

ART & LITERATURE

Stories Granddad Told - Countryside tales of my grandfather's life, adventures and the people he knew before the 1st World War. **Murder Most Foul** - True murders which took place in the nineteenth century. I try to keep them as local as possible to the venue. **Lavinia, Princess or Fake?** The story of Lavinia Ryves who tried to prove in the 1860's that she was the granddaughter of the Duke of Cumberland, brother of George III, and therefore entitled to a title and an inheritance. **Families of the National Trust** - - Using old newspapers and archival documents the history of the families at Calke Abbey, Kedleston Hall and Sudbury Hall are told. These are three separate talks for each property **Family History** - - A variety of talks are available to interest anyone from the beginner to the more intermediate to someone wanting to write about their family history. **My Father, POW** - Not a heroic story of escape, but the story of the day-to-day life of a private captured on his way to Dunkirk.

Vanessa Morgan
07746800484
vanessa62472@hotmail.co.uk
Face to Face and online

North, West & South Leicestershire
£45-£65 (no expenses)

'Dressing Them Up!' The secret and unknown world of life backstage as Personal Dresser to the Stars in London's West End Theatre! For 30 years Paul has worked with the biggest names in Showbiz! Let him reveal all in this funny and explosive glimpse behind the curtain.

Paul Read
07946 758114
misterpaulread@hotmail.com
Face to Face and online

All of Leicestershire & Rutland
£95 + 25p per mile

I'm a poet but NOT as you know it! My talk consists of fun, thought provoking and philosophical poetry. It includes Haiku's and Limericks. I also include fun stories and I also sing songs. I also play my 100 year old banjolele. I'm a combination of Ann Summers, Su Pollard and Victoria Wood amongst others.

Dalziel Ellis
07712673859
ellisd1970@btinternet.com
Face to Face only

I can cover all areas.
£45 for 45 minutes and 55p per mile

A Look Inside the Therapy Room sharing my own experiences & insights as a therapist, opening up about my personal journey, including overcoming my own disability & discrimination I have faced. **Self Love** A presentation on self care. **Favourite Memories** – A short Activity on your favourite Memories

Chrissie Henson
07788698122
chrissiehenson@hotmail.com
leicestershire
£40
Face to Face only

COUNTRYSIDE & NATURE

Branching into Bonsai with Peter Fielding - My forty-year journey. Talk with Bonsai Display.

Peter Fielding
07976 271159 surrounding area
peterfielding1@hotmail.co.uk
Face to Face only

Leicestershire, Rutland, and
£50 +40p per mile

Community Talks We have a team of dedicated volunteers who go out into the community to deliver talks to interested groups. We have four presentations that share many of the stories about the Park. **The Magic of Bradgate** - A talk discussing various aspects of the Park including history, wildlife and the charity's work. **The People of Bradgate** - A gallery of colourful historical figures (including Lady Jane Grey) who lived in, owned or influenced the Park. We finish with a brief look at the park

today. **Managing the Wildlife of Bradgate Park** - An introduction to the habitats and wildlife of Bradgate Park, highlighting the extensive work of the Rangers and volunteers who look after these habitats. **The Veteran and Ancient Trees of Bradgate Park** - A fascinating talk covering the importance of the nationally important collection of ancient and veteran oak trees at Bradgate Park. Covering all aspects, from habitats dependent on the trees, to the conservation and recording of this collection.

Alice Pattison
0116 2362713
volunteers@bradgatepark.org

Leicestershire
£65 Donation + 45p mile

Passions, Potions & Poisons: (Love & Death in the garden) - Meet sinister plants with deadly reputations, beneficial plants with healing qualities, and those able to inflame the heart and woo the lover. From Hemlock to Chocolate, learn the usefulness (or not) of a whole host of plants with unexpected properties. **Chocolate Unwrapped**- Food of the gods, divine drink, irresistible confection, mood changer, and obesity maker... Chocolate is a treat that lies quietly in its wrapper. But peel back the cover and discover the joys of this mysterious food, used for ritual, medicine and sheer pleasure for over 4000 years. **Once upon a time at Christmas.**- Deck the hall with boughs of holly, grab a kiss under the mistletoe, decorate the Christmas tree and share a good wassail! It's tradition, but why? Drawing on both Pagan and Christian heritage, we explore the meaning and relevance of plants in our Christmas festivities today.

Tracey Akehurst
0115 965 2114 / 07805 162088
tracey.akehurst@outlook.com
Face to Face only

Flexible. Please contact me to discuss.
£80, plus travel (45p/ mile)

All about Playing Cards - Covering history, mystery, facts and myths. Where the cards we play with today originated, Duty on Playing Cards. The Worshipful Company of the Makers of Playing Cards, and other interesting stories associated with the Playing Card. **All about Playing Cards - Part 2** - Further stories, facts and figures all relating to the Playing Card that we would interest those who enjoyed my first talk.

