



The Cliff Communiqué

Spring 2019, Issue 54



Chairman's Chat

I would like to begin by thanking the out-going committee and welcoming the new one. Together with our members, they make our U3A such a resounding success; which, by the way, is how I began last year, although it seems just like last week.

I firmly believe that we are going from strength to strength as our membership numbers continue to rise. I am particularly pleased to report that over 100 members come to the monthly meetings.

For me personally there are several highlights from these meetings, that is to say comments from members, such as "We can hear you but we can't see you" and of course the giant speaker who made me look even smaller.

Many thanks to our Speaker Finder for producing such a varied programme. If anyone knows of a good speaker then do pass on the details.

Special thanks go to Glenys Gage who has been our Group Convenor for at least ten years and has decided to stand down. We must acknowledge too all those people who help setting up and clearing the hall, make refreshments, provide technical backup, all of which make our meetings a well organised success.

To the left is a beautiful bouquet made by Pat Rampton and members of her Sugar Craft Groups. "I never promised you a rose garden!" she says.

It has been a pleasure to serve as Chairman and I look forward to another good year.

Rita Bateman

Farewell and Welcome

Since our last newsletter we have lost David Hipkin, who was a committed member for many years. Our sincere condolences go to Ann.

A very warm welcome is extended to Alwyne Thorpe, Maggie Edwards, David Edwards and Mary Carvey. We look forward to welcoming them to our meetings and getting to know them.

Cliff Villages (Lincoln) U3A Committee 2019/20

Officers

Chairman	Rita Bateman
Vice-Chairman	Kay Parker
Treasurer	Terry Gilmore
Secretary	Robert Hadfield

Committee

Membership Secretary	Pat Rampton
Bob Alder	
June Austin	
Glynis Morris	
Ron Travis	

2019/2020 Programme

April 12	Oprah Winfrey Touched my Elbow	Graham Keal
May 10	Big Cat Photography and Conservation	Barbara Meyer
June 14	My 30 Years as a TV Director	Martin Cairns
July 12	What Grandma did in the War	
	Women's role in WW1	Richard Pullen
August 9	The Fossdyke	
	A Watery Tale of Mystery and Intrigue	Ian Morgan
Sept 13	My Work in India	Michael Barnaby
Oct 11	Lincoln Then and Now	Horace Liberty
Nov 8	The Lincs & Notts Air Ambulance	Jeannie Priest
Dec 13	Christmas Party	The Ukele Sensation, with Mark Walsh
Jan 10	Mediterranean Magic	Steve Lovell
Feb 14	Annual General Meeting	
	Followed by "Chalk to Fork"	Kay Gugliotta

Rota for refreshments at monthly meetings

April 12	Hilary Willerton, Michael Willerton, Penny May, Ann Snowden
May 10	Glenys Gage, Pat Knowles, Glynn Shaw One more needed*
June 14	Barbara Varlow, Meg Norman, Tom Dunn, Ann Dunn
July 12	Isabel Paterson, Stan Humberstone, Liz Morgan One more needed*
August 9	Robert Wall, Judith Horsfall, Bette Reid One more needed*

**If you are able to help please contact Valerie Perry, 01522 826108*



Our walking group at Welton a few weeks ago.

Group News, compiled by the Convenor unless stated otherwise.

Bird Watching

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

The Bird Watching group continues to meet on the 3rd Wednesday of the month, visiting a different reserve each time, April sees us at Blacktoft Sands, then our annual visit to Tichwell, in North Norfolk, takes place in May.

Our trip to Frampton in March was blessed with a break in the March weather. Only a light wind, some sunshine and temperatures rising into the teens proved ideal.

Les, our guide, was very knowledgeable, giving us insight into the reserve too. There was great excitement when he told us that there was a Long-Billed Dowitcher on the reserve! It breeds in Siberia before travelling to Mexico, so we weren't sure how it had got to Frampton, but there were a lot of telescopes looking for it. We thought we had been lucky in sighting it until, after careful watching, it was declared to be a Ruff.

