

# theWI Huntingdon & Peterborough

## Speakers Handbook 2024



Charity No. 1178059

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[www.thewi.org.uk](http://www.thewi.org.uk)

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Office Hours:

Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday: 9am—1pm

## Speakers Subjects in Presented Order

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## Notes to WI Programme Secretaries

1. If writing to a Speaker by post, always enclose a stamped addressed envelope for a reply. If contacting a Speaker by email, print any replies as proof of confirmation.
2. Please remember that all bookings made by telephone should be confirmed in writing. This can either be in a letter or email format. The fee and travel expenses should be agreed immediately afterwards, giving the appropriate details of date, time and place of meeting. The Speaker should also be told how much time is allowed for the talk or demonstration. It would be most helpful if, when writing to speakers or demonstrators, a contact telephone number is given which could be used by the Speaker in the event of a last minute emergency.

3. A reminder, giving the necessary directions both to and from the meeting, should be sent at least a week beforehand. It is often difficult to find the way to a hall on a dark winters evening so a good, well drawn map is very useful. Postcodes of venues can also be useful for those using Satellite Navigation.
4. It is worth finding out the travelling expenses beforehand and the length and method of the Speakers journey. It is the duty of the WI to appoint a Hostess to welcome and look after the Speaker, introduce them to the President and see to their comfort. Don't forget to leave a parking space for them and do help them with any boxes etc.
5. Speakers fees and travelling expenses should always be paid at the meeting, and by bank transfer or cheque payable to them personally and not to a national charity.
6. Do see that adequate table space and any requested equipment is made available before the start of a meeting.
7. Do not keep the Speaker waiting if they arrive promptly. If necessary, the remainder of the business could be postponed until the end of the talk.
8. The Federation has agreed with these Speakers that the information contained in the Speakers Handbook is for the use of Huntingdon and Peterborough WIs. Please do not pass the information on to anyone else. In accordance with GDPR, please ensure all earlier editions are destroyed.
9. Finally; use local talent whenever possible, especially during winter months; keep a look-out in the local press for ideas; do not be afraid of trying something new and remember—a WI with a dull programme cannot expect to gain new members or even keep their present ones.

## AUTHORS

### 1. Roger Leivers—Author and Local Historian

**The Godmanchester Stirling**, the subject of my first book 'Stirling to Essen,' which has now sold over 3,500 copies worldwide and into its third reprint. The true story of a XV Squadron Short Stirling bomber crew out of RAF Alconbury who crashed close to Godmanchester in April 1942. It tells their story, learn about the raids they went on, the crashes and close calls and what became of them. Who did fate save and who did she cast aside.

**House of Spies**, how Farm Hall in Godmanchester became a vital link between SOE/IS HQ in London St James and RAF Tempsford. Who ran it, who passed through it on the way to occupied Europe, a canine warrior, the German Nuclear Scientists incarcerated there and one of the most amazing wartime survival stories, worthy of a film any day. This talk comes from my second book, 'Godmanchester at War.'

**Godmanchester at War**, our towns amazing wartime history outside of the Farm Hall story. Children and evacuee memories, a long lost story, the story of our fallen, tales of the ARP and Dads Army, invasion planning and local politics, a fascinating insight into what life was like in most small towns during the war.

**Searching for Lotte**, she made an emotional appearance in my first book, but since then her story, and that of her family, has expanded to become a talk in its own right. The true holocaust story is full of both hope and despair. You will find how she was found and then the twists and turns of life for the family in Theresienstadt, and for some, Auschwitz.

**Father & Son**, the life of William Rhodes Moorhouse, the first airman to be awarded the Victoria Cross for bravery during the Great War, and his son, 'Willy,' who flew during the Battle of Britain. Both remarkable men and heroes of the nation, although there are some dark corners in Williams story. Make up your own mind at the end! He divides opinion!

**When Brits Go Bad**, Bull Dog spirit? Not for these scoundrels. Wartime brought out the worst in people. Looting, gangs, prostitution, serial killers, murderers, spies, and traitors. Its all here. Be warned, its not for the faint hearted!

**Availability:** Evening

**Requirements:** Projector screen

**Contact:** Roger Leivers, Godmanchester.

Tel: 07926 329970                      Email: rogerleivers@yahoo.co.uk

**Fees: £50**                                      **Travel expenses: N/A**

## COMMUNITY/VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS

### 1. Dementia Friends Information Service

The Dementia Friends Information Session, an initiative formed by the Alzheimer's Society, is a simple but poignant presentation where you will learn a little more about dementia, how it may feel to be living with dementia and how best we can support those affected by dementia.

The session lasts approximately one hour and includes a few activities.

