



The Cliff Communiqué

December 2017, Issue 50



Chairman's Chat

Once again, the festive season is upon us with all that it entails and many of us are asking where the year has gone. One explanation is the organization to which we belong, for on most days of the month something of interest is happening locally in our U3A.

2017 has seen us entertained and educated by a diverse raft of speakers at our monthly meetings. The programme for 2018 is already in place thanks to our speaker finder Pat Ingall.

By the time that this newsletter is out, plans for this year's Christmas Party at the Venue, Navenby will have come to fruition, with the entertainment organised by Terry Gilmore and a sub-group.

The majority of our current interest groups are thriving, but there is always room for new ventures. 2018 will see a number of provisional members being given full membership and any new skills or interests that they might bring are to be encouraged and welcomed.

A reminder about our AGM on February 9th. The Agenda, Committee Nomination Form and Minutes from our last AGM will be emailed to you in January.

Wishing you all a happy Christmas and a busy yet tranquil New Year.

Mick Rampton

The Committee 2017/18

Chair	Mick Rampton
Vice Chair	Clive Morrison
Welfare	Ray Pritchard
Treasurer	Rita Bateman
Membership	Mick Rampton
Business Sec	David Shaddick
Speaker Finder	Pat Ingall
Convenor Coordinator	Glenys Gage
Technical Advisor	Clive Morrison
Minute Sec	Rosemary King
	Terry Gilmore
	Kay Parker

Group News, compiled by the Convenor unless stated otherwise.

Armchair Travel

Convenor: Peggy Marshall 01522 720641 peggymarshall264@gmail.com

We will be visiting the following locations in 2018

January 10th	California and Mexico.
February 14th	Islands of the Indian Ocean
March 14th	Base Camp Everest.
April 11 th	The Silk Road.
May 9th	China
June 13th	OUTING
July 11th	Easter Island.
August 8th	NO MEETING.
September 12th	What happened to Family Favourites?
October 10th	Madeira.
November 14th	Hertigruten - Norwegian Coastal journey
December 12th	CHRISTMAS PARTY !!

Any new members are welcome to join us. If you want a cuppa come early. We meet at Harmston Memorial Hall on the 2nd Wednesday of the month, 10.00 am start.

Bird Watching

Convenor: Ross Thomson 01522 720590 chris.noboy@virgin.net

Visit to Gibraltar Point, September 2017

Ten members gathered for a fascinating day at this RSPB site, the presence of new members lowering our average group age. The weather was kind to us so we were able to visit woodland, dune and marsh in the morning. After lunch we went to the Scrapes, where there were many birds on the water. Several times there was much discussion about birds' identities, as it is the time of year when many of them are in the process of changing their plumage in readiness for the mating season.

A largely white bird was finally identified as a Greylag. A long-legged bird with a long beak was unidentifiable and a bird flying overhead looked much like a Tern, but.... A very aggressive Moorhen seemed to be chasing away its young, as it was time for them to look after themselves. We had a good day and this is what we saw:

Mute Swan	Mallard	Little Grebe
Grebe	Coot	Moorhen
Tufted Duck	Little Egret	Egret
Cormorant (in flight)	Pintail	Canada Goose
Gadwall	Pochard	Ruff
Avocet	Redshank	Greenshank
Goldfinch	Crow	Swallow
House Martin	Chaffinch	Curlew
Blue Tit	Great Tit	Jackdaw
Merlin	Pied Wagtail	Grey Wagtail

Skylark, singing away as it flew above us on the marsh

Lesser Spotted Woodpecker, seen as it flashed by into bushes.

John Healey

Flower Group and the Harmston Flower Festival

Convenor: Rosemary King 01522 721187 aking4@toucansurf.com

About 18 months ago the Flower Group began to bloom. There are 7/8 regular members and together we create seasonal arrangements accompanied by a great deal of laughter and chat. It is really a Discussion Group with a purpose. We always try to use foliage and flowers from our own gardens or the hedgerows, avoiding the expense of buying from shops and florists.

The ladies have produced some clever and beautiful creations, with the culmination this year being 'Harmston Flower Festival'. Plans for this have preoccupied us for months with various themes being suggested, until we settled on Dutch Contemporary Floral Art. Our inspiration came from a Dutch book (with an unpronounceable title) and contained wonderful arrangements that included flowers, fruit, vegetables, dried matter, rocks and candles. We chose our themes; we scoured Charity Shops and car boot sales for containers, mirrors, paintings of tulips and Delft pottery; we involved surprised members of U3A into painting a massive picture for auction of a Dutch girl and into lending their Dutch artifacts for display; we also ran the kitchen, selling cakes, Dutch soup and sausages, all with great efficiency.

