

THE DISCOVERY AWARD ASSOCIATION
An achievement award for people over 50

NEWSLETTER

Issue 28 January 2024



Happy 2024 to all Discoverers

Now that we are feeling we can meet again (not properly since 2019), here are some important dates for your diaries!

There will be two meetings in 2024 to which all members are invited. Firstly there will be a ZOOM AGM on WEDNESDAY 24TH APRIL 2024 AT 7PM.

The Committee is planning an Annual Residential Gathering in September to be held at Hautbois Activity Centre at Coltishall in Norfolk on
FRIDAY 20TH - SUNDAY 22ND SEPTEMBER 2024.

This will be over the weekend beginning on the Friday evening, the whole of Saturday and finishing on the Sunday morning after breakfast. Planning is in the early stages but the programme will be along the lines as below.

Friday - arrival from 3pm - Dinner and then 'Air and Share'

Saturday - Breakfast - Activities - Lunch - Speaker - Presentations - Dinner - evening activity (Murder Mystery!)

Sunday - Breakfast - Departure around 10am

Accommodation will be available at the Centre, which is full board. Or you could stay locally and attend activities and have the meals.

If you wish you could just attend for part of the weekend, say the Saturday.

Send a deposit by the end of April to secure a place!!

More information - for costing and application forms see pages 11-14.

We hope you can join at least one of the meetings and get to know other Discoverers or meet friends you may not have seen for years! Also please send items for the Newsletter.

Good luck with your challenges during 2024.

Ian Littlehales - Chair of the Discovery Award Committee based in Nottingham

The Discovery Award - Gold + 2

Further to the report last January, Barbara Parry is a member of my Nottingham Steadfast Group which she joined in August 2008 before starting work on her Gold Award and having completed Bronze and Silver elsewhere. However, she did not tell me it would be for life as she completed her Gold in 2008 and has since done 2nd Gold, Challenge 25, Gold +, Gold +1 and now Gold + 2 ! I list below some of the subjects she has studied for Gold + 2 for which a minimum of 12 months input is required. I have been checking Duke of Edinburgh's Awards and Discovery Awards now for over 60 years yet am astonished at the time, effort and expense she has incurred with this one. She does not use a car and living near Newark-on-Trent has limited herself to Nottinghamshire and its environs travelling everywhere by bus. Her report even gives routes and timetables but in addition she has taken photographs and collected literature to such an extent she could open her own travel agency. She has produced seven volumes of reports, photographs and informative literature which I know she has relished collecting but seems such a shame cannot also be available to others. I will certainly try to arrange for her work to be displayed at our annual gatherings. Part of her research was to visit Art Galleries and so I was able to farm out some of the assessment to an artist colleague whilst myself concentrating on her visits to Museums but overall it is outstanding research. Well done.

Barbara promised me this was the last but now tells me she bought a very interesting book at a meeting about the Nottingham architect, T. C. Hine, following which she may enrol for Gold + 3.

Visits to Museums and Art Galleries by Bus 2022/2023

Tuxford Museum of the Horse & Lock Up
Bassetlaw Museum, Retford
Newark Civil War Centre
Newark Town Hall
Tuxford Walks of Life Museum
Southwell Workhouse
Upton Horological Museum
Nottingham Contemporary Art Gallery
Nottingham Castle
Derby Museum of Making, Museum, Art Gallery and Cathedral
Matlock Bath Aquarium and Petrifying Well
Buxton John Carr Experience
Newark Masonic Lodge

Keith W. Vinard

Congratulations Barbara – Ian (on behalf of the Committee)

HELPING ZAMBIA'S STREET CHILDREN ON OUTREACH PROJECT WORK

Sylvia Keris from Eccleshall, who is an Ambassador for several charities, including the Buddy Bag Foundation - and acts as the collecting point for knitted teddies and toiletry bags for this charity (some of which are being sent to her by Discovery Award members) - decided to completely go out of her comfort zone in the project she is undertaking towards her Gold+1 Award.

Although Sylvia has volunteered on previous Overseas Aid projects, she decided to research the lives of street children and volunteer hands-on in a charity team working with project partners in Lusaka, called Footprints. This charity works with the street children on the streets of the city - offering practical help, emotional support and linked outreach medical, educational & rehabilitation services.