Mike Lister
01509 557350 / 07881404408
mikelister49@gmail.com
Face to Face only

Leicestershire & Rutland
£50 this includes travel so no hidden extras

The Woodland Trust & National Forest

A History of our Woods and Forests in the UK. Why trees and woods are so important fully illustrated from our estate across the UK focussing on the National Forest in Leics, Derbys and Staffs. **Kilimanjaro** - Climbing the highest peak in Africa and an associated Safari with a conservation charity. **Solomon's Boys** - From Fields to Furnace to Flanders. How we changed from a rural to an urban society over less than a century illustrated by one ordinary but remarkable family.

Ian Retson
07969 191493 / 01530 415682
retsonian@gmail.com
Face to Face & Online

Leicestershire and adjoining areas to the west.
Donation at your discretion, no travel costs.

How to Enjoy Your Houseplants - An informal talk with hints and tips on keeping your houseplants happy and healthy without the stress

Susie Lickman
susie@windowsillplants.co.uk
07980 542448
Face to Face Only

Countywide
£65, plus 25p/mile from LE16 9AA

Forage for Colours: Discover edible plants, trees, and mushrooms growing wild in the East Midlands. Explore edible plants, mushrooms, and folklore through engaging talks on health remedies, foraging tips, dual-purpose plants, magical fungi, and ancient traditions. Uncover the beauty, history, and benefits of nature's bounty in our immersive and informative sessions. **Forage for Health:** Unearth edible plants

and medicinal mushrooms to ease illness, boost well-being, and support everyday health. **Edible Mushrooms of Leicestershire:** A guide to finding, identifying, and enjoying local wild mushrooms safely. **More talks Available**

Joanna Richart (Charnwood Foraging)

07713567548

joanna.richart@gmail.com

and online

All areas of Leicestershire and Rutland. 10 miles radius travel cost included in the price

£60 (any talk – no edible samples) + 50p/mile Face to Face

on journey over 10 miles (5p/mile donated to Leicestershire and Rutland Wildlife Trust)

CRAFTS & HOBBIES

Buying/selling at auction – all you need to know **Browsing antique shops** - Stories from the Auction Room

The hoarder next door

Steven Bruce

01926641402/ 07778 595952

sbbrucesales@aol.com

Face to Face and Online

All parts of Leics and Rutland

£95 to include all expenses

I have a number of pictorial talks, illustrating travels to **Canada, New Zealand, Australia, Ireland, Scotland & The Peak District**. There are also some general talks on **Beautiful Britain** (a collection of stunning pictures from around the British Isles), **My Hobby Photography** (A collection of my favourite pictures in all genres), **On My Doorstep** (Pictures taken within an hour of home in NW Leicestershire). All talks have my favourite pictures taken over the past 20 years and are informative, including stories behind the pictures, with anecdotes & amusing stories. For more information call or visit my website www.ianpettitphotography.co.uk

Ian Pettit

May be available at short notice, please call.

07908338592

ianpettit77@gmail.com

Leicestershire/Rutland/Derbyshire/

Nottinghamshire/Staffordshire.

£45 inc 30 miles travel

£0.45p per miles, over 30 miles

From Fleece to Finish- a talk by a sheep farmer on preparing fleece for handspinning with practical demonstrations of the tools used including carders and combs as well as demonstrations of different types of spinning using a spinning wheel and drop spindle. There is an opportunity to look at different types of wool as well as a chance to buy some of the spun yarns and handmade items.

***One Crafter's Journey-** How a love of knitting and spinning was turned into a small business, includes practical demonstrations including a spinning wheel demonstration. There is an opportunity to buy some of the spun yarns and handmade items

Angela Dewes

barnspun yarnandfarm@gmail.com

Tel: 07745122180

www.barnspun yarnandfarm.co.uk

Face to Face only

Ashby Magna

Fee £60 + 45p per mile for travel

Availability: All year

A series of talks about honeybees, honey the environment; and what we can do. The talks cover a range of topic with honeybees and nature at the centre. The talks cover the how and why of honeybees and other bees, encouraging bees in your garden, what is honey and its purity. (tasting available)

The Bee Farmer aka David McDowell

07807 984506

Info@thebeefarmer.co.uk

Face to Face and online

Leicestershire, South Derbyshire, North Warwickshire, South Nottinghamshire.

30 mile radius of Ashby de la Zouch.

£70 inc VAT = 50ppm

The Making of Handwoven bags from the Philippines A talk focusing on the harvesting, dyeing and weaving process of the various plant fibres found in the Philippines. Samples of the raw materials and finished products will be available for the ladies to hold or have a closer look. **Shell craft from the**

Philippines. A talk about the different shells found in the Philippines, the daring ways how they are harvested and the products made from them. Shells and shell products are available for ladies to hold or have a closer look.**Loco About Coco (Crazy About Coconut.)** A talk and demonstration about coconut shells and various products made from them. **PHILIPPINES: Culturally Quirky.** A humorous talk on the everyday lives of ordinary Filipinos which other people might find amusing, strange or even weird!

