



ASHDOWN PROBUS CLUB



Upcoming after-lunch Speakers 2025

Monday 7th July

Speaker: Neil Sadler **Topic:** An Inspector Calls: Confessions of a Police speaker

Speaker Biography: Neil is a retired senior police officer and joined Sussex Police in 1978 after a short career in teaching then in the civil service. He spent much of his 30 years service as an operational officer in various ranks across Sussex, working briefly in Hong Kong, Trinidad and Abu Dhabi and more locally in Bognor Regis, Haywards Heath and Crawley also covering Gatwick airport.

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#### Monday 11th August

**Speaker:** Shelagh Black **Topic:** The Real Pirates of the Caribbean

**Speaker Biography:** Shelagh worked for 25 years in the Health Service, as a Senior Biomedical Scientist, specialising in Microbiology. This involved examining clinical specimens to look for infectious bacteria and determining their sensitivity to various antibiotics. Shelagh has previously given a talk to Ashdown Probus about her work in the Health Service and would now like to talk, on a much lighter note, on the Real Pirates of the Caribbean.

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Monday 9th September

Speaker: Dr Ray Carter **Topic:** The Hawker Typhoon and RP3 rockets

Speaker Biography: Ray is an author and publicising his book 'Allied weapons that made the difference in WW2' to be published by Pen and Sword. The book tells the stories behind eleven weapons and weapons systems, from the drawing board to successful field deployment and their strategic impact beyond the battlefield. They were inspired by outstanding designers such as Sir Sydney Camm, scientists such as Alan Turing, and industrial visionaries such as Andrew Jackson Higgins. Their stories are interlinked with many of the most famous events and people in the history of World War II. This talk covers one of the chapters in his book.

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#### Monday 13th October

**Speaker:** Captain Don Cockrill MBE, CMMar FNI **Topic:** Maritime Pilotage: An insight into what & Why.

**Speaker Biography:** After 47 years maritime experience as ship master, port pilot and maritime consultant Don is now Ambassador for the charity 'Mercy Ships' and gave a talk on this to Ashdown Probus in September 2023. His talk on Maritime Pilotage is an insight into the highly specialised little known profession of maritime pilotage. Pilots navigate ships of all shapes and sizes into and out of ports globally. The talk covers all aspects of the profession, including its history and applicable legislation (UK) as well as some of the day to day hazards and experiences pilots encounter. 29 years experience as a Port of London pilot underpins the background knowledge.

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