

PROBUS SPEAKER PROFILES 2026

Clive Kessell May 12th The Rise and Fall of HS2

Clive Kessell trained as a signalling engineer but became responsible in the 1970s for developing the BR radio networks. He later became the head of Telecommunications Engineering in BR. He was President of the Institution of Railway Signal Engineers in 1999/2000. He writes regularly for Rail Engineer magazine.

Jim Barnes June 9th

Jim Barnes is an Aviation Historian who started his career in the Dam Busters squadron. He has a range of talks about aircraft and several detailing the involvement of women in aviation.

Pip Kennedy July 14th

“A Magical History Tour” is an engaging talk on the history of magic, illustrated with live performances by Magic Circle member Gordon Drayson.

Margaret Watson September 8th

Margaret Watson is a professional concert harpist who has played at Glyndebourne Opera House, Clarence House, and The Savoy. She often wears period costumes and is an active member of the “Music In Hospitals” charity.

Andy Richardson October 13th Britain’s Nuclear Armed ‘V’ Bombers - The Ultimate Peacekeepers

Andy Richardson’s aviation career included crewing the Avro Vulcan during the Cold War as part of Britain’s Nuclear Deterrent. He subsequently worked with British Aerospace, McDonnell Douglas and Boeing. Andy is Chairman of Weybridge & Walton Probus. He travels extensively giving several aviation talks but the V Bomber story is his absolute favourite.

David Bickerton November 10th. Pursuit and sinking of the Bismark

David Bickerton is a retired civil engineer living in Hampshire. He wrote a book “Parents at War”. He has traced the ancestry of about 20 people including his father who was a crewman on HMS Dorsetshire. This inspired him to research the sinking of the Bismark.