Analiza Jones
siimpp@yahoo.com
01789 565075 / 07443565185

Leicestershire & Rutland
£75 All inclusive
Face to Face only

Flower Arranging - To show and demonstrate the art of flower arranging. Accessible to all
Kerry Evans
07940885588
Kerryevans289@outlook.com
Face to Face only

Leicestershire
£40 plus material costs and 45p per mile
Available evenings and some weekends

The Great British Sewing Bee & Me - A fun and engaging look into the life of contestant on The Great British Sewing Bee that includes tales from Mitch's time on the show and a chance to see some of his sewing projects. **Swede Dreams - Tales from a touring ABBA tribute band.** - A sneak peak into the experiences Mitch had whilst working as 'Benny' in one of the UK's leading ABBA tribute shows.
Mitch Bridgewater
07468485583
mitchellbridgewater@gmail.com Face to Face and online

Nationwide

£70

'Sustainable Stone Carving: Turning Waste into Art

Discover a unique and eco-friendly approach to stone carving using an innovative, sustainable medium—waste aerated concrete. This engaging talk introduces you to a creative, accessible, and affordable way to carve, offering mindful and social benefits that support mental well-being. You'll learn about the carving process, essential tools, and safety considerations, and be inspired by a showcase of stunning hand-carved sculptures. For an interactive twist, an optional taster carving session is available (bookable in advance), allowing attendees to experience the joy of carving firsthand. Perfect for beginners and anyone curious about transforming waste into art! Additional 'Pre booked' Taster Carving Workshop £15 per attendee. (maximum of 8 attendees. Approximately 45 minutes. Includes all materials, tool use, PPE. Health and safety requirements apply)

Jayne, of JAK'sArt
07852933920
jaksart75@gmail.com

North Charnwood
£50 per talk 45p per mile of travel
Face to Face only

Hula Hooping, a discussion about its history, size and technique. – A light-hearted talk about the Hula Hoop's history, plus a comedy demonstration, followed by some audience participation!! (for those who want to have a try) **The History of the Circus** – how the tradition began **Balloon Modelling - Trade Secrets.** An enjoyable talk and demonstration, showing how it is done, with various fun techniques and followed by audience participation. (for those who want to make a balloon model to take home and show everyone what they made themselves!!!) **An evening of Magic** – be amazed and surprised **Party Games for all Ages** - An enjoyable talk, demonstration, and performance of various magic tricks, plus a discussion about magic as a form of entertainment, followed by a short teaching session where everyone learn a couple of tricks to impress their family and friends. Many of the games have been invented, designed, or adapted, by the speaker to make them suitable and fun for all ages. Ideal for a special occasion such as your group's anniversary.

John Parnell
07946 413452
john@hoopguy.com
Face to Face Only

All of Leicestershire
£75 (first 30 miles free from CV11 4BL, then
just 50p per mile for additional travel.

HEALTH WELL-BEING & FITNESS

Tai Chi - Talk, some history and benefits of practise. Demonstrations including Sword Form & some participation which can be done seated.

Laraine Tucker

07779 434742

larainetucker@icloud.com

Available Monday to Friday

Face to Face & Online

Leicester and Leicestershire

£51 + £50p per return mile

The Stammering Toastmaster - Talk on Stammering and 2 programmes to help control the stammer and change lives.

Steve West

07853388289

thewesties70@gmail.com

All except Rutland

£60 + Petrol 20p per mile

Face to Face only

Be Happy Live your Life An insight into Life Coaching. I am not a medical doctor or a counsellor. I act as a cheer leader for my clients. I guide women to make decisions they want to make with confidence and live as they wish.

Janet Harrison

07954 099798

Janetharrison19@gmail.com

Face to Face and online

Leicestershire

£40.00 + 40p per mile of travel

www.coating2gether.org

Qi Gong Instructor An introduction to QI Gong and the benefits. Qi Gong is a moving meditation designed to improve the flow and balance of Qi in the body. The talk includes an interactive session that instils calm, relaxation and reduces physical and mental stress. It can be done sitting or standing

Lindsay Orton

07498 841536

lindsay.orton198@gmail.com

the districts of Hinckley & Bosworth, Blaby and North West Leicestershire

£35 plus 45p per mile.

Face to Face only

Hair - facts, problems and ageing well - Is it normal for hair to thin as you get older? Is caffeine, tea tree, rosemary oil, saw palmetto or biotin a good thing? How can I avoid problems and make the most of my hair? Can my GP help - or are hair problems considered cosmetic? Enjoy finding out from a certified Trichologist - hair and scalp specialist.

Sally Archer

07873314802

sally@hairandscalpspecialist.co.uk

Face to Face Only

Leicestershire

£60

#What does veterinary acupuncture involve? The scientific evidence for its effects The conditions it can be effective for and a couple of case studies Plus any questions

Carole Parsons

07941778928

hello@pettherapyacupuncture.co.uk

Face to Face and online

North Leics, Notts, East Derbys, West Lincs

none

FOOD & DRINK

Hannah's- Here at Hannah's we run Chocolate or Sugar Craft demonstrations. We cover history origin of chocolate, demonstration, chocolate tasting and include a raffle.

Emma or Lynne

01509 416638

Hellohannahs@outlook.com

Face to face only.

Located in Quorn, Loughborough

Cost: £95.00, plus travel costs.

