



Issue No: 224

Driving the wheel of fellowship

October '23 Newsletter

Programme for the next two months.

October

Speaker Finder Grace & Thanks

Monday	2nd	Normal Meeting	Mark Thompson	Jenny Taylor
Monday	9th	Normal Meeting	Sally Parkinson	Willy Bach
Thursday	12th	Council	7 p.m.	
Monday	16th	Business Meeting	DG Visit	
Monday	23rd	Normal Meeting	David Walton	Sally Hollis
Monday	30th	Normal Meeting	Sue Postlethwaite	David Woolliscroft

November

Monday	6th	Normal Meeting	David Haynes	Bernard Johnson
Monday	13th	Normal Meeting	John Howell	Sue Sharp
Thursday	16th	Council	7 p.m.	
Monday	20th	Business Meeting		
Monday	27th	Normal Meeting	Alison Allen	John Wilson

If you are unable to carry out your 'duty' please find a substitute and tell **Anne Baker** Tel: 01455 285674 **email** christinabaker304@btinternet.com

First Tramways in Leicester

The first tramways in Leicester started with a horse-pulled operation in 1874 by Leicester Tramways Company. The first route was from the Clock Tower to Belgrave. This was soon followed by lines to West Humberstone and to Victoria Park, which opened in 1875. 1878 saw further extensions of the Victoria Park line along London Road to Knighton Road with new arterial routes to Aylestone Road in the south and to Woodgate in the north.

Leicester Corporation took over the tramways in 1901, under the Leicester Corporation Act, and a conversion to electric trams took place in 1904. This was accompanied by a large expansion, with links to Highfields, Clarendon Park, Western Park, and Narborough Road.

Further expansions took place from 1915 to 1927.

From the 1920s the Corporation transport department had run a motor bus service, and these started to replace trams in 1933. The last tram ran in 1949 on the Humberstone Road line. The main depot at Abbey Park Road and continued in use as a bus depot by First Leicester, the successor to Leicester Corporation buses, until 2007 when a new depot opened on Abbey Lane.



Laptops for South Africa

Wonderful to see Anne Thompson again who, on her club's behalf, gave our members a short talk of thanks for the laptops recently sent to her club in South Africa.

She showed us the presentation of the laptops to the Gamalakhe Commercial school.

The principal John Myeza is on the extreme left in the dark suit in the picture - the others present are Heads of Depts. in the school.

The Principal John Myeza of the Gamalakhe Commercial

School was thrilled to receive a much needed laptop donated by the Rotary Club of Lutterworth—he sent his heartfelt thanks via Anne to us all for this generous gift.



Future Events

Saturday 21st October 7-30 p.m. Welsh Male Voice Choir at Wycliffe Rooms Lutterworth

Friday 1st December 7-30 p.m. Salvation Army Concert at St Nicholas Church South Kilworth

Friday 8th December Stratford Christmas Market

Friday 12th January 2024 Puss in Boots at Concordia Theatre Hinckley 7-15 p.m.

Saturday 3rd February Elvis Concert De Montfort Hall 7-30 p.m.

Saturday 10th February Skittles Wolvey Bowls Club 7 p.m.

Sunday 10th March Rod Stewart Story De Montfort Hall 7-30 p.m.

The Princely States of India Lord Louis Mountbatten

Colin Derrick our speaker on Monday 11th September gave us a very interesting and detailed talk on the partition of India in 1947. In the period up to that time some 40% of the total Indian population had been ruled by 568 rulers of the 568 Princely States but under British agreement.

The theme of his talk was how the British Government, represented by Lord Mountbatten as the last Viceroy of India, reneged on any previous treaties and agreements between the British State and the Princely States of India.

The Princely States could trace their lineage back into the far reaches of the 4th Century BC. and were an integral part of the Mughal Empire that ruled India before the British entered India in the 18th Century. Continuing to hold sway under the East India Company.

The first Treaties between Great Britain and the Princely States were signed in 1799 and laid before the Houses of Parliament on the 27th May 1818.

The Princely States covered one third of the land mass of the Indian Sub Continent and were the glue that held together almost half the population allowing Britain to hold on to and control India. In 1857 The Indian Mutiny threatened British rule and it was only the support of the Princely States that allowed Britain to prevail, and stay in control.