**Availability:** Morning, Afternoon, Evening (negotiable dependant on venue).

**Requirements:** A small table to work from.

**Contact:** Mrs Heather Hooper, Werrington, Peterborough.

Tel: 07816521081.                      Email: [Heather.Hooper@volunteers-alzheimers.org.uk](mailto:Heather.Hooper@volunteers-alzheimers.org.uk)

**Fees: A voluntary donation to the Alzheimer's Society would be very welcome.**

**Travel expenses: No travel expenses.**

## 2. Mary's Meals

Mary's Meals was inspired by the words of a child back in 2002. We started by feeding just 200 children in Malawi a daily meal in their place of education, and now we feed over 2.4 million children in 18 countries. Our story begins in 1992 in the village of Dalmally in Scotland when 2 brothers were having a pint in their local pub. Our global headquarters is still the small shed that was used as storage on their father's farm. This presentation tells you the story of Mary's Meals from its humble beginnings to now being a global charity helping children and their communities build a ladder out of poverty.

**Availability:** Morning, Afternoon, Evening.

**Requirements:** Preferably access to a screen/projector/speaker to show presentation. Power supply.

**Contact:** Mrs Jane Wright, North Hykeham, Lincolnshire.

Tel: 07395798196.

Email: [jane.wright@marysmeals.org](mailto:jane.wright@marysmeals.org)

**Fees: No charge, voluntary donations. Travel expenses: No travel expenses.**

## 3. MAGPAS Air Ambulance

The talk will take you behind the scenes to learn more about how MAGPAS Air Ambulance, its clinicians, staff, volunteers and supporters come together to save lives in the community.

**Availability:** anytime -Monday to Friday. Short notice is a possibility.

**Requirements:** 2 x tables - one for presentation literature and merchandise and one for the projector/laptop & speakers. All equipment can be brought with us but please do let us know if you have a blank wall or projector screen we could use. Access to power supply.

**Contact:** Mrs. Emma Sanders, Alconbury Weald, Huntingdon.

Tel: 01480 371060.

Email: [info@magpas.org.uk](mailto:info@magpas.org.uk)

**Fees: Donation please. Travel expenses: No travel expenses.**

## 4. The Angels Foundation UK

The Angels Foundation UK is a Registered Charity 1205725 (formerly known as The Property Angels Foundation) which supports families who have fled domestic abuse throughout Huntingdonshire. We provide families with furniture, flooring, home comforts and social introductions to the community through our 'Back to Life' support project. The Angels Foundation UK's purpose is to bring comfort and hope to families fleeing domestic abuse. Integral to the support we give families affected by domestic abuse, is that they understand their community haven't forgotten about them, that they aren't alone, and that people care about them.

[www.angelsfoundation.org.uk](http://www.angelsfoundation.org.uk)

**Availability: Morning. Afternoon. Evening. Short notice.**

**Requirements:** Laptop connected to a projector or TV screen (presentation will be brought on a USB).

**Contact:** Caroline Deeprise, St Ives.

Tel: 01480 271771

Email: [support@angelsfoundation.org.uk](mailto:support@angelsfoundation.org.uk)

**Fee: Suggested donation of £50. Travel expenses:**

## 5. Silver time Legal

Our experts will deliver into the intricate world of estate planning, shedding light on topics such as Inheritance Tax Planning, Long-Term Care considerations, and the significance of having a comprehensive plan in place. Additionally, our expert speaker will cover the importance of having both a Will and Lasting Powers of Attorney (LPA), and understanding the dynamics and potential implications of sideways inheritance, to ensure a fair and equitable distribution of assets among family members.

**Availability:** Morning, afternoon and evening.

**Requirements:** No electronic equipment, unless you would like our speaker to wear a microphone then this will need to be supplied.

**Contact:** Miss Ria Hambridge, Silvertime Legal, 4 Barling Way, Eliot Park Innovation Centre. CV10 7RH  
Tel: 07796 962405      Email: [ria@silvertimelegal.co.uk](mailto:ria@silvertimelegal.co.uk)

**Fees: No charge.      Travel expenses: No charge.**

## 6. Suffolk and Cambridgeshire Blood Runners

Providing a free essential service to our local NHS hospitals, Air Ambulance services, hospices, human donor milk banks and vulnerable patients by transporting them free of charge 24 hours a day, everyday.

**Availability:** Morning, afternoon and evening.

**Requirements:** Preferably access to a screen/projector for speaker to show a presentation.

**Contact:** Mrs Maria Cook, Ipswich, Suffolk.

Tel: 07771633961      Email: [events-Suffolk@servs.org.uk](mailto:events-Suffolk@servs.org.uk)

**Fees: £50 voluntary donation to charity.      Travel expenses: None**

## 7. Magistrates

### Talk One: General Presentation on Magistrates Courts

A PowerPoint based presentation about the work of the magistrates' courts: who are magistrates, what sort of crimes do they deal with, how are decisions made, what punishments can be imposed, etc. (I have been a Cambs magistrate since 1992).

### Talk Two: Behind Closed Doors

The work of the Independent Monitoring Board in a prison. (I am currently the Chair of the Independent Monitoring Board at HMP Littlehey near Huntingdon, Cambs. What do board members do to monitor the conditions of our prisons and the impact on prisoners?)

