

# HORIZONS

## ISSUE 152: JULY 2023



*Larkspur 'Amadeus'*

### **SOME FACTS ABOUT JULY**

1. July was named after Roman general, Julius Caesar. It was selected by the Roman Senate, being the month in which Caesar was born.
2. Historically, July was known as the 'dog days of summer' because it was the beginning of the hot summer days connected with the star Sirius, which is part of the Canis Major (Greater Dog) star system.
3. July is also connected with bad luck, thunderstorms, heat, drought and mad dog attacks
4. The first rabies vaccination was given, successfully, by Louis Pasteur to 9-year-old Joseph Meisteur in July 1885.
5. The world's first bikini was unveiled at the Piscine Molitor in Paris in July 1946.
6. On 4 July, 1776, 13 American colonies declared independence from the British crown.
7. 2 July is World UFO Day.
8. July birth flowers: Water Lily and Larkspur.

## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

I have just got back from a lovely few days in North Wales with three other members of our club.

We all decided that everything worked so well because of team work. We shared all the chores and the decision making of what we were going to do each day. There were inevitably some compromises but we all enjoyed ourselves immensely.

In my experience teamwork in the work place is essential with everyone sharing their skills. Good leadership is vital but the leader must take the team with her or him or all can be lost.

Friendship Force has to involve working together to ensure interesting and successful, smooth running journeys for our guests. It is all about sharing ideas and skills and sharing the workload both for incoming and outgoing visits.

We have just received the offers from FFI for 2024.

Our outgoing Journey is to Cape of Good Hope, South Africa.

Incoming offers are for Varel in Germany in May and Winnipeg Canada in September.

So we could be in for an exciting year but not without hard work to organise things together. We need two Coordinators for each Journey and enthusiastic teams to work with them.

Could be a bit of a challenge as our numbers have dropped a bit but this could also be an opportunity to find some other travellers and hosts to join us as long as they fulfil the true meaning of Friendship Force:

‘To promote cultural understanding and friendship around the world’

‘A world of Friends is a world of peace’

So let's do it !

Regards

Linda





Friendship Force  
Diary 2023

**JULY**

Mon. 10 July

Spuds & Puds at Geoff & Sue's. 2 Field Crest, Mountsorrel, LE12 7HL at 12.30pm. Names please: Geoff: [ffol.uk@btinternet.com](mailto:ffol.uk@btinternet.com) (See page 5)

Sat. 22 July

Guided walk in Welford Road Cemetery. Join Glen & Eleri for a guided walk round Welford Road Cemetery when you will learn the history of the Cemetery and in particular the stories of those who met untimely ends! Cost £5. Includes refreshments in the Visitor Centre afterwards. To book, e-mail [fowrcem@gmail.com](mailto:fowrcem@gmail.com) Places are limited, so booking is essential.

**AUGUST**

Thurs. 17 August

Party at Bob & Marian's, 1 Willow Brook Close, Glenfield, LE3 8GU (See page 5)

Fri. 18 August

West Midlands Safari Park Day Trip. (See page 4)

Wed. 23 August

Walk around Cosby during *The Cosby Yarn Bomb*. Join Eleri at 2pm outside the Co-op Food Store, Main Street, Cosby, LE9 1UU for a walk around the village to see the installations followed by tea and coffee. Names to Eleri beforehand. (see page 4)

**SEPTEMBER**

Sun. 10 September

Lunch. Organiser, Geoff Wainwright

**OCTOBER**

2-5 October

FFI World Conference in Dubrovnik. (See page HORIZONS, issue No.148)

Tues. 10 October

The Cedars, Main Street, Evington. Organiser, Joan Stafford

**NOVEMBER**

Fri. 10 November

Lunch

Fri. 10 - Mon. 13 Nov.

