**WI SPEAKERS LIST**

**ART & LITERATURE**

**Love and Romance in Art** - A lighthearted examination of some beautiful paintings (some

famous, some not) on the theme of romance. **Women in Art** A Beginner’s Guide to Modern art

It does what it says on the tin! - A walkthrough of the main periods and styles of art from 1880

to 1960 demonstrating the works of Picasso and Matisse, Dali and Warhol. **The Vikings!**

**Raiders, Traders or Settlers? -** An examination of the Vikings in Britain through art and

artefacts and other primary sources

Grainne Purkiss Leicestershire, Northants, Warwicks, Cambs.

07587 052948 £60 + 40p per mile

grainnepurkiss@hotmail.com Available evenings and at short notice

Face to Face & Online

**My Life as an Author** - A brief description of my career to date. Then describing the

research needed for my books and including a Q&A session

Margaret Dickinson Coalville

07990 549203 / 01530 458675 £70

margaretdickinson@me.com

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 theyare 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

**Ruffle the Rail Dog - the journey so far.** An evening of humour and nostalgia!

Local author Rachel will take you on the incredible journey of her books using puppets and

props, many of which she made herself, to show how Ruffle the Dog is brought to life! You’ll

smile at Ruffle’s antics on the steam railway during an entertaining visit.

Rachel Greaves Leicester, Leicestershire, Rutland

07784 749611 £35 plus travel of 40p per mile

rustytheraildog@outlook.com www.ruffletheraildog.co.uk

**Face to Face only**

**Follow Your Dreams -** How I followed my dreams and became RNA - Indie Champion

2023. How I achieved this award through hard work and determination. **How I became a published author –** how I realised my dream of becoming a published author of romantic fiction novels (seven to date)

**A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Typewriter**

Random encounters with Jilly Cooper, Dustin Hoffman and Tom Parker-Bowles and others

Lizzie Lamb All of Leicesershire and Rutland

07711 077051 Mileage plus £50 per talk

lizzielambwriter@gmail.com

Face to Face onlyWilling to share event and fee with writing colleague Adrienne Vaughan for

£50 plus mileage (as detailed below).

**It’s never too Late to follow your Dreams! -** An Overnight Success - that took 30 years!

I would like to share how, after a career as a journalist/PR and Corporate Communications

professional, I followed the dream I had as a seven year old, to finally become an award winning

published author. **The Secret Novelist -** A beginner’s guide to getting started writing the book you’ve always

wanted to write, while balancing a successful career, a (hopefully) happy family, a horse, two

cocker spaniels and a cat called Agatha Christie! **A Funny thing happened on the way to thing on the way to the Typewriter!** Random encounters with Dustin Hoffman, Tom Parker Bowles, Aidan Turner (Poldark), Bryan Ferry and Jilly Cooper.

Adrienne Vaughan All of Leicestershire and Rutland.

07966 400370 I would be happy to share the events with my

adrienne@adriennevaughan.com writing colleague Lizzie Lamb for £50 fee

Face to Face onlyper event plus travel expenses.

**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 -** 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. **Family History** - Using old newspapers and archival documents the history of the families at Calke Abbey, Kedleston Hall and Sudbury Hall. These are three separate talks for each property**. 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 North, West & South Leicestershire

07746800484 £40-£60 (no expenses)

vanessa62472@hotmail.co.uk

Face to Face and online

**#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 I can cover all areas.

07712673859 £45 for 45 minutes and 55p per mile

ellisd1970@btinternet.com

Face to Face only

**#Reach For The Stars-** A funny but informative opportunity to go backstage in the theatres of the West End and reveal the secrets of a Dresser to the stars. For 25 years Paul has worked with and met the most famous names in Show business. He reveals the secret and unknown world of a life waiting in the wings.

Paul Read All of Leicestershire & Rutland

07946 758114 £75 + 25p per mile. All fees negotiable.

misterpaulread@hotmail.com

Face to Face and online

**COUNTRYSIDE & NATURE**

**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 Leicestershire and adjoining areas to the west.

07969 191493 / 01530 415682 Donation at your discretion, no travel costs.

retsonian@gmail.com

Face to Face & Online

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

Peter Fielding Leicestershire, Rutland, and

07976 271159 surrounding area

peterfielding1@hotmail.co.uk £50 +40p per mile

Face to Face only

**Brilliant Bees**

**Bees and Trees -** How and why of Honeybees and other bees **Bee in the garden -** How and why of encouraging bees in your garden **Threats to bees -** What can we do? What are the threats and what are the solution for pollinators

The Bee Farmer aka David McDowell Leicestershire, South Derbyshire, North

07807 984506 Warwickshire, South Nottinghamshire.

