

THE DISCOVERY AWARD ASSOCIATION
An achievement award for people over 50



NEWSLETTER

Issue 29 January 2025

Happy 2025 to all Discoverers

This has been another year of consolidation for the Award and the issue of promoting this worthwhile pursuit is still a problem. I won't fall into the trap of being gloomy about numbers taking part, because, for those involved, the Discovery Award is a source of pleasure and gives a sense of achievement.

It is great that we met again at Hautbois in 2024 and the committee work hard to keep administration and information up to date. Meetings are held via Zoom, with a 'face-to-face', once a year. The website has been updated but needs input of items from members and has resulted in many enquiries which often mean new membership.

As with many other organisations, Covid has restricted our activities, and it would be excellent to have our 2025 Gathering in a different part of the country - any suggestions for a venue? We hope to let you know very soon when and where the Annual Gathering for 2025 will be.

As I was on the point of writing this for the Annual Report, I received some very sad news that Mary Bull who was recently Committee Chair and long-time member had passed away following a lengthy illness. Mary kept in touch with the Committee on Zoom right up to May last year and always replied to emails and followed the minutes. She will be very much missed. Many of us can remember the Gathering at Stafford in 2015 which Mary had a large part in organising. Lady Jane Harrowby who was our very active patron for a number of years, was introduced to us at that meeting, by Mary.

We wish Mary's husband, Oliver, and the family our sincere condolences from all the Discovery Award Membership.

Ian Littlehales

Committee Chair - Discovery Award (based in Nottingham)

Gold Service in the Community during lockdown from January 2020

Plant Sales

At the beginning of the year I had ordered a large selection of tomato and vegetable seeds and peat free compost as I like to grow my own vegetables and usually have surplus plants for which friends and neighbours give a donation towards the charity which my local church is supporting.

I sowed 10 varieties of tomatoes, 2 of sweet peppers, brussels sprouts, calabrese, celeriac, red and white cabbage. All germinated well and by Mid-March I had over 200 plants. By this time the COVID 19 had been declared a pandemic and movement became strictly limited with the lockdown to reduce its spread. This was a problem as I could not take plants to Church or have people turning up at my door asking to choose plants.

I devised an order form to email to people so that collection or delivery could be arranged. As we have a long driveway, the plants can be left by the front door for people to collect without requiring close contact. My husband and I delivered to 2 of our elderly church members by maintaining social distancing.

My other issue was to decide which charity should benefit. St Mary's PCC would normally choose which charity to support for the year at the PCC meeting after Easter. As all meetings had been suspended, I sent out an email to PCC members for their ideas. Not surprisingly there was varied response, but our Priest-in-Charge did suggest either our local Foodbank or Hope, the local charity for the homeless. As St Mary's has long supported the Foodbank, and as the church was closed so donations could not be left there, the Foodbank seemed to be the best choice.

Following the government recommendation to use cash as little as possible; people should use contactless payments or bank transfers. With this in mind I asked people to place their donations in a collecting box which will be left undisturbed for as long as possible or to pay by bank transfer into Cuckney PCC account.



My first order was collected on April 13th. I also made a laminated notice and



displayed this at the end of our drive along with copies of the order form and advertised the plants on the local social media. I was amazed at the response and by the 24th April I had few plants left, so

decided to sow more seeds. I still had seeds for 5 varieties of tomato, plus mangetout, runner beans, French beans and kale. I also had spare cabbage, butternut squash, sweetcorn and courgette plants.

The only plants I had difficulty getting rid of were cabbages. I always grow a few red cabbages and I had sown some white cabbage seeds that came free with a magazine. Rather than throw them away, I put them at the end of the drive for anyone who wanted them. A local Councillor asked if she could take the cabbages to her allotment where she grows food for the Foodbank. I would contact her if I had other spare vegetable plants. I agreed to contact her if I had any.

Throughout May I continued to prick out and pot on plants and put up orders ready for collection. I updated adverts and order forms and continued to have a lot of interest even though Garden Centres were now open. I had so many minibel tomato plants I put these out for free collection. They are a great bush tomato for children to grow and enjoy. The last of the mangetout and kale plants were taken by the Councillor.

By the end of May £450 had been donated for the plants and a cheque sent to the Bassetlaw Foodbank.

By the beginning of June, I was running out of space as I was also growing bedding plants from seed for our garden. With the easing of Lockdown restrictions, I started putting tomato plants at the end of the drive with an honesty box for donations. Some of my “regular customers” came back for more tomatoes as they were happy with their quality. On Sunday 7 June I was just about to bring in the final 3 plants when a gentleman drove up to collect them.

