

NOTTINGHAM MECHANICS INSTITUTE 1837

SEPTEMBER 2026 NUMBER 109



NEWSLETTER

WHAT'S ON? WHAT'S HAPPENED?

Welcome to the September Newsletter

Market Square House Update

We are still waiting for the detailed drawings for the layout of our new home at Market Square House, including the plans for the kitchen area.

As soon as these are available, I will update the display board and information folders so that members can see how our exciting new home is taking shape.

Mechanics Around the World

I have recently been in contact with two other Mechanics' Institutes – one in San Francisco, USA, and the other in Ballarat, Victoria, Australia. I am delighted to say that they have both responded very positively, and we are now looking at developing a formal partnership between our two Institutes.

It is wonderful to think that, nearly 190 years after the Nottingham Mechanics' Institute was founded, we are building new links with fellow Mechanics' Institutes on the other side of the world.

I will keep everyone updated as this exciting new relationship develops.

Leisure Learning – Autumn Programme

Our new Leisure Learning Autumn brochure is now available, and the Leisure Learning website has also been fully updated with details of our forthcoming programme.

We have another fantastic selection of courses and Day Talks covering a wide variety of subjects, so please pick up a brochure or take a look online.

We will also be adding details of all the new courses and Day Talks to the Leisure Learning noticeboard very soon.

What's Coming Up?

Please remember to take a look at our noticeboards when you are next in the Institute for full details of all our upcoming events, talks, courses and activities.

There is always something happening at the Mechanics!

SEPTEMBER MONDAY FILMS AT 1.30PM

September 7th The Last of the Mohicans – 112 min

Daniel Day Lewis Madeleine Stowe

Set against the dramatic backdrop of the French and Indian War, *The Last of the Mohicans* follows Hawkeye, a frontiersman raised by the Mohican people, whose life is changed when he becomes involved with the daughters of a British colonel. Combining sweeping adventure, romance and spectacular scenery, the film is an epic tale of love, loyalty and survival in a rapidly changing world. Starring Daniel Day-Lewis, it remains a powerful and visually stunning historical adventure.

September 14th The New World – 135 min

Colin Farrell Christian Bale

Set in the early days of the Jamestown settlement in Virginia, *The New World* tells the story of English explorer John Smith and his encounter with the Native American woman Pocahontas. Against a backdrop of cultural conflict and a rapidly changing landscape, an unexpected relationship develops between two very different worlds. Beautifully filmed and atmospheric, this sweeping historical drama explores love, discovery, loyalty and the consequences of colonisation.

September 21st Young Washington (2026) – 125 min

Ben Kingsley Andy Serkis and Kelsey Grammer

Before he became America's first President, George Washington was an ambitious young soldier facing war, failure and difficult choices that would shape the leader he was to become. Set against the turbulent years of colonial America, the film follows Washington as he learns the realities of command and finds himself drawn into a conflict with far-reaching consequences. An exciting historical drama combining adventure, warfare and the fascinating early life of one of America's most famous figures.

September 28th Lincoln – 150 min

Starring Daniel Day-Lewis in his Oscar-winning performance as Abraham Lincoln, this acclaimed historical drama focuses on the final months of the American Civil War. As Lincoln battles to secure the passage of the Thirteenth Amendment abolishing slavery, he must navigate political opposition, divided loyalties and the enormous pressures of leadership. Powerful, intelligent and beautifully acted, *Lincoln* offers a fascinating portrait of one of America's most important presidents at a defining moment in history.

Robert's Music Mornings

See the Board for Details

THE CURTIUS SALON – FRIDAYS AT 11.00AM

4TH SEPTEMBER – JULIAN ONIONS BLACK HOLES – ARE THEY THAT BAD?

BLACK HOLES ARE AMONG THE STRANGEST AND MOST MYSTERIOUS OBJECTS IN THE UNIVERSE — PLACES WHERE GRAVITY IS SO POWERFUL THAT NOT EVEN LIGHT CAN ESCAPE. BUT ARE THEY REALLY THE TERRIFYING COSMIC MONSTERS WE OFTEN IMAGINE? IN THIS FASCINATING TALK, JULIAN ONIONS TAKES US ON A JOURNEY INTO THE SCIENCE OF BLACK HOLES, EXPLORING HOW THEY FORM, WHAT HAPPENS AROUND THEM AND WHAT THEY CAN TEACH US ABOUT THE UNIVERSE. EXPECT AN ACCESSIBLE AND ENTERTAINING LOOK AT SOME TRULY MIND-BENDING ASTRONOMY — AND PERHAPS DISCOVER THAT BLACK HOLES AREN'T QUITE AS BAD AS THEIR REPUTATION SUGGESTS!