Footprints work includes interacting with the street children through play and craft activities, and listening to the children's stories to understand reasons why they end up living on the streets; which may include fleeing from domestic abuse, trafficking, death of parents & disabilities. The work was challenging, but there was also the chance to teach some former street children in shanty town schools - where education offers them a better and safer future.

Sylvia has been giving slideshow talks to schools and other organizations on her return to Staffordshire, and compiled diaries and albums of her research and project work - to help others understand the issues of street children, and also learn about Zambian culture and its people.



Sylvia Keris - Staffordshire

Well done Sylvia - Ian

Cathedrals

For our Gold journey we decided on a rail trip visiting the Northern Cathedrals starting from Lincoln and travelling to Sheffield on day 1.



Our main point of interest was the tomb of the 6th Earl of Shrewsbury who was the custodian of Mary Queen of Scots at Sheffield Castle.



Manchester Cathedral had some poignant stained glass windows restored after the IRA bombing in 2004, particularly fire and healing.



Of special interest, in Chester Cathedral is the Shrine of St Werburgh(a) who is known for her association with geese and is the Patron Saint of Chester, this being a panel in the west window. The cobweb picture is a copy of a painting handcrafted on a canvas of cobwebs.



This was the breathtaking view on entering Liverpool Metropolitan Cathedral and the light from the stained glass windows was particularly atmospheric.



In Liverpool Cathedral the high altar is integral to the structure of the building rather than separate as in other cathedrals.



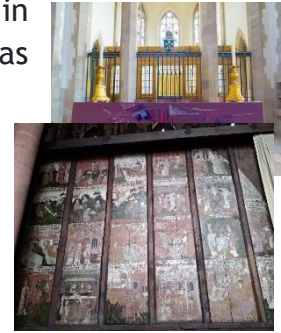
Blackburn Cathedral is a light and airy building, the focal point being the sanctuary with its crown of thorns above the altar and pointing up to the lantern tower.





The embroidered altar cloth and kneelers in Bradford Cathedral were vibrant. This one was for Hope.

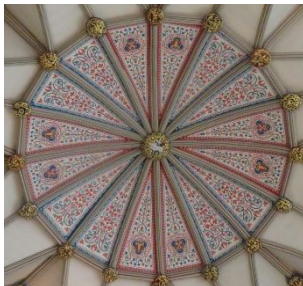
This is the eye-catching ceiling of Carlisle Cathedral. We spent some time hunting in dark places for four historical panels.



The lantern tower of Newcastle Cathedral was used as an aid to navigation (lighthouse) in former years.



Durham Cathedral is famous for the Sanctuary Knecker and the tombs of St Bede and St Cuthbert.



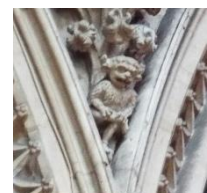
At the centre of the ribbed vault in York Minster Chapter House is the boss that depicts the Lamb of God. The tiled floor reminded us of the Trefoil Guild 80th Challenge with its oak leaves.



The view of the Nave in Wakefield Cathedral also shows the Labyrinth that was installed in 2012. This is a path of prayer to still minds, ground bodies, reduce stress and open hearts.



Lincoln Cathedral is famous for its Imp, high up in the Angel Choir.



Julie Pollard (Gold 3 journey) and Julia Winstanley (Gold 2 journey)

They just keep challenging themselves and each other! Ian

Some comments we have received from Discoverers

Some examples of how Discoverers feel they have benefitted as a result of working on the Discovery Award:

“Completing the Award stages has made me focus on something specific to achieve rather than just drift doing tasks, interests etc randomly. Achieving each level was a recognition to myself of having achieved what I set out to do. Self acknowledgement of one’s own skills is, I believe, perhaps the most important health factor for people.”

“Completing all 4 quadrants of the Discovery Award has been extremely rewarding. Along the way I have made many new friends and learnt many new skills - some of which I never thought possible. The thorough planning and research which I did for my Journey of Discovery enabled me to get so much more out of my travels - something I intend to repeat for any future adventures! The other 3 quadrants involved areas which were new to me but with which I will continue for the foreseeable future.”