Smile please say cheese- Poultry and game with turkey Carvery - Timeless Carvery with or without entertainment

Ian Rogerson
07983 632286/01163 489060
ian_timeless@icloud.com
Face to Face Only

Leicester
£60 -£70 please call to discuss

HISTORY & LOCAL INTEREST

A “mid-brow” presentation of famous and some not-so-famous artworks and the secrets and stories behind them. Titles include “**Love and Romance in Art**”; “**More Love and Romance in Art**”; “**Women in Art**”; “**Women by Women in Art**”, “**An Introduction to Modern Art**” “**Portraits**”.

Grainne Purkiss
07587 052948
grainnepurkiss@hotmail.com
Face to Face & Online

Leicestershire, Northants, Warwicks, Cambs.
£50 + 40p per mile over 10 miles from Market
Harborough
Available evenings and at short notice

English Eccentrics - - Wicked Women - - Women at work - - Drainpipe trousers to rock and roll - - Wish you were here - - telling ghost stories and other tales

Graham Sutherland
01926 4595894/07801 962981
graham.g.sutherland@btopenworld.com
Face to Face and Online

Warwickshire and surrounding area
£65 + £5 travel expenses
www.talksandwalks.co.uk

A Year wearing tights for Her Majesty - An amusing look at my year in office as the High Sheriff of Rutland and the history of this ancient role. The State of UK agriculture – why we need to look at our UK food production and security

Andrew Brown
078010574174
twbfarms@aol.com
Face to Face and online

Cambridgeshire and Bedfordshire and London as well as
Leicestershire, Lincolnshire , Northants and Rutland.

Leicester’s first suburb - birth of middle-class suburb, Corporate greed and corruption, and a local hero who comes to the rescue. **Foxton Locks** - Wonder of victorian canal engineering **Streets of Leicester** - How Leicester streets got their names. **Thomas Cook** - The sadness and sorrow of the pioneer of tourism .

Also guided walks of: Leicester City centre. Leicester Highfields New Walk stroll

Richard Warren
rjwintheburrow858@gmail.com
07870 870328
Face to Face & Online

Leicestershire and Rutland. Longer travel
Summer only
£50 (£10 travel for longer distances)

The Kegworth Air Crash - The ambulance response to the Kegworth Air Crash, some lessons learned, and the long-term consequences. **My 33 year career in the ambulance service** – the essential work **Motorhome Meanderings** - Audio visual presentations of our motorhome journeys in UK, Ireland and Europe

Alan Parker
0116 2596312 / 07788 416109
aglp@btinternet.com
Face to Face Only

Leicestershire and Rutland
£60.00 plus 40p per mile return travel

The Orient-Express: Reputation, Renovation and a ride on the King of Trains – History of long distance train travel * **Namibia: Marooned on the Skeleton Coast** – True story of a WWII shipwreck * **Bling** – Hunting for gold and diamonds * **Four Fiddlers** - four people in 1880s America who were on the fiddle! * **Top Gear at GCR – how the TV scenes are shot:** featuring episodes of Victoria, Casualty and Ripper Street using the Great Central Railway * **40 years of Railway Clangers:** from the Orient Express to working for Richard Branson

All talks are fully illustrated and last about one hour

Bill Devitt

01283 819410/07952 173724

bill.devitt@sky.com

Moira, Derby

£65 plus travel 25p per mile

100 Years of Auntie! A nostalgic history of the BBC - I take a nostalgic look at the history of the BBC from the beginnings of radio in the 1920's to the present. The talk is illustrated with nostalgic pictures and sound clips from the past. **Richard III - the Bones in the Car Park** As both a former history teacher and BBC journalist, in this talk I combine a look at what Richard III was really like with the story of how his discovery and reburial was covered by the BBC. **Christmas Crackers** - (For November/December only!). A miscellany of funny, poignant and serious readings, pictures and music for Christmas.

Dave Andrews

daveandrews127@hotmail.com

07801 935975

Face to Face & Online

East Midlands

£60 - £100 inclusive

Elizabeth 1st - Queen Elizabeth ruled England longer than any other monarch before her, with a brilliant mind and outstanding political skills. This glittering presentation will transport the audience back to the time of Drake and Shakespeare on England's voyage into the Renaissance. **Mary Queen of Scots - Mary** Queen of Scots queen of Scotland and France, beautiful and well educated. She was held prisoner for many years and was eventually arrested and sent to Fotheringhay Castle to face execution in 1587. **Nell Gwynne** - Nell Gwynne was the mistress of Charles II and also sold oranges! Against all the odds became a star of the London stage. Meet pretty, witty little Nell and have a chance to both laugh and cry with her.

More Talks available

Lesley Smith

07932 876790

judith@lesleysmithhistorians.co.uk

All over the UK

£425 plus 45p per mile for travel

Online only

"We Will Remember Them" - The Commonwealth War Graves Commission

The presentation covers the CWGC's work across 23,000 locations in more than 150 countries. How the CWGC honours and cares for the Commonwealth's 1.7 million men and women who died in two world wars, ensuring that they will never be forgotten.

Phil Jesson

phil@teamjesson.co.uk

07774 241207

Face to Face & Online

Leicestershire, Nottinghamshire, Rutland,

Derbyshire And Northamptonshire

donation

Leicestershire Ghosts & Legends - Legends from all parts of Leicestershire. **Leicestershire Ladies** – learn about women in Leics **Leicestershire Murders** - Local murder cases, from Earl Ferrers to the first use of DNA.