Info@thebeefarmer.co.uk 30 mile radius of Ashby de la Zouch.

Face to Face and online£65 inc VAT 45p pm

**Passions, Potions & Poisons: Love & Death in the garden** Good Enough to Eat. 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. **Pickled, Potted & Canned** The history of food preservation ranges from prehistoric man to space travel, and is definitely not restricted to jam making! Learn how Birdseye became a household name, why canning was invented and just how useful honey and brandy are when it comes to preserving people. **The Drunken Botanist** Every great drink starts with a plant. Coupled with our obsession for alcohol and its influence

on our lives, it is a marriage made in the garden. Discover why beer is better than water, that civilised conversation requires wine, and why gin and rum were considered essential to the Royal Navy.

**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 Flexible. Please contact me to discuss.

0115 965 2114 / 07805 162088 £75, plus travel (45p/ mile)

tracey.akehurst@outlook.com

Face to Face only

**CRAFTS & HOBBIES**

**The Making of Handwoven bags from the Philippines** It is supported by a PowerPoint presentation, which includes videos showing the harvesting andextracting of the fibres from the local plant. Also, the dyeing and weaving process. Samples of theraw materials and finished products will be available for the ladies to hold or have a closer look. **PHILIPPINES: Culturally Quirky. Shell craft from the Philippines.**

A talk about the different shells found in the Philippines and the products made from them. It is

supported by PowerPoint presentation showing videos and pictures of these shells and how they

are harvested. 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.(60 mins).

Analiza Jones All of Leicestershire & Rutland.

01789 565075 / 07443565185 £70.00 all inclusive

siimpp@yahoo.com

Face to Face & Online

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

**The hoarder next door**

Steven Bruce All parts of Leics and Rutland

01926 642402 / 07778 595952 £95 to include all expenses

sbbrucesales@aol.com

Face to Face and Online

**Patchwork for pleasure Christmas items to make**

Sit back, relax and view my collection of quilts and patchwork related items and hear how I

began my journey into patchwork and quilting **Owl paperweight -** Make a patchwork owl paperweight. Kits £1.50 each for materials **Hat pincushion** Make a pincushion shaped like a hat or a keyring made from felt in the shape of a cute lamb. Both kits are £1.50 each for materials, Items to make for £1 each. Make a fabric flower brooch or a lavender heart. Both kits are £1 each for materials

Carolyn Boulter All areas of Leicestershire, Rutland and

01455 843618 / 07759 842909 Market Harborough

carolynboulter@ymail.com £50 + 25 pence per mile after 10 miles.

Face to Face only

**Beautiful Britain** A collection of stunning pictures taken across the British Isles, from the West Country to the

northern parts of the Outer Hebrides. **On My Doorstep** You don’t have to travel far to visit beautiful and interesting places. This talk takes you to some of these places close to my home in North West Leicestershire & surrounding area illustrated my pictures.

**My Hobby Photography (A Reason to travel & More)** My photographic journey over 20 years. Illustrated with some of my favourite and memorablepictures. A wide range of subjects including travels abroad & at home, portraits, wildlife, cities,railways, sport and my favourite landscapes. Lots of stories & information behind the pictures.

Ian Pettit Leicestershire/Rutland/Staffordshire/

07908 338592 Derbyshire/Nottinghamshire

ianpettit77@gmail.com £45 Inc total of 30miles travel.

Face to Face onlyOver 30 miles £0.45p per mile

**Flower Arranging** - To show and demonstrate the art of flower arranging. Accessible to all

Kerry Evans Leicestershire

0116 2602824 / 07940 885588 £35 plus material costs and 40p per mile

kerryevans289@btinternet.com Available evenings and some weekends

Face to Face only

**The road to Aluminiumart: from Bugattis to butterflies**

Describing the careers and skills acquired to create unique and interesting products in aluminium.

Demonstration, visual aids and a talk that’s a little different. Products available for sale

Matthew Warburton Leicestershire

07733 552888 £100 + 50p/mile

matthew@aluminiumart.co.uk Generally available

Face to Face only

**From Fleece to finish** -**One Crafter’s Journey** A talk by a sheepfarmer on preparing fleece for handspinning with demonstrations of the tools used and different types of spinning using a spinning wheel and drop spindle. There is an opportunity to look at different wool as well as a chance to buy some of the spun yarns and

handmade items. **A tale of yarn** A brief history of handknitting with some interesting knitting facts thrown in.