**Availability:** Morning, afternoon, evening and short notice.

**Requirements:** Preferably access to a screen/projector/laptop to show a PowerPoint presentation. I will come equipped with a memory stick!

**Contact:** Mr Geoff Watts MBE JP, Eaton Socon, St Neots.

Tel: 01480 215551      Email: [Watts-g4@sky.com](mailto:Watts-g4@sky.com)

**Fee: £0      Travel expenses £0**

## CRAFTS

### 1. Crafts with Pat King

#### Talk One: Make a clock

An art evening where every one goes home with a working clock

**Availability:** Not available January to May 2024

**Requirements:** Tables.

**Fees: £70 plus £5 travel**

**PLUS each member to pay £5 for materials**

#### Talk Two: Handbag adornment

Using beads and cord make a decorative addition for your handbag

**Availability:** I am not available January to May 2024.

**Requirements:** Tables.

**Fees: £70 plus £5 travel.**

**Contact:** Mrs Pat King, Buckden.

Tel: 07981 727603 / 01480811020

### 2. Celebrations Cake Decorating Shop

I can demonstrate all aspects of cake decorating, from covering a cake to decorating cupcakes, sugar flower making and models.

I also can do workshops making models or cupcakes where I provide all the equipment needed for an extra fee.

**Availability:** Morning, afternoon, evening, plus short notice

**Requirements:** No electronic equipment unless you would like our speaker to wear a microphone then this will need to be supplied.

**Contact:** Anne Robinson, Orton Wistow, Peterborough.

Tel: 07843413514

Email: [celebrationspeterborough@gmail.com](mailto:celebrationspeterborough@gmail.com)

**Fees: £75.**

**Travel expenses: £10.**

### 3. Rip and Burn Textile Landscapes

When one usually thinks about sewing and the equipment needed, a soldering iron doesn't usually spring to mind. However, this is a vital piece of equipment for me to produce my layered textile landscape pictures. I use fabric, stitch and my trusted soldering iron. The technique involves layering fabric which is subsequently stitched, burnt with the soldering iron and then embellished with machine stitch, hand embroidery and sometimes beads. In my talk I explain how I came across the technique, my influences and the fabrics that I use (which are always pre-loved).

I provide samples of fabric and soldering irons so that members can have a try themselves. I also sell small starter kits with everything included for members to take home and explore the method further for themselves.

I can ensure that you will have a "Rip Roaring" evening!!

**Availability:** Morning, afternoon, evening, and short notice.

**Requirements:** Two tables near an electrical socket.

**Contact:** Mrs Lee Harris, Bury.

Tel: 07990 523144

Email: [LeeSews@outlook.com](mailto:LeeSews@outlook.com)

**Fees: £55.**

**Travel expenses: £10.**

## ENTERTAINMENT

### 1. An Hour of Magic

Do you want something different ? This is it ! Brighten your morning, afternoon or evening with an hour of watching completely unexplainable things magically happen right in front of your eyes ! See what your mind can do : its wonders, glories - and peculiarities. ( ... and ... if we've already met - it's a whole new show for this year )

'Thank you soooo much for such a wonderfully entertaining evening - everyone loved it!! ' ( Linda Nightingale, Bourne Worth It W.I. )

**Availability:** Morning, afternoon, evening, and short notice

**Requirements:** None stated.

**Contact:** David Bale, Cambridge.

Tel: 07593 586263

Email: [davidbale1944@gmail.com](mailto:davidbale1944@gmail.com)

**Fees: £80, plus travel expenses**

### 2. Ghostly Tales

I have been telling stories to WI groups across Est Anglia for the last 15 or so years and as such have a large repertoire of material ready to entertain and tell.

I tell stories to children and adults at locations that include schools, village halls, parks, gardens and at festivals.

I have a number of sets of stories/legends/folktales from Huntingdonshire/Cambridgeshire/Fenland/East Anglia/England etc as well as themed sets such as Ghostly/Spooky and tales of Stories/Folktales/Legends/Country Folk.

All sets can last from 40 minutes to an hour to suit the group, and I do list the stories I tell so that repeat bookings don't get the same stories, yes, some groups do book me more than once.

All sets can be presented without any equipment however I am putting together accompanying historically appropriate pictures for some of them, please ask for up to date information. The provision of a screen by a group if required would be useful.

Also in preparation is a set that will include some English Folk songs/Music Hall songs that will include the opportunity to sing along too interspersed with stories. Again please ask for details if interested.

**Availability:** Morning, afternoon, evening, and sometimes short notice

**Requirements:** Dependant on talk.

**Contact:** Malcolm Busby, Cambridge.

Tel: 01638744170 / 07551431801

Email: [storyteller@malcolmbusby.co.uk](mailto:storyteller@malcolmbusby.co.uk)

**Fees: £45.00.**

**Travel expenses: 25p per mile**



### 3. The Tally Ho Project

#### Talk One: One of Our Own.

The remarkable story of local Battle of Britain pilot, Squadron Leader Victor Ekins DDFC.