Down the garden path - The story of the privy, incorporating both history and humour. **Those were the days** - A nostalgic look at Leicestershire in the 1940s and 50s.

David Bell

01530 413371

belldavid950@outlook.com

Face to Face only

Up to 25 miles from Ashby-de-la-Zouch (LE65)

£35, plus 35p per mile of travel.

History of sewing machines - Looking at the history of sewing machines with examples of working machines **Pigment flower printing** Enjoy an evening flower printing on to a tote bag to take home

Michelle Burton

Leicestershire

07928 611533 / 01509 816078
Michellemillie72@gmail.com
Face to Face only

£50 + travel

Bits and Bobs This is an audience participation session where we bring a box of old items and pass them around the group to see if they can guess or work out what they were used for. Many were from my Grandparents house, the village shop and small holding **Pyrography Workshop** – learn this fantastic fun skill

Bob Neill
01332 792036
bob.neill1@btinternet.com
Face to Face only

Syston Ashby, Leicester, Loughborough
Melton Mowbray, Coalville, etc
£60 + mileage

My Life as an Artist *

Michaela Kelly
01664 840731
michaela.kelly3@btopenworld.com
Face to Face only

Thorpe Satchville, Leics.
£50 plus mileage

Tales from old Melton Mowbray. Melton was for two centuries the winter social capital of England. It was the greatest of all foxhunting regions; there were famous stunts, steeplechase races, cock fighting, and other diversions besides as the aristocracy descended on the little town, built big houses, and threw themselves into high jinks, carousing, and, at times, complete madness. **Our Christmas Story.** The English Christmas is unique. It has had a rollercoaster history, from a crazy over-the-top festival, to near-extinction, then to reinvention in the 1840s. This was when Father Christmas met Santa Claus – and when one of our greatest writers blended all that was good from the past into a new White Christmas tradition. **A History of Rockingham Castle** - This unassuming little castle, near Corby, has a surprising history. A beloved home to the medieval kings, it has been at the heart of national events as a fortress, royal fun palace, and, for 500 years, the home of one go-ahead family.

There are many more talks available. Please email me to request my brochure.

Mike Burton
01664 474182 / 07526695793 I usually ask £50 to give a talk plus £10 travel expenses.
burtonmrj@gmail.com

Leicestershire, Rutland, Stamford, and adjacent regions

MUSIC & PERFORMING ARTS

The Myths of Middle Eastern Dance– Unveil the truth behind the myths associated with Belly Dance. Through a demonstration dance plus a rummage through costumes and props throughout the ages, how they have developed and what styles they are used for. There is no audience dance participation during this talk. **My life, stories of dancing with snake and fire!**(Please note there is no fire and it does not necessitate me bringing a snake unless specifically requested)The talk starts with a demonstration of dance and continues with funny anecdotes about how I got into Belly Dancing, fire eating and training/working with a snake!! **Shimmy interactive** - Immersive interactive session for ladies' groups (seated and standing). No experience necessary. Belly dance fun, musical instruments, veils, fans, coin belts and songs. **BELLY DANCE WORKSHOP** A full on fun belly dance workshop, warm up, learn some classic moves and short cheeky choreography, followed by a cool down.

Roxanne Dinsdale
07939 253124 / 01162 874517
aysherox49@btinternet.com
Face to Face

Midlands
£60 plus 45p per mile.

Edward Elgar: The Man and his Music - Elgar was something of a puzzle even to those who knew him well. This talk captures the essence of the great man; with plenty of illustrations and musical examples. **Malcolm Sargent, Local Hero** – an introduction into his life Malcolm Sargent, **Onward to Worldwide Fame** - Continues the story of the meteoric rise of this most popular of musicians. With plenty of original illustrations and musical examples.

Sam Dobson
samdobson69@gmail.com
0116 2677372
Face to Face and online

Leicestershire, Rutland and beyond
£50 donation
Available anytime

#An Evening of Scottish Dancing and Singing

Demonstration of Scottish Country dancing including audience participation if required
Margaret Spence
0116 2392802 / 07729 633636
dems@rscdsleicester.org.uk
Face to Face only
Available weekends, afternoons, and evenings (except Thursdays)

Leicester and Leicestershire
£45 for 30 mins, £60 for 1 1/2 hours + £25
travel when more than 10 miles from Leicester
City Centre

Funny Turns A celebration of some of the greatest comic performers of all time, along with some baffling magic tricks, jokes and a few daft songs. The perfect antidote to the 21st century!

Dave Moylan
0740 771 5178
nathanielbagshot@yahoo.com
Face to Face only

All over the UK.
Usually a flat fee of £75.00 will suffice.

Well Seasoned Carols and Seasonal Songs – have a great time with some old favourites

Well Seasoned Mummers Play Not the usual church carols but traditional carols from around the country, which mostly predate the more familiar ones. Includes narrative explaining their origins and we encourage the audience to join in, e.g. in ‘We Singers Make Bold’, which has the chorus ‘We Wish you a Merry Christmas’.

