



# The Cliff Communiqué

Winter 2020, Issue 58

**Hi everyone and welcome to the winter newsletter. My name is Alwyne Thorpe and I have taken over as editor of the newsletter from Lis Ross. Lis has done a brilliant job over many years and I am sure we are all united in our gratitude to her for a job done so well.**

**Thank you, Lis.**

**If you wish to contact me with any contributions my email is [alwyneandjeff@aol.com](mailto:alwyneandjeff@aol.com).**

**Can I take this opportunity to thank Diane Cook for helping me with the computer side of things. Any skills I had in this department had become decidedly rusty.**

## Notes from the Chair

Dear Members,

I hope this finds you, your family and your friends well.

Alwyne Thorpe has generously stepped up to take over the job of editing our Newsletters. It is quite a tricky job and I would like to thank Alwyne for being willing to take it on. Also, a thank you to Clive who is continuing to proof read the Newsletter and organise our annual card that details monthly speakers and committee members.

A further a big thank you to convenors who are managing to stay in touch with their groups and share some of their projects at home.

Although our official group meetings are still on hold, it is good to know that members are keeping in contact. I am trying to master zoom meetings in case our face-to-face January Committee meeting cannot take place and the Committee needs to use this alternative. I have participated in a Zoom tutorial on the National U3A site and I've had help from several of our members. It is still 'work in progress'!

I do recommend looking at the National U3A site to read the recent newsletters. If you have a look, see what else is on offer too. There are online tutorials which you can book and join with zoom; and in the 'Learn' section, some interesting presentations. These are some of November's subject talks: watercolour painting, history, maths, yoga, cryptic crosswords, poetry and more. Do have a look. Attending a meeting via zoom is fairly straight forward, it is the hosting a meeting that I am working on.

Approaching winter gave us some beautiful autumnal colours and huge changes in the agricultural landscape. I do hope that you are finding



that the natural world can 'feed the soul' – a quote from a radio programme I heard which I thought was an apt description.

Our contacts with family and friends have been restricted for much of this year and the situation changes as the weeks pass. Hopefully Christmas will have some semblance of normality. When writing this in November, I just don't know but the wonderful news recently about a vaccine 'on the horizon' is at least one reason to have a smile on our faces.

Although there is some positive news about the vaccines, we don't know yet when they will be available for us and when we might be able restart our monthly meetings. In the meantime, if there is anyone who would like to be in regular phone contact to chat, please contact me on Lincoln 811292 and I will do my best to organise a 'chat buddy' for you.

The national U3A is now presenting a podcast on U Tube once a month. There are two currently available to listen to.

So, keep strong, keep active and keep in contact.  
On behalf of the Committee and myself, I send all good wishes for Christmas and the New Year.

Kay Parker

## *The Ballad of the Pesky Fly*

Apparently I was asked to be the new editor on the strength of a poem I wrote in the Creative Writing group. We had a list of nine words which we had to incorporate into a piece of writing. I have been asked to add it to this newsletter. I hope it gives you a moment of amusement.

The pesky fly just wouldn't die, It buzzed around my head.  
I hit it with a newspaper and thought it must be dead.  
I should have checked it had expired but went to bed instead.

At four o'clock I felt a tickle, the fly was still alive.  
The angelic looking insect was still there at half past five.  
Peering out the window doing the semblance of a jive.

I opened up the rubbish bin, thought it would love the smell  
But the vilified diptera had decided to rebel.  
It settled on the marble slab like in a posh hotel.

Well it must have seen the shadow of the aerosol fly killer,  
So I saved myself the bother and attacked it with a pillow.  
Still it managed to evade me as the feathers burst and billowed.

But still the fly it wouldn't die, it buzzed into the hall  
A disproportionate annoyance for a thing that is so small.  
I lay on my back and flailed my legs, my sanity hit a wall.

Well I had to go in heavy and the hemlock it was picked  
From the garden past the clothesline, made sure fingers were not licked.  
I boiled it in a saucepan 'til it was good and thick.

Now the fly's chosen hiding place was in the corner of the bay.  
There I smeared it on the windowpane and threw the rest away.  
Guess what, I went to bed again, after calling it a day.

The next morning I woke early with a fly upon my face.  
"You should be dead." I told it, with both honesty and grace.  
"That's not hemlock." It buzzed mockingly "It's only Queen Anne's lace.

The pesky fly it wouldn't die, I befriended it instead  
A little house was made for it, with a table and a bed  
And when I looked to show him it, the bloody fly was dead.

Alwyne Thorpe

## *Good News!*

### An important note about membership for 2021

At this time of year I am usually thinking about handing out membership renewal letters but this year things are a bit different. You will still need to renew, i.e. return your form with your details completed, but this time there will be nothing to pay!!  
The form should reach you sometime in January and I would ask you to complete and return as soon as possible.

Pat Rampton  
Membership Secretary

## *News from the Groups*

### A message from Alan May the new convenor of the Gardening Group

What a strange year to take over the reins of the gardening group from Rosemary. It all started well with a meeting to decide what everyone wanted for the coming season. From there it went downhill with the lockdown and then the various restrictions it was impossible for us to meet as a group. We have kept in touch as much as possible with emails and pictures and various anecdotes and enjoyed some wonderful photos of members' gardens and flowers as well as a few disasters.

Alan

### Kurling Group

We are missing our lovely Kurling members, who, with their individual sense of humour, fun and laughter, make the group what it is. Each member does their own bit to make the group work,

without being asked, we just relax and watch people enjoying themselves!

Also missed are all U3A members and activities, including Ten Pin Bowling, Scrabble, Music and Pub Lunches etc.

All these were taken for granted before the pandemic arrived. If things ever get back to some sort of normality, they will be forever appreciated all the more.

Stay positive folks and hang in there!

In the words of "Dame Vera" during the time of a previous challenge we faced - "We'll meet again – don't know where, don't know when "

Howard & Gillian Martin

## Church Visits

Church visits have been curtailed for this year, like many other of our group activities. Churches have been closed most of the time, and only open for private prayer, and no groups can go into those that have been open. I have been doing my research for next year, there are only 500 more churches in Lincoln Diocese to go to. Why not join us when we are able to meet, the Churches are usually interesting and the runout into the Lincolnshire countryside is worth a lot. The lunch discussion in the local hostelry is always fun.

Bob Alder

## Needlework Group

Sadly, we will no longer have Winnie with us. She was a member of the group from the very first meeting and will be much missed.

Hopefully all of the group have been busily 'creating' with ideas to share and work to show when we get back together.

Pat Thomas

## Industrial Heritage Group

As soon as Cliff Villages U3A Committee advises that it is safe to hold group meetings we intend to be back in Redwood Drive Community Centre off Brant Road, Waddington on the 3rd Friday of the month at 10am.

I will contact existing members by email or by telephone. New members are always welcome.

Keep Safe

Pat Thomas

## **Farewell**

It is with great sadness that we say farewell to Winnie Adams, Ray Pritchard, Mary Norton and Brian Broughton.

Our thoughts are with their families at this sad time.

**May I take this chance, on behalf of the committee to wish you all a happy, if reduced, Christmas and hope for a better new year.**