

KYRLE PROBUS CLUB

The 'fading thoughts of a fortunate airman' was the title of an entertaining and light-hearted talk by Cliff Hilditch to members of Kyrle Probus Club on Thursday, April 7th.

A wartime evacuee from London, which at that time was under attack from the V1 flying rockets, Cliff's early interest in aviation was given a morale-boost when he joined the University of London air squadron and was given a flying scholarship.

He was also promoted to the rank of Acting Pilot Officer after being offered a National Service commission, much to his surprise.

Although Cliff was formally a student of RAF law, he soon took to the skies. His experiences ranged from a 'very uncomfortable' flight on a Shackleton aircraft to a 'memorable' flight on a Sunderland seaplane, as well as a refresher course on a Gloster Meteor.

Highlights overseas included a multi-national Nato exercise in Canada; a dramatic 3-engine take-off in a Hercules aircraft during a visit to Oman and training with a 18-strong jet formation.

The club meets on the first and third Thursday of the month at Ross Conservative Club, when members hear talks, sometimes from fellow members, sometimes from guest speakers.

To find out more about the club, visit www.kyrleprobus-ross.org.uk or contact secretary Jeff Morris on 01989 563698.