John Bentham
0730 626 4148
johnandsheilabentham@virginmedia.com
Face to Face only

Leicestershire, Rutland, South Derbys & Notts
Everything we are paid or collect goes to
Rainbows Hospice. We can work with a fee or
collection or both.

The Jerusalem Jammers - A demonstration of Ladies Morris Dancing with an introduction to the background of the dances. An audience participatory dance (or two) is available at own request but at own risk.

Sue Crockett
01455 458107 / 07500 594773
suecrockett55@gmail.com
Face to Face Only

Leicestershire
£50+£20 travel for WIs. £60+£20 travel for
WI group meetings.
Available evenings and weekends.

After Eight Quartet – Four experienced singers present light hearted songs in glorious four-part harmony - with a sense of humour! Extracts from recordings of the quartet can be heard at <https://soundcloud.com/user-340700642>.

Peter Sayer
01530 243822 / 07857 505283
sayerpeter8@gmail.com
Face to Face only

Leicestershire and Rutland
£75 inclusive of travelling expenses

A Magical History Tour – the story of Stage Magic from Ancient Egypt to the present day. Performance of magic tricks is included. **The Golden Tapestry** Bishop Peter is the only Bishop in the Magic Circle. **Fifty-Two Soldiers of the Devil** - Bishop Peter Fox tells the story of Playing Cards and Playing Card Magic employing his own considerable skill to mystify his audience.

Illusion, Delusion and Disillusion - As both a Bishop and a Magician, Bishop Peter Fox describes the rise of fraudulent mediums and supernatural confidence tricks in the Nineteenth and early Twentieth Centuries.

Bishop Peter Fox
01332 811534
peterandangiefox@yahoo.co.uk
Face to Face only

County of Leicestershire.
My standard charge is £60 to include all
expenses to be paid by cash or cheque on the
night.

#Dance - boost your mood, exercise your body, from Strictly to Silver Swans! How dance can generate a mood boosting fun way to exercise and improve your physical health. A summary of all the different dance styles from Strictly to Silver Swans ballet and how they can bring on a new you . There will be a demonstration and an opportunity to have a go. **Silver Swans Ballet, release your inner Swan, Dance is for everyone!** An Introduction to Silver Swans Ballet showing the benefits both physically and mentally of taking up or returning to a ballet class for anyone regardless of experience. I will talk through the benefits of dance for all ages , offer a demonstration and the chance for the group to have a go.

Ginnette Brookes
07762902372
info@gb-dance.co.uk
Face to Face and online

Leicester , Leicestershire
£70 including travel

OTHER

Honey Bees & Bee Keeping - How important bees are to us and how we can help **Spinning - Sheep & Wool** – A look at this traditional craft **Are poems scary? thought-provoking? Rhyming?** A whistle-stop tour

Julia Wallis
07801 414335
jlswallis@hotmail.com
Face to Face or online

Nuneaton Warwickshire
£75

A Toastmaster's Tales - An amusing look into the world of a modern Toastmaster **The London No-one Tells You About** – find out the secrets of the city **Folklore, Folk Tales and Funny Folk** - A look at some of this country's more bizarre laws and traditions **The Great British Eccentric** - A celebration of this country's quirkiness

Geoffrey Harris
07753 638427
enquiries@classinacoat.co.uk
Face to Face & Online

County-wide
£70 + travel if over twenty miles from base.
(Generally in the region of £10)

#What it means to be a Magistrate – how to apply, train and what happens in court **How to live in peace with your cat** – live in purrfect happiness **How to become a Professional Gatecrasher** - How to gatecrash events (legally) and humorous anecdotes **My extraordinarily ordinary life** - Milestones in my life, exploring others. Motivational and humorous. **All you need to know about Breaking Wind.** Humorous

Suzi Felstead
07775 735464
sdf.dragonlady@btinternet.com
Face to Face only

Leicester, Leicestershire, Rutland.
Nottinghamshire
£50 + £10 for over 20 miles travel.

A Design for life The Laura Ashley story A fascinating insight into the life and influences of one of the most loved designers of our time. An innovative woman her childhood experiences shaped her life and the iconic patterns and styles we still know and still love today. **Ghosts In Grandeur** - In this costumed talk we explore the not so living history of Warwick Castle and Calke Abbey. Characters still roaming the corridors and experiences as witnessed by myself and guests and colleagues. **The Domestic:** Servant to Goddess and all the ammunition in between.

This 2 part talk looks at the Womens role from the 1900s to the 1930s and the 1940s to the 1950s through both World Wars. From Housewife to worker and back again...several times, the varied and emotional journey all endured with a 'Stiff Upper Lip'.

More talks available

Jo Golby
07867 893110

All of Leicestershire and Rutland
£45.00 fee plus 45 pence per mile from

timetravellersuk@msn.com

Face to Face only

Journey of a Letter - Funny Stories from the Post – Life on the run - Oban – Holidays - The Olympic Torch - Covid on the Post- The Torch and the Exhibition – How we worked through it all and kept the country going

Please contact after 6pm

John Noble

Leicestershire

0116 2774495

varies - call in evening to confirm

Johntherunnernoble@gmail.com

Face to Face only

The Settle and Carlisle Railway - A tale of Victorian Railway skulduggery. How the line came to be built, its subsequent history including closure threats and a trip over the most scenic railway line in England. **The Life and Works of Isambard Kingdom Brunel** – learn about his life and achievement **A View From Above** - Some of the lessons learned whilst a student pilot and experiences of learning to fly and subsequent piloting of light aircraft with some humorous touches.