Angela Dewes Leicestershire and Rutland

barnspunyarnandfarm@gmail.com £55 for talk and 45p per mile of travel

07745 122180 Availability: All year

www.barnspunyarnandfarm.co.uk

Face to Face only

**#Basketmaking and willow sculpture. Corn Dollies - Their history and symbolism**

By describing my life as an artist basketmaker, I give a lively and interactive talk about the

history of basketmaking showing tools, techniques and woven basket artefacts.

Maggie Cooper Leicestershire

01332 811639 / 07944 603267 £90.00 + .40 per mile travel

magicooper62@gmail.com

Face to Face only

**#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 Kegworth, Hathern, Loughborough,

0772 6191911 Ashby de la Zouch areas for face-to-face,

pamela@kkuk.org.uk further afield for Zoom

Face to Face and online I don’t charge a fee or for travelling costs, but

a donation to support our registered charity would be greatly appreciated.

**#Group Crafting Activities by HomeMadeCrafts** My presentation is to provide resources for simple, fun, seasonal activities for group members to make. I provide all resources for up to 30 group members. (For larger groups there may be an additional cost) **“Name that tune” by TinaElizabeth** The aim of these activities is to achieve through enjoyment and fun!

Tina Elizabeth Sydenham Based in Ilkeston and will cover up to a 20 mile

07980 554849 radius (I can travel further on special requests)

tinaelizabeth@homemadecrafts.co.uk £60 +40p per mile travel

Face to Face only

**FOOD & DRINK**

**Smile please say cheese- Poultry and game with turkey Carvery - Timeless entertainment**

**Carvery & Timeless entertainment**

Ian Rogerson Leicester

07983 632286/01163 489060 £65 please call to discuss

ian\_timeless@icloud.ocom

Face to Face Only

**Chocolate & Sugarcoat demonstration -** talk, demonstration, tasting and a raffle

Emma Grant Loughborough

01509 416638 £90 plus milage

hellohannahs@outlook.com

Face to Face only

**HEALTH, WELL BEING & FITNESS**

**Tai Chi** - Talk, some history and benefits of practise, demonstration including Sword Form

& some participation which can be done seated

Laraine Tucker Leicester and Leicestershire

07779 434742 £49+ £50p per return mile

larainetucker@icloud.com Available Monday to Friday

Face to Face & Online

**#You’ve told me so much and are yet to say a word. Getting what you want, knowing what you need.** A fun, interactive presentationshowing how much we communicate with our bodies and how we can learn to read andunderstand what others are thinking; often different to what they are saying. This talk offers

ideas for better communication and relating. **Living on £1.60 a day, the people of Tamil Nadu.** An introduction to the local charity: ‘Salt of the Earth’, and the amazing work they are doing to lift up and free the rural poor of Tamil Nadu in South East India. **Being present; being free!** An interactive presentation to equip and encourage those present to live in the moment, free of the burdens of the past and the anticipated anxieties of

the future. This talk will include some practical tips and experiences. **Would you really rather die than give a talk?** Discover the joy of public speaking, learn some basic skills and feel the buzz of sharing your thoughts, ideas and experiences. This talk will encourage those present to stand up, step up, and speak up when the opportunity arises.

Vince Jupp Leicestershire.

07840-855030 A flat fee of £65, (I donate all my fees to

vincejupp@btinternet.com charity and pay for my own petrol).

Face to Face only

**What is a Funeral Celebrant and what do they do?** A talk and discussion about

funerals - the why, the where and the who; what makes a good funeral; how a funeral can be

personalised; and a look at poetry and readings.

Amy Perkins Leicestershire and Rutland

07592 846861 £50 plus 45p per mile travel

amyperkinscelebrant@gmail.com

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 Leicestershire

07954 099798 £40.00 + 40p per mile of travel

Janetharrison19@gmail.com

Face to Face and online

**#Hair loss and thinning - distressing but not inevitable** An interesting, fun and interactive session with a qualified trichologist (hair and scalp specialist). Reliable, honest information and questions answered including: retaining healthy hair into older age; causes of excessive hair fall, loss, thinning and balding; how to treat problems. **Maintaining healthy hair as we age** I'm a qualified trichologist (hair and scalp specialist). Many people think there is no choice but to silently endure the worry of excessive hair fall, thinning or just loss of condition as they age. I'll explain problems, causes and practical steps to tackle (and avoid) issues, and feel amazing.