I am pleased to be able to share the quite remarkable story of local Battle of Britain pilot, Victor Ekins. Based on the wartime diaries that he meticulously kept during the war and that lay unread for over 80 years, this is a tale of friendship, love, loss and action.

It has been the privilege of a lifetime to have researched his story for over 3 1/2 years and see it published in July 2023.

The talk itself includes a presentation where I share many unseen photos from the Battle of Britain as I take you back to those epic summer months of 1940.

#### Talk Two: A Higher Call'

This is one of the most remarkable stories that I have ever heard during a lifetime of research about WW2. Charlie Brown, an American bomber pilot based at RAF Kimbolton takes off on his first mission over occupied Europe. He was 21 years old and had lied about his age to his crew. His story is entwined with that of a German fighter ace named Franz Stigler, who has the lives of Charlie's B17 bomber 'Ye Olde Pub' in his hands. Will he take the shot?...

This incredible story is brought to life with a presentation that includes photos from the era.

**Availability:** Evening, and short notice

**Requirements:** I have a laptop and projector, I will just need a screen or blank white wall to project onto.

**Contact:** David Duker. St.Neots.

Tel: 07917206128. Email: [thetallyhoproject@gmail.com](mailto:thetallyhoproject@gmail.com)

**Fees: £75.00.**

**No travel expenses.**

### 4. It's Hell on Wheels

Stephen has been a Driving Instructor for over 36 years - and is still alive!

Find out what the current driving test is like. It's changed a lot since we took out tests!

Hear the hilarious questions my Learners have asked and said during their driving lessons.

Experience a funny mock driving lesson courtesy of an (un)willing volunteer from your audience.

Can offer a Zoom quiz if required.

**Availability:** Afternoon and evening .

**Requirements:** No electronic equipment is needed. I only need a small table to put my props on and two chairs. I have my own microphone and sound system.

**Contact:** Mr Stephen Brown, Boston, Lincolnshire.

Tel: 07702 064409

Email: [steve\\_lonwheels@hotmail.com](mailto:steve_lonwheels@hotmail.com)

**Fees: £65.**

**Travel expenses: subject to negotiation**

## 5. Shakespeare Groupie!

### Talk One: Shakespeare Groupie

I've seen all of Shakespeare's 37 (or is it 38 or maybe 39 ...) plays over the last 40 years. All on stage and mostly multiple times, with many of the greats from Dench to Walters, Gielgud and Jacobi, Sheen and Tennant and Rylance.

Many were fabulous, many were dire, all were memorable.

So, I'd love to share some anecdotes about the drying, the corpsing, the mishaps, and the shenanigans - and a few examples of pure genius which I've witnessed in that time.

No equipment needed, just a lively talk by a Shakespeare Groupie ... and you don't even have to like him to enjoy it!

### Talk Two: Shakespeare Groupie Revisited

This is the rest of the Groupie talk. If you've had me to be a Groupie, then why not re-invite me for the rest of the stories ...

### Talk Three: Shakespeare Genius Alert

The life and theatrical times of the Bard himself - Master William Shakespeare. From his birth in Stratford-upon-Avon up to and including his time as a successful playwright in London.

No equipment needed as I'll bring pictures to hand round and a model of an Elizabethan theatre.

And if we have time we'll finish off with a lively exchange of Shakespearean insults ... you never know, you might find a few of them quite handy!

**Availability:** Morning, afternoon, evening and potentially short notice.

**Requirements:** None.

**Contact:** Mrs Elizabeth Dive, Perry, Huntingdon.

Tel: 07843 989940

Email: [lizdive@icloud.com](mailto:lizdive@icloud.com)

**Fees: £50.00.**

**Travel expenses: None.**

## 6. Behind the Scenes in the sale room

I talk about my life as an antiques valuer and auctioneer, recounting in a light-hearted and amusing manner my experiences on the rostrum and the many fascinating items I have been asked to value and sell. I describe how to buy and sell at auction and talk about what goes on behind the scenes in the saleroom and in front of the cameras on 'Flog It!', BBC TV's popular antiques programme. I bring with me a few items of interest which the audience can handle and discuss.

**Availability :** Morning, afternoon and evening, also short notice

**Requirements:** no electronic equipment unless you would like our speaker to wear a microphone, then this will need to be supplied.

**Contact:** David Fletcher, Bedford.

Tel: 07771532177

Email: [david@davidfletchervaluer.co.uk](mailto:david@davidfletchervaluer.co.uk)

**Fee: By arrangement.**

**Travel expenses: £0**

## 6. Thatching —An Introduction

PowerPoint presentation on the history of thatching, different materials used and thatching generally in East Anglia.

**Availability:** Evenings and short notice.

**Requirements:** Area to project Power Point presentation on, either a screen or wall.

**Contact:** Mr Chris Dodson, Sawtry.

Tel: 07717875510

Email: [info@chrisdodsonthatcher.co.uk](mailto:info@chrisdodsonthatcher.co.uk)

**Fee: £60 - £80.**

**Travel expenses: £0.**

## 7. Millinery Magic

A presentation on the magic of millinery and my journey to becoming an award-winning milliner.