The weekend of October 7th/8th was a triumph in Harmston Memorial Hall. On our chenille green and black cloths we displayed 25 quirky arrangements, ranging from the bizarre to the beautiful. Each was labelled with a one-word description in both English and Dutch. Despite it being October we had a large basket of white tulips, (silk and borrowed!) a mock up of an ice-cream, a dainty tea set, autumn flowers both silk and real, a conical tower of flower petals and Brussel Sprouts, candle displays including '4 candles' and one in 'lime green'. The fruit and vegetables 'contrivances' would have fed a large family for a week.

In Harmston Church, amongst the other beautiful sponsored arrangements, was the prettiest of all and created by our most expert Flower Lady. This sat on the piano, lighting up a dark corner with glowing autumn colours.

I would like to thank the Flower Group for accepting this venture so wholeheartedly and for supporting another of my 'wild ideas' to its conclusion. Church and Hall made a shared £1000, so it was all worth it.

Food Group

Convenor: Pat Rampton 01522 874746 prampton1803@gmail.com

The Food Group meets on the first Friday in the month, at 10.30am until approximately 12.00 – 12.30pm. The food topics we have discussed so far this year have included Maple Syrup, Citrus Fruits, Honey, Cereal, Apricots, Bread and Pasta. If you feel you would like to know more about the group and perhaps join us, please contact Pat Rampton. We have 11 members but would welcome more. It is a fun group – we learn, laugh and eat!!

Games Group

Convenors: Kenny and Yvonne Moir 01522 720770 goldmoir@aol.com

The Games Group started again in October. We have a very healthy membership, but hope some of our newer members will come along and give it a try. We meet at Harmston Memorial Hall on the 3rd Wednesday at 2pm from October 2017 to March 2018. It is a lovely way to spend a winter afternoon among friends.

Historical Topics

Convenor: Bob Goodman 01522811325 goodman628@btinternet.com

We meet on the 4th Friday morning of most months, when we are entertained by one of our members who has researched an "Historical Topic" and who will deliver his or her findings to the rest of the group. The meetings take place in the Harmston Memorial Hall at 10.15am and we aim for a finish not later than 11.45am.

The group was established round about 2001 and in the intervening years we have enjoyed many excellent addresses. However, we are now looking for new members because those who have served us well are finding it difficult to find new material. With many new members in Cliff Villages U3A we would hope to capture some new ideas. Would you like to be part of this? Just turn up on the 4th Friday morning or enrol at the AGM.

There is no meeting in December and we completed the current year with Anne Mitcham speaking about the History of Coutts Bank. Mary Cook will introduce a military theme with her talk about the 69th South Lincolnshire Regiment of Foot on January 26th 2018. On February 23rd 2018 we meet to plan the 2018-2019 Programme – will you join us to book a date to present your favourite historical topic? Would love to hear from you. Please see contact details above and thank you for your consideration.

Industrial Heritage

Convenors: Pat Thomas 01522 887546 pat.thomas1@ntlworld.com

David Raines 01522 810843 davidraines290@btinternet.com

The group meets in the large hall at Redwood Drive Community Centre, Brant Road, Waddington and we have space to accommodate new members.

September visit to Thorne's Beehives

Last year during the Magna Carta Celebrations, on the High Street near Lloyds Bank, stood a Baron decorated with Bees and Beehives, sponsored by Thorne's Beehives. This family concern was founded over a hundred years ago when the schoolmaster of Wragby commissioned the local carpenter to build a beehive. Through several generations the business prospered, outgrowing the factory site in Wragby and moving to an already built expansive workshop and office complex between Langworth and Wragby. The head of the family and his daughter (who know all of the one hundred employees by name) guided us through the fascinating processes of creating a variety of designs of beehives and beekeeping equipment, from the importation of wood to the packaging of goods for the British and international mail order markets.

In the large and well stocked shop that is open to the public, stands the Baron that the company bought at auction. Beyond the shop is the factory canteen where we enjoyed a substantial lunch at very favourable price. The canteen is open to passing trade and well worth a visit for coffee or a meal when in the area.

Redwood Drive Community Centre off Brant Road Waddington

3rd Friday of the month

10am to 12 noon - Coffee until 10.15am

Jan	19 th	Stan Leithead	22RB - Built in Lincoln
Feb	16 th	Film	Gotthard Base Railway Tunnel 2016
Mar	16 th	Film	HMS Astute – How to Build a Nuclear Submarine
April	20 th	Mike Willerton	To be announced

Longer Walks

Convenors: Pat and Mick Rampton 01522 874746 mrampton35@yahoo.com

This group is thriving with as many as 25 members on occasions, although usually there are 18-21 walkers who join us. Since July we have enjoyed 5 mile walks at Market Rasen, Collingham, Ropsley, Washingborough and Harlaxton. For those who wish, there is lunch afterwards at a local hostelry.

