in the world of juice to discover how fruit gets from bush to bottle, including a juice tasting session

THURSDAY JUNE 19 – John Butterworth

OFF THE BEATEN TRACK

John writes "This is a fun and interesting talk, recounting when seven friends and I drove a Land Rover across Europe, Turkey, Iran, Afghanistan, Pakistan and India to give it to a Nepalese leprosy hospital. I tell of the many dramas and funny stories on this 8,500-mile trip".

THURSDAY JULY 17 – Chris O'Grady

FAKES & FORTUNES, ART & ANTIQUES, FORGERS & DEALERS

A light hearted journey through the pleasures and pitfalls of collecting art and antiques. The challenges we all face when tempted to buy art and antiques; why we collect, where one might buy and how to avoid those rascals and forgers

THURSDAY OCTOBER 16 – Richard Dodd

MY LIFE ON RADIO AND TELEVISION

Richard worked as a BBC radio presenter for 12 years before moving into media relations. His talk ranges from the famous to the funny, big moments and blunders from his years on air.

THURSDAY NOVEMBER 20

AGM & QUIZ

THURSDAY DECEMBER 18

CHRISTMAS MEETING

Come and join us for an afternoon of mulled wine, seasonable nibbles and excellent entertainment by our members.