

Speakers 2027

21 Jan **Fran Sandham** A SOLO WALK ACROSS AFRICA

Critically acclaimed author and public speaker, Fran Sandham took on the challenge of a lifetime , by walking across Africa from Namibia's Skeleton Coast on the Atlantic to the Indian Ocean near Zanzibar completely alone: no back up team, no one to carry his gear, no sponsors, no film crew, no journalists, no fuss, no cheering crowds and no strings attached. Above all, it had to be on a one way ticket: no safety nets, no get-out clauses and nothing to fall back on.....

18 Feb **Richard Dodd** UNUSUAL PLACES FOR A BRITISH HOLIDAY

Grotty or gritty. Usual holiday locations with a n emphasis on Britain's fascinating industrial history

18 Mar **Keith Edwards** CAVES & POTHOLE OF GREAT BRITAIN

Join Keith vicariously on a light-hearted romp through the world beneath our feet. The underground world is full of excitement, but can also be dangerous for the unwary and inexperienced. Adventures abound and there is fun to be had. Abseiling down Britain's deepest natural underground cavity, Titan in Derbyshire, at 450 feet deep (as tall as the London Eye) is the ultimate adrenaline rush and there it is a fantastic feeling knowing that very few people ever go to the places and see the sights that cavers are privileged to witness.

Keith will capture some of this excitement, danger and fun on video. The tag line for many of these videos is, "Remember we do these caves so that you don't have to." As well as showing a number of clips from his videos, the talk will also be illustrated with photographs from Brendan Marris and Mark Burkey who are both award winning underground photographers and fellow members of Dudley Caving Club.

15 April **Kate Andrew** HEREFORD CASTLE

20 May **Jenny Clarke** FROM FLYING TO FEET

A short talk in two halves, my journey as one of the first women to fly aircraft in the RAF to what I do now - looking after peoples feet and how important good foot care is.

17 June **Elisha Mason** CIDER, LIBERTY & REVOLUTION

Riots were a feature of the 18th century as people grappled with ideas of fairness and freedom. Find out how cider had a key role to play in ideas of liberty both in Britain and America in the 1760's.

15 July **Marcel Lecocq** WEST MERCIA SEARCH & RESCUE

Whilst we may all be familiar with the Mountain Search & Rescue groups across the country, there is a lesser known lowland Search and rescue group, with West Mercia being our local branch. The volunteers are always on-call and are made up of normal people doing quiet heroics, with dedication and professionalism for free, to the community and those in crisis. They find missing people, save lives in floods and respond to emergencies alongside partner agencies. Find out more about this group of unsung heroes.

21 October **Gill White** THE HUGELY HUGGABLE HISTORY OF THE TEDDY BEAR

This talk tells the story of the teddy bear with lots of hugely huggable illustrations. But don't worry, it isn't completely soppy! The story of the teddy bear is the story of the twentieth century and so we'll set the teddy bear into its social context and see how it has managed to survive all the twists and turns of that momentous century and arrive in our own as a furry superstar