

CONVERSATION CLUB

REVIEW OF 2023



HAPPIER, HEALTHIER, INSPIRED COMMUNITIES

MULTIPLY

Lincolnshire
COUNTY COUNCIL
Working for a better future

Lincoln City
Foundation

**SKILLS
FOR LIFE**

INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the Lincoln City Foundations review of 2023.

Our aim is to inspire healthier, happier communities in and around the LNER stadium. Many of our participants will tell their stories first hand for you to enjoy.

Their efforts to learn English and interact within Lincoln's communities is admirable. We would like to thank the volunteers who have supported the programme wholeheartedly, Sue, Adrian, Claire, Alan, John along with all the BGU students as well as many others who have given time and energy to create a vibrant and friendly atmosphere for all to flourish within.

Thanks to Babs who runs a similar formal course alongside which has complemented the offering tremendously. Thanks of course to the Foundation team who row the oars on a daily basis to make things flow smoothly.

If you would like any further information please contact us at, community@lincolncityfoundation.co.uk.

Best wishes,

Neville
Conversation Club lead



MARTIN'S NOTE

As the CEO of an incredible sports charity, I am immensely proud to witness the positive impact that our English language classes and conversation clubs have had on the lives of our participants.

The commitment and dedication shown by both our learners and tutors are truly commendable, as they come together to create an environment of learning and growth.

At the Lincoln City Foundation, we believe in the transformative power of education, and our language programmes are designed not only to foster linguistic skills but also to build a sense of community and connection.

Join us in celebrating the strides our participants have made, and I speak for everyone at the charity when I say we are 100% committed to working together to make a lasting difference in the lives of those we serve.

Thank you for your ongoing support and commitment to our shared vision of empowerment through education – please read on to find out more about the successes in the last year.



STUDENTS LEARNING THROUGH THE CLUB



When I first arrived at Lincoln City Foundation I shared in the experience of being a shy outsider, trying to break into a close group of friends. Almost immediately, the students from all over the world united with their English language knowledge and got to work making me feel welcome.

With warm smiles they took the opportunity to practice their English by getting to know me, asking questions about who I was, why I was there and other various greetings.

Some students shared their stories, where they came from and why, as well as engaging in the quintessential British topic of recent weather.

Already I could tell this was an incredibly warm and wonderful group of people, and my shy, reserved exterior melted away instantly. It felt like I was meeting and catching up with old friends.

“The most striking aspect was the rapport Neville had with the students, all of whom appeared comfortable and excited to participate”

The next phase was teaching practice over the course of several weeks. I got to meet and teach learners from Ukraine, Hong Kong, Spain, Iran and so many others.

I could praise these students forever, for their effort, enthusiasm, willpower and courage. Each lesson my classmates and I would present them with new challenges that they would face head on and work together to overcome.

Even when I would unsuccessfully experiment in my teaching practice, the students always seemed happy just to be there, still giving their 100%.



It's difficult to place where the students are in their progress. Our lessons were set at beginner, intermediate, upper intermediate and advanced, but there was plenty of crossover as well. Every student brought something to the lesson, and had different experiences.

This meant that every lesson might have one or two students already using my grammar or vocabulary points who could share their experience and understanding.

“Everybody involved with the Foundation is so hard-working and devoted”

My life plan is to teach English in Japan, and teaching here even for a short time has inspired me so much.

It seems that too many English people rely on the rest of the world having an interest in learning English. I refuse to be one of those people. I will take the energy and enthusiasm that I have seen daily from this group of fantastic people!

In Japan I will be looking out for the Jessica, Valdas and Mami's in all of my classes, and remember the time I had here with a full heart!

Phil
Bishop Grosseteste University student

HANA'S STORY

My name is Hana, I am from Algeria in North Africa. I came to the UK with my husband and two children. I have been living here since 2019.

When I arrived in the UK I felt weak and had a lack of confidence, but on 15 October 2021 the social service assistant at my boys' school at St Peter at Gowts told me that there is a class to learn English in school for free to help people from foreign countries.

From here I started my journey with learning and I was encouraged by Miss Kinga to attend classes and actually entered the class, this was the first day I met my teacher Neville, he is one of the best and has been supporting me and pushing me to learn.

On the 23 February 2022 at Lincoln City Foundation they have been preparing a new course for us with the most wonderful teacher, Babs. I registered in the ESOL course, I was challenging myself everyday at that time, and I felt my life had changed 100%.

“Lincoln City Foundation opened the door for success and development for me.”

