

This month's talk is by Air Commodore Lambert and promises to be fascinating and important. He flew Phantoms in the RAF, eventually running the RAF equivalent of the "Top Gun" school, then, after staff college, commanding No 23 Fighter Squadron on the Tornado F3. He commanded British Forces in the Northern No Fly Zone over Iraq in 1999, and his last operational post was as NATO Deputy Air Commander Norway. His lecture will consider the utility of Air Power, and how it has shaped world events from its inception just over 120 years ago until its current use in Ukraine and he will offer some thoughts about its most recent use against Iran in June 2025.

Liz Ouldrige (Chair)

Important dates

July 15th Coffee morning for all at 'The Hayloft' Mole Avon Country Store from 10:30am.

July 16th Open Meeting at the Boniface Centre: Air Commodore Andrew Lambert – 'The Use of Aircraft in War and Personal Experiences' Refreshments from 9:30am. The talk will start at 10:20.

August 19th Coffee morning for all at 'The Hayloft' Mole Avon Country Store from 10:30am.

August 20th Open Meeting at the Boniface Centre: Stephen Powles – 'Otters: coming to the river near you'.

June's Talk: Prof. Peter Edwards – 'The Life of Leonardo De Vinci and Selected Art'.



Peter told us that Leonardo Da Vinci (1452-1519) lived during the period of the High Renaissance. This was a time when art was becoming more realistic and also moving away from religious themes. Leonardo was at the forefront of this movement. He spent much of his working life in Florence under the sponsorship of the Medici family. To show you just how revolutionary he was, I'm using two images of the Annunciation to summarise Peter's main points. One by Leonardo (above) and one by an earlier Florentine artist, Stefano d'Antonio di Vanni (left).

In Leonardo's picture, perspective is accurately portrayed. (Note that the distant mountains are shadowy.) His poses are more naturalistic. Look particularly at the faces. There are no hard lines round the features, they blend into one another, as they do in real life. He used his thumb or palm of his hand to blend away the hard edges (sfumato) and his fingerprint can often be seen on his painting.

Leonardo completed very few paintings, and although undoubtedly a genius, was a difficult character. His impact on the Renaissance, however, is unquestionable.