Thank you Discovery Award for so enriching my retirement years!!

“I have been more encouraged to try new things and make more effort to complete half-finished projects. But mainly to ‘step outside my box’.”

“It has given me confidence and helped my wellbeing by getting me out and about, active and making new friends.”

“My fitness and flexibility have improved.”

I’ve learned a lot about ancestors and had opportunities to help others that I wouldn’t otherwise have had.

This is just a sample of the many positive comments Discoverers send with their Record Books when they complete a level.

Revised method of paying for the Award

Just a reminder that there is no longer an annual fee for joining the Discovery Award.



The flat rate for each of the levels which includes record books, handbooks, postage and packing, and a certificate on completion of all four Quadrants in Bronze, Silver or Gold is working well.

Badges will still have to be bought separately, as will any mislaid item which is replaced, or any extra items required, and this could also incur postage costs.

It won't matter how many years members take to complete a level and there will be no further charge until members wish to move to a new level.

This has made administration much easier as it avoids sending out Renewal Forms annually, and then emailing or sending reminders, in some cases, later on.

The fees are set out below:

Membership Fees: (one-off payment when you start a level)

BRONZE AWARD £15

SILVER AWARD £20

GOLD AWARD £25

For overseas members please add £5 to the rate for each level.

NB - There is **NO** Annual Membership Renewal Fee.

Metal Badges	Bronze Silver Gold		3.50 3.50 3.50
Cloth badges	Original Bronze Silver Gold		1.00 1.50 1.50 1.50
Record Book (mislaid book) (any level)			1.00
Replacement Handbook			1.00
Replacement Community Service Booklet			0.50
Car Sticker			1.00
Total cost of goods			
ONLY add Postage & Packing IF you are ordering extra items		Orders up to £10	2.00
		Orders up to £20	3.00
		Orders up to £30	4.00
		Orders over £30	5.00
		ABROAD (Canada etc)	5.00

Discoverers who have gained awards recently

Gold:

Elizabeth Whiting	Dorset
Pamela Walters	Yorkshire
Susan Beeney	Kent
Mary Harpley	Norfolk
Tracey Lloyd	Staffordshire
Barbara Oliver	Norfolk
Lynda Russell	Ontario, Canada
Keith Scotter	West Midlands
Jane Scotter	West Midlands
Julie Pollard	Lincolnshire



Silver:

Christine Freear	Yorkshire
Diane Goldby	Durham
Susan Heath-Gardiner	West Midlands
Deborah Jones	Glamorgan
Jill Stott	Gwynedd
Janice Thompson	Ontario, Canada
Marlene Young	Ontario, Canada



Bronze:

Hilary Whitwell	Northamptonshire
Louise Beale	Leicestershire
Wendy Beck	Norfolk
Valerie Bevitt	Lancashire
Carol Clarke	Norfolk
Sue Eldridge	Cornwall
Karen Harper	Lancashire
Susan Harvey	Lancashire
Jacqueline Malone	Lancashire
Len Parkyn	Sussex
Bryon Sparkes	Norfolk
Christine Sparkes	Norfolk
Brenda Smith	Shropshire
Heather Stanley	Lancashire
Julie Tuckley-Skelton	Shropshire



Congratulations to all those of you who have gained Awards.

Apologies if you have been missed.....