When my husband, our Church Treasurer, counted the money another £58 had been donated. In total I have grown about 500 plants from seed. The average donation amounts to £1 per plant although individual donations varied greatly.

Afternoon Teas

By this time I had clocked up many hours’ Service. It was now only July and options for Service were very limited. In August a church friend suggested preparing and selling takeaway afternoon teas for the community local to St Mary’s Church. She asked if anyone would be interested in helping. This resulted in 5 of us having a planning meeting on 19 August 2020. We discussed whether this should be a Church led initiative or a Community event. As our Priest-in-Charge was away he could not give permission, so we looked into insurance and other requirements necessary for the venture.

We decided that the teas could be prepared, boxed up and then transported to Cuckney Village Hall car park for collection. We thought we might get 20 people interested in the teas. We would charge £5 per tea box and as we were also hoping

to raise money for MacMillan, we would also ask for donations to add to any small profit we might make.

The lead person in this venture had registered as a business and gained a 5-star hygiene rating. My Food Hygiene certificate was out of date, so I undertook the course on-line. We advertised in the Parish Newsletter and on the Parish Council Facebook page and encouraged people to let friends and neighbours know.

On Thursday 17 September 2020 we met to prepare and deliver 58 teas - we were amazed at the response. We were able to use the entrance to the Village Hall to set up tables where people could collect their teas and place their money in the box provided. The feedback was very positive and we enjoyed doing the teas, maintaining social distancing and following the regulations regarding hygiene etc.



From this initial trial we decided to continue with the teas once a month, advertising them locally. As a spin-off we also arranged to make cakes for a “Virtual” MacMillan Coffee morning, making cakes to order and taking them to the Village Hall for collection on Friday 2 October. This again proved a great success, helping the local organiser of this annual event to raise a similar amount for the charity as in previous years.

Since then, we have organised afternoon teas each month, with a different theme and a different charity on each occasion. Numbers have tended to be around 60 but in December this became 93! We now offer a more savoury selection as well as the original sweet version which comprises a selection of sandwiches, a scone or similar and a selection of cakes. Most of the cakes are donated, although with such large numbers some costs for ingredients are taken, as are the costs for packaging and labelling. We are fortunate in the fact that not only do we have the 4 of us who make the sandwiches and pack up the teas ready for delivery, we also have a group of helpers who construct the boxes, buy meat, make cakes or savouries and help in many other ways. This has enabled us to raise more funds for local charities. So far money has been raised for the local Community Fund, The Royal British Legion & Help for Heroes and St Mary’s Church. Most people are able to collect their teas, but we do offer a delivery service to those who cannot get out.

“Virtual” Christmas Market Stall

As a follow on from the success of the “Virtual” MacMillan Coffee Morning I thought I would see if there would be any interest in people buying products from a “Virtual” Christmas Market Stall. Over the past few years St Mary’s PCC have held an annual Christmas Tree Festival and Christmas Market at which I have always had a stall to raise money for the Church. As this event could not take place in 2020 due to the restrictions caused by the pandemic, I placed an advert in the Parish Newsletter to gauge if there would be any interest. I also asked members of the Trefoil Guild. I had a great response with quite a few orders from the word go. As the Christmas Market was usually well supported by members from St Anne’s Church, Worksop, I arranged for an advert to go in their magazine as well.

As soon as we had completed the afternoon teas in October, I started to make some preserves: marmalade, pear and cranberry relish and apple chutney. I was amazed at the response; I have never made so much before. I continued to get orders right up to the deadline and beyond and took the orders to Cuckney Village Hall car park for collection on the mornings of 28 & 29 November 2020.



In total I made 313 individual items and sold 291 to a total of 48 people and raised just over £500 for St Mary’s. I have not totalled all the hours, but not only did I make the preserves, Christmas puddings and Christmas cakes, but donated Jam jars had to have labels removed, washed and sterilised and new lids purchased. I also made labels for each item, packaged the puddings and cakes, labelled the bags and kept a spreadsheet of orders and costs.

Margaret Little (Nottinghamshire)

This is an amazing effort from Margaret - worth several badges and certificates! It’s another example of somebody putting so much into Charity work for the Community.

DISCOVERY AWARD GATHERING AT HAUTOBOIS SEPTEMBER 2024



The Discovery Award Gathering at Gt Hautbois House at the end of September was well attended. We had approximately 20 staying in the House and then several day visitors, mostly from Norfolk, who joined us on the Saturday. We had members from London, Hexham, Harrogate, Nottinghamshire, Lincolnshire, Rugeley, Leicestershire and Preston.

