

**RECOMMENDED NEW SPEAKERS 2026/27**

SPEAKER	POSSIBLE TALK TITLES
<p>→*Clare Smout 48 Vashon Close Ludlow SY8 1XG Tel: 07773 958719 Email: <a href="mailto:Shakespeare.courses@smout.org">Shakespeare.courses@smout.org</a> rg Fee: £55 + 17ppm</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The Women Behind Shakespeare's Success Behind every successful man there stands a woman – or several. This talk explores the surprisingly dramatic lives of Shakespeare's mother and sisters, wife and daughters; how they shaped his ideas of womanhood, influenced his work and supported his career. It concludes by examining the very different impact and experiences of two figures from his life in London.</li> <li>2. The Women of Shakespeare's Family A variant of Talk 1, offered in response to the film "Hamnet". This focuses less on how the women of Shakespeare's family influenced him and more on the historical detail of their lives, in particular that of his wife, Anne/Agnes Hathaway. (To make time for this, it excludes the women from London.)</li> <li>3. The Twelve Months of the Year, in Art and Popular Culture Starting with some 'fun facts' (Why is February so short? How did the months get their names? Why are there 12 months, not 13?), this talk then explores depictions of the months in art, from the 14th century through Bruegel and William Morris to the WI's very own "calendar girls". It ends by considering equivalent modern landmarks shaping the year.</li> <li>4. The Art of Portraiture in Elizabethan England. This talk examines a full range of Elizabethan portraits, from highly symbolic public paintings of the queen to fashionable intimate 'miniatures' which could be held in the palm of your hand – ideal for sending as love gifts. The second half concentrates on images of parents and children, before ending with the weirdest and most unique portraits of the period.</li> <li>5. Fashion, Fabric and Theatrical Clothing in Shakespeare's England Initial 'fun facts' explore how laws restricted the colours and fabrics which different members of society were allowed to wear, why black was the most expensive colour and why people 'stored' their money in clothes rather than cash. It then traces the development of fashions onstage and off and the incredible embroidered fabrics worn by the queen and her court.</li> </ol>
<p>→*Brian Miller – Hall Follys End Brampton Abbots Ross on Wye HR9 7JD Tel: 07810850069 Email: <a href="mailto:millerhallb@gmail.com">millerhallb@gmail.com</a> Fee: £65 + 40ppm</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The Honeybee and Bee keeping</li> </ol>
<p>→*Freddy Naftel 30 Tithe Court Middle Littleton Evesham WR11 8LR</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>Great Film Music-Hollywood and Beyond</b> [Stirring and haunting soundtracks with stills. Music by Korngold, Rozsa, Bernstein, Vangelis, Ortolani and many more].</li> <li>2. <b>A Musical World Tour</b> – Nationalistic music that takes you from Britain to France, Germany to Hungary, Sweden to Finland,</li> </ol>

<p>Tel: 07369210248  Email:  <a href="mailto:freddysmith97@gmail.com">freddysmith97@gmail.com</a>  Fee: £70 + £15/20 travel</p>	<p>Spain to Australia. Colourful music and photos without having to travel on an aeroplane!</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3. <b>Landscapes in Music</b> – Scenic grandeur of some of the world’s most fascinating landscapes. The Canadian Rockies, Arctic Tundras and Icelandic Volcanoes all brought to life in picturesque music.</li> <li>4. <b>Best of British</b> – A journey through some of the most beautiful scenery that Britain has to offer, enhanced by the music of two of Britain’s greatest composers, Malcolm Arnold and Ralph Vaughan Williams. A surprise awaits every so often!</li> <li>5. <b>Gustav Holst and The Planets</b> – Exploring the genesis of Holst’s enduring masterpiece through his own life and music, his interest in astronomy and astrology plus a look at the mythology behind the appropriately-named Roman and Greek Gods. The music is brought to life with appropriate images to enhance the colour and drama.</li> <li>6. <b>Winter Wonderland/Festive Delights</b> – Suitable for the pre-Christmas and New Year celebrations, a delightful concoction of music from “Frozen”, “The Nutcracker”, a couple of Sleigh Rides, the thrill of a Slalom trail and Norwegian Trolls.</li> <li>7. <b>Great Film Music 2-The 1960s to 1980s</b> – Familiar and unfamiliar soundtracks from the likes of John Barry (James Bond), Jerry Goldsmith (Man from Uncle/Planet of the Apes), Ennio Morricone (The Mission, The Good, The Bad and The Ugly), John Williams and many more. Film stills again enhance the power and sweep of the music.</li> <li>8. <b>Carnival of the Animals and Other Fantastic Creatures</b> – What music do you think would best illustrate certain animals, both small and large? Saint-Saens’ fun work is one such piece, but can you name any others? Ever heard music suitable for whales or bats?</li> <li>9. Music from Shakespeare-Film and Theatre Productions - Henry V and Richard III [Olivier-music by William Walton]  As You Like It[music by Walton]  Romeo and Juliet [Ballet music by Prokofev]  Midsummer Night's Dream [incidental music by Mendelssohn + a 20th production with music by Korngold]  Julius Caesar [radio play with music by John Ireland]  Falstaff [a symphonic study by Edward Elgar]</li> </ol> <p><b>All of the above talks/presentations come replete with amusing anecdotes and observations within a generally light-hearted approach. My overall intention is to entertain the audience.</b></p>
<p>Cobalt Imaging – Dr Felicity Jenkins  Cobalt Health  Linton House Clinic  Thirlestaine Lane  Cheltenham  GL53 7AS  Tel: 01242535922  Email:  <a href="mailto:fundraising@cobalthhealth.co.uk">fundraising@cobalthhealth.co.uk</a>  Fee: None</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Cobalt Medical Charity: Diagnosis Research Education.  A talk describing the current work and history of this innovative medical charity providing cutting edge medical imaging for clinical diagnosis and monitoring treatment, aimed primarily at the population of the Three Counties.  Cobalt also supports medical research in the fields of oncology and dementia to advance diagnosis and treatment.  The charity provides free education to medical professionals.</li> </ol>
<p>→JO Worthy- Jones  Haven 4 Wildlife  2 Brick Walk  Honeybourne</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Secret Life of Trees Part 1 - an insight into how and why trees grow and live like they do including how they keep themselves upright, how they breathe and how they make use of the resources available to them.</li> </ol>