So, what did we see? Skylarks singing away with a glorious sound high in the sky and large numbers of Brent Geese.

In addition:-

Coot	Goldeneye	Shoveler
Black-headed Gull	Canada Goose	Wigeon
Oyster Catcher	Curlew	Swan
Ruff	Redshank	Reed Bunting
Golden Plover	Little Egret	Shelduck
Tufted Duck	Pintail	Teal
Ringed Plover	Meadow Pipit	

Meanwhile on the feeders were Goldfinch, Great Tits and Tree Sparrows.

All in all, a pleasant day, taken at a leisurely pace as we scanned the marsh for an exciting experience, whilst exchanging memories of past successes in bird watching.

John Healey

Church Architecture

Convenor: Bob Alder 01522810093 robertjamesderekalder@hotmail.com

We have restarted our quest to visit all 630 Anglican Churches in the Lincoln Diocese together with a sprinkling of other denominations. Our March visit was prompted by an email from The Churches Trust and we, six of us, together with a larger group from outside the county, had a very interesting and enjoyable day in the Horncastle area, visiting Revesby, Scrivelsby, Horncastle and Thimbleby churches, exploring their link with Joseph Banks. Transport to each was provided in a "bus" and a good day was enjoyed by all.

Next month, on April 18th, we will be going to the west of the county, to Skillington, Stainsby and Gunby, starting at Skillington at 10.00 am. All are most welcome to join our group of intrepid Church anoraks. Our visit on May 16th is more local, but should be of interest. More when I have the details confirmed.

Armchair Travel

Convenor: Peggy Marshall 01522 720641 peggymarshall624@gmail.com

2019 has started well and we have enjoyed some most interested talks.

The remainder of the programme for 2019 is as follows and all are welcome to come to our meetings at Harmston Memorial Hall, 10.00am.

April 10	John Robinson - Iran.
May 8	Stan - India.
June 12	Outing to Renishaw Hall and Gardens. The coach is now full.
July 10	Salzburg and Vienna - David Hufton. Note change.
August	No Meeting
September 11	Madeira - Pat, Linda and Keith. Note change.
October 9	Hong Kong to St Petersburg by train - Julie Stevens
November 13	Hebrides - Pat and Gerry
December 13	CHRISTMAS FUN

Idle Scribblers

Convenor: Rosemary King 01522 721187 roesemary82king@gmail.com

Our creative writers have been working on 100-word exercises and would like to share their results.

Flower Power

They were there, made love not war. Garlanded one another with flowers, lived in a commune, believed in free love. They gave up meat, wore denim, cheesecloth, patchouli oil, sandals or bare feet. She gave birth in a pool, fried and ate the placenta. Never quite sure of the father, but he didn't mind. Named the baby Samantha. Teen-age Samantha turns her back on her parents' beliefs; leaves, meets an outsider who believes in God, marries and has a child. She often thinks of her parents. The commune has evolved, war in Vietnam is over, sixties music survived.

Maureen Sutton

Friendships lost

Bill was a big man with a big heart and I was lucky enough to have him as my next-door neighbour. Always there to give a helping hand with jobs I could not manage for myself. Each Saturday I would make a meal and look forward to Bill joining me for the evening. We would have a nice chat or sometimes a game of cards. I was nineteen years his senior, but it did not seem to matter. We got on so well....that was until the day he introduced Stella! Things were never the same after that....Never, ever again.

Jean Mackenzie

The Raspberry Cane

I determined to build one and put it on my list. The treated poles were tough to shape with pointed ends. I succeeded, despite sawing my finger on the final cut. On arthritic knees I dug the holes, scratching soil and stones from unyielding ground. With heavy hammer I swung and clouted until the posts were deep enough to support the wires. I shed my coat, jacket and sweater and still perspired mightily. Hot soaking bath and microwaved scented beanbag relieved the aches and pains. Satisfaction flowed as I crossed Raspberry Cane off my list.

