

THE DISCOVERY AWARD ASSOCIATION  
An achievement award for people over 50



# NEWSLETTER

Issue 23 January 2019

*Happy New Year to you all!*

And so 2018 has been and gone and it does not seem a year since the Newsletter was last published. It has been a very turbulent one on the political front but there seems even greater uncertainty for 2019 if the press and TV are to be believed. Let's hope the predictions for doom and gloom are exaggerated and that in or out of Europe life will improve for everybody and the politicians, or the 'people', will get things sorted out!

The committee welcomed three new members in 2018 and our meetings have been quite positive, but as ever, we would encourage anybody who is interested, to consider joining us - no organisation can function without people willing to do their bit to keep things moving forward.

During 2018 we were privileged to hold our Annual Gathering at Sandon Hall in May, followed by an invitation to return in July for a guided tour and tea and cake! We thank Lady Harrowby for her kindness and generosity in helping to arrange these events for us, and for her support of the Award in many positive ways.

We were saddened to hear of the death of Laurie Young (see obituary inside this Newsletter) in December and, as many of you know, he was one of the team whose vision and hard work set up the Discovery Award back in 1983. Laurie not only became the Award's Director, but also a friend to many people over his thirty years involvement with the scheme. He will be greatly missed.

Membership has stayed reasonably stable over the past year, but of course there are competing schemes for people's time and interest, although it is encouraging that we have gained eleven new members from a Guiding group in Ontario, Canada! Please spread the word as we can always accommodate many more members.

Finally, we hope 2019 is a healthy year for you all and please consider joining us in September for our Annual Gathering in Norfolk at Hautbois (pronounced 'Hobbiss' apparently!) - the Girlguiding Anglia's Activity Centre.

Ian Littlehales - on behalf of the Committee

## LAURIE YOUNG MBE



Laurie at the 25<sup>th</sup> Gathering in York 2012

As I write this on 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2019, I am aware that today is the day of Laurie Young's funeral. Unfortunately, prior engagements mean I am unable to attend but I will be there in spirit to say farewell to a man who dedicated the greater part of his life to the Discovery Award.

I remember seeing Laurie around the Millennium when he came to a Discovery Award Annual Gathering at the Council House in Nottingham. He was, as ever, dressed in Scottish National dress and although at that time I was not yet a member, I could tell he was very much in his element. As time passed, I became involved on the committee in Nottingham and got to know how much the Award scheme meant to Laurie and what an important part it played in his life. People would say it was his 'baby' and it certainly sustained him following the death of his beloved Margaret.

Laurie was fully involved in the work of the Discovery Award until 2014 (see extract below) and even after that he kept up a keen interest in what was happening and wrote to several of us in England until quite recently.

Those of us from south of the border who were at the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Gathering in Dundee in September 2017 will have seen him then for the final time. Let us hope that the Award will continue to thrive - we all know there are challenges - and that the work of Laurie and others, in giving a focus to the lives of older people, will continue for years to come.

Ian Littlehales  
(Discovery Award Committee)

*Extract from letter to all Scottish Discoverers in 2014 from Chair, John Mackie:*

*"Our Director Laurie Young MBE has already intimated his intention to stand down due to health issues, and I thanked Laurie on behalf of the Committee and all Discoverers for his dedication and hard work over the years. However, there comes a time when we must think of our own situation and let others take up the reins. So Laurie, relax and enjoy your well earned 'retirement'."*

# HAUTBOIS 2019



## Come along and join us - September 2019

In 2019, we are planning to hold our Annual Gathering at Hautbois House Activity Centre in Norfolk, close to Norwich but in the countryside. It will be the first time we have travelled east for this event and we hope some of you will be able to join us.

The 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> September 2019 will be the dates, so please reserve those in your diary. Further details will be published later in the New Year and booking forms will be available in the spring.

There will be the chance for some to stay at the house but also others will be able to book into hotels or BnBs in the area. If you are local it will also be possible to attend the activities and meeting on a 'day' basis. Meals are very good and at a reasonable price and conference and activity facilities are excellent.

Why not make it a long weekend or week away?

More to follow.....