<p>WR11 7PX  Tel: 07940064345  Email: <a href="mailto:jo@haven4wildlife.co.uk">jo@haven4wildlife.co.uk</a>  Fee: £80 + 5-10 travel</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2. Secret Life of Trees Part 2 A deeper dive into the internal workings of trees and how they communicate with each other. Follows on from Part 1, but can be presented without having seen it first.</li> <li>3. Bumblebees in Spring - learn about the life of a Queen Bumblebee as she emerges after her winter hibernation, the challenges she faces and how important our gardens are for the next generations' survival.</li> <li>4. Solitary Bees - find out about the bees that most people overlook, their lifecycle and nesting habits. Includes a video of a solitary bee provisioning cells for her newly laid eggs.</li> <li>5. Gardening with Wildlife in Mind - 7 Top Tips showing how and why gardening with wildlife in mind can support our native wildlife such as birds, pollinators and amphibians.</li> <li>6. The Importance of Water in our Gardens - water is vital for life, and the wildlife visiting our gardens needs a regular supply too. We'll look at the different ways water is used and how gardeners can make sure they are helping wildlife, particularly as we face longer periods of drought or deluge.</li> <li>7. Plants for Pollinators - different pollinators need different types of plants. This talk will cover the different needs and give lots of information on the types of plants to have in a garden that will support our wildlife.</li> <li>8. Plants for a Changing World - with the seasons changing and there being more periods of drought and deluge, choosing the right plants for your garden is more important than ever.</li> </ol>
<p>→*Sue Johns  Wallsmead House  Holly Lane  Ombersley  WR9 0JD  Tel: 07989863276  Email: <a href="mailto:sue@suejohns.com">sue@suejohns.com</a>  Or <a href="mailto:sue@wallsmead.com">sue@wallsmead.com</a>  Fee and travel: Donation  In person talk</p>	<p><b>1. "Leaving Ukraine" by Sue Johns – How a Teenage Refugee Finds a Home in an English Village</b>  <i>This is the true story behind the book "Leaving Ukraine". 16-year-old Yurii leaves Kyiv when the Russians invade and travels alone across Europe looking for somewhere safe to stay. Fate connects him with the author and he ends up living with her in a Worcestershire village for 2.5 years. Living together is full of challenges.</i></p>
<p>Tim Kaye  Paul Wilkins</p>	<p><b>Awaiting details</b></p>

**Free Talks by local Charity**

Name: Leukaemia Care  
Address One Birch Court, Blackpole East, Worcester  
Post Code: WR3 8SG  
Tel: 01905 755977  
Email: [Adam.Evans@leukaemiacare.org.uk](mailto:Adam.Evans@leukaemiacare.org.uk)  
Website: <https://www.leukaemiacare.org.uk/>

Subject/s

**1** What is Leukaemia    **2** Blood cancer awareness    **3** Signs and symptoms of blood cancer    **4** Practical and emotional support available    **5** Treatment side effects    **6** Leukaemia Care's Worcester Royal Hospital Hub.    **7** Blood cancer support groups

**8** Patient stories