



The Cliff Communiqué

Summer 2019, Issue 55



Chairman's Chat

Hello Everyone

I would like to begin, as ever, by thanking everyone for making Cliff Villages (Lincoln) U3A such a success, not only the Committee and Convenors, but all the members. Without you, your enthusiasm and shared interests in specialist subjects, we would have no real U3A, for I personally believe that belonging and sharing is what it is all about. To the left is an example of the beautiful work from the Sugar Craft Group, and further into the Newsletter are pictures from the Parchment Group. What talent we have!

The monthly meetings bring a different facet to our organisation and we continue to enjoy a really wide and varied programme.

Don't forget that it isn't too long before we begin the process of looking for next year's Committee and Chairman, so I would like to ask you to consider taking the opportunity of contributing to the running of our branch. I have always enjoyed being part of the Committee and would urge you to come forward.

Enjoy the rest of the summer and long may we continue to thrive.

With my best wishes,

Rita Bateman

Welcome

A very warm welcome is extended to new members, Janice Cross, Fran Erentraut and June Toyne. We look forward to seeing them at 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

Aug 9 th	The Fossdyke	
	A Watery Tale of Mystery and Intrigue	Ian Morgan
Sept 13 th	My Work in India	Michael Barnaby
Oct 11 th	Lincoln Then and Now	Horace Liberty
Nov 8 th	The Lincs & Notts Air Ambulance	Jeannie Priest
Dec 13 th	Christmas Party	The Ukele Sensation, with Mark Walsh
Jan 10 th	Mediterranean Magic	Steve Lovell
Feb 14 th	Annual General Meeting Followed by "Chalk to Fork"	Kay Gugliotta

Rota for refreshments at monthly meetings

Aug 9 th	Robert Wall, Judith Horsfall, Bette Reid, Vivienne Lacey
Sept 13 th	Jan Glossop, Lor Belchamber, June Austin, <i>One extra person needed*</i>
Oct 11 th	Ray Pritchard, Anne Cant, Margaret Norton, Janet Rawlinson
Nov 8 th	Anne Mitcham, Frances Healey, Pam Codling, <i>One extra person needed*</i>
Dec 13 th	Everyone to take a 15 minute turn please, so that we can all enjoy the party.

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

Please note that we will need someone else to organise the rota in 2020, as Valerie is stepping down at the end of the year. However, for a couple of months Valerie will be happy to help whoever takes it on.

Group News, compiled by the Convenor unless stated otherwise

Armchair Travel

Convenor: Peggy Marshall 01522 720641 peggymarshall624@gmail.com

In June we visited Renishaw Hall in Derbyshire, home of the Sitwell family. In spite of the drizzle, we had a most enjoyable day. A tour of the house gave us a wonderful insight into the lives of the family and we very much enjoyed the peaceful gardens. The restaurant staff made us most welcome too.

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.

August	No Meeting
Sept 11 th	Finland – Dave Hufton.
Oct 9 th	Hong Kong to St Petersburg by train - Julie Stevens
Nov 13 th	Hebrides - Pat and Gerry
Dec 11 th	CHRISTMAS FUN

Convenor: Ross Thomson 01522 720590 chrisnoboys@gmail.com

Visit to Willow Tree Fen, from John Healey

What a strange day.

It was lovely, the sun was shining and it was warm. We were trying a new site, BUT there were no birds to be seen. We set off to explore the reserve, described as having a lake fringed with rushes. Unfortunately, the rushes dominated the lake, so no water birds.

A large flock of House Martins suddenly appeared, possibly thirty plus, swooping and diving in a mad display. Warblers could be heard but not seen, so we speculated that they were either "sedge" or "reed", but then we saw a Sedge Warbler.

Discussion then centred on dragonflies and butterflies, of which there were many. Our experts recognised Gatekeeper, Meadow Brown, Red Admiral, Small Tortoiseshell and, a little differently, a group of Small Whites, "mud puddling", that is to say looking for minerals in the soil. Excitement and cameras to the fore.

Dragon flies were numerous, particularly the little blue ones, but the large ones were fascinating. The Southern Hawker and the Emperor were easily seen.

As we returned to our cars we saw a Whitethroat.

Disappointing, but a pleasant day out.

Norman and I went to Toft Tunnel to a reserve created in a deep railway cutting. Interesting, although still no birds. We did see this fungus, and placed fifty pence on it for sizing, which in comparison it looks so small.