Visit to Leicester by the Cornwall Club

Sat. 25 November **AGM at St Mary's Church Rooms, Church Lane, Anstey, LE7 7AF** (Time to be confirmed)

## DECEMBER

December 3 & 4 Kew at Night, Oxford & Windsor. (See page 4)

Sun. 10 December (Provisional date). Christmas event at 1620s House & Gardens, Donington le Heath, Manor Road, Coalville, LE67 2FW

Fri. 15 December Christmas Lunch at the Taste Restaurant

Sun/Mon: 17 & 18 Dec. Thursford Spectacular Show & Cambridge. (See page 4)

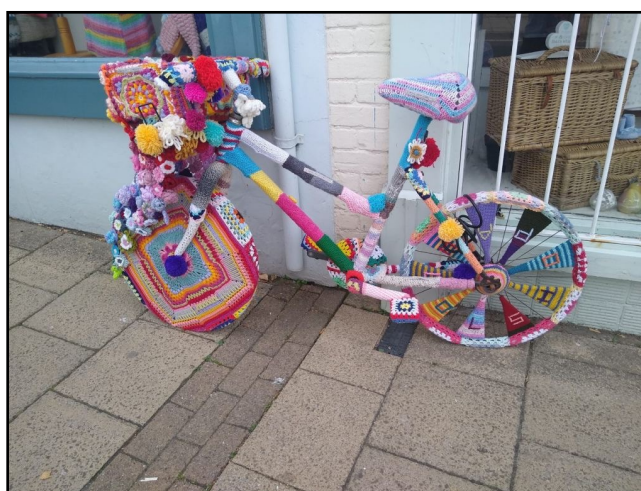
## WALKS, DAYS OUT & WEEKENDS AWAY

### **August 18: (Friday): West Midlands Safari Park: Organiser Eleri**

Day trip with Winsons Coaches, various pick ups, £45.25.

### **August 23: (Wednesday): Cosby Yarn Bomb: Organiser, Eleri**

Walk around Cosby during *The Cosby Yarn Bomb*, to see the craftwork, (see photos below), followed by tea and cake, at The Cook in the Nook, 24 The Nook, Cosby.



### **December 3 and 4: Kew at night, Oxford and Windsor: Organiser Eleri**

A Winsons Coaches' 2 day tour with various pick ups in Leicestershire, £155. Stay at 4 star Holiday Inn, breakfast included:

**Sunday** - visit Oxford. In the evening, a walking trail of illuminated Christmas lights in Kew

**Monday** - visit Windsor with optional visit to Windsor Castle.

### **December 17 and 18: Thursford Spectacular Show and Cambridge: Organiser Eleri**

A Winsons Coaches' 2 day tour with various pick ups in Leicestershire, £215. Stay at 4-star Dunston Hall; price includes breakfast and evening meal and use of indoor pool and leisure facilities.

**Sunday** - matinée performance of Thursford Christmas Show. **Monday** - visit Cambridge.



Buffet Lunch  
To celebrate Bob and Marian's 50th  
Wedding Anniversary.  
17 August, 2023  
From 12.00 onwards  
at 1 Willow Brook Close, Glenfield,  
LE3 8GU  
RSVP to Bob & Marian, please  
0116 348 1587  
07776 346591 / 07525 164684

**FRIENDSHIP FORCE DINING TOGETHER ON THE 10<sup>TH</sup> DAY OF THE MONTH  
ON MONDAY, 10 JULY 2023**

Geoff. & Sue Wainwright will be serving  
Spuds (various fillings) & Puds at their home from 12 noon

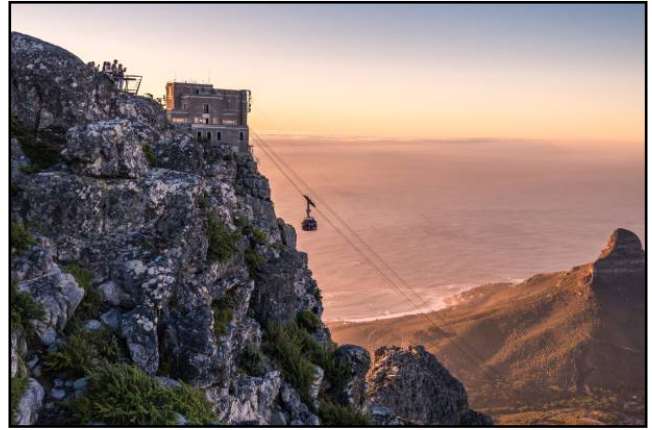
**ALL ARE WELCOME**



**PLEASE book a place in advance  
Tel. 0116 237 6979  
Email: [ffol.uk@btinternet.com](mailto:ffol.uk@btinternet.com)**

## PROPOSED EXCHANGE TO SOUTH AFRICA 2024

We hope to have more information soon about the trip. Janet Malloy was the Journey Coordinator for our Club's previous visit to the Cape of Good Hope Club in Cape Town. That was back in 2011. Janet says it was a brilliant club, with very friendly people. Everything on the programme was interesting and they were shown many fascinating things. These are two of the places they visited: Boulders Beach Penguin Colony and the Table Mountain cable car.