A brief history of millinery and current millinery business in the UK.

A discussion on the main materials & techniques in the making of hats bases.

A discussion on the main materials & techniques in creating millinery trims.

A demonstration of how to curl and shape feathers.

An opportunity for those attending to decorate a headband with flowers, beads, ribbon, feathers and veiling to create a small headpiece.

All materials will be provided –

- A single headband (various colours) for each person.
- A variety of feathers, beads, brooches, ribbons, buttons and veiling will be available.
- Sewing supplies, hot glue guns and illustrated instructions.

The speaker will also provide support to members during the decorating session, by circulating around the tables.

The talk and demonstration will last approximately 20 minutes which allows for the rest of the session for making.

**Availability:** Morning, afternoon, evening and short notice; possibly, it depends on how short notice is defined, and if I have all supplies available.

**Requirements:** Tables and chairs to set up groups for all those attending. Space on tables for millinery supplies & equipment for each person. Table for speaker to set up display of hats and materials used in millinery. Further space and ideally a table to put out further supplies for headband decorating. Electricity supply to each table for power glue guns ( speaker can bring extension leads)

**Contact:** Miss Alison Cooper, Pidley, Cambs.

Tel: 07403310356

Email: [Alison.cooper953@gmail.com](mailto:Alison.cooper953@gmail.com)

**Fee: £60.00. Fee includes all materials. Travel expenses: £5.**

## 8. My Life as a Micro Artist

The most amazing and unusual presentation you are likely to see - thought-provoking, awe-inspiring and highly entertaining.

I knew, the day I left school at the age of 15 without any qualifications, that I had already failed on an epic scale. This was brought home to me when I secured my first job - emptying mouse traps in a Birmingham factory. The only positive memory I took from school, was of an inspiring English teacher, who explained how anyone could succeed at the highest level imaginable. Inspired by this same teacher, two of my class-mates went on to become world-renowned rock musicians, another became an Olympic runner and another pupil is now a television household name. The teacher's parting words, to me as I left school for the last time, were, "For the rest of your life, remember, if you want to achieve, you must think differently and behave differently. Think the same as everyone else, and you will achieve just the same."

This advice led me to securing the most enviable and prestigious client list imaginable, which included Buckingham Palace, Windsor Castle, Balmoral, Sandringham, The National Gallery, Rolls Royce, Chanel, Harrods, Fortnum & Mason, Richard Branson, Andrew Lloyd-Webber, Kim Kardashian, Elton John, Uri Geller and many, many other celebrities.

I am now considered by multi-millionaire fine-art investors around the globe to be the most talented artist alive today. Of course I don't believe it, but, being a thick Brummie, I'm sure you will understand when I say, it's good for my ego to hear this!

After carving The Lord's Prayer on the head of a pin, and engraving the words, 'Nothing is Impossible' along the sharp edge of a Wilkinson Sword razor blade, and the smallest portrait in the world of the Queen (on a gold disc inside the eye of a needle), I have appeared in many news, radio and television features internationally, and been the subject of a Discovery Channel documentary. Two years ago, a film of my art was shown at the annual Art and Film Festival in Hollywood.

An interesting venture, which brought me massive media coverage in 58 countries around the world, was when I engraved a portrait of Jane Austen on four £5 notes, then travelled around Britain, spending them in small shops. These four notes were valued at £50,000 each.

I go to greater lengths than anyone else in the world in an effort to produce art on such a minute scale. Working from midnight to 5.00 am, to avoid vibration from passing traffic, I lower my pulse to 20 beats a minute with the aid of potassium, magnesium and beta-blockers, and while wearing a stethoscope I engrave between heartbeats when I am perfectly still. Regular injections of Botox into my eyelids ensure there is no distraction from eye-muscles and nerves. At the age of 76 I still swim 8,000 metres every day. The reasoning is that the fitter I am, the lower

my resting heart-rate, which gives me a good base to work from. I am also a former European champion and record holder - 200m butterfly and 1500m freestyle.

I have many funny anecdotes to relate, concerning the celebrities and Royals I have met and worked with. (I am also the Royal engraver, and have been, for the last 35 years).

I will ensure that your members are thrilled with my presentation and are left talking about it long after it ends. I will add, your members will tell you it's the best talk they have ever heard. If they don't say this, you needn't pay me! As you are aware, no other speaker would ever dare say this to you.

One last point, if your members don't like laughing, then my 60-minute presentation is not for you!

**Availability:** Morning, afternoon and evening, and short notice.

**Requirements:** Speaker provides own equipment, please check with speaker for any additional needs.

**Contact:** Mr Graham Short, Birmingham.

Tel: 07812 083911

Email: [graham.short@freeuk.com](mailto:graham.short@freeuk.com)

**Fee: £120**

**Travel expenses: None.**

## 9. Silver Talks

### Talk one: The Development of the English Silver Spoon

How and why spoons have changed through the ages.