Friday

On the Friday was an Air 'n' Share where members shared what they had done for the award and also the 'newbies' were able to receive advice and support where needed.

Saturday

Activities included Archery on-site whilst Hazel made decorated wine bottles. Julia and Julie were doing quilling. John took some members on a ramble around Coltishall.

After a buffet lunch we enjoyed a very informative talk on the East Anglian Air Ambulance (EAAA) from Mr Patrick Peal DL, the EAAA founder.



He presented certificates and awards after his speech but this was in his capacity of Deputy Lord Lieutenant of Norfolk. There was a raffle and money raised from that was donated to the EAAA.



Alyson produced a Murder Mystery around Hautbois House during the evening, which was enjoyed by all.

Sunday

After breakfast members started to leave as some had long drives home whilst others had bus and train journeys. There were two people, who had travelled by train and bus, staying in the house for the night and then departing on Monday. Another couple had their caravan in the area so stayed on to explore more of Norfolk.

Christine Cutting - Norfolk Guiding



An excellent weekend enjoyed by almost 40 members attending in warm late summer weather with good food and good company.



Look out for information about the 2025 Gathering - possibly in Staffordshire.....

Thanks to the Committee for organising this and especially Christine Cutting for liaising with Hautbois.

Ian (Chair)

Discoverers who have gained awards recently

Gold

Eve Eates	Norfolk
Catherine Leigh	Norfolk
Heather Barrett	Norfolk
Diane Goldby	Saltburn, Teeside
Susanne Durston	Norfolk
Margaret Little	Nottinghamshire
Maxine Cunningham	Nottinghamshire
Lucille Bird	Norfolk
Julie Pollard	Lincolnshire
Julia Winstanley	Lincolnshire



Silver

Louise Beale	Fenny Compton
Julie Tuckley-Skelton	Telford
Tarina Hutchinson	Nuneaton
Helen Fawcett	Merseyside
Christine Sparkes	Norwich
Bryon Sparkes	Norwich
Margaret Hughes	Bristol
Judith Conlon	Berkhamsted
Susan Harvey	Lancashire
Sue Eldridge	Bude
Jacqueline Malone	Lancashire
Anne Saxon	Staffordshire
Karen Harper	Lancashire
Christina Schofield	Norfolk
Angela Butcher	Norfolk



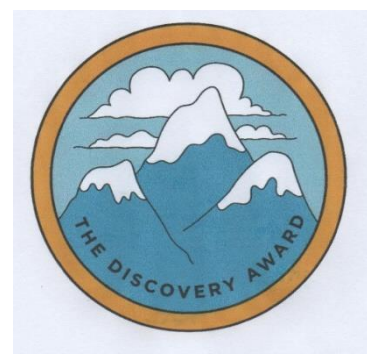
Bronze

Marion Moss	Staffordshire
Kim Madeley	Crewe
Sandra Andrews	Leicestershire
Heather Gibbs	Kent
Sarah Harris	Radstock
Tracey Higgins	Somerset
Stuart Franey	Leicestershire
Diane Ley	Norfolk
Wendy Dale	Northumberland
Stuart Wild	Lancashire
Janet Fancy	Norfolk
Carole Dale	Norfolk
Gill Thawley	Norfolk



Gold+

Susan Beaney	Kent
Judith Benson (+1)	East Yorkshire
Keith Scotter	West Midlands
Jane Scotter	West Midlands
Pat Threadgold (+2)	Norfolk
Barbara Parry (+3)	Nottinghamshire
Pat Smith	Norfolk
Lynda Quantrell	Norfolk
Gill Ellis (+1)	Norfolk
Christine Cutting	Norfolk



Congratulations to all those of you who have gained Awards.

Apologies if you have been missed.....

ELF FESTIVE FUN CHALLENGE FOR BUDDY BAGS

Discovery Award Gold+1 holder, Sylvia Keris from Eccleshall, for the fifth-year running was transformed into her persona of Buddy's Elf during December - to bring smiles with her elf antics. Sylvia was challenged to dress as an elf 24hrs a day, every day, from 1st to 25th December, wherever she went - whether walking round town, going supermarket shopping, travelling on the buses, visiting GPs, singing along with any Santa sleighs, or attending important meetings!