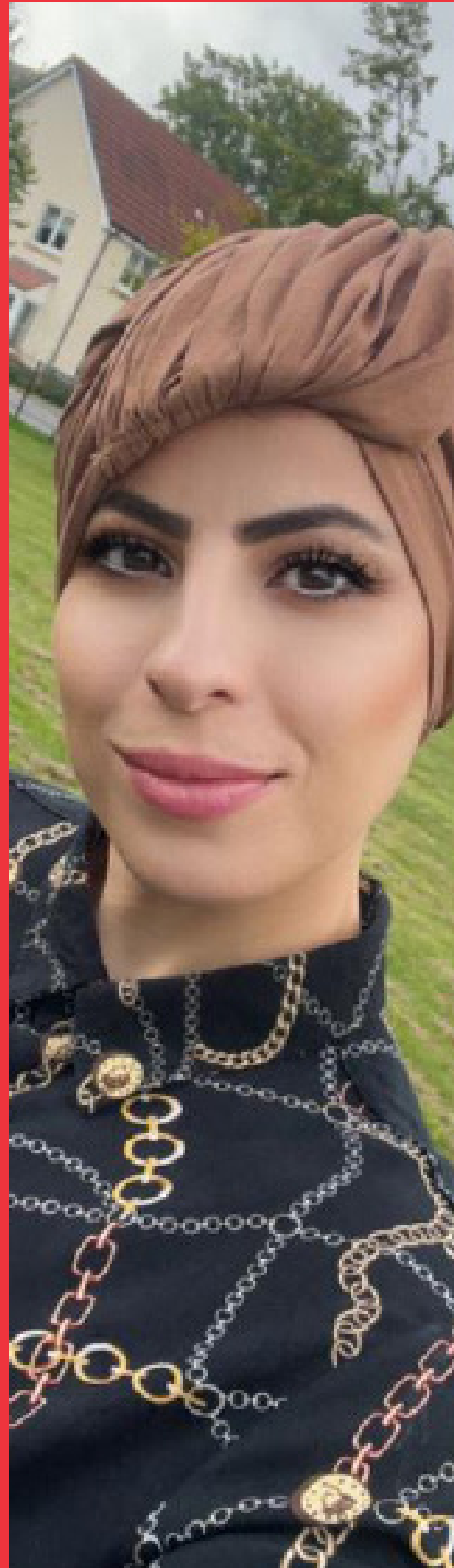
After one year of learning I was able to get a proper job at school, I am grateful to everyone who helped me change my life for the better.

Thank you Lincoln City Foundation for giving me a chance to learn a new language and achieve success in my life.

I am proud that I was lucky to meet such smart and positive professors.

“I'm determined to continue building a better life for me and my family.”

Hana
Participant at Conversation Club and ESOL



JUDITH'S EXPERIENCE

Hello, my name is Judith and I am from Mexico City, Mexico.

I remember the first day I arrived to class feeling a little nervous, however, I met my first classmate from Hong Kong who gave me a warm welcome and introduced me to our teacher, Neville. After a few questions, Neville joined me with the other classmates to start the day's lesson. At that moment, I felt at home.

In those first days, I also had the experience of meeting some players from the Lincoln City Football Club where I learnt that they are linked with the Lincoln City Foundation. I was able to talk with one of them about my country of origin and the food that characterises Mexico. He told me he liked Mexican food with its various spicy flavours. It was very pleasant to hear that.

“The club gives my classmates and I opportunities to visit historical and important places in Lincoln.”

We visit places such as the International Bomber Command Centre, The Lincoln Museum, and the Lincolnshire Life Centre.

In addition to all of the above, I would also like to talk about my amazing experience as a volunteer at the Lincoln City Foundation Street Party, for King Charles III Coronation.

I want to thank the teacher, Neville Coupland (the Community English Language Coach) and everyone involved in the Foundation who make it possible for this Conversation Club and activities to run.

This club has given me the chance to improve my English language skills, I now have a job and I have recently passed my required English exam with distinction which is a requirement to continue my stay in this country that has opened its doors to me.

Judith
Conversation Club participant



FEEDBACK

I am very grateful to have been part of this conversation group because it helped me to improve my English and I met extraordinary people always ready to help. The contact with people from different cultures was very interesting and enriching to understand that there are other mentalities and customs and that respect for others is the most important thing. It was a great experience that I would repeat again!



Joanna,
Portugal.



I really really enjoyed the conversation group, it has helped me a lot, and I met incredible people! It was really good for me, and it was a fantastic experience that I will never forget! Thank you!

Louisa

2023 IN NUMBERS



12 NATIONALITIES

12 SOCIAL VISITS



512 ATTENDEES

2637 ENGAGEMENTS!

SOCIAL EVENTS



As well as English language learning we have a variety of social events during the year.

Connecting to local holidays and international celebrations.

Thanks to all the great cooks and chefs who made delicious foods and flavours from across the world.

Having downtime to share, to eat and drink together is valuable.