Colin Ellis

Midlands

01530 272592

£60 plus 30p per mile travel from Measham,

colinellis1950@gmail.com

Leicestershire

Face to Face Only

Confessions of Game Show Junkies - An amusing jaunt through TV game show history from the experience of two contestants covering the secrets of well-known and more obscure programmes. All finished off with a quiz comprising question, picture and music rounds

Stephanie Mee

Leicestershire and Rutland

07593 998377

£60 inclusive

prune2011@hotmail.co.uk

Face to Face Only

30 years of Leicester Comedy Festival - Entertaining talk about the history of the festival, featuring stories and anecdotes

Geoff Rowe Across

Leicestershire

07973 548309

Fee £140 no travel expenses if in Leicestershire

geoff@geoffrowe.co.uk (registered charity 1135167)

Face to Face Only

Bound to learn - a brief history of western bookbinding Few people think about bookbinding when they look at books but it has a fascinating history. This talk looks at making books, their external decoration and the materials from which they are made, especially in the last 500 years. **Why can't we read them?** Conserving the National Trust's libraries

Caroline Bendix Leicestershire and Rutland

caroline@bendixlibraryconservation.com £50 fee and 45p per mile travel

01858 881091

www.bendixlibraryconservation.com

Face to Face & Online

The Real CSI (Crime Scene Investigator) - Series about the clever criminals and the not so clever ones, lots of interesting and funny stories. I'll tell you about some of the work I've done on TV dramas. You can also ask me about your favourite TV dramas and I will try to answer them.

Paul Taberner

Leicestershire

02476 383772

£40 plus £5 travel

paultabs@hotmail.co.uk

Available daytime and evenings

Face to Face only

Anthony Nolan Cord Blood Programme - I worked as a Cord Blood Collector with the Charity Anthony Nolan. I explain about Stem Cells and the amazing work that the Charity does to save lives every day. It's a fascinating subject and everyone is amazed at the end of the talk.

Barbara Talbot
07743 533642
b.talbot1106@gmail.com
Face to Face only

South Leicestershire within a 10-mile radius
of Blaby
£60 to charity

Peter Le Marchant Trust – Waterways trips and holidays for the disabled and seriously ill
Tim Marren
LE11 2NS

01509 265590/07375 667487
timmarren@plmt.org.uk

Canalside Moorings, Beeches Road, Loughborough, Leics.
Donation to charity Available anytime
Face to Face & Online

Save the Children Then and Now

A brief history of Save the Children followed by where, how and what they are doing.

Josephine Burgess
0116 2674252
ajbsavethechildren@gmail.com
Face to Face & Online

Leicestershire and Rutland
£50 – to charity

Wainwright's Coast to Coast Walk for LOROS - A 60-minute illustrated talk on the iconic and stunning 192-mile Coast to Coast Walk across Cumbria, Lake District, Yorkshire Dales & N Yorks Moors raising funds for the LOROS Hospice.

Walking Hadrian's Walk for LOROS - An illustrated talk -60 mins.

***New for 2025/6* UK Treks for LOROS** - Illustrated talk that includes West Highland Way, Cotswolds, South Downs, Cleveland Way & others - 60 mins.

Leicestershire and Rutland Rounds for LOROS - An illustrated talk on walking the 100-mile Leicestershire Round and the 65-mile Rutland Round for LOROS - 60 mins.

Adrian Walker
07446 082910
walk77a@yahoo.com

Leicestershire & Rutland
Donation to LOROS + £10 travel

Face to Face & Online

#Knitted Knockers UK I am a volunteer knitter for Knitted Knockers UK (KKUK). My aim is to spread the word about KKUK. I give a light-hearted informative and positive talk on a subject that affects so many women and their families.

Pamela Blythe
0772 6191911
pamela@kkuk.org.uk
Face to Face and online

Kegworth, Hathern, Loughborough,
Ashby de la Zouch areas for face-to-face,
further afield for Zoom
No Travel costs but Donation Appreciated.

103 The Eye - Award-winning community radio for Melton Mowbray and the Vale of Belvoir - A talk and demonstration illustrating the pioneering work of the volunteer run station which was the UK's first to launch under the new tier of community radio licensed by OFCOM in 2005. It has won the King's Award for Voluntary Service.

Christine Slomkowska
01664 565315
business@103theeye.co.uk

Leicestershire, South Nottinghamshire,
Rutland and South Lincolnshire
Donation towards station funds (amount up
to the donor)

Face to Face & Online

Dogs that make and save lives

We train and use dogs to detect medical conditions, diseases, and emergencies - they really are Super Sniffers - saving and making lives. How we go about doing this and who we help.

Richard Croker
07958 355925
rtuyi5678@yahoo.com

Leicestershire, Rutland, South Nottinghamshire
We ask for a £55 donation to the charity

Face to Face only

Canine Partners - A UK Charity transforming the lives of people living with disabilities through our amazing assistance dogs.