She did this to bring some cheer during the festive season, whilst representing the charity 'the Buddy Bag Foundation' - which helps children with a buddy backpack of essential items, after they have been taken into the safety of a refuge, away from domestic violence. This affects



at least 48,000 children in the UK every year, and sadly there are more cases of abuse leading up to and after the festive season - which increases the need for funding for buddy bags.

But fundraising can be fun, and Buddy's Elf aimed to get up to mischief (like elf on the shelf) being in unusual places for an elf on a daily basis - and funny photos are posted daily in December on her page, under the **facebook name: Buddy's Elf** to bring smiles. If people would like to support the charity which does vital work helping vulnerable children, they can visit the bbf festive campaign JustGiving page to make a donation please to:

www.justgiving.com/campaign/elf2024

You can leave a festive message or new year's greeting on this site for family, friends or work colleagues at the same time, to spread a little cheer. The total raised so far through the elf challenge is nearly £1000, but it would be wonderful to receive more donations to help this vital charity please, as the 'JustGiving' page will be kept open for a few months.

Thank you for your kind support.



This is a wonderful effort by Sylvia and all those involved to raise money, including several Discoverers, for a very worthwhile and entirely relevant cause.

Ian

THE CURRENT RATE OF FEES & COSTS

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

BRONZE £15 SILVER £20 GOLD £25 Gold+ £5

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

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

Other Items:		each
Metal badges -	Bronze, Silver or Gold	£3.50
Cloth badges -	Bronze, Silver or Gold	£1.50
Cloth badge -	Original - Blue	£1.00
Car Sticker -		£1.00
Extra Record Book		£1.00
Extra Handbook		£1.00
Extra Community Service Book		£1.00
Post and packing for extra items ONLY	up to £10	£2.00
	up to £20	£3.00
	up to £30	£4.00
	over £30	£5.00
	Members who live Abroad minimum	£5.00

The Committee 2024

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

End of 2023 Balance Sheet

Discovery Award England

Balance sheet as at 31st December 2023

	2023	2022		
Receipts	£	£		
Membership Fees	0.00	140.00		
Bronze member fees	476.50	449.50		
Silver member fees	120.00	260.00		
Gold Member fees	130.00	50.00		
5 Year Fees	0.00	84.00	bank reconciliation	
Gold Plus Fees	50.00	55.00	as at 31st December	
Goods	108.00	157.00	current	306.02
Postage and Packing	12.00	36.00	o/s lodged	0.00
Donations	61.50	207.00	o/s cheque	0.00
Interest	131.08	7.70		
Annual review	170.00	0.00	bank	306.02
Total	1259.08	1446.20	deposit acc	14839.62
Payments	£	£		
Admin Travel	97.90	199.00	Total	15145.64
Meeting Travel	257.45	353.30		
Website	257.96	702.17		
Photocopying	40.41	34.92		
Office Expenses	53.24	64.72		
Postage and Packing	246.44	217.52		
Newsletter	42.00	0.00		
Insurance	202.24	202.24		
Zoom licence	143.88	0.00		
Rent	200.00	0.00		
Goods	253.80	143.88		
printer	60.24	0.00		
Annual review expenses	396.30	0.00		
Expenses for year	2251.86	1917.75		

Balance brought forward

16138.42 16609.97

profit/loss

-992.78 -471.55

Balance carried forward

15145.64 16138.42

Prepared by Alyson Jones Treasurer..... *Alyson Jones*

The above receipts and payments and bank statements have been examined by myself
and are in accordance with the unit books and vouchers

E Howat

date *2-2-2024*



Our Website

www.discoveryaward.org.uk

The website is often the first place where people can gain information about the Award programme, price lists and the Bronze Application form.

All those who wish to participate in the Award are able to download the Bronze Award application form. This can be found under the 2nd banner along entitled 'The Award'. If you hover over this, go down to the Membership Forms, click on the link and fill-in the form. This can then be emailed to the address at the bottom of the application form.

Payment can be made by cheque or via BACs (the preferred method) - please remember to put the reference as your name and 'Bronze Award' to help the treasurer identify the payment correctly.

The 'Contact Us' 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. This enquiry form is 'signposted' to the admin personnel of Northern Ireland, Scotland or England & Wales.

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 of 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 you can be contacted. Action photographs are also welcome, with permission, to enable them to be used on the website.

Christine Cutting - Norfolk

Message from the editors

Happy New Year! We hope 2025 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)

The next newsletter will be published in January 2026
The deadline for items to reach the editor is 31 December 2025, preferably by email to jjfp240@btinternet.com

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Art Work by Judith Benson (East Yorkshire)