Do contact us if you are interested in joining this group.

Shorter Walks

Convenors: Kenny and Yvonne Moir 01522 20770 goldmoir@aol.com

Another successful year for by the group, with some lovely walks at Hartsholme, Ruskington, Potterhanworth, Scothern, Woodhall Spa and Welton. We have enjoyed our refreshments stops at Bluebells Café in the church at Potterhanworth, The Tea House in The Woods at Woodhall Spa and The Secret Garden Tearooms at Welton: all well worth a visit. We resume on the 21st March 2018, with walks of approximately 3 miles and we hope to see some of our newer members joining us.

Massage Workshop

Convenor: Mick Rampton 01522 874746 mrampton35@yahoo.com

I re-launched this group in September when I realised that we had taken on several new members in 2017, who had not had the chance to join this informative interest group. Eleven people signed up and the group is now in full swing. We meet every second Monday at the Redwood Drive Community Centre.

Parchment

Convenor: Jill Alder 01522 810093 alder.jandb7@btinternet.com

The Parchment Class, which is held on the 1st Wednesday in the month, would really like some new members. Usually each person in the group does their own thing, but now and again I introduce a little project to have a go at; this time we have been making some miniature crackers. We all made the basic shape and decorated them as we wished. If anyone would like to pop along and see what we do in the hope that you would like to join the group, then just let me know.

Pictures of the Christmas Crackers that the group have made can be seen on the last page of this Newsletter or on the web site Picture Gallery –click on 'Picture Gallery' on the home page

Book Review

Convenor: Patsy Pate 01522 751795 patsypate111@btinternet.com

The Group continues to meet on a monthly basis in the homes of members, to discuss the book of the month. Each member recommends a book for discussion and some of our meetings are quite lively. Our membership is currently full and we are in the process of drawing up a list for 2018. I am standing down as convenor at the end of this year and Judith will be taking over from me. Members know that she would appreciate their suggestions as soon as possible. Looking forward to another good year.

Group	Convenor	Tel	Email	Day	Time	Venue
Armchair travel	Peggy Marshall	01522720641	peggymarshall264@gmail.com	2 nd Wed	10.00am	Harmston MH
Art	David Raines, Arthur Hazeldine	01522810843 01522720387	davidraines290@btinternet.com arthurhazeldine@gmail.com	Every Mon	10.00am	Redwood CC
Art and Craft Work	Rosemary King	01522721187	aking4@toucansurf.com	Thursdays to suit	Afternoon	
Bird Watching	Ross Thomson	01522720590	chris.noboy@gmail.com	2 nd Wed	Various	Various
Book Review	Patsy Pate	01522751795	patsypate111@btinternet.com	2 nd Tues	Various	Various
Bridge	David Shaddick	01522802128	david.shaddick@live.co.uk	Every Wednesday	2.00pm	Various
Church Architecture	Bob Alder	01522810093	alder.jandb7@btinternet.com	Various	Various	Various
Circle Dancing	Terry Gilmore	01522729074	terryg935@gmail.com	1 st Tues	1.45pm	Redwood CC
Classical Music	Glenys Gage	01522880179	glenysgage@hotmail.com	2 nd Thurs	2.00pm	Waddington
Computer Security	Rob Hadfield	07858606202	robert.1.hadfield@talk21.com	2 nd Thurs	10.00am	Redwood CC
Flower Arranging	Rosemary King	01522721187	aking4@toucansurf.com	3 rd Tues	2.00pm	Harmston
Food, Glorious Food	Rosemary King	01522721187	aking4@toucansurf.com	1 st Fri	10.00am	Various
French (Heath U3A)	Adrian Peill	01522821729		Every Tues	10.00am	Waddington
Games and Social Afternoon	Yvonne and Kenny Moir	01522720770	goldmoir@aol.com	3 rd Wed	2.00pm	Harmston MH
Gardening	Rosemary King	01522721187	aking4@toucansurf.com	1 st Tues	10.30am	Various
Historical Topics	Bob Goodman	01522811325	goodman628@btinternet.com	4 th Fri	10.00am	Harmston MH
Industrial Heritage	Pat Thomas David Raines	01522887546 01522810843	pat.thomas1@ntlworld.com davidraines290@btinternet.com	3 rd Fri	10.00am	Redwood CC
Kurling	Howard Martin	01522827576	howardmartin@ntlworld.com	Alt Tues	10.00am	Wellingore VH
Quiz Group (Lincoln U3A)	Keith Stocks	01522682489		1 st Mon	10.00am	Bracebridge Community Centre
Long Walks	Contact:Mick Rampton	01522874746	m.rampton35@yahoo.com	1 st Thurs	10.00am	Various
Mahjong	Rosemary King	01522721187	aking4@toucansurf.com	Every Thurs	2.00pm	Various
Massage Workshop	Mick Rampton	01522874746	m.rampton35@yahoo.com	Alt Mon	2.00pm	Redwood CC
Needlecraft	Pat Thomas	01522887546	pat.thomas1@ntlworld.com	4 th Fri	2.00pm	Waddington
Parchment	Jill Alder	01522810093	alder.jandb7@btinternet.com	1 st Wed	10.00am	Metheringham
Pub Lunches	Barbara York	01522720633		4 th Thurs	Various	Various
Scrabble	Rosemary King	01522721187	aking4@toucansurf.com	1 st Wed 4 th Wed	10.00am 2.00pm	Various
Short Walks	Yvonne and Kenny Moir	01522720770	goldmoir@aol.com	3 rd Wed	10.00am	Various
Spanish	David Shaddick	01522802128	david.shaddick@live.co.uk	2 nd & 4 th Tues	10.30am	Waddington
Sugarcraft	Pat Rampton	01522874746	prampton1803@gmail.com	1 st Wed	2.00pm	Waddington
Sugarcraft for Beginners	Pat Rampton	01522874746	prampton1803@gnmail.com	1 st Wed	10.00am	Waddington
Ten Pin Bowling	David Raines	01522810843	davidraines290@btinternet.com	Alt Tues	1.30pm	Lincoln Bowl Washingborough Road, Lincoln