Talks Administrator

01730 716000

talks@caninepartners.org.uk talks

Face to Face & Online

Loughborough

£50 donation for face to face, £30 for online

Support dogs

A charity dedicated to increasing independence and quality of life for people with various medical conditions. We provide, train and support specialist assistance dogs to achieve this. We help children and adults affected by autism, epilepsy and other disabilities to lead a more independent life.

Tess Thompson

fundraising@supportdogs.org.uk

Face to Face & Online

Leicestershire

£40 Donation

An Illustrated presentation of the work of remap – Design and produce custom devices for people with disabilities

Martin Grant

publicity@remapleics.org.uk

07474 005513

Face to face only

Leicester

Charity donation

Herbal Medicine for the 21st Century * Herbal Health - a traditional approach for a modern world * **Herbal Health through the Ages * Herbal Medicine** – Living with Chronic Conditions * **New models of Healthcare** – what is good health and how herbs can help. **Hedgerow Pharmacy, Nature's Medicines** - Introduction to the Herbal Approach to health + wellbeing and how we can thrive not merely survive

Dr Serene Foster/Ruth Austin Leicester

0116 254 3178

ruth.austin@hydesherbalsclinic.co.uk

Face to Face & Online

(City + County) Rutland,

Market Harborough

mileage (60p per mile) plus donation to Shelter/Crisis

Leicestershire Children & Families Wellbeing Service Youth & Justice

Julian Robertson

0116 3050030/07725 204082

julian.robertson@leics.gov.uk

Rutland Building, County Hall, Glenfield, Leicester LE3 8RA

Donations to LOROS or Rainbows

Available anytime Face to Face & Online

Mercy Ships - Bringing Hope and Healing to the World's Poor –

PowerPoint presentation showing an incredible charity providing free surgeries and medical care to those who otherwise would have no hope of anything. Now working on two hospital ships in West and East Africa

Inter Care - Medical Aid to Africa PowerPoint presentation of a small but amazing and effective local charity sending vital medical aid to nearly 100 health units within sub-Saharan Africa

Rainbow Africa - Bringing a Smile Back to Africa PowerPoint presentation of a wonderfully caring charity committed to providing quality education and meeting practical needs in and around Livingstone, Zambia.

Alison Briggs

0116 2350345 / 07870 693409

alisonj.briggs@ntlworld.com

Face to Face & Online

Midlands

Donation to charity

Available daytime and evening

Carol's Capers (Adventuring for Charity). Fundraising for charity Carol has Sledged Huskies, Trekked the Sahara and Skydived to name a few. With the next challenge set of climbing Kilimanjaro in 2025, the presentation shows the highs and lows of Adventuring for Charity.

Carol Marsden

07972163553

cazdon20@gmail.com

All of Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland

£50 for talk. I do not charge for mileage

Face to Face only

Age UK Leicester Shire & Rutland. A short presentation on the memory and let people know about the service we provide should they wish to use it

Mark Draper
0116 2237363
mark.draper@ageukleics.org.uk

Leicestershire & Rutland
Donation

TRAVEL THE WORLD

Life Onboard the Royal Yacht Britannia – To give a glimpse of life during the royal tour. The fun, the laughter and the ceremonial.

Bill Haley
bhaley788@gmail.com
Face to Face only

Leicestershire
Free

The Agony and Ecstasy of a Canal Hotel Boater - The Life of the Wife & Family of a Canal Boatman. I was a Hotel Boater and Audiences are Enthralled by the Story I tell. My Talks are very interactive & include a couple of Songs for Audience Participation.

My Life Story - My Life has been full of Interesting Work Situations & Hobbies.

Barry Watson
07966 156473 / 01788 824473
barrywatson209@yahoo.co.uk
Face to Face only

Leics, Rutland, Warks, Northants, Oxford,
Beds, Bucks.
£40 + 40p per mile of Travel.

Neville Cooper, classical guitarist and guests, take you on a foot tapping and enlightening **journey through the music of South America**. There are performances of many rhythmic, engaging and familiar dances. Audience members are involved throughout.

Neville Cooper
07968 279675
neville.cooper@btinternet.com
Face to Face Only

Whole of Leicestershire and Rutland
£90 + 40p per mile travel
Will perform at short notice

#The funny side of travel - All the humour, fun and laughs from my 42 years as a self-employed travel agent in Glenfield.

Steve Brooks
07729872507
lands.brooks@btopenworld.com
Face to Face only

Leicestershire
standard charge £60 if a long-distance fee to be agreed to cover extra travel cost

Dignity and Freedom for South Asia's poor and outcaste people Hear life-stories highlighting DFN UK's life-enhancing work helping alleviate multi-dimensional poverty and inequality through its education, healthcare, economic empowerment and community development programmes among outcaste communities.

Janet Carleton
janet.carleton@dfn.org.uk / talks@dfn.org.uk
01785 785068
Face to Face & Online

Leicestershire and Rutland
No speaker fee charged however we appreciate a donation to our charity where possible.
We are grateful to have travel expenses covered if possible (suggest 45p/mile return to ST17 9QN)