Scrabble Group

Convenor: Rosemary King 01522 721187 rosemary82king@gmail.com

Twice a month, on Wednesday mornings, five people meet to do battle. Playing in a pair and a threesome we follow the *Official Scrabble Dictionary*, so there are no arguments! The two winners then play a second game together.

We have come up with some wonderful words of seven letters or more, including GENESIS, MOONERS, DREAMER, SLUNGE, SLIMIER, FOOTWAYS and AMBIENCE; plus some very short, rather rude words...BUT, if it is in the dictionary then it's acceptable.

We laugh a lot and curse silently if another player takes a spot we had an eye on. All in all we have improved our scores, learnt to read the board and made wonderful friends.

Games Group

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

Where does the time go? So here's a reminder that the group will be starting again on Wednesday, October 16th at Harmston Memorial Hall. This is a fun group, meeting on the third Wednesday of the month, running from October to March. We have 34 members signed up, with attendance in the high twenties for each session. Please contact us for more details.

Industrial Heritage Group

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

“The best laid plans . . . “

In April the proposed film of The British Board of Film Censors was cancelled at short notice as I was in hospital in Aberystwyth. Fortunately, Kenny and Yvonne were able to cancel the hall booking and, without the group register, attempted to contact all group members. Please accept our apologies for any omissions.

The film will be shown next year.

In May both morning and afternoon groups experienced an interesting and informative visit to CCTV control at City Hall, Lincoln.

There was a second cancellation in June when Lincoln University Media Department failed to respond to frequent telephone and email requests regarding our reservation for a visit. It appeared that each of my two points of contact thought that the other was dealing with the matter. The department was very apologetic, and the visit will be rescheduled for next June.

Organising this group is a joy as we have a very loyal band of helpers.

In July Kenny Moir organised morning and afternoon groups at the new Starglaze factory at Stamp End on Waterside South, Lincoln. Several years ago we visited the old factory and the new modern buildings and automated processes were a revelation. This enterprise, that employs nearly two hundred workers, is yet another long-term economic success in Lincoln that remains unnoticed by many of the local population. We owe grateful thanks to Kenny and Yvonne who worked tirelessly throughout the day.

As announced, I had made reservation for 50 places at Scunthorpe Steel works on Saturday 31st August. This self-drive event, which was open to all Cliff Villages' members, families and friends, comprised a train journey around the works and a tour of the voluntary Preservation Society Engine Workshops. The railway track is the property of the now defunct British Steel and with the uncertainty of the future ownership of the works, there was no definite guarantee that the train would be able to run. Therefore, it was not advisable to continue with a group visit that might have to be cancelled. Should members wish make individual reservations with Brigg Tourist Office, there are visits scheduled for August 3rd, 17th and 31st.

Programme

August No Meeting

Sept 20th Visit to Castlet Electronics Factory, 14 Crofton Drive, Allenby Estate, Lincoln LN3 4NR. There will be 25 places, so meeting attendances will count if we are over-subscribed. Contact me in September.

Meetings at Redwood Drive Community Centre, Brant Road, Waddington, 10.00am coffee, 10.30am start.

Oct 18th Film: Complete Ferry Strip Down of a P&O Cross Channel Ferry.

Nov 15th Talk by one of our members, Jim Barling, formerly an Officer Engineer with the Merchant Navy and Fleet Air Arm. Latterly P&O Cross Channel Ferry Chief Engineer.

December No Meeting

Short Walks Group

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

Our walks so far this year have taken us to Branston, Nettleham, Hartsholme Park and Ancaster. August's walk is scheduled for Woodhall Spa. All walks are approximately 3 miles long and are taken at a leisurely pace with a nice refreshment break at the end. We have over 30 members signed up for the group, although not all can make it due to other commitments.

*Finally we are sorry to say that October's walk will be our last as convenors, as we have been running the group for eleven years and feel the time is right to hand it over to someone new. We would like to thank all members, past and present, for their support and friendship.

Parchment Group

Convenor: Jill Alder 01522 723038 jillalder@hotmail.co.uk

If you have ever wondered what happens at the Parchment Group, then here are some beautiful examples of work that has been produced; and if you would like to know more, then Jill would be delighted to tell you all about what the group does.



Finally, a short story from Rosemary King, who is the Convenor for the Idle Scribblers, and who would be happy to give you more details of the group and its activities. 01522 721187 rosemary82king@gmail.com

“An Encounter with a Jar of Peanut Butter”

Down in the valley the golden leaves on the autumn trees shone in the rays of the setting sun. A slight mist hovered just above the undergrowth.