Members who have continued from Gold to Gold+

Pamela Walters	Yorkshire	Improving French
Lynda Russell	Ontario, Canada	
Margaret Dodd	Yorkshire (Gold+2)	Gardening in the Community
Mary Harpley	Norfolk	
Jane Gascoyne	Norfolk	Visiting the Elderly
Keith Scotter	West Midlands	Making Photobooks
Jane Scotter	West Midlands	Reading Detective Novels
Barbara Parry	Nottinghamshire (Gold+2)	Visiting Nottinghamshire's Museums
Gillian Ellis	Norfolk	Guiding Roles
Patricia Threadgold	Norfolk (Gold+1)	
Gill Bagnall	Somerset	Calligraphy
Beryl Stubbins	Norfolk (Gold+1)	Raising funds for various charities
Pat Smith	Norfolk (Gold+2)	Walking and Yoga
Chris Preston	Norfolk	History Course
Annette Preston	Norfolk	
Alyson Jones	Lincolnshire	Keep Fit by walking
Penny Renken	Ontario, Canada	Canadian anniversaries
Mary Bull	Staffordshire (Gold+1)	Learning the Cello
Lynda Quantrell	Norfolk (Gold+1)	Completing Cross stitch projects
Christine Cutting	Norfolk (Gold+1)	Cross stitch and knitting
Maria Pond	Lincolnshire	Ancestry project
Tessa Hope	Derbyshire	Improving Portuguese
Brian Astbury	Staffordshire	Bee- Keeping!
Rosemary Astbury	Staffordshire	Derivation of Nursery Rhymes
Sylvia Keris	Staffordshire (Gold+1)	Buddy Bag Charity Ambassador
Annabel Evans	Staffordshire	Personal Life Memoir
Julia Winstanley	Lincolnshire	Walking 40 Marathons in a year
Julie Pollard	Lincolnshire	Walking a Marathon each month
Eunice Boniface	Dorset	Making Teddy Bears for Buddy Bag
Julia Bloxsome	West Midlands	Diamond Art Painting
Jennifer Holloway	West Midlands	A Nature Diary
Judith Benson	Yorkshire	Girl Guiding County Archives
Jean Spencer	Lincolnshire	Historical Alford project
Hazel Berrisford	Staffordshire	Family History and meeting half-sister in Australia for the first time!

Some of the people who have done or are completing GOLD+ and some of their challenges.

From Gold+, you may do a second challenge called Gold+1, then Gold+2 and so on!

Our Website

www.discoveryaward.org.uk



The website has had a 'make-over' in 2023.

This is often the first place where people can gain information about the Award programme, price lists and joining forms.

All those who are interested in the Award are able to download the Bronze Award application form.

The Enquiry Form is available for those who wish to know more about the Award, how to get started or for those who wish to clarify anything. The enquiry form is 'signposted' to either Northern Ireland, Scotland or England & Wales admin personnel.

The website is only as good as those who contribute - we are looking for contributions showing what Award holders have participated in to gain their award. This, hopefully, will encourage others regardless which level of the award they are working on. If you would like to see your work on the News' page then complete the Enquiry Form by clicking 'Other' so that I can contact you. Action photographs are also welcome with permission to enable them to be used on the website.

Christine Cutting - Norfolk



ANNUAL GATHERING OF
THE DISCOVERY AWARD



An achievement award for
people over 50

Hautbois, Coltishall Norfolk 2024

5 Great Hautbois Road, Coltishall,
Norwich, NG12 7JN

Friday 20th - Sunday 22nd September

Send a deposit and then complete the booking form.

See details below...



Hautbois, Norfolk 2024

The venue for our Annual Gathering this year is Hautbois House in Norfolk which is Girlguiding Anglia's Activity Centre. We are returning here and as many of you will know it is an excellent conference and activity centre with good facilities. We have booked a small number of rooms which you can book or if you prefer to stay locally, there are numerous B&Bs and hotels in the area. You can, of course, just attend for the Saturday if you prefer not to do the whole weekend. Norwich is only a few minutes away and there is much of interest in the grounds and the nearby area - there will be more detail regarding activities nearer the date.

Provisional Timetable

On Friday evening - Arrival from 3pm - Dinner 6pm - 'Air and share!'

On Saturday- Breakfast - Activities - Lunch 1pm - Speaker Patrick Peal; East Anglian Air Ambulance - Presentations - Dinner 6pm - Evening Activity (Murder Mystery!)

On Sunday - Breakfast - departure around 10am

Or if you prefer just come for **Saturday only**.

Why not join us or even extend your stay for a holiday in this beautiful part of Norfolk.

For help with where to stay in the Norwich area go to

www.visitnorfolk.co.uk/wheretostay

- 1. FOR FRIDAY, SATURDAY & SUNDAY STAYING ON-SITE (YOU MAY HAVE TO SHARE A ROOM) - ALL MEALS INCLUDED: (two nights full board) £100**
- 2. FOR FRIDAY/SATURDAY STAYING OFF-SITE no Saturday evening £40**
- 3. FOR FRIDAY/SATURDAY STAYING OFF-SITE with Saturday evening meal £60**

If you are staying off-site please arrange your own local accommodation.

