


The speaker at the clubs October meeting was the inspirational Anna Mudeka, musician, actress, educator and recently appointed Deputy Lord Lieutenant of Norfolk for Breckland.

Anna entertained members by recounting her life story "Ndini Aniko" in traditional Bantu format with song and string instrument. Anna grew up in her grandmother's house which was full of music and storytelling. She was always encouraged to fulfil her potential and by the age of 14 had become a professional footballer but chose to turn to music.

In 1994 Anna moved to Norfolk and set up her music company Tambai Promotions, which began playing in schools and other venues. In 2006 she was invited to perform at the prestigious WOMAD festival and received further invites to perform abroad, but being heavily pregnant, was unable to accept.

Later, she decided to create her own world music festival on the family farm here in Norfolk, which continued until the advent of Covid.

During a visit to her home country of Zimbabwe, she became aware of the need to offer support to enable children from disadvantaged backgrounds to access better education and established the charity The Mudeka Foundation, which currently supports 37 children from Reception to 6$^{th}$ Form.

Whilst her own children were growing up, Anna continued to tour with her company and presented shows such as Kure Kure Faraway at the Norwich Arts Centre and more recently Mama Afrika at Westacre Theatre. This one woman show celebrated the life of Miriam Makeba, singer, entrepreneur anti-apartheid activist and much more.

Currently Anna is developing another business, Mama's Orchard which produces a range of fresh apple juice drinks, in addition to running a campsite on the North Norfolk Coast. She is also leading the African Choir of Norfolk, which had been invited to perform at the installation of the first female Archbishop of Canterbury earlier this year.

Members were truly inspired that such an incredibly busy woman was able to come and share her journey, passions and enthusiasm so far, with them.