Darren drove slowly down the winding road, careful not to swerve round bends and awaken the sleeping Dillon. He was strapped in his car seat, head lolling and still clutching the last sticky fragment of ice-cream cone. This had kept him happily occupied on the long trip back from a day at the coast. Debbie dozed in the front seat beside Darren. He was in danger of nodding off too and kept pinching his right ear to create a waking up pain. Then, without warning, a flash of cyclamen coloured light shot into his face. He shouted out in shock and woke Debbie with a start. “What the hell was that?”

....Continued overleaf

"No idea. I was blinded for a second but didn't see anything."

"I thought I heard a sort of hum, but...oh! God...what's that?"

In the middle of the road hovered a silvery saucer-shaped sphere. Beneath it a mesmeric pink glow pulsed with a steady rhythm. Darren put his foot down in an effort to squeeze past the object but the car refused to respond. No other vehicles were in sight either down the road or behind. Debbie clutched at Darren's hand as both watched a small, almost transparent creature emerge from the sphere as if by osmosis, and arrived inside their windscreen. Its presence seemed to penetrate their very souls.

"Get out of my car," shouted Darren in a strange, strangulated voice that didn't seem to belong to him.

"Please don't hurt my baby," squeaked Debbie, shivering with terror at the thought of Dillon being whisked away from her.

The odd, shapeless being undulated through the space of their car and came to rest in the back seat by Dillon's clenched fist. They turned to watch in speechless fear as the child's fingers uncurled and the stub of cornet dropped out, landing on the being. It recoiled and moved away, but then a tentacle protruded to pick up the sticky object.

It rolled it around, squished it, shredded it, and then appeared to absorb it. Moments later with hideous convulsions, it extruded the cone in a confetti of tiny pieces. These danced around the inside of the car, eventually coming to rest in a reformed mass on the steering wheel.

"What the bloody hell do you think you are doing? I said get out of my car. Leave us alone or I'll whop you one!" Darren tried to unhitch his seat belt in order to swipe at the creature but his limbs were entirely frozen.

"Darren, do something," yelled a hysterical Debbie, as she too found she could not move.

Cushioned in his car seat but no longer lulled by the movement of the car, Dillon woke up. Seeing the strange object, he put out a finger to touch it. His hand, then arm became enmeshed into the being. Darren gurgled with pleasure. He chatted random words that only a two-year-old could utter and was rewarded by grunting sounds from his new friend. As Debbie watched, impotent and paralyzed, Dillon's seat belt clips suddenly sprang apart. The child levitated out of his seat to become merged with the creature.

Debbie screamed in frustration and fear. Her precious child was now absorbed into the strange being. She could see his outline inside it. She watched as his little limbs poked about and protruded from within its form. Darren was white with anger. He yelled every obscenity he had ever learnt and others that sprang from nowhere. The creature took not one whit of notice.

"He cannot breathe in there...he will suffocate. Do something, Darren!" but Darren, with oaths still flowing freely could only shout impotently.

It seemed like forever when, without warning, the entity ejected Dillon back into his car seat and snapped the belt into position.

Dillon yelled. His face became empurpled with rage. The sheer indignity of being engulfed cosily, only to be spat out! The more he yelled, the more agitated the creature became. It morphed its way around the inside of the car, oozing into the foot well, under the seats and into the glove box.

Finally it found its way into the zip bag, in which Debbie had packed all the baby requirements for Dillon's day at the beach. Disposable nappies, wipes, sunhat, jacket, juice and biscuits flew around. But one thing defeated it. The tightly screwed on lid of a jar of peanut butter!

Peanut butter was Dillon's treat. Not the crunchy stuff but the creamy, spreadable, suckable, moreish, delicious, nutty, flavoured gloop.

The creature undulated over to Darren and dropped the jar into his lap. At once Darren's limbs unlocked, as did Debbie's. He unscrewed the jar, scooped a lump out of the top and poked it into Dillon's open, shrieking mouth. The effect was instant. The crying ceased, so Darren added more to the dribbling mess. A tentacle poked into the jar and absorbed a large, oily dollop.

This had another instant effect. This strange, ectoplasm-like being convulsed wildly, shivered, moaned and shot back through the windscreen in a flash. Then the silver saucer with the electrifying cyclamen light, flashed away to become a tiny pinprick star on the horizon.

Darren looked at Debbie who seemed to be waking up.

"Are you OK?"

"Yes, why not? Just tired. Why have we stopped?"

"Because....well, never mind."

Debbie looked back to check on Dillon.

"Darren, why is Dillon covered in peanut butter? It's a treat. Not meant to be a meal."