“People can share their culture and heritage whilst creating new friendships. “

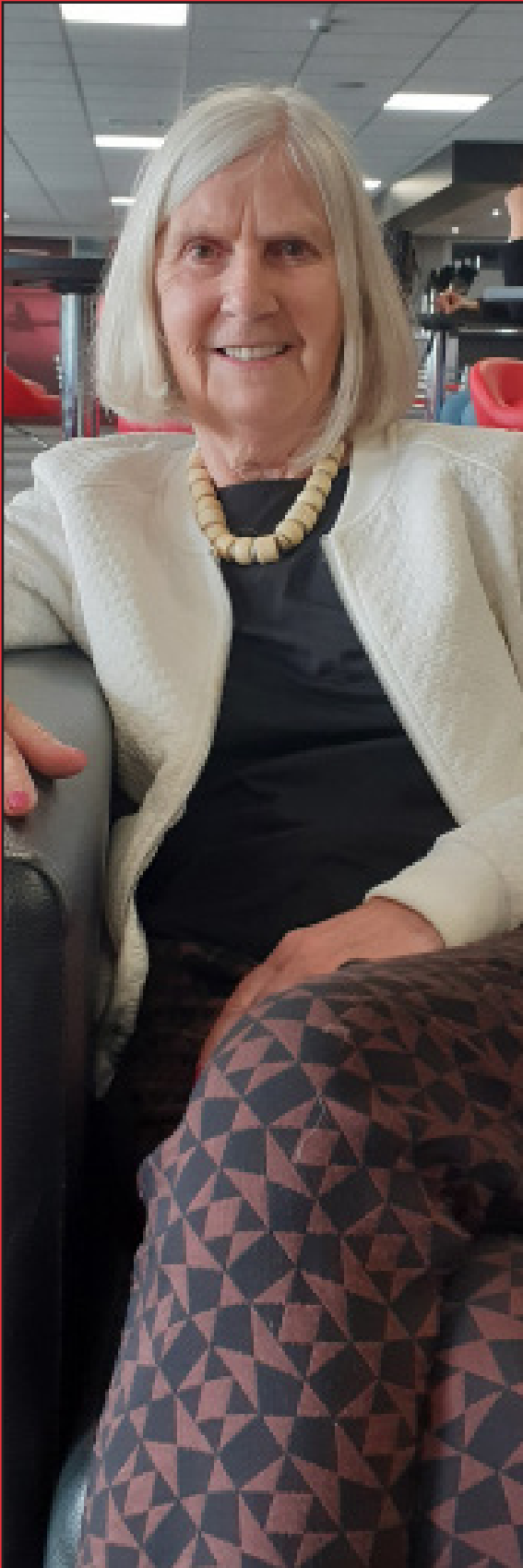
We are lucky to have great spaces and facilities at the LNER stadium which opens the doors for so many people in Lincoln to new opportunities.

Whether it's Christmas, Chinese New Year, or a Fiesta we love to have fun and get together.

If you feel you would like to join in we are always open to visitors and potential volunteers to help out.



VOLUNTEER'S VIEWPOINT



In 2015 I retired and moved to Lincoln from London. Having spent my whole professional career in the education sector - primarily as a German teacher but latterly in exams administration - I was happy to leave behind the stresses of marking, report writing, behaviour management etc.

I'd always enjoyed the actual teaching so when I found out about the English language teaching programme at Lincoln City Foundation I volunteered my help and was accepted.

“Here I met students from many different countries and backgrounds, all eager to learn and integrate themselves into the community.”

My work has mostly been with beginners and those who have a rudimentary knowledge of the language but who lack the confidence to express themselves.

“It is a very rewarding experience when a worried frown turns into a smile as a small breakthrough is made.”

It is also rewarding knowing that the students are making such great connections with both each other and within the city they live. Best of all - I haven't had to issue a single detention!

Sue
Conversation Club volunteer



INTERNATIONAL BOMBER COMMAND VISIT

We must have had the best weather of 2023 to make a successful visit to the Bomber Command Visitor Centre.

The students were of course excited to see the beautiful monuments to the brave airmen of the past and present time.

“It was touching to note all the personal stories which were on display alongside the breath-taking views of Lincoln.”

We are very lucky to have such a rich heritage of culture along with historical significance which we are proud to share with all our students.





RAINBOW'S STORY



My English learning journey has been both exciting and rewarding. The Conversation Club is a unique opportunity to practice with a native English teacher and fellow learners from various countries.

Meeting Neville, my first English teacher here, really inspired me. It was a stroke of luck that significantly enriched my English learning journey.

“Neville’s presence has added an unique and invaluable aspect to our club’s activities.”

Neville encourages us to engage in conversation wherever we go.

Meanwhile, I’ve been attending an ESOL course since last year. I’ve got to give a huge shout-out to my ESOL teacher, Babs.

Babs’ patience and guidance have improved my pronunciation, and her lessons have given me the ability to handle tough texts. I’m now able to express myself