11TH SEPTEMBER – IAIN BETSON NUMBER STATIONS: HOW SPY MASTERS TALK TO THEIR SPIES

FOR DECADES, MYSTERIOUS VOICES HAVE APPEARED ON SHORTWAVE RADIO, BROADCASTING SEEMINGLY RANDOM STRINGS OF NUMBERS, LETTERS AND CODED MESSAGES. KNOWN AS NUMBER STATIONS, THESE STRANGE TRANSMISSIONS ARE BELIEVED TO HAVE BEEN USED BY INTELLIGENCE AGENCIES TO COMMUNICATE SECRETLY WITH SPIES OPERATING AROUND THE WORLD. IN THIS INTRIGUING TALK, IAIN BETSON EXPLORES THEIR HISTORY, HOW THE MESSAGES WORKED AND WHY, EVEN IN THE AGE OF THE INTERNET, THESE MYSTERIOUS BROADCASTS CONTINUE TO FASCINATE LISTENERS AND ESPIONAGE ENTHUSIASTS ALIKE.

18TH SEPTEMBER – JOHN WHITFIELD BRITAIN IN THE 1950S – A TIME OF RECOVERY

THE 1950S WERE A DECADE OF ENORMOUS CHANGE AS BRITAIN EMERGED FROM THE HARDSHIPS OF THE SECOND WORLD WAR AND BEGAN TO LOOK TOWARDS A MORE PROSPEROUS FUTURE. IN THIS FASCINATING TALK, JOHN WHITFIELD EXPLORES A COUNTRY MOVING FROM RATIONING AND AUSTERITY TOWARDS RISING LIVING STANDARDS, NEW HOMES, TELEVISION AND THE BEGINNINGS OF A MODERN CONSUMER SOCIETY. ALONG THE WAY, WE'LL CONSIDER HOW EVERYDAY LIFE CHANGED FOR ORDINARY PEOPLE AND WHETHER THE 1950S REALLY WERE THE OPTIMISTIC AGE OF RECOVERY WE OFTEN REMEMBER.

25TH SEPTEMBER DENNIS APPLE – PICASSO: GENIUS, REBEL AND INNOVATOR

PABLO PICASSO WAS ONE OF THE MOST INFLUENTIAL — AND CONTROVERSIAL — ARTISTS OF THE 20TH CENTURY. CONSTANTLY EXPERIMENTING AND REFUSING TO BE CONFINED BY CONVENTION, HE TRANSFORMED THE WAY WE THINK ABOUT ART AND HELPED CREATE ENTIRELY NEW WAYS OF SEEING THE WORLD. IN THIS FASCINATING TALK, WE EXPLORE PICASSO'S REMARKABLE LIFE AND WORK, FROM HIS EARLY PAINTINGS AND THE BIRTH OF CUBISM TO THE BOLD AND SOMETIMES CHALLENGING ART OF HIS LATER YEARS. DISCOVER THE GENIUS, REBELLION AND RESTLESS CREATIVITY BEHIND ONE OF THE MOST RECOGNISABLE NAMES IN MODERN ART.

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OTHER GROUP MEETINGS

SEPTEMBER

Nottm Writers' Club: All welcome : Carol: 0115 9817661

FRIDAY 25TH @1PM

Dickens Fellowship : Kathy Powis: 0115 9845375

1ST -15TH 2.00-4.00PM

Nottingham Shakespeare Society

Tuesday 15th 7.00pm Tuesday 29th 10.30am

Nottingham Probus Club : cherryknight2000@gmail.com

Wednesday 16th @10.00am

Elders' Forum Dance

Fridays @ 1.30pm

Nottm Branch, The National Trust

Wednesday 9th 1.30-3.30pm

Oddfellows Friendship Group

Friday 4th @11.00am also Wednesday 23rd Meet up

National Federation of Occupational Pensioners (NFOP)

Wednesdays @11.00am

R.C.T.S

Tuesday 8th 2.00-4.00pm

**60+ Keep Fit: Audrey Malik,
Returns on the 7th September**

TABLE TENNIS – FRIDAYS: 1.30 TO 3.00PM

SHORT MAT BOWLS – THURSDAYS AT 1.30PM

GAMES AFTERNOON: TUESDAYS AT 1.30PM

STITCH CLUB: MONDAYS 1.30PM FORTNIGHTLY

GARDENING CLUB: PLEASE SEE NOTICEBOARD FOR DETAILS