But Darren simply could not find the words to answer and drove slowly home, down through the golden, autumn leaves.... in stunned silence.

Newsletter submissions Thanks to all who contributed and to Clive Morrison for proof-reading. The next edition goes out in December, so any items should be sent to m.l.ross.uk@gmail.com by the end of November. Please send your text as a **Word Document** and photographs in **Jpeg format**.

Interest Group Schedule

GROUP	Convenor	TEL. NO.	E-mail Address	Date	Time	Venue
Armchair Travel	Peggy Marshall	01 522 720641	peggymarshall264@gmail.com	2 nd Wed	10.00am	Harmston MH
Art	David Raines, Arthur Hazeldine	01 4522 810843 01 522 720387	davidraines290@btinternet.com arthurhazeldine@gmail.com	Every Mon	10.00am	Redwood Comm Centre
Bird Watching	Ross Thomson	01 522 720590	chris.noboy@gmail.com	3 rd Wed	6.30pm	Various
Book Review	Judith Horsfall	01 522 789485	judithanhorsfall@btinternet.com	2 nd Tues	Various	Various
Bridge	David Shaddick	01 522 802128	david.shaddick@live.co.uk	Every Wed	2.00pm	Various
Church Architecture	Bob Alder	01 522 723038	robertjamesderekalder@hotmail.com	Various	Various	Various
Computer Security	Rob Hadfield	07858 606202	robert.1.hadfield@talk21.com	TBA	TBA	Redwood Comm Centre
Flower Arranging	Rosemary King	01 522 721187	rosemary82king@gmail.com	3 rd Tues	2.00pm	6 Walled Gdn, Harmston
Food, Glorious Food	Pat Rampton	01 522 874746	prampton1803@gmail.com	1 st Fri	10.00am	Various
Heath U3A French	Adrian Pell	01 522 821729		Every Tues	10.00am	Waddington
Games/Social Afternoon	Yvonne & Kenny Moir	01 522 720770	goldmoir@aol.com	3 rd Wed Oct - March	2.00pm	Harmston MH
Gardening	Rosemary King	01 522 721187	rosemary82king@gmail.com	1 st Tues	10.00am	Various
History for Everyone	Rosemary King	01 522721187	rosemary82king@gmail.com	4 th Fri	10.00am	Harmston MH
Idle Scribblers	Rosemary King	01 522 721187	rosemary82king@gmail.com	TBA	TBA	TBA
Industrial Heritage	Pat Thomas	01 522 887546	pat.thomas1@ntlworld.com	3 rd Fri	9.45am - noon	Large Hall Redwood Comm Centre
Kurling	Howard Martin	01 522 827576	howardmartin@ntlworld.com	Alt Tues	10.00am	Wellingore MH
Long Walks Contact:	Pat Rampton	01 522 874746	prampton1803@gmail.com	1 st Thurs	10.00	Various
Mahjong	Rosemary King	01 522 721187	rosemary82king@gmail.com	Every Thurs	2.00pm	Various
Music Appreciation	Glenys Gage	01 522 880179	glenysgage@hotmail.com	2 nd Thurs	2.00pm	Waddington
Needlecraft	Pat Thomas	01 522 887546	pat.thomas1@ntlworld.com	4 th Fri	2.00pm	Waddington
Parchment	Jill Alder	01 522 723038	jillalder@hotmail.co.uk	1 st Wed	10.00am	Metheringham
Pub Lunches	Barbara York	01 522 720633	barioak@fiscali.co.uk	4 th Thurs	Various	Various
Lincoln U3A Quiz Group	Keith Stocks	01 522 682489		1 st Mon	10.00am	Bracebridge Comm Centre, Maple St
Scrabble	Rosemary King	01 522 721187	rosemary82king@gmail.com	1 st ,4 th Wed am	10.00am	Various
Short (Village) Walks			New Convenor required	3 rd Wed	10.00am	Various
Spanish	David Shaddick	01 522 802128	david.shaddick@live.co.uk	1 st ,2 nd ,3 rd ,4 th Tues,	10.30am	Waddington
Sugarcraft for Beginners	Pat Rampton	01 522 874746	prampton1803@gmail.com	1 st Wed	10.00am	Waddington
Sugarcraft - Intermediate	Pat Rampton	01 522 874746	prampton1803@gmail.com	1 st Wed	2.00pm	Waddington
Ten Pin Bowling	David Raines	01 522 810843	davidraines290@btinternet.com	Alt Tues	1.30pm	Washingborough