Sally Archer Leicestershire

07873314802 Nil

sallyarcher@outlook.com

Face to Face and online

**#Nutritional Health & Wellbeing-** The Healing Power of Food **Mindfulness Awareness Practices for Health & Wellbeing - Stress management techniques -** Explanation of the scientific benefits of mindfulness practices on our health and wellbeing. **Breathing Techniques for Health & Wellbeing-** Calming and relaxing breathing practices for stress and anxiety.How to calm and rebalance the nervous system through gentle mindful and deep breathing practices. Explanation of the scientific and multiple overall whole body/mind health and wellbeing benefits of calming breathing techniques. **Gratitude for Health & Wellbeing**

Falguni Patel All of Leicestershire & Rutland
07908 106 522 £30 + 40p per mile travel

gratefulwellbeing@gmail.com

Face to Face and online

**#Lipoedema - the painful fat disorder affecting women.** Lipoedema is a painful fat disorder affecting up to 10% of women. It is incurable, under-diagnosed and causes pain, distress and difficulty with mobility. I am a therapist with clients with lipoedema. I hope to raise awareness of the condition and how to access help.

Sharon Andrews Leicestershire

07505 323681 0116 2239265 A contribution to travel costs would be welcomed

sharonseashell@hotmail.com

Face to Face only

**#The Power and Importance of Nature in Skincare -** With both radium and rat poison used in skincare products within the last 100 years, do you really know what is touching your skin? Nature has everything we need and beauty should be without compromise. My talk will empower choice! **Using Natural Skincare -** a practical and interactive demo and talk, featuring Tropic Skincare With the female dominated, multi-billion dollar skincare industry promising us youthful, glowing skin through celebrity endorsed product ads - where's the practical help?!
Using the no-compromise, natural brand Tropic, I'll demonstrate the 'how' through a fun and interactive talk.

Kathryn Adkins Whole of Leicestershire and Rutland

07725984935 £60 + 40p per mile

tropickathryn@gmail.com

Face to Face and online

**#What does 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 North Leics, Notts, East Derbys, West Lincs

07941778928 none

hello@pettherapyacupuncture.co.uk

Face to Face and online

**Crystal Healing \* Stress and Aromatherapy \* The Benefits of Aloe Vera**

Pamela Lenthall Wigston, Leics.

0116 2108730 £45 + travel

pamela.lenthall@ntlworld.com

Face to Face only

**HISTORY & LOCAL INTEREST**

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

01530 413371 £35, plus 35p per mile of travel.

belldavid950@outlook.com

Face to Face only

**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 Syston Ashby, Leicester, Loughborough

01332 792036 Melton Mowbray, Coalville, etc

bob.neill1@btinternet.com £60 + mileage

Face to Face only

**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

Andrew Brown Leicestershire, Northants, South Lincolnshire

07801 0574174 and Rutland

twbfarms@aol.com £75 plus 45p per mile

Face to Face and Online

**Law and order series: Development of police -- Wicked Women - Memories of yesteryear - Women at work - Drainpipe trousers to rock and roll - Wish you were here**

Graham Sutherland Warwickshire and surrounding area

01926 4595894/07801 962981 £65 + £5 travel expenses

graham.g.sutherland@btopenworld.com

Face to Face and Online

**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 –** our local king **Christmas Crackers -** (For November/December only!). A miscellany of funny, poignant

and serious readings, pictures and music for Christmas.

Dave Andrews East Midlands

daveandrews127@hotmail.com £60 - £100 inclusive

07801 935975

Face to Face & Online

**Leicester’s first suburb -** birth of middle-class suburb **Thomas Cook -** Corporate greed and corruption. **Foxton Locks -** Wonder of canal engineering **Streets of Leicester** - How Leicester streets got their names.

Richard Warren Leicestershire and Rutland. Longer travel

rjwintheburrow858@gmail.com Summer only

07870 870328 £50 (£10 travel for longer distances)

Face to Face & Online

**#Master Hosiers House, Workshop and Garden, Wigston** The museum is the last surviving Framework Knitters workplace in its original condition. Whenthe last Master Hosier, Edgar Carter died in 1951 the workshop was locked and left, leaving aunique record of a Framework Knitters working life.