Harlaxton Summer School...the Final

Over the past sixteen years I have written about the joy of attending Harlaxton Summer Schools. In fact, the one in July 2017 was special as so many new U3A members in our area attended for the first time. Sadly, it was to be the first and last experience for them.

As I have been the Harlaxton 'Summer School Promoter' in this area for several years, I was surprised not to have received any pamphlets regarding the 2018 programme. On checking the Stamford U3A website, I was very upset to read in the newsletter about the sudden death of Horace Farquhar-Smith. This occurred on October 22nd. Fortunately, I was able to telephone a mutual friend who confirmed that the summer school era had come to an end.

With his wife, Hendy, Horace had been the leading light and computer expert, handling all the preparatory work for running the schools during the last seventeen years.

My deepest sympathy goes out to Hendy. She and Horace made a formidable team, combining humour, efficiency and expertise in so many fields. I shall miss them as friends. I will also miss the wonderful 'Harlaxton Experience' in 2018 and in the years to come.

Rosemary King

And finally, from our very own poet in residence...

The Surfer

I sit astride my handmade steed, gazing at the beach.
Waiting for a glassy swell, to carry me to tide's reach.

It comes at last, a menacing green wall.
Prone I lie and paddle fast, down its face I fall.

At the bottom, in the trough.
Must watch my balance, or I'm off.

Turning now I rocket up thrusting for the lip,
Falling and climbing, I must not miss a bit.

Slowing now, it catches up crashing, foaming brine.
What a summer, what a wave, salt water wine.

Mick Rampton

Tea and Coffee Rota

Jan 1 Pat Thomas, Gerry Thomas, Kenny Moir, Christine Hawley

Feb 9 Frances Healey, Pam Codling, Audrey Morrison, Barbara Varlow

Mar 9 Howard Martin, Gillian Martin, Ken Burton, Mary Burton

Apr 13 Valerie Perry, Liz Morgan, Patsy Pate, Jean McKenzie, Lynn Hamilton

Please contact Valerie Perry if you are unable to fulfil this undertaking on 01522 826108.

Refreshments at Interest Group Meetings

Since anyone can remember we have given 20p to our hosts at monthly interest group meetings and feel that an increase is long overdue. We are suggesting that 40p is more in line with inflation and still very good value. Please note.

Fund raising for Cliff Villages(Lincoln) U3A

In the latest copy of Third Age Matters on page 36, there is an advert stating that *Riviera Travel* will donate 10% of the final cost of a holiday to the traveller's U3A. I have checked with *Riviera Travel* and this is for individual travellers as well as for groups. The U3A must be named at the time of booking and the 10% will be sent to the traveller's U3A after the holiday. *Riviera Travel* is popular with our members and had this offer been valid when we went to India, then Cliff Villages would have received £400.

Pat Thomas

As usual, you will soon be able to read this issue on our web site. The paper version for members who have no email address will be available at the January meeting. Many thanks to all who have contributed and to Clive Morrison for his diligent proof reading. Items for the April issue are welcome at any time, preferably as a Word Document. Please send them to Lis Ross at m.l.ross.uk@gmail.com It would be nice to hear from some of our newer groups or from anyone with something interesting to say.

**See the next page for the Parchment Group
'Christmas Crackers'**

CHRISTMAS CRACKERS