Rosemary King

.....?

I have been asked to write a story in no more than one hundred words. No more and no less, the instructions were very specific.

Where do I start? I suppose I had better think of a title but the only one that springs to mind is "The Lady Vanishes". I think that was an Alfred Hitchcock film, in fact I am pretty sure it was but I don't suppose it matters. I need to check how many words I have used now... 'Eighty-three!! Wow, this is going to be impossible.

Here goes

"THE LADY VANISHES"

POOF!!!

She's gone.

Gillian Ayling

An Overheard Conversation Between my Two dogs on a Walk!

"She doesn't love us."

"What!"

"No, it's the poo she's after. Haven't you noticed?"

"Noticed what?"

"Well, look how excited she gets when we have a poo. It's all 'Good Boy, good poo-poo, well done. Then she collects it and puts it in a special red safe. I bet she is paid for it by weight"

"But she feeds and walks us and we have lots of cuddles."

"That's just so we produce poo."

"What should we do?"

"Don't poo!"

"Now listen...."

"Come on Merlin, Muffin...Poo Poo!"

"You see!"

"Oh! God, you are right"

"What should we do?"

"RUN!"

Alwyne Thorpe

Industrial Heritage Group

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

Thank you to all who help to ensure that this group moves smoothly by setting out the chairs and organising the refreshments etc. This large and very friendly group welcomes new members. There is adequate parking at Redwood Drive.

The January film showed how the British Antarctic Research Station was towed inland and saved from drifting out into the ocean as the ice shelf broke away.

In February Mike Willerton introduced us to the steel making industry past and present. His continuing "Steaming Ahead" series of films brought back memories of past journeys that all had made. Thanks to all members who responded to emails and telephone calls when the Redwood Drive Hall was suddenly out of action and the meeting relocated to the Hub at Waddington Parish Office. Much as we liked the move it was just too cosy for an attendance of 43.

Back at Redwood Drive in March we enjoyed the delightful film of the Clyde Steam 'Puffers' that served the remote coastal areas of the west of Scotland. At times an interpreter would have been appreciated!

Redwood Drive Community Centre, Brant Road, Waddington

April Friday 19 Film The British Board of Film Censors. Warning, parts of this might rate an X certificate.

Visits

May Friday 17 Lincoln CCTV Operations Room. 2 visits, 10.30am and 2.00pm starts.

June My attempts to arrange a visit to Lincoln University have failed to get a response. As I will be away for all of June I have arranged a visit for August when normally we do not meet.

July **Thursday 18** Starglaze, new factory on Waterside, led by Kenny. 2 visits, 10.30am and 2.00pm.

August **Saturday 31** Car share to British Steel, Scunthorpe, with 50 places for members and partners on the guided steam train tour of the works in operation on that day. This visit is only available on certain Saturdays.

Sept Friday 20 Visit to Castle Engineering Lincoln.

Lists with details of visits will be at the April Meeting.

I will be away from 1st to 10th of May and 1st June to 3rd July.

Garden Group

Convenor: Rosemary King 01522 721187 rosemary82@gmail.com

Our visits began in April to the home of Penny and Alan May. Not even the first rain for days could deter our enthusiasm and our enjoyment of their beautiful garden.

May 7 Alwyne Thorpe and Peggy Marshall and their 2 gardens in Waddington. Alwyne has demolished her plot and is starting again. Peggy has an established garden being changed to suit her current needs. Alwyne lives at 'Greenways' Tinkers Lane, Waddington, LN5 9RU Tel: 426346. Peggy is just round the corner on the main A607 at 168 Grantham Rd, Waddington, LN5 9NU Tel: 720641.

June 4 Gill Enderby, at Barn Cottage, 2 Clint Lane, Navenby, LN5 0EX Tel: 810991.

June 12 The Travel/Garden Outing to Renishaw is fully subscribed but if you have not paid Peggy please do so asap.

