



# The Cliff Newsletter

Summer 2023, Issue 65

## Coming up

**11<sup>th</sup> August**

### **The Fishpool Treasure**

Gareth Howell

In March 1966 workmen working on a building site in Ravenshead (previously called Fishpool) came across a hoard of 1,237 15<sup>th</sup> century gold coins, the largest hoard ever found, plus items of jewellery. The coins were dated from 1351 to 1464. Mystery surrounds this treasure – why was it there? How did it get there? Who buried it? Come and listen to this presentation and hear what the answers are to these questions and find out where the treasure is today.

**8<sup>th</sup> September**

### **Barrow to Baghdad and Back Again**

Philip Caine

Philip Caine talks about his career story which starts with him leaving school and continues on to –

- How his career began as a chef and hotel manager.
- His 17 years working the oil rigs in the North Sea.
- Followed by operating projects in Algeria and Nigeria.
- His time in Kazakhstan and Russia (particularly exciting!).
- And the most dangerous place of all ..... Baghdad. (continued on next page)

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**Hi everyone and welcome to the  
Summer/Autumn Newsletter.**

**[Coulson59@gmail.com](mailto:Coulson59@gmail.com)**

**Marion Coulson – Editor**

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## **Notes from the Chair**

Dear Cliff Villages u3a members,

We are well into our new u3a year now and from speaking to several of our convenors I believe that things are going well.

The weather hasn't been good recently for any outside activities, but we did have an earlier spell of warmer and dry weather, can't win them all.

Our monthly meetings have been pretty good, but the attendance is still low compared to earlier, (before Covid) the speakers have been interesting and they know their subjects. It would be nice to see more members at these meetings.

I appreciate that our subs have gone up this year, but with increased speaker costs and venue costs we are having to rethink the budget. If you have any suggestions please let us know, but in the meantime we have to consider the future plans.

Let us hope that the weather is better for the second half of the year, and that you enjoy good health as well. If you have any polite suggestions please let me know.

Kind Regards

Bob Alder

- Philip's career culminated in Dubai where he ran an oil services company.

The talk is full of interest, anecdotes, humour and inspiration and concludes with the writing of his latest novel, of which he may bring copies to sell, so don't forget to bring some money with you!

### **13<sup>th</sup> October**

#### **Recycling Facts and Fictions**

Recycling facts and fictions and how your bin can save the world. Well not much more to say about this one really, but with all the problems lots of us seem to have – which bin does this go in? – it could be quite educational, and we could finally crack this matter and find out why we sometimes get a sticker on the bin and find it still full of rubbish. I know there's a logic to it all somewhere – hopefully we'll find what it is today.

### **10<sup>th</sup> November**

#### **Tales of a Sports Reporter**

Peter Slater was a sports reporter for 35 years and for most of that time worked for BBC radio. He has interviewed many famous people including Mohammed Ali, Michael Schumacher, Harry Rednapp and been the subject of a tirade of abuse from Sir Alex Ferguson, who told Peter not to take it personally. He has been assaulted by a world motor racing champion, been thrown off the Wembley pitch live on air, and has convinced the listening world that an air conditioning unit is actually a helicopter they can hear! One not to be missed.

## **News from the Groups**

### **Kurling Group**

#### **Convenors – Howard and Gillian Martin**

We have been running the Kurling group for about 12 years.

Members have come and gone, but we have maintained a steady 20 players over this time. This is appropriate to the number of stones available to play.

The game provides a fun release from the routines of daily life. Nothing is taken too seriously, with a lot of banter and giggling along the way!

Members are divided into four teams on arrival. We end up with two teams in the final, the other two playing off for third and fourth positions. This gives play some structure and competition.

The game is played by pushing rubber discs (or stones), running on ball bearings, along the length of a badminton court – to score on a target at the other end. "Pusher" sticks are used so that no strenuous activity is required.

The game (or sport) was invented and designed for people recovering from injury or with limited physical ability.

We continue to enjoy!