In 1946 Lord Mountbatten was appointed Viceroy with instructions from Clement Attlee to get Britain out of India. Within a 6 week period the rulers of the Princely States were threatened, bullied, bribed and made to sign accession documents. In effect signing their own heritage away as the States were disenfranchised and neutered.

India was partitioned on August 14/15th 1947 divided into India and Pakistan and some 12 million people became refugees. Some 4 million people were to die.



Flooding and the Beaver



Dam built by Beavers that prevents Rivers flooding

With recent heavy rain rivers have been prone to flooding which has damaged farmers crops at a time of harvest.

Beavers have recently been re-introduced to the UK to help control this flooding as they are adept in minimising these flash floods by building dams across streams feeding the rivers as shown in the picture above.

To date they can be seen largely in Scotland where the population is estimated to be approx. 1,000 followed by England where the population is estimated to be around 500, mainly around the rivers Wye, Avon and Stour.

These dams are acting as sponges by introducing water in the **dry** periods of the year (drought) as well as **wet** (flash flooding).

They are the largest rodent in the UK yet the least known and little talked about the part they play on our environment.

For those interested in one of our controls on water - read more under "**Beaver**" on the computer.

Mole Catching

David Toone our speaker on Monday 24th gave us a most interesting talk on moles and the art of catching them.

May I start with a poem on moles

The role of a mole

I'm as happy as Larry when digging,
Feel like dancing and doing a roll,
Well, the earth was put here for us all to enjoy,
When my molehills appear someone shouts "oi"
as I fling the soil in a great cloud of joy -
Oh, it's wonderful being a mole.

When the gardener's been raking and hoeing
And he's taking a leisurely stroll,
I kick up my heels and a-moling I go
To the strains of him ranting "You right so and so!"
No wonder he can't get his turnips to grow -
Oh, its marvellous being a mole.

I've been smoked out and poked out and prodded,
I've had pepper shook down my mole hole.
But I always return by a different way
I just shovel and tunnel and burrow all day
One thing is for sure, I will not go away
Oh, he'll never get rid of this mole.

There's a lush bowling green near his garden
But the bowlers I drive up the pole,
As the first one arrives on that green swathe he strolls
All that smooth lawn just waiting
for molehills and holes, so I push up some earth
And he yells out "Oh bowls!"
Oh, it's great fun just being a mole.



The Mole Story

Have you heard the story about “the Gentleman in Black Velvet and the King. “In 1702 the gentlemen in black velvet killed King William III when his horse stumbled on a mole hill. The King fell seriously injuring himself and died two months later.

Why is it called a mole?

In early modern English the mole was known as mouldywarp which echoes similar variations across Northern European Countries such as Germany, Norway, Sweden and Iceland.

The ‘mouldy’ part of the word meaning soil and the ‘warp’ part is a descendant of the old Nordic word for throw—hence the ‘one who throws soil’.

Male moles are called boars while female moles are called sows and a group of moles are called ‘a Labour’.

Moles can dig a tunnel a chain (22 yards) in length everyday.

A mole’s diet consists mainly of earthworms, but they will also eat other invertebrates such as wireworms, perhaps leatherjackets and slugs but earthworms are their favourite food.

Before eating earthworms moles squeeze them between their paws to force the earth and dirt out of the worms gut and eat as much as 2/3rd of their own body weight each day.

The male mole has a highly developed sense of smell allowing it to remember the exact layout in precise detail of the entire tunnel system. They will soon detect any intruder and will fight to the death to defend their larder of food. A mole’s saliva has a toxin in it with which they can stun or paralyse the worms to keep them alive. A mole is usually 6” long and weighs 130 grams.

Nobody likes killing them but they do so much damage to silage, lawns including vegetable patches and by burrowing under root crops like sugar beet etc so have to be controlled. To control them you can—poison them – catch them alive and release them in a field where they can do no crop damage. Or buy little windmills to put on the molehills when the noise they make is supposed to move the moles to another territory— or trap them.

Living underground the mole can survive in air containing about 6% oxygen about half of the minimum required by humans.



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