### Talk two: British Silver Hallmarks

Demystifying the Hallmark system.

**Availability:** Morning, afternoon, evening, and short notice

**Requirements:** 2 tables, access to a power supply and if possible a screen. Everything else Neil provides.

**Contact:** Neil Callan, Somersham, Huntingdon.

Tel: 07801 968184 / 01354 693546

Email: [nccallan@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:nccallan@yahoo.co.uk)

**Fees: £60.**

**Travel expenses: 40p per mile.**

## 10. You cannot be serious

Tales of a Wimbledon Umpire 1988-2012 Alan Gray M.B.E.

**Availability:** Morning, afternoon and evening, and possibly short notice.

**Requirements:** Table.

**Contact:** Mr Alan Gray MBE, Wothorpe.

Tel: 01780 766102 / 07950067055

Email: [alangray23@hotmail.com](mailto:alangray23@hotmail.com)

**Fee: £75 plus travel**

## GARDENING

### 1. Garden talks

Talk One: 'From Crowbar to Crocosmia'. The Making of a Fenland Garden. An illustrated talk describing how an NGS garden was created from a Fenland wilderness.

Talk Two: 'A Year in the Garden at Horseshoe Farm' - fully illustrated.

Talk Three: 'The People, Places and Plants of Paradise' - The Caribbean Island of Antigua - fully illustrated

**Availability:** Morning, afternoon, evening, and short notice

**Requirements:** 2 tables, access to a power supply and if possible a screen. Everything else Neil provides.

**Contact:** Neil Callan, Somersham, Huntingdon.

Tel: 07801 968184 / 01354 693546

Email: [nccallan@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:nccallan@yahoo.co.uk)

**Fees: £60.**

**Travel expenses: 40p per mile.**

## HEALTH AND WELLBEING

### 1. Mindfulness and Mindful Movement

We spend so much of our lives either in autopilot or caught up in our thoughts, spending little time appreciating what we have right here and now, leading to increased stress levels and a disconnection from ourselves.

In this session we will explore mindfulness (reconnecting to ourselves) in a fun and interactive way, through a mixture of a short talk and practical guided activities.

Session outline

- Brief introduction to mindfulness and breathwork
- o Including benefits of mindfulness for health and wellbeing
- Practical Activity – Connecting our mind and body through simple guided breathwork.
- Practical Activity – Connecting our mind and body through simple guided mindful movement.
- Q&A

Notes:

- Accessible to all, including attendees with limited mobility.

**Availability:** Morning, afternoon, evening and short notice.

**Requirements:** None.

**Contact:** Mr Steve Iddon, Offord D'Arcy.

Tel: 07756 463147

Email: [Steve.iddon@accentuatesolutions.com](mailto:Steve.iddon@accentuatesolutions.com)

**Fees: £40.**

**Travel expenses: 40p per mile.**

### 2. Exercise for the Mind, Body and Soul

A FUN chair exercise session for all. Need circle of chairs. Electric socket.

**Availability:** Not available January to May 2024.

**Requirements:** Chairs.

**Contact:** Mrs Pat King, Buckden, Cambs.

Tel: 07981 727603 / 01480811020

Email: [patking@writeme.com](mailto:patking@writeme.com)

**Fees: £70.00 plus £5 travel**

## HISTORY

### 1. The Secret Museum

The Spalding Gentlemen's Society was founded in 1710 and is the oldest rural society in Britain, only open to members for 300 years this is the story of this amazing collection. This Society's members included Sir Issac Newton, William Stuckeley, Joseph Banks and many other notable people. Share with me my obsession with this wonderful place and hear the strange tales of 300 years of collectors.

**Availability:** Morning, afternoon, evening and short notice.

**Requirements:** None.

**Contact:** Mrs Patty Harris, Spalding.

Tel: 01406 331236

Email: [patty.goatcottage@gmail.com](mailto:patty.goatcottage@gmail.com)

**Fees: £40.00.**

**No travel expenses.**

## 2. How To Trace Your Family Tree

The way in which one's family tree can be researched is presented with a description of some of the resources available. Case studies are given showing that resources such as birth, marriage and death certificates may not necessarily reveal the whole story.

**Availability:** Morning, afternoon and evening and short notice.

**Requirements:** Screen.

Peter Gout, Thrapston, N.Northants.

Tel: 07544646153.

Email: [familyconnections@btinternet.com](mailto:familyconnections@btinternet.com)

**Fee: £35.00**

**Travel expenses £0.20 per mile.**

## 3. History Talks with Dr Mike Muncaster

These short talks feature audio visual presentation and last for approximately 45 minutes, together with an opportunity afterwards for questions or comments.

### 1. The Elizabethan Theatre

Looks at theatre buildings, dramatists and performance of plays

### 2. Quacks and Medical Charlatans

Looks at unorthodox medicine in the late 18th and early 19th centuries, focussing on the personalities involved.

