

Previous Monthly Meetings

In 2026

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| January | Lost in Translation with Professor Ian Maber | Every day we are bombarded with advertising messages, directions and signage. Often there is a hidden meaning to these messages. Ian gave us examples and the meaning behind familiar, and less familiar, messages. |
| February | Charnwood Forest Geopark with Dr Jack Matthews | <p>This Geopark, on our doorstep, tells the story of Charnwood Forest celebrating our internationally important geology, connecting people to our history, and securing a sustainable future.</p> <p>Jack told us about the more than forty different rock types in Charnwood, some of which contain fossils of our oldest known animal ancestors. Also what is being done to, hopefully, secure UNESCO status for our local Geopark.</p> |

In 2025

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| January | Active Charnwood | This was an opportunity to find out more about the Active Charnwood Alliance which a network of sport and physical activity partners who work collaboratively to advocate and develop inclusive sport and active recreation activities for everyone in Charnwood. |
| February | The Workhouse Storytellers | <p>Bringing the fate of the poor living under the 19th century Poor Law vividly to life, using material from the archives and authentic costumes to 'Tell Tales that inspire, challenge and inform'.</p> <p>They challenged commonly held views of the Victorian workhouse and whilst not all their stories ended happily; some induced hilarity, others were cruel and scandalous – but they were both entertaining and informative.</p> |
| March | AGM plus Groups Showcase | As well as the AGM itself, the meeting included a few short presentations in the church and displays in the foyer showcasing some of our interest group activities. |
| April | The YMCA with Peter Posner | As past World President of the YMCA, Peter's talk was about the YMCA, covering its 180-year history and global spread. |
| May | Made in Leicester with Brian Johnson | Brian, a local historian with a wide range of interests, told the stories of those businesses which began locally from humble origins and have since become household names. |

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| June | Glenfield Secret Garden with Adrian Allsop | This nineteenth century walled garden was abandoned and has now been restored by volunteers for the benefit of patients and staff at Glenfield Hospital. Adrian told the story of the garden and how you can support and visit it. |
| July | A Brief History of the Ambulance Service with Mick Gregory | Mick told us about the current Ambulance Service origins, as part of the National Health Service, and the huge development of their vehicles, equipment and training from pre NHS up to the present day. |
| September | Handbell Ringing with Sally Brown | We were told about the practice of handbell ringing and given a performance by a small, friendly, local group. |
| October | The Work of a Magistrate with Suzanne Felstead | Suzanne, a Magistrate with over 25 years experience of sitting on the bench in Leicestershire, described, with a colleague: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • what it means to be a magistrate • what happens in courts • how to become a magistrate |
| November | Forgery (and Fraud) with Jim Miller | Jim told us about forgery and the “fraud” subtitle was if (for example) you paint a picture in the style of Vermeer and sell it as a Vermeer to make money illegally, you have technically committed a fraud (via a forged object). So the talk was about forgery itself: What can be forged (almost anything)? Why do people forge things? How are forgeries detected and if possible prevented? Also to what extent is forgery in action at present? All illustrated by some interesting examples from history and right up to the present day. |
| December | Performance of a Christmas Carol with the Cu3a Drama Group | Radio play performance given by our own Drama Group |

In 2024

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| January | All At Sea with Anette Taylor | Anette’s talked of her 30 years’ experience as a cruise director and travel manager are fast becoming a favourite on the speaker’s circuit. Her knowledge of both ocean and river cruising are second to none and provide the backdrop for the wealth of stories she has accumulated. |
| February | Secret Love with Holly Reynolds | A special Valentine's Day celebration of love songs from the 50s and 60s. |

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| March | AGM plus Groups Showcase | As well as the AGM itself, the meeting included a few short presentations in the church and displays in the foyer showcasing some of our group activities. |
| April | The Woodland Trust with Ian Retson | Ian is very familiar with our local woods, having surveyed and recorded significant trees in Budden Wood, Quorn and the National Forest. He spoke about the aims and activities of that organisation to care for our precious woodland. |
| May | 'Magic' with John Constantine | John, a professional magician from Leicester, gave an entertaining talk on magic, which included one or two routines for additional entertainment value. |
| June | 'Tea and Empathy' with ZamZam Yusuf | ZamZam Yusuf, a Somalian refugee, shared her extraordinary story of her journey from Somalia to the UK. |
| July | My 25 Years at BBC Radio Leicester with Dave Andrews | An entertaining talk by Dave Andrews about his 25 years working as a presenter, commentator, and producer at BBC Radio Leicester. He looked at some of the high spots (and low spots), interesting interviewees and big events. |
| September | Wearing Tights for the Queen with Andrew Brown | Andrew, a Rutland farmer, spent a year 'wearing tights for the Queen' as High Sheriff of Rutland. Andrew provided an insight into the role and history of the High Sheriff, along with a look into the future of British agriculture. |
| October | A Tasting Journey Through Chocolate with Butterflies Chocolates | The 'Tasting Journey Through Chocolate' talk and tasting involved being told about how the cocoa plant grows, how chocolate is made and the many different factors which affect the end flavours in chocolate. |
| November | How to Read a House with Janet Spavold | We were told how to discover lots of clues to the history of a building just by looking at it – if you know what to look for! |
| December | Quorn Ukulele Orchestra | The much sought-after Ukulele Orchestra of Quorn played for us. Their programme included Christmas songs, carols, and a few sing-alongs. There was something for everyone to put us in the festive mood! |