

### 8th January 2026

“Net Zero Stratford - its projects and purpose”

**Janet Palmer**

Janet will talk about how Net Zero Stratford is tackling the climate and cost of living crises in our town and their activities, ranging from the Community Kitchen to the popular Repair Cafe.

### 5th February 2026

“Dr Livingstone, I presume”

**Fran Sandham**

In 2023 Fran gave a well received talk about his solo journey across Africa. He returns now to recount the in depth story of the search for Dr. David Livingstone and what happened when Henry Stanley finally found him in 1871.

### 5th March 2026

“The work of the Stratford Food Bank”

**Ian McLean**

The food bank opened in 2013 and currently provides over 5,000 food parcels a year, 36% of those are for children. Ian will tell us about the vital work they do for members of our community.

### 2nd April 2026

“Walks with hawks”

**Clare Lott**

Clare is an expert with birds of prey and gives falconry demonstrations. She will bring some of her birds and talk about these fascinating creatures and their long history with humans. Come along and get up close to an owl, hawk, falcon or eagle!

### 7th May 2026

“My life and times as a film extra”

**John Kinory**

John talks about his experiences on a film shoot. If you've ever wondered how to become a supporting artist and how much they get paid he will explain; along with many anecdotes about interesting filming locations & meeting the stars.

### 4th June 2026

“Chedham's Yard – a Warwickshire village blacksmith and wheelwright”

**Speaker TBC**

The story of how 5 generations of the Chedham family ran the yard from 1823 to 1965 and how it thrives today. In 2006 it won the BBC Restoration Village programme and this opened up Lottery funding to save the yard as a heritage centre and local attraction.

### 2nd July 2026

“Caves and caving: an illustrated talk”

**Keith Edwards**

Keith has been caving for over 35 years and is an award winning cave videographer. Join him vicariously on a light-hearted romp through the world beneath our feet. Including an abseil down Britain's deepest natural underground cavity in Derbyshire. At 450 feet deep it is as tall as the London Eye.

### 6th August 2026

“How the stagecoach transformed our area”

**John Butterworth**

John has visited us several times. Today he will describe: how the stagecoach led to an economic boom during the late 18<sup>th</sup> century, the eccentric drivers, characters and many famous people who used it to travel through the Midlands.

### 3rd September 2026

“The Chance family and their Smethwick glassworks”

**Henry Chance**

Henry will talk about his family's involvement in one of the major glassworks in the West Midlands. Famous for: glazing the Crystal Palace, producing the clock face of Big Ben, cathode ray tubes for RADAR during WW2 and over 2,500 lighthouses around the world.

### 1st October 2026

**26th Annual General Meeting**

“Tales from the driver's seat – a woman bus driver in the 1970s”

**Jess Nash**

Jess tells the story of her life in the 70's as a woman in a man's world. She became one of the first lady bus drivers in London and tells of the struggles she faced, as well as funny stories typical of that era.

### 5th November 2026

“The Rising of the Son” – the story of the Unknown Soldier

**Paul Thornber**

Paul describes the people involved in selecting the body of the unknown warrior, how the project came about and how the body travelled to Westminster Abbey. The talk includes an exploration of what may, or may not, have happened to those bodies which were exhumed but not selected.

### 3rd December 2026

“Buying & selling at auction: with stories from the auction room”

**Followed by Antiques Roadshow**

**Steven Bruce**

Steven has been an auctioneer for 50 years. He talks about his time in the business with anecdotes about the characters involved. He examines the costs and how to get the best bargains. Members are invited to bring any treasures they have; after the talk, Steven will select and discuss any interesting items that catch his eye.

General Meetings are held on the first  
Thursday of the month.  
2.00 pm to 4.00pm  
Methodist Church  
Stratford-upon-Avon CV37 6BG