Howard & Gillian Martin



## Games Group

### **Convenors – Yvonne and Kenny Moir**

After our summer break, the Games Group will recommence on Wednesday October 18<sup>th</sup> at 2 pm in Harmston Memorial Hall. The Group has been going for many years and still has a membership in the high 20s. It is a lovely way to spend an afternoon over the winter months having a laugh with friends. We meet on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of each month from October till March inclusive. We would love for some of our newer members to come and give it a try as we are sure you would enjoy it. For further information about the Group Contact Yvonne & Kenny Moir on 01522 720770.

## Industrial Heritage Group

### **Convenor – Pat Thomas**

This group has taken a summer break.

Since the group started in 2008 during the winter months, we have had talks and films on the third Friday of the month in the Community Centre off Brant Road, Waddington. During the summer months we have experienced numerous enjoyable and informative visits to establishments in the local area and, occasionally, further afield. Since Covid it has been extremely difficult to find venues that are willing to welcome groups. This summer I have been unable to organise any visits.

We will reconvene on Friday 15<sup>th</sup> September with a film at Brant Road Community Centre, off Brant Road, Waddington: Coffee 9.45am to 10.15am for 10.30am start

Film - Tesla Electric Cars (Impossible Engineering Series)

The programme until the Christmas break will depend upon my success in finding venues to visit.

Before Covid there were sixty active members on our register. Currently there are well under forty, many of whom have been with us since the beginning. In recent years there has been considerable turn over in Cliff Villages U3A membership, but few additions to our group. We are very friendly, and all are welcome.

If you wish to join the group please contact: Pat Thomas either at [pat.thomas1@ntlworld.com](mailto:pat.thomas1@ntlworld.com) or on 01522 887546 / 07914524261

## Needlecraft Group

### **Convenor – Pat Thomas**

We meet at 92 Station Road, Waddington at 2pm on the 4<sup>th</sup> Friday of the month.

There are spaces in the group. Bring your own work and enjoy and afternoon in friendly company.

Contact: Pat Thomas at [pat.thomas1@ntlworld.com](mailto:pat.thomas1@ntlworld.com) or on 01522 887546 / 07914524261

## The Church Visits Group

### Convenor – Bob Alder

The Church Visits Group have now visited nine churches in the last three visits and I can report that each of the visits was well attended and appreciated by all those who joined us.

We hope to continue with our monthly meetings now that the Churches are generally open and we have been very fortunate to have a talk from the Church wardens about the building and its history at many of the churches. We always welcome new members to the group, just let me know and I can add you to the group.



## Parchment Group

### Convenor – Jill Alder

Our group of parchers meet in The Hub at Waddington, once a month. We have a couple of “newbies” who are enjoying this craft, which is different to anything they have done before. Occasionally I give them a project. I hope to start one in August and maybe a few pictures will follow once this has been completed. The ladies’ work is usually to create greeting cards, but the projects are a little different.



## Long Walks

### Convenor – Pat Rampton

This size of this group is beginning to return to pre-Covid figures. We are now up to ten again and since Christmas the walks have taken the group to Scothern, Aubourn, Fiskerton and Nocton, all finishing with a meal or snack at a café or pub.

## Short Walks

### Convenor – Pat Rampton

Since March we have enjoyed shorter or village walks along the riverside to Boultham Park, the Old Orchard on Cross O'Cliffe, Skellingthorpe Old Wood and Branston. The walks are leisurely and friendly and always finish up with refreshments afterwards. Please feel free to join us.



Picture taken in Branston



Picture taken in the Secret Garden

## Sugarcraft Group

### Convenor – Pat Rampton

Not a lot has been going on in this group, due to illness, holidays and then the heat. You cannot handle modelling paste and flower paste when it is really hot. We will start again in September and will be working towards creating our Christmas cakes.

## Food Glorious Food Group

### Convenor – Pat Rampton

This delightful group continues to meet once a month and produce interesting facts about all sorts of food related topics. We have covered ginger, venison and mushrooms since Easter. The way this group works is that whoever is hosting, researches an item of food and then present their findings to the group, following up with tasters of the food.