Barry Mays Leicestershire and Rutland

07952 979329 none

barry.mays@icloud.com

Face to Face only

**History of sewing machines -** Looking at the history of sewing machines with examples of working machines

**Pigment flower printing** What happened to the companies who did this printing

Michelle Burton Leicestershire

07928 611533 / 01509 816078 £50 + travel

Michellemillie72@gmail.com

Face to Face only

**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 Moira, Derby

01283 819410/07952 173724 £60 plus travel 25p per mile

 bill.devitt@sky.com

**My Life as an Artist \*** **Cruising for the Uninitiated**

 Michaela Kelly Thorpe Satchville, Leics.

 01664 840731 £40 plus mileage

michaela.kelly3@btopenworld.com

Face to Face only

**Workhouse Storytellers** – What was Workhouse life really like? Using material from the archives, authentically costumed storytellers bring the Victorian workhouse to life. Our performance lasts for just under an hour and includes 4 stories (or 3 stories and songs) some humorous, some tragic

Victoria Preece Volunteer Administrator Location - up to one hour’s travel time from NG25

07810 484717 £50 (donated to charity), 30p per mile over 20 miles

workhousetales@gmail.com from NG25

for more details see our website

[www.workhousetales.org](http://www.workhousetales.org) Available with reasonable notice

**MUSIC & PERFORMING ARTS**

**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 Leicestershire

01455 458107 /07500 594773 £50+£20 travel for WIs. £60+£20 travel for

suecrockett55@gmail.com WI group meetings.

Face to Face Only Available evenings and weekends.

**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 County of Leicestershire.

01332 811534 My standard charge is £60 to include all

peterandangiefox@yahoo.co.uk expenses to be paid by cash or cheque on the

Face to Face onlynight.

**The Myths of Middle Eastern Dance**– For this talk, I unveil the truth behind the myths associated with Belly Dancing and discuss where the myths originated. This talk includes a demonstration of Middle Eastern dance plus a rummage through costumes throughout the ages and how they have developed and what styles they are used for.
A look at different props used during folkloric dances and lots of interesting information about the both the origins and future of belly dance. There is no audience dance participation during this talk.

**My life, stories of dancing with snake and fire!**(Please note there is no fire lit during this talk 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!!Finally, I relate all the hilarious and sometimes scary incidents and accidents I’ve had over the years. **Shimmy interactive-**Immersive interactive session for ladies’ groups (seated and standing). No experience necessary. **Fun with Belly dance!** Including musical instruments, veils, coin belts and songs.

Roxanne Dinsdale Midlands

07939 253124 / 01162 874517 £60 plus 45p per mile.

aysherox49@btinternet.com

Face to Face & Online

**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 Leicestershire and Rutland

01530 243822 / 07857 505283 £75 inclusive of travelling expenses

sayerpeter8@gmail.com

Face to Face only

**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 Leicestershire, Rutland and beyond

samdobson69@gmail.com £45 to £60 depending on distance from Birstall

0116 2677372 Available anytime

Face to Face and online

**Discovering South American Music** - Los Amigos, a Classical Guitar, Clarinet and

Percussion trio, take you on a foot tapping and enlightening journey through the music of South

America. There are performances of many rhythmic and engaging dances. Audience members

are involved throughout.

Neville Cooper Whole of Leicestershire and Rutland

07968 279675 £90 + 40p per mile travel

neville.cooper@btinternet.com Will perform at short notice

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 variousmagic tricks, plus a discussion about magic as a form of entertainment, followed by a shortteaching 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 All of Leicestershire

07946 413452 £75 (first 30 miles free from CV11 4BL, then

john@hoopguy.com just 50p per mile for additional travel.

Face to Face Only

**#An Evening of Scottish Dancing and Singing**

Demonstration of Scottish Country dancing including audience participation if required

Margaret Spence Leicester and Leicestershire

0116 2392802 / 07729 633636 £45 for 30 mins, £60 for 1 1/2 hours + £25

dems@rscdsleicester.org.uk travel when more than 10 miles from Leicester

Face to Face only City Centre

Available weekends, afternoons, and evenings (except Thursdays)

**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 predatethe 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 Leicestershire, Rutland, South Derbys & Notts

01509 558197 / 07982 254298 Everything we are paid or collect goes to

johnandsheilabentham@virginmedia.com Rainbows Hospice. We can work with a fee or

Face to Face only collection or both.