Following discussion at the meeting at Sandon Hall the committee decided to re-word the 'Journey' section in the handbook to make it more appropriate to the Discovery Award. If you already have a handbook, please replace this section with the following.

## THE JOURNEY OF DISCOVERY

Originally this involved a physical journey but can now be much more flexible. The aim of the Discoverer should be to extend and explore within their own capabilities. It could be a physical journey but could also be a virtual or non-physical journey. Whichever you choose it must have a clearly defined purpose with time scales and challenge appropriate to the Level of the Award.

The Journey of Discovery should include the following elements:

- Advance planning - including the purpose of your journey
- Essential preparation - including adequate training where necessary and relevant.
- Travel arrangements - where relevant
- Research - using books, internet, television travel agents etc

Throughout the preparation and duration of your journey a record of your progress can be kept in a variety of formats.

### Physical Journeys

Discoverers may choose to travel to another country or to a different area in which they have an interest and wish to visit with a definite purpose in mind. It could also involve an expedition in wild or semi-wild country. In this case recognised Safety Guidelines and Procedures must be followed. Time scales vary for each level. Appropriate planning should be included in your record at all levels.

#### **Bronze level**

The journey should be over at least two consecutive days and involve at least 12 hours of planned activity.

#### **Silver level**

The journey should be over at least four consecutive days or two sets of two consecutive days and include at least 24 hours of planned activity.

#### **Gold level**

The journey should be over at least six consecutive days or two sets of three/three sets of two consecutive days and include at least 36 hours of planned activity.

### Non-physical or virtual journeys

Those not wishing to make physical journeys can research and plan journeys to local places of interest or to anywhere else in the world. Details can be put together to make an account of activities that could be undertaken. It would also include the period of time that would be necessary to make the proposed trip.

You could plan to visit places which can be linked together in some way such as places with historic or literary connections, or ones you knew in the past. You could research your Family Tree illustrating it with a scrapbook. The range of opportunities is enormous.

Whichever type of journey you choose records are to be kept at each stage of planning and participation. These details would be included:

- The purpose of your journey
- Details of planning and preparation including training if necessary
- What did you achieve?
- What did you discover?
- How did your journey extend your capabilities, knowledge or interests?
- Include any significant events, photographs etc

### **Assessment**

The Assessor for the Journey of Discovery should be satisfied that the participant has undertaken the challenge in keeping with their capabilities. The Assessor should also be satisfied that the stated purpose and discovery elements have been met in full.

### **DISCOVERY LOGO**



We have received a letter from Diana J Harkins regarding the originality of the Award logo.

An article on our website attributed the award logo to the Discovery ship anchored there. This is not the case as she goes on to explain that back in 1988 she submitted two designs, one with a ship and one with the mountains.

One of the reasons that the ship logo was not picked was that people might think we linked the name to the ship and that would take away the fact that it was all about the individual going out and discovering what they could do. By following a structured programme, with help from the committee, members could realise possibilities never thought about previously just gaining personal Discovery. The chosen logo was the “High Mountains”, a theme depicting the ultimate challenge of people gaining heights through their experiences on the Discovery Award Scheme and expanding their knowledge. Originally the logo had a sun round the rim but this was deemed too elaborate for a mould and thus expensive to produce. The sun was removed using a circular logo which can be representative of learning, there being no end to it.

In the words of Diana... ‘it’s amazing that the award is still going strong after 30 years and long may it. I had a great time doing mine and met so many lovely people’.

## LETTER FROM OLIVE LEONARD - West Sussex

*I too have often felt a further award to follow the Gold might have been a good idea. However, I feel that it has been rather overshadowed by the Trefoil Voyage Award, which didn't attract me at all, having felt I had 'done all that'.*

*I am very grateful, in my 91<sup>st</sup> year, still to be fairly active. In addition to Trefoil events I am still running and working in the ESY Charity Shop. It has been very rewarding to feel we raise sufficient funds to support the Charity getting young people off drugs and smoking and helping them achieve their Duke of Edinburgh Award etc. I still try to swim/gym 2 or 3 times a week, which entails a 22 mile round trip (Yes, still driving!) My activities in the church have lessened where we have been blessed with new, younger members. I do still host a monthly Bible Study group which is now ecumenical. We try to meet in my pretty garden where I work for as many hours as possible.*