### 3. John Hales of Holt, a GP in the mid-19th century

Examines his work and family life, using a contemporary diary.

### 4. Stars of the D'Oyly Carte Opera Company

Covers 100 years of the company which presented the Savoy Operas and uses historic recordings. Copies of the libretti are provided.

### 5. Gone for A Burton – Migration of East Anglian Farm Workers

Between 1880 and 1930 Suffolk farm labourers went to work in the maltings at Burton on Trent

### 6. An Elizabethan Grammar School

This examines the foundation of a grammar school in the reign of Elizabeth I and follows its fortunes in the reign of Elizabeth II.

### 7. Horsepower

Looks at the role of horses in agriculture in Suffolk in the 19th century together with associated folklore.

### 8. Catholics under Elizabeth 1

Official attitudes changed from discreet tolerance to persecution as Catholics became increasingly seen as a threat to national security.

### 9. Cholera epidemics in the 19th century

Poor sanitation resulted in epidemics of a terrifying disease which was completely unknown in Britain.

### 10. The First Women Doctors

Celebrates the pioneering women who became doctors despite opposition

**Availability:** Morning, afternoon and evening and possibly short notice.

**Requirements:** Screen or blank wall for projection

**Contact:** Dr Mike Muncaster, Huntingdon.

Tel: 01480860813.

Email: [muncasters@btinternet.com](mailto:muncasters@btinternet.com)

**Fee: £50.**

**Travel expenses: £0.40 per mile.**

#### 4. History Talks with Don Chiswell

Talks on the following, some with local connections:

- BOUDICA
- KING ARTHUR
- THE DANELAW
- MACBETH
- HEReward THE EXILE
- ELEANOR OF AQUITAINE
- KNIGHTS TEMPLAR
- ROBIN HOOD MYTH AND REALITY
- LONGTHORPE TOWER
- MAGNA CARTA
- THE PEASANTS REVOLT
- LEONARDO DA VINCI
- KATHERINE OF ARAGON
- THE PILGRIMAGE OF GRACE AND THE LINCOLNSHIRE RISING
- MARY QUEEN OF SCOTS
- WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE
- THE GUNPOWDER PLOT
- JOSIAH WEDGWOOD
- BURKE AND HARE AND THE BODY SNATCHERS
- THE RAILWAY MANIAS
- THE GREAT STINK
- CHARLES DICKENS
- THE BODY SNATCHERS
- WILLIAM MORRIS AND THE ARTS AND CRAFTS MOVEMENT
- THE SUFFRAGETTES
- EDITH CAVELL
- LAWRENCE OF ARABIA
- AL CAPONE AND PROHIBITION

**Availability:** Morning, afternoon, evening and short notice.

**Requirements:** Screen or wall suitable for projection, table/stand.

Contact: Mr Don Chiswell, Peterborough.

Tel.: 01733 569951

Email: [donchis@gmail.com](mailto:donchis@gmail.com)

**Fees: £70.00.**

**Travel expenses: 30p per mile.**



## 5. Various Talks with Paul Rabbitts

**Talk ONE - *Bandstands - History, Decline and Revival*** - A talk on the history of the Bandstand, from their origins in the mid-18th century to their heyday during the Victorian park making era, and their subsequent decline post World War Two. This talk is a slide show that follows this fascinating history and the recent revival of the bandstand in our public parks. This is a highly illustrative talk that engages many and fascinates the listener and has had excellent feedback from those who have heard this engaging talk. **THIS IS A VERY POPULAR TALK**

**Talk TWO - *A Concise History of our Great British Public Parks*** - This really is a fascinating insight into the history of one of our greatest ever institutions - our great British public park. We have all enjoyed them at some time in our lives but what do we really know about them? their origins? did they really start in the Victorian period or do they go even further back? This talk illustrates their origins, talks about the need for parks, the Victorian heyday, what makes a great park, with examples of lodges, lakes, bandstands, fountains and floral displays, to their great decline in the sixties and seventies. However, the subsequent revival has led to a major shift in interest in our parks and once again we are much in love with them. This is also a highly illustrative talk accompanied by slides with examples of parks from across the UK and their designs and architecture. This is a particularly popular talk and always goes down well as we can nearly always recount our own experiences with our own local park.

**Talk THREE - *London's Royal Parks*** - London's royal parks are among its most beautiful and beloved spaces: just as much as the Houses of Parliament, Buckingham Palace or St Pancras Station, the mere mention of Hyde or Regent's Park is enough to evoke the capital in all its glory for residents and tourists alike. They have a grand history - some were royally owned as far back as the Norman conquest, others were acquired by Henry VIII during the Reformation - and since being opened to the public during the eighteenth century, they have hosted some of London's great events, including the Great Exhibition and innumerable jubilees and celebrations. This talk tells the story of all eight of the parks from the point when they were acquired by the monarchy until the present day, including the major historic moments and events with which they are associated.