## Armchair Travel Group

### Convenor – Pat Rampton

We could do with some more members if you would like to go travelling without leaving your seat! This year our speakers have taken us to the Dukeries, Equator and Galapagos, Growing up in India, Birdlife in Scotland and Svalbard, North Northway and in September there will be a presentation entitled "Greek Odyssey".

## The Garden Group

### Convenor – Alan May

The garden group has so far visited five members' gardens this year starting with a wonderful display of snowdrops. All have been well worth the visit with every garden being different from each other. We have 20 members and have had to start a reserve list. We have all the gardens covered this year but if members of Cliff Villages u3a or friends/relatives have a garden they are proud of and wouldn't mind sharing please contact me for further details.

## Art Group

### Convenor – David Raines



The Art group needs help - we are drowning in apathy!!! As a group we were one of the original groups and have been active almost twenty-two years. The aim of the group is to allow people who believe they have no painting or drawing skills to come along and discover their hidden talents, or to encourage those who already have some experience to come along to improve and learn new techniques. As would be expected the number of active members has varied from year to year, but for some reason it is a long time since we had any new members. We meet each Monday morning apart from bank holidays 10.00am to 12.00am between September and July. We are due to recommence on September 11<sup>th</sup> and would be delighted to welcome new members, indeed without new members we may not survive. For more information, please contact any member of the Art Group or the Art Group convenor, David Raines on 01522 721187. (Mobile 07778 826082 e-mail - davidraines290@btinternet.com)

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In this issue, we have been asked by the Lincoln and Lindsey Blind Society if we would feature an article and some photographs about their charity. They are looking for people with visual impairment to know more about them, but also for anyone who might want to offer their services volunteering to help within their organisation.



**Lincoln & Lindsey Blind Society**



If you have a sight impairment or know someone who may be struggling with their eyesight then the Lincoln and Lindsey Blind Society may be able to help. Based in Louth, our charity is entirely independent serving visually impaired people throughout North and North East Lincolnshire, East and West Lindsey and Lincoln City.

Severe visual impairment such as blindness or partial sight that cannot be corrected by spectacles is extremely debilitating because you lose your sight and you can lose more than just your ability to see. It can feel like your world is falling apart. Those who have lost some or all of their vision always welcome empathy from people who care but they also need equipment, practical advice and training so they can get on with their lives despite sight loss.

Sufferers do not have to be registered with a visual impairment or even have a referral from a doctor or optometrist to get our help. The person themselves, a family member or a friend can telephone, email, call in person or write to us and we will send a Sight Impairment Officer to visit and carry out an assessment, our contact details are at the bottom of this article.

As well as our Sight Impairment Officers we have an army of volunteers who receive on-going support, guidance and training and can take on a range of roles, from helping at Social Groups, recording our talking newspapers, Befriending, helping at Eye Clinics, or with administration, fundraising, IT support or as a

Trustee. If you would like to become a volunteer please contact our Volunteer Administrator Eve Roach on 01507 605604 or by email [eve@llbs.co.uk](mailto:eve@llbs.co.uk) to learn more.

At present we serve 1460 people in our area, 75% of whom are over 65, with new referrals coming in every week. Many more use our services but are not on our formal register. We are a local independent charity and we receive no government, local authority or statutory funding, all our funds come from bequests, charitable donations and charitable grants. If you would like to make a donation to help us carry on this vital work please call us on 01507 605604, email [info@llbs.co.uk](mailto:info@llbs.co.uk) or go to our website [www.llbs.co.uk](http://www.llbs.co.uk) for more information.



## Goodbyes

**This issue we say goodbye to Alwyne Thorpe (Newsletter Editor), as she will be leaving for pastures new very shortly. We all wish her the very best for her future.**

**For everyone else, please take care and stay healthy and happy until next time.**



### **Thank you**

Many thanks to Clive Morrison for proofreading this newsletter.