*So – what next? I'm not sure I will be able to get to the Brownsea Island open day on September 5<sup>th</sup> – due to the unreliability of the trains!*

*Enough! Any further developments would interest me.*

*Best wishes*

*Olive Leonard*

*In answer to this, having completed bronze, silver and gold Discovery and Voyage Award in Trefoil, we feel that it is different in some aspects with the addition of a teamwork element. In some ways it feels less challenging than the Discovery Award but the Myself section is more personal. At the end of the day any Award is what you make it and how much you challenge yourself.*

## LETTER TO CHAIRMAN AND COMMITTEE OF THE DISCOVERY AWARD

*It is with some regrets that I have decided that it is time for me to resign from my position on the committee. I have served since 2008 and feel that it is time to step back and let some new members bring some fresh ideas to take the Discovery Award forward into what seems to be a fast-changing world.*

*I joined the Discovery Award in 1997 and on my journey through Bronze, Silver and Gold I thoroughly enjoyed many and varied activities. I was taught circus skills, played croquet, went Ten Pin Bowling and learnt to lay a hedge in the traditional manner to prevent farm animals from straying. One Sunday afternoon in 2000 found me, with other Discoverers, having drinking straws put up my nostrils and my face plastered to make what was in effect – a death mask! These masks became part of an exhibition which travelled around the UK representing Faces for a Millennium. They were eventually returned to us.*

*I have very much enjoyed the AGM days and weekends hosted in various parts of England and two in Scotland. I shall continue to be a member of the Gold Award Holders scheme and look forward to meeting old (and some new) friends at future get-togethers.*

*I am very sorry that I am unable to be with you on the 24<sup>th</sup> April at Sandon House. (I was looking forward to the tour of the house.)*

*I am sure you will have a lovely day and I wish the Discovery Award Scheme many more years' success under the care of our new Patron.*

*With best wishes to you all*

*Lesley Gingell*

*(20+ years as a member and 10+ years on the committee)*

## Roll of Honour 2018

Here are some of those who have gained awards in the past year

### Bronze Award

Alyson Jones	Bourne Trefoil, Lincolnshire
Angela Worsnop	Longton Trefoil
Christine Allsop	Raising the Barr, Birmingham
Clive Gough	Nottingham Steadfast
Elaine Ainsworth	Longton Trefoil, Stoke-on-Trent
Elizabeth Patterson	St John's, Birmingham
Frances Webley	Southwell U3A
Verdun Webley	“
Geoff Dunn	Stockton Infinity, Teesside
Linda Fowler	“
Allison Ruff	Kent
Linda Seal	NotSo Group, Lancashire
Mandy Ankers	Dove
Margaret Foster	Lincolnshire
Marion Moss	Stone U3A, Staffordshire
Mary Sansom	Shirley, West Midlands
Patricia Marcus	Stockton Infinity, Teesside
Phillip Knight	Dove, Staffordshire
Ruth Jenkins	Staffordshire
Sheila Stephenson	Huntingdon
Shelley Franklin	West Wolds U3A, Lincolnshire
Sue Leadbetter	Dove
Mary Howes	West Wolds U3A, Lincolnshire
Margaret Dodd	Wakefield, Yorkshire
Angela Anthony	West Midlands
Marion Banks	West Sussex
Peter James	Southwell U3A
Susan Potter	Cornwall
June Hopkins	West Wolds U3A
Brenda Olson	Staffordshire
Kathleen Floyd	West Midlands
Pauline Watts	Haywards heath U3A
Yvonne Mulvaney	West Yorkshire

Susanne Durston  
Eve Eates  
Catherine Leigh  
Heather Barrett  
Helen Reed  
Alirae Bunkle

NW Norfolk Girlguiding  
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### Silver Award

Gill Stevenson  
Linda Jenks  
Mark Greenhalgh  
Val Comery  
Hazel Lintott  
Alison Whittaker  
Maxine Cunningham  
Susan Potter  
Shirley Manton  
Betty Trevett  
Annette Williams