**#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 Leicester , Leicestershire

07762902372 £60 including travel

info@gb-dance.co.uk

Face to Face and online

**OTHERS**

**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 £120 no travel expenses if in Leicestershire

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

Face to Face Only Anytime except February

**Between Stairs, The life of a Ladies’ Maid -** This lively talk, given in 19th Century costume

explains the life and duties of the Personal Maid to the Mistresses of the great houses of England.

**Top to Toe The price of vanity -** We cover wearing of stays and a lesson in the ‘Language of

the Fan.’ **Christmas True Victorian Style -** Here we discover how we Really used to celebrate

Christmas and how it filtered down through the classes. Before singing Santa’s and Sellotape, a

look at food, cards, wrapping, trees, decorations and the origins of traditions we still hold today.

**True Tales of a Tour Guide -** A ‘cheeky’ behind the scenes talk on 40 plus years as an

Historical Costumed Guide. Working at Warwick Castle, Bosworth Battlefield and Calke Abbey,

the people I have met and experiences that will never be forgotten. **The Time Travelling Tourist...A post card from the past -** From The Grand Tour to the Kiss me Quick hat, we take a trip down memory lane to our Holidays past. Where we went, how we got there, where we stayed, what we ate and what we got up to.

**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 andstyles we still know and still love today.

Jo Golby All of Leicestershire and Rutland

07867 893110 £45.00 fee plus 45 pence per mile from

timetravellersuk@msn.com

Face to Face only

**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 Leicestershire, South Nottinghamshire,

01664 565315 Rutland and South Lincolnshire

business@103theeye.co.uk Donation towards station funds (amount up

Face to Face & Online to the donor)

**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

**The Worshipful Company of the Makers of Playing Cards**- and other

interesting stories associated with the Playing Card **All about Playing Cards – Part 2** Covering history, mystery, facts and myths. Where the cards we play with today originated.

Mike Lister Leicestershire & Rutland, but prepared to

01509 557350 / 07881404408 travel outside of these two counties if

mikelister49@gmail.com additional travel costs can be agreed.

Face to Face only£50 this includes travel so no hidden extras

**#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.

Suzi Felstead Leicester, Leicestershire, Rutland.

07775 735464 Nottinghamshire

sdf.dragonlady@btinternet.com £50 + £10 for over 20 miles travel.

Face to Face only

**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 County-wide

07753 638427 £70 + travel if over twenty miles from base.

enquiries@classinacoat.co.uk (Generally in the region of £10)

Face to Face & Online

**The Olympic Torch \* Journey of a Letter \* Funny Stories from the Post \* Life**

**of Running \* Oban \* The Torch and the Exhibition \*Covid on the Post** – How we

worked through it all and kept the country going

John Noble Leicestershire

0116 2774495 varies - call in evening to confirm

Johntherunnernoble@gmail.com

Face to Face only

**Recycling With a Difference** - My talk comes with a large display. I am passionate about

recycling. I make from many of the items you throw into your recycle bins such as super market

carrier bags, old cds, food tins, ring pulls, plastic bottles, magazine & book pages and turn

these into handbags, earring etc to name but a few.

Sue Drage All areas within a 40mile radius of Rugby

01788 336565 / 07487 420838 £45.00 + 0.41p per mile

susan.drage@ntlworld.com

Face to Face & online

**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 25p per mile travel from Measham,

colinellis1950@gmail.com Leicestershire

Face to Face Only

**How to Enjoy Your Houseplants** - An informal talk with hints and tips on keeping your

houseplants happy and healthy without the stress

Susie Lickman Countywide

susie@windowsillplants.co.uk £60, plus 25p/mile from LE16 9AA

07980 542448

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 £57.00 inclusive

prune2011@hotmail.co.uk

Face to Face Only

**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 Leicestershire and Rutland

0116 2596312 / 07788 416109 £50.00 plus 40p per mile return travel

aglp@btinternet.com

Face to Face Only

**#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 All over the UK.

0740 771 5178 Usually a flat fee of £75.00 will suffice.

nathanielbagshot@yahoo.com

Face to Face only

**#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 from TV ads

Julia Wallis Nuneaton Warwickshire

07801 414335 £70 + £5 travel if over 45 minutes (one way)

jlswallis@hotmail.com

Face to Face only

#**Seven Generations –** walking gently on the earth with Native American wisdom

Michelle Muessel £45 plus travel

01162715522 Evenings and weekends only

Speakinghawk.uk@gmail.com Leicestershire

Face to Face and Online

**TRAVEL THE WORLD**

**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 Leics, Rutland, Warks, Northants, Oxford,

07966 156473 / 01788 824473 Beds, Bucks.

barrywatson209@yahoo.co.uk £40 + 40p per mile of Travel.