**Talk FOUR - *Parks, People and Places - A Life in Landscape*** - This is really a talk about me!! from my beginnings as a landscape architect in Jersey to Carlisle City Council, to Middlesbrough Council, into consultancy at Halcrow and then as Head of Parks at Watford, Southend-on-Sea and to Norwich. Its a journey through my career, telling the stories of many of the small to large projects over the years I have worked on - multi-million pound park restoration projects to small scale community projects with local unemployed men, to wandering around the Scottish Borders or the Isle of Wight looking at allotments and play areas. I also have designed many private gardens over the years and tell the stories of some of the more bizarre requests from clients, to more recent escapades in writing and researching bandstands across the country. 35 years and counting, it is another talk that is engaging and enlightens the listener into the world of the landscape architect and parks manager with a weird slant on why I am obsessed with bandstands and is also illustrated with slides.

**Availability:** Morning, afternoon, evening (evening preferred) and short notice.

**Requirements:** None.

Mr Paul Rabbitts, Leighton Buzzard, Bedfordshire.

Tel: 07915 02358

Email: prabbitts@hotmail.co.uk

**Fees: £80.00**

**Travel expenses: £0.27p per mile**

## 6. Various Talks with Nicola Sandall

### 1) A Snippet of Stamford

*All things Stamford! - Our Town's Buildings: Now and Then, local tales and stories of Stamford and her residents.*

### 2) A Rutland Ramble

*Buildings, personalities and history of Oakham and Rutland: The Smallest County.*

### 3) M'Lords, Ladies and Locals

*Personalities, Visitors and Lincolnshire Folks that have left their mark.*

### 4) Ye Olde Crime and Criminals

*Looking back at Crime, local infamous criminals and punishments from throughout history and notable in our area.*

### 5) Around the County of Lincolnshire

*A Lincolnshire tour of its famous landmarks and what makes the County special.*

**Availability:** Morning, afternoon, Tuesday and Thursday evenings, and short notice.

**Requirements:** None.

Miss Nicola Sandall, Stamford.

Tel: 07909 69612

Email: nicolasandall@aol.co.uk

**Fees: £70.00**

**Travel expenses: None.**

## 7. Commonwealth War Graves Commission History

A talk about the reasons behind the Commonwealth War Graves Commission.

**Availability:** Evening, and short notice.

**Requirements:** Screen and table.

Mr Stewart Roy McGeoch, Huntingdon

Tel:

Email: stewartmcgeoch71@gmail.com

**Fees: Donation to CWGC**

**Travel expenses: None.**

**NATUTRE AND WILDLIFE****Bees To Candles**

I have been a beekeeper for over 13 years and that lead me to utilising beeswax to make candles which is a hobby I have been enjoying alongside it.

As a WI member myself, I have created a talk and crafting session which will give an insight into the fascinating world of the honey bee, the beeswax creation process and ending with a hands-on crafting session where members can created their own rolled beeswax candles to take home.

**Availability:** Evenings (mornings and afternoons by special arrangement). Not available at short notice.

**Requirements:** None.

Miss Caroline Knightley, Ramsey.

Tel: 01487 710311

Email: [Caroline.knightley29@gmail.com](mailto:Caroline.knightley29@gmail.com)

**Fees: £40.00 + £1.50 per member for crafting materials. Travel expenses: Dependent on location.**

**TRAVEL****Canadian and USA Travel**

Slide show lectures on a variety of subjects connected with Canada and the USA.

**Canadian Travels**

First Nation Canadian Indians

Arctic Canada and Polar Bears of Hudson Bay

The Great Plains featuring Fort Walsh, Cypress Hills & Prairies of Southern Saskatchewan

Canadian Connections including The Rockies, Niagara Falls and much more.

The Yukon and North to Alaska

The Kelsey Trail and Grey Owl

A Yellowbelly in Yellowknife featuring Canada's North West Territories Land of the Midnight Sun.

Atlantic Canada, featuring Newfoundland & Labrador.

**The United States of America Travels**

The Land of Enchantment: America's South West. Colorado, New Mexico, Arizona featuring the Grand Canyon, Monument Valley, Route 66, Apache and Navajo Nations

Montana and Wyoming including Yellowstone and Grand Teton National Parks and the Battle of The Little Big Horn

South Dakota featuring The Badlands, The Black Hills, and along The Great Missouri.

The Cities of Seattle, Sacramento and San Francisco including Alcatraz, Yosemite National Park.

New England in the Fall featuring New Hampshire, Vermont etc.

'The Beautiful South – Featuring:- Mississippi River and Tennessee featuring Nashville, Memphis and Chattanooga.

**Availability:** Morning, afternoon, evening and short notice.

**Requirements:** None.

Mr Chris Smith, Spalding.

Tel: 01775 724764

Email: [sylvie.chris@btinternet.com](mailto:sylvie.chris@btinternet.com)

**Fees: £65.00**

**Travel expenses: None.**