Norfolk County Guides  
Raising the Barr, Birmingham  
Radcliffe MCG, Nottinghamshire  
Raising the Barr, Birmingham  
Haywards heath U3A, Sussex  
Girlguiding Manchester  
Nottingham North  
Cornwall  
Blyth  
Huntingdon  
Cornwall

### Gold Award

Yvonne Hutchins  
Christine Morton  
Pat Allkins  
Rita Thompson  
Rosemary Braund  
Sally Bye  
Janet Kemp  
Heather Cruickshank  
Susan Stainton  
Susan Whitwam

Dove, Staffordshire  
West Sussex  
Boulton Discoverers, Derby  
GODOE, Staffordshire  
Cambridge  
Portishead, Bristol  
Cheltenham  
Worcester  
West Yorkshire South Discoverers  
“ “ “ “

*Our apologies if you have gained an Award in the past year but your name does not appear in the list above.*

### **WEST YORKSHIRE SOUTH DISCOVERERS**

West Yorkshire South Discoverers (originally Dartmouth Division Discoverers) have been a group since 2003 under the leadership of Margaret Shaw, finally closing in 2018. During their 15 years, 22 golds have been achieved together with some 31 Bronzes and 23 Silvers.

Dear 5 Year Member,

You may or may not know that over the years there have been requests for a further challenge after Gold, to be available.

This matter has been discussed at length in Committee and also in Scotland's Exec. Committee, who do not wish to consider anything other than GOLD.

Your committee feel that as you have continued to take an interest in The Discovery Award, there should be a challenge to make the 5 Year Membership more interesting for you.

Because this doesn't alter the Award in way, the Management Committee in England feel that we can proceed with the project outlined below.

As you have finished your Gold Award, either recently or years ago, it is thought that you might have an opinion regarding what sort of challenge you may feel appropriate.

At present we are considering a yearly Challenge, along the lines of one of the quadrants, for example 'A year of Discovery'.... we will challenge you to research a subject of your choice for 9 - 12 months. Either from your armchair or through the internet/books/ travel/or simply quizzing your family. You will be expected to keep a diary of your research and submit it at the end of the year. It is proposed not to have yet another badge, but perhaps a small GOLD STAR certificate.

Obviously, we need to keep costs down, hence no record book or badges, and unless you really feel the need, no Mentors or Assessors. At present the cost to you will either be nil or minimal to cover the cost of the certificate.

Please think this through and let us know, either by mail or email, what you feel about the above proposal. If you have any other ideas that you feel should be considered, please let us know about those too!

We won't proceed until we have had some response from our 5 Year members!

We look forward to your thoughts.

The Management Committee DAE (Committee in Nottingham)

*The above letter was sent to all 5 year Gold Holder Members in August, by email or post and we were pleased to receive some very useful comments from a few members. But we would appreciate feedback from other members, especially their thoughts on how we should proceed, or even if they think that we should do nothing, but have not got round to responding so far.*

## DISPLAY BANNERS



There are 3 banners stored at the office in Nottingham. These can be borrowed, with no charge, for events or recruitment.

## MESSAGE FROM THE EDITORS

As we take on the Newsletter, we wish everyone a Happy and good discovering New Year. Please bear with us as we get to grips with this new task.

As Newsletter editors, we look forward to people sharing their Discovery challenges and experiences.

Best Wishes

*Julie Pollard and Julia Winstanley (Discovery Award Committee)*



Lady Harrowby (our Patron) with Laurie Young in Dundee 2017

Please remember to send completed Record Books to the office for 'signing off' and to allow the office team to update records. Certificates and badges will only be sent if there is evidence of completion of an Award. This can include the Group Leader's signature and signatures of 'Mentors' for each section.

**The Discovery Award Office will be open, usually on the first Monday of each month, so please allow 28 days for delivery of goods. Please make sure you include your postal address and email if appropriate and send to the address below.**

**The next newsletter will be published in January 2020**

The deadline for items to reach the editor is 15 December 2019, preferably by email.

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