Face to Face only

**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 Leicestershire

bhaley788@gmail.com Free

Face to Face only

**Bletchley Park : Women at War -** Meet the WW II women codebreakers of Bletchley Park.

From debs to factory girls and all imbued with a steely determination to help win the war.

**The Mercury 13 : Women Born to Fly -** The story of the American female pilots who in

the 1960s passed the selection tests for spaceflight. They challenged convention – and took on

NASA and the political establishment for the right to fly, blazing a trail that others might follow.

**Women in Space : Meet Wally Funk & Her Friends -** Learn about the role played by

women in the early space programme and who history chose to forget about and find out why

Valentina Tereshkova might not have been the first woman in space.

Ken Kelly East & West Midlands

ken904@btinternet.com £40 + 15p per mile

07958703928

Face to Face only

**Dignity and Freedom for South Asia’s poor and outcaste people** Highlighting DFN UK’s life-enhancing work helping alleviate multi-dimensional povertyand inequality through its education, healthcare, economic empowerment and communitydevelopment programmes among outcaste communities

Janet Carleton Leicestershire and Rutland

janet.carleton@dfn.org / talks@dfn.org.uk No speaker fee charged however we appreciate a

01785 785068 / 07735 747967 donation to our charity where possible.

Face to Face & Online We are grateful to have travel expenses covered

if possible (suggest 45p/mile return to ST17 9QN)

**Barnard Castle to Berwick** – Cross Teesdale, Weardale and Tyneside to Hexham. Explore

Rothbury, Alnwick, the Farne Islands and Holy Island. See the Chillingham herd, the only truly

wild cattle in the world.

Wendy Martin Hinckley

01455 613348 £40 Minimum + 30p Mileage

wendytmartin@tiscali.co.uk

Face to Face & Online

**#The funny side of travel -** All the humour and fun from my 41 years as a self-employed travel agent in Glenfield.

Steve Brooks Leicestershire

07729872507 standard charge £60 if a long-distance fee to be

lands.brooks@btopenworld.com agreed to cover extra travel cost

Face to Face only

**The Story of the French Cancan \* Sophisticated Ladies of the Night:** The 19th Century Parisian Courtesans \* **The Truth behind Les Misérables \* The Truth behind the Sound of Music \* Women of the Russian Revolution**

David Price

07528 756124 £80

david@d-price.co.uk Available daytime and evenings

[www.d-price.co.uk](http://www.d-price.co.uk)

Face to Face and online

**#The Work of a Magistrate -** My role as a Diversity & Inclusion Magistrate is to educate the general public on the work of a Magistrate and helping them understand that anyone can apply from 18 - 70 years without having a University degree.

Andrea Bridges JP The whole of the Midlands area

07732451128 donation to a charity or the local branch of the Magistrates Association to continue the outreach work that we do.

Andrea.bridges.jp@ejudiciary.net

Face to Face and online

**CHARITIES**

**Save the Children Then and Now**

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

Josephine Burgess Leicestershire and Rutland

0116 2674252 £50 – to charity

ajbsavethechildren@gmail.com

Face to Face & Online

**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 **West Highland Way walk and climbing Ben Nevis for LOROS -** An illustrated talk on

the 96-mile West Highland Way walk from Milngavie to Fort William & tackling Ben Nevis.

**Leicestershire and Rutland Rounds for LOROS -** An illustrated talk on walking the 100

mile Leicestershire Round and the 65-mile Rutland Round for LOROS.

Adrian Walker Leicestershire & Rutland

07446 082910 Donation to LOROS + £10 travel

walk77a@yahoo.com

Face to Face & Online

**Rainbows Hospice -** We’re able to provide a talk about Rainbows, our work at the Hospice

and out in the Community too.

Gary Farnfield The East Midlands

01509 283 952 A donation to Rainbows

gary.farnfield@rainbows.co.uk

Face to Face & Online

**Canine Partners** - A UK Charity transforming the lives of people living with disabilities

through our amazing assistance dogs.