- 4. FOR SATURDAY ONLY STAYING OFF-SITE no evening meal £20**
- 5. FOR SATURDAY ONLY STAYING OFF-SITE with evening meal £40**

Also included on Saturday are a lunch and morning and afternoon snacks.

To book a place at the Gathering please send a deposit of £20

by TUESDAY 30TH APRIL.

Pay by cheque or by BACs (details below)

Then please complete the form below by WEDNESDAY 31ST JULY and send to the address or email below with appropriate fee - deducting your deposit of £20.

ANNUAL GATHERING OF THE DISCOVERY AWARD

Hautbois, Coltishall, Norfolk 2024

20th - 22nd September

BOOKING FORM

Name..... (member/non-member)

Address.....

.....

Post code

Phone.....

Mobile phone.....

E-mail (please print)

Special requirements eg dietary/access.....

.....

I understand that I take part in this event entirely at my own risk.

No responsibility can be accepted by the Discovery Award Committee or helpers for any accident, injury, loss or damage sustained. As with all activities you undertake as a Discoverer, you are responsible for arranging any adequate insurance cover you require.

Have you completed an Award this year/recently?

I would like to have an Award presented

Yes/No

BRONZE ____

SILVER ____

GOLD ____

GOLD+ ____

If so please tell us on a separate sheet what you have done for your award and what has been the most challenging part of the experience for you.

Please bring **your certificate** and any items of work with you which you may like to display during the day.

Please choose **one** of the following options for SATURDAY MORNING:

An activity in the grounds - details to follow ☐

I would like to do craft activities ☐

A visit to Norwich by car/bus ☐

A local walk ☐

There may be a reasonable charge for these activities, with the exception of those choosing 'to do their own thing!'

PAYMENT (deduct any deposit paid)

	<u>Amount sent/BACs</u>
	£
1. £100 for a room at Hautbois staying on-site Friday and Saturday nights full board (I am willing to share a room, if necessary)
2. £40 for Friday and Saturday, staying off-site and without an evening meal on Saturday
3. £60 for Friday and Saturday, staying off-site including an evening meal on Saturday
4. £20 for Saturday only with no evening meal
5. £40 for Saturday only including an evening meal

Signed.....

Cheques made payable to 'The Discovery Award' or

Pay by BACS - The Discovery Award 30-99-90 a/c 03747498

Please ensure you have signed the form and enclosed the correct fee.

Return to: The Discovery Award,
The Old School,
Montpelier Road,
Dunkirk,
Nottingham NG7 2JW

Or email: admin@discoveryaward.org.uk

Message from the editors

Happy New Year! We hope 2024 will be a good year for us all. As ever we look forward to hearing about your activities and challenges - virtual or actual - for inclusion in the Newsletter.

Best Wishes

Julie Pollard and Julia Winstanley (Discovery Award Committee)

This Year's Committee:

Valerie Lampard	West Midlands	Christine Cutting	Norfolk
Tessa Hope	Derbyshire	Margaret Little	Nottingham
Julie Pollard	Lincolnshire	Penny Renken	Ontario, Canada
Julia Winstanley	Lincolnshire	Mary Bull	Staffordshire
Hazel Berrisford	Staffordshire	Keith Scotter	West Midlands
Alyson Jones	Lincolnshire	Jane Scotter	West Midlands
Ian Littlehales	Nottingham		

The Committee has met mainly by Zoom with one face-to-face meeting in November in Nottinghamshire - thank you to all those on the Committee for keeping the Discovery Award 'going' in so many different ways!

The next newsletter will be published in January 2025

The deadline for items to reach the editor is 31 December 2024, preferably by email to jjfp240@btinternet.com

Please send to
The Discovery Award Office
The Old School,
Montpelier Road
Dunkirk
Nottingham
NG7 2JW

www.discoveryaward.org.uk

email: admin@discoveryaward.org.uk