



# THE FRIENDS OF CHARNWOOD FOREST NEWS



## Winter 2016/17

Website: [www.focf.org.uk](http://www.focf.org.uk)

**Mission Statement:** To work towards the preservation of the countryside and local environment of Charnwood Forest Regional Park for the benefit of those who live within it, and for those who visit, and for future generations. We aim to be an effective, informative and influential voluntary organisation.

### “Lacemakers and Luddites”

Talk by Mr Tony Jarram

Monday January 23 at 7.30 p.m.

An illustrated talk of the development of lace-making from handmade to machine production. The story is centred on the East Midlands especially Loughborough and its environs. It is a story of invention, migration and destruction and is as full of twists and turns as lace itself. The research for this project started with an exhibition by the Friends of Charnwood Museum in 2007 and has continued ever since with an international following by the descendants of former lace workers. A recent exhibition in Loughborough Library further enhanced the story. Tony will raise several controversial theories relating to the Luddite attack in Loughborough and the reasons why the industry left the town to re-establish in the South West of England and beyond. *Peter Bertram*



*At the end of the day. Volunteers have spent a hard day clearing and burning scrub to maintain the heathland at Charnwood Lodge Reserve*

*The heading picture this time:  
Dramatic November sky over the Forest*

*Wishing  
you all a  
Very  
Happy  
Christmas*



## TALKS and WALKS

### Our activities for you to enjoy

**Individual invitations for each event will be sent to all members by post or email**  
Indoor meetings take place at Woodhouse Eaves Village Hall at 7.30pm, finishing about 9pm followed by refreshments. Your guests and other non-members are welcome at our talks (for whom we make a small charge of £3 at the door).

### 2017

- **Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> January TALK by Tony Jarram: *Lacemakers and Luddites***
- **Monday 20<sup>th</sup> March AGM followed by TALK by Liz Robson, owner of Kingfishers' Pool Vineyard, Rothley: "English and Welsh Wine; the local connection". Followed by tasting.**
- **Monday 24<sup>th</sup> April TALK by Michael Webster: *Living Wild in South America***
- **Monday 7<sup>th</sup> 14<sup>th</sup> or 21<sup>st</sup> June WALK**
- **Monday 18<sup>th</sup> September TBA**
- **Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> October TALK: *Horses to Locomotives, early horse drawn transport in North Leicestershire***
- **Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> or 19<sup>th</sup> November ANNUAL DINNER - being arranged**

**A big welcome to our new members**

## Calke Abbey and its gardens

There was a large audience of members and guests on Monday September 19<sup>th</sup> to hear a copiously illustrated talk by Celia Sanger, who is a volunteer at Calke.

Calke Abbey was the home of the Harper-Crewe family for several hundred years. In 1985 the burden of such a great estate became too much and it was acquired by the National Trust. The repairs and maintenance of such a property had proved too great for the owners and the National Trust was faced with neglect on a grand scale. Nothing had ever been thrown away which was both a problem and an enormous resource. Celia's illustrations showed us the good times, the bad times and how the National Trust had brought house and gardens back to life.

The old formal gardens, requiring enormous maintenance and many gardeners, are gone forever but in their place is a beautiful estate which we can all enjoy. The deer park, with many red deer, flourishes and the lime avenue, planted in 1846, is as fine as ever. *Peter Bertram*

## The National Memorial Arboretum

At our October meeting members and guests heard a fascinating talk by Roger Hailwood. He is a guide for the National Arboretum and also is part of their promotional team as a speaker at venues throughout the UK. At Alrewas, where he lives, he is regarded as the village historian and he has published several books. In Alrewas he has been a youth leader, a church chorister and a parish councillor.

Roger's talk about the National Arboretum was copiously illustrated by slides and covered its foundation and development, and pictures of many of more than 300 memorials on the site.

The National Memorial Arboretum is the UK's year-round centre of remembrance and is home to the iconic Armed Forces Memorial which was dedicated in the presence of Her Majesty The Queen.

The Arboretum features over 300 thought provoking memorials nestled amongst lush and maturing woodland. Military and civilian associations are represented alongside tributes for individuals. Rich in design and symbolism, and sympathetic to the landscape they inhabit, the memorials and their stories are waiting to be discovered. *Peter Bertram*

## Annual Dinner

We held our Annual Dinner at the Grey Lady Restaurant, Newtown Linford on Tuesday November 15. 59 members and guests attended and enjoyed an excellent and relaxed dinner.

Mr Paul Day, Chairman, welcomed all the guests in the 31<sup>st</sup> year of the society. Mrs Janie Martin, President, thanked members for their support in the last year and indeed in the thirty years since its foundation. She paid tribute to the hardworking members of the committee and mentioned particularly the organisers of the dinner, Mrs Pauline Day and Mr Dick Howard, former Chairman. She spoke of the many events held in 2016 and a full programme of talks and walks for the coming year. *Peter Bertram*

## Committee Notes

- ◆ Continuing concerns about more fly-tipping following imposition of charges at disposal sites. County Council seem disinterested. Monitoring is continuing and Chairman is pursuing.
- ◆ Attempts will be made to improve speakers' techniques of using the public address system at our talks.
- ◆ Our funded notice board at Woodhouse Eaves is on order. A similar board suggested for Newtown Linford was declined.
- ◆ Despite an application for a smaller housing development at Bradgate Road, Anstey being submitted, objections to the principle of development at this visible site in open countryside are being continued.
- ◆ Development at Tickow Lane, Shepshed likely to be a fait accompli as outline consent exists.
- ◆ Membership numbers of FoCF remain steady. Many guests come to our talks. Peter Bertram's reports to local press are working well.
- ◆ The programme of talks and other activities for next year is well advanced.

## Who's Who?

**President** Janie Martin  
**Chairman** Paul Day [chairman@focf.org.uk](mailto:chairman@focf.org.uk) 0116 2364376  
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**Committee** Peter Bertram, Pauline Day, Marilyn Palmer  
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