Talks Administrator Loughborough

01730 716000 £50 donation for face to face, £30 for online

talks@caninepartners.org.uk talks

Face to Face & Online

**Samaritans** – The emotional support charity.

Samaritans Leicester

0116 270 5500 No Fee - Donation appreciated

leicester@samaritans.org

Face to Face Only

**#Dogs for Good** - A national charity that makes life-changing differences for people with

disabilities through the power of expertly trained dogs. Our dogs bring independence to people

by taking on many practical tasks, such as retrieving items, helping them get dressed and

opening doors.

Dogs for Good Leicester

www.dogsforgood.org/about-us/book-a-talk £50 donation to charity

Face to Face & Online

**“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. **Modern Slavery -** The Crime That Is Hidden In Plain Sight

Phil Jesson Leicestershire, Nottinghamshire, Rutland,

phil@teamjesson.co.uk Derbyshire And Northamptonshire

07774 241207 £50 travel expenses and £50 donation

Face to Face & Online

**Prostitution: Profession or Oppression?** An interactive, sensitive and eye-opening

session exploring the realities of prostitution, the different legal approaches to address it, and

how as a community we can respond with compassion and empathy.

Becky Panting Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland

beckyp@saffires.org.uk Donation to the charity

07467 139302

Face to Face & Online

**An Illustrated presentation of the work of remap** – Design and produce custom

devices for people with disabilities

Martin Grant Leicester

publicity@remapleics.org.uk Charity donation

07474 005513

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 South Leicestershire within a 10-mile radius

07743 533642 of Blaby

b.talbot1106@gmail.com £60 to charity

Face to Face only

**#Why LOROS is so important to our community -** To showcase the Hospice and the

breadth of care and support services available to patients and families within Leicester,

Leicestershire and Rutland. To share the many different fundraising options, including regular

giving through the LOROS Lottery. And why every £1 is so important!

Nikki Coles-Cross Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland

0116 231 8430 2 members of staff time 2.5 hours with travel

nikkicoles-cross@loros.co.uk 2 journeys at 45p £6.00 / £5.00

Face to Face onlyMince pies and treats for meeting £10.00

**#Hearing Dogs for Deaf People - Leaving Loneliness Behind and Reconnecting**

**with Life -** Foundation of charity, what charities does, personal circumstances of having my

own hearing dog and how he helps me.

Dawn Swepstone Within 30 miles of Sawley Derbyshire

07757 929716 The presentation fee is £60 no travel costs are

dawnswepstone@hotmail.com charged all donations to charity

Face to Face only

**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 Leicestershire, Rutland, South Nottinghamshire

07958 355925 We ask for a £55 donation to the charity

rtyui5678@yahoo.com

Face to Face only

**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 Leicestershire

fundraising@supportdogs.org.uk £40 Donation

Face to Face & Online

**#Hedgerow Pharmacy, Nature’s Medicines -** Introduction to the Herbal

Approach to health + wellbeing and how we can thrive not merely survive

Ruth Austin Leicester (City + County) Rutland,

0116 254 3178 Market Harborough

ruth.austin@hydesherbalclinic.co.uk mileage (60p per mile) plus donation to

Face to Face & Online Shelter/Crisis

**Peter Le Marchant Trust –** Waterways trips and holidays for the disabled and seriously ill

 Tim Marren Canalside Moorings, Beeches Road, Loughborough, Leics. LE11 2NS 01509 265590/07375 667487 Donation to charity Available anytime timmarren@peterlemarchanttrust.co.uk Face to Face & Online

**Cancer Research UK -** Audio visual legacy talk which includes information about Cancer Research UK and our work, a little science to join in with, a personal cancer journey and unusual bequests.

 Terri Mclean-Bowman Discretionary donation to Cancer Research UK

01536 233266 Available Monday – Friday, daytime and evenings

Terri.mclean-bowman@cancer.org.uk

 Face to Face & Online

**Leicestershire Children & Families Wellbeing Service Youth & Justice**

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

 0116 3050030/07725 204082 Donations to LOROS or Rainbows

julian.robertson@leics.gov.uk Available anytime Face to Face & Online

**Mercy Ships - Bringing Hope and Healing to the World's Poor -** PowerPoint presentation of a small but amazing and effective local charity sending vital medical aid to nearly 100 health units within sub-Saharan Africa. **Inter Care - Medical Aid to Africa** 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. **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 Midlands

0116 2350345 / 07870 693409 Donation to charity

 alisonj.briggs@ntlworld.com Available daytime and evening

 Face to Face & Online