2 July Visit to Overbeck, Scothern. To be arranged.

6 August Jim Barling's Garden. 7 Ashby Close, Waddington, LN5 9DH Tel: 255914. Again this is a garden in the process of being reconstructed.

September Possible trip to Lincoln Municipal Garden Nurseries. We are awaiting instructions for a meeting with the Head Gardener in charge of Lincoln Parks.

Visits to private house/gardens will begin at 10.30am. Please arrange lifts for near neighbours. I will send out reminders with addresses, telephone numbers and emails, parking arrangements etc., before each meeting.

History Group

**Convenors: Rosemary King: 01522 721187 rosemary82@gmail.com
Bob Goodman: 01522 811325 goodman628@btinternet.com**

The History Group meets on the 4th Friday of the month in Harmston Memorial Hall, 10.00am, and our emphasis is on history for everyone. All are cordially invited to come along.

Programme for 2019

- April 26 Big Breakfast at Mill Lodge to celebrate Peggy's and Rosemary's birthdays, followed by a visit to Bomber Command Centre.
- May 24 Ronnie Pritchard, with part one of three talks on one of her favorite Victorians, the Life of Beatrix Potter...much more than we saw in the film of her life. Part one takes us into Beatrix Potter's marriage and will include a PowerPoint of her wonderful botanical drawings, which were photographed at the time. Gardeners and artists would find this fascinating.
- June 28 Rosemary King, delving into the fascinating history of The Origin of Everyday Products and How it all Began.
- July 26 John Healey will speak on a very local theme, The Forest of Kesteven: ancient woodlands of both conifers and broadleaf trees.
- August No meeting
- September 27 Maureen Sutton will speak on historic Lincolnshire.
- October 25 Pat and Gerry will relate the decisive Battle of Agincourt in 1415, when the British finally beat the French!
- November 22 Barbara Varlow will speak on the tragic story of Sisi, the last Empress of Austria.
- December No meeting, as it is Christmas.

Food Group

Convenor: Pat Rampton 01522 874746 prampton1803@gmail.com

We meet on first Friday of each month, from 10.30am until 12.30pm. Not everybody wishes to host, but those who do choose an edible item they would like to present to the group. It could be anything – tomatoes, cheese, tea, coffee, potatoes, fish, pasta and so on. The host does a little research and presents the findings to the group with samples of the chosen food to help illustrate.

It is all very light hearted and there is always something to learn. If you wish to join us you would be most welcome.

And finally a contribution from Arthur Hazledine, who felt we needed something to smile about...

A little naval history lesson and a fabulous bit of historical knowledge

It was necessary to keep a good supply of cannon balls near the cannon on the old war ships. But how to prevent them from rolling about the deck was the problem. The storage method devised was to stack them as a square based pyramid, with one ball on top, resting on four, resting on nine, which rested on sixteen.

Thus, a supply of thirty cannon balls could be stacked in a small area. Yet there was still one problem – how to prevent the bottom layer from sliding or rolling from under the others.

The solution was a metal plate with sixteen round indentations, called, for reasons unknown, a *Monkey*. But if this plate was made of iron, the iron balls would quickly rust to it; the solution to which was to make the monkeys of brass, hence, *Brass Monkeys*.

Few landlubbers realize that brass contracts much more and much faster than iron when chilled.

Consequently when the temperature dropped too far, the brass indentations would shrink so much that the iron balls would come right off the monkey.

Thus, it was, quite literally, *cold enough to freeze the balls off a brass monkey*.

And all this time folks thought it just a vulgar expression....

Newsletter submissions Thanks to all who contributed and to Clive Morrison for proof-reading. The next edition goes out in August, so any items should be sent to m.l.ross.uk@gmail.com by the end of July.