## MORE PHOTOS OF THE HALIBURTON VISIT AS PROMISED



Photos:

Top left: Hosts & Helpers. Top right: Visitors from Haliburton



Above:  
Hillary Pollak & Sandra Duchemin at  
Market Harborough

Right: Sandra Duchemin on guard at  
Burghley House

## **THE OTHER SIDE OF THE MOUNTAIN** **(Linda, Eleri, John & Glen Go Wandering in Wales)**

Well we made it! In front of us was a smallish house surrounded by scaffolding situated in a pretty garden. We were expecting what the national Trust had promised :

‘A modest 16th century farmhouse with huge cultural significance. Birthplace to Bishop William Morgan, whose 10 year endeavour to translate the Bible into Welsh helped ensure the survival of the language’

Oh and a bit lower down it said: ‘Do not use Satnav.’ We had probably missed that bit!

We had followed a very narrow, winding track after we left the main road from our accommodation. About to take a right turn, however, we did notice a sign which said ‘No Access to Tŷ Mawr



Wybrnant’. Following that advice we continued further along the now narrowing track as it wound its way, slowly gaining height as it did so. It was bounded by brambles bordering fields which contained the occasional isolated farm building. We even drove through a small village whose buildings now appeared to be holiday lets. Our comments were all about rural isolation and few facilities and difficult existence.

There was more slow traversing of the road when we arrived at the isolated dwelling described in the National Trust Handbook. We parked close by and entered the grounds by a small gate. It was obvious from the scaffolding, blocked out windows and large padlock that the building itself was not open to visitors!

Consequently we had a reflective time in the lovely peaceful cottage style garden, which had not had much loved bestowed upon it for a while but was nevertheless full of colour, perfume and some wildlife. We marvelled at how this scholar could have lived in such a place and produced this masterpiece of a work but then learned via Google that he had actually been a long term student at Cambridge and eventually Bishop of Llandaff Cathedral in Cardiff.

The exit road proved to be gated and even narrower than the approach one with the extra hazards of lambs gambolling very close to the car as they crisscrossed the track which was now enclosed by a stonewall as well as the brambles. It was a long slow crawl to the junction where we had seen the no access sign. A left turn and a slightly easier drive took us back to the main road and a search for another NT place which had a café and facilities.

Later in the evening, back at our holiday accommodation, we did a bit more research on William Morgan and also looked at the OS map.

‘Oh look,’ said one bright spark. ‘We could have just gone along this footpath from our front door and walked over the hill into the next valley and we would have been at the house in no time at all.’

‘Argh!! *Linda*

**OBITUARY**  
**Mike Dennehy**

Michael Dennehy passed away peacefully at the age of 90 years, surrounded by family and the Little Sisters of the Poor on 29 May 2023, at St Joseph's Home in Manchester. Mike was born in Dublin on 30 September 1932. He went to Manchester in 1968 and worked at Manchester Airport until his retirement in 1995 when he moved to Market Harborough and later joined Leicestershire Friendship Force. He is survived by his children, Paul, David, Susan, Ruth and Peter, grandchildren, Michael, Madeleine, Caitlin, and Yasmine and great-grandchild Ollie. The funeral service was held at Little Sisters of the Poor, St Josephs Home on Tuesday 20 June.

Dear Mike, he held a special place in the hearts of all his Friendship Force friends. A gentleman with a great sense of humour, who loved to share his champagne and the good times with everyone.



*Photos:*

*Left: New York, 2017:*

*What a palaver! Mike buying tickets from a street vendor for three of us to go up the Empire State Building.*

*Below:*

*Mike & Eleri's Mock Wedding in Mexico, 2010*



*Left:*

*Mike singing karaoke with the ladies in Java, 2014*



## PHOTO OF THE MONTH



**Niagara Falls, Canadian side  
Leics. FF exchange to Hamilton, September 2016**

## MESSAGE FROM THE EDITOR

Thanks for the contributions to Horizons. Please keep your articles, jokes, photos, snippets or anything else of interest coming. The deadline for the next issue is 29 July 2023.

A book is not mere paper and words.  
It is a door and a key.  
It is a road and a journey.  
It is a thousand new sights, sensations and sounds.  
It holds friendships, experiences and life lessons.  
A book is the entire world,