CLIFF VILLAGES U3A, INTEREST GROUPS & CONVENORS

GROUP	Convenor	TEL. NO.	E-mail Address	Date	Time	Venue
Armchair Travel	Peggy Marshall	01522 720641	peggymarshall264@gmail.com	2 nd Wed	10.00am	Harmston MH
Art	David Raines, Arthur Hazeldine	014522 810843 01522 720387	davidraines290@btinternet.com arthurhazeldine@gmail.com	Every Mon	10.00am	Redwood Comm Centre
Bird Watching	Ross Thomson	01522 720590	chris.noboy@virgin.net	3 rd Wed	6.30pm	Various
Book Review	Judith Horsfall	01522 789485	judithanhorsfall@btinternet.com	2 nd Tues	Various	Various
Bridge	David Shaddick	01522 802128	david.shaddick@live.co.uk	Every Wed	2.00pm	Various
Church Architecture	Bob Alder	01522 810093	robertjamesderekalder@hotmail.com	Various	Various	Various
Computer Security	Rob Hadfield	07858 606202	robert.l.hadfield@talk21.com	TBA	TBA	Redwood Comm Centre
Flower Arranging	Rosemary King	01522 721187	rosemary82king@gmail.com	3 rd Tues	2.00pm	6 Walled Gdn, Harmston
Food, Glorious Food	Pat Rampton	01522 874746	prampton1803@gmail.com	1 st Fri	10.00am	Various
Heath U3A French	Adrian Pell	01522 821729		Every Tues	10.00am	Waddington
Games/Social Afternoon	Yvonne & Kenny Moir	01522 720770	goldmoir@aol.com	3 rd Wed Oct - March	2.00pm	Harmston MH
Gardening	Rosemary King	01522 721187	rosemary82king@gmail.com	1 st Tues	10.00am	Various
Historical & Personal Research	Rosemary King & Bob Goodman	01522721187 01522 811325	rosemary82king@gmail.com goodman628@btinternet.com	4 th Fri	10.00am	Harmston MH
Idle Scribblers	Rosemary King	01522 721187	rosemary82king@gmail.com	TBA	TBA	TBA
Industrial Heritage	Pat Thomas	01522 887546	pat.thomas1@ntlworld.com	3 rd Fri	9.45am - noon	Large Hall Redwood Comm Centre
Kurling	Howard Martin	01522 827576	howardmartin@ntlworld.com	Alt Tues	10.00am	Wellingore MH
Long Walks Contact:	Pat Rampton	01522 874746	prampton1803@gmail.com	1 st Thurs	10.00	Various
Mahjong	Rosemary King	01522 721187	rosemary82king@gmail.com	Every Thurs	2.00pm	Various
Music Appreciation	Glenys Gage	01522 880179	glenysgage@hotmail.com	2 nd Thurs	2.00pm	Waddington
Needlecraft	Pat Thomas	01522 887546	pat.thomas1@ntlworld.com	4 th Fri	2.00pm	Waddington
Parchment	Jill Alder	01522 810093	alder.jandb7@btinternet.com	1 st Wed	10.00am	Metheringham
Pub Lunches	Barbara York	01522 720633	barioak@tiscali.co.uk	4 th Thurs	Various	Various
Lincoln U3A Quiz Group	Keith Stocks	01522 682489		1 st Mon	10.00am	Bracebridge Comm Centre, Maple St
Scrabble	Rosemary King	01522 721187	rosemary82king@gmail.com	1 st ,4 th Wed am	10.00am	Various
Short (Village) Walks	Yvonne & Kenny Moir	01522 720770	goldmoir@aol.com	3 rd Wed	10.00am	Various
Spanish	David Shaddick	01522 802128	david.shaddick@live.co.uk	1 st ,2 nd ,3 rd ,4 th Tues,	10.30am	Waddington
Sugarcraft for Beginners	Pat Rampton	01522 874746	prampton1803@gmail.com	1 st Wed	10.00am	Waddington
Sugarcraft - Intermediate	Pat Rampton	01522 874746	prampton1803@gmail.com	1 st Wed	2.00pm	Waddington
Ten Pin Bowling	David Raines	01522 810843	davidraines290@btinternet.com	Alt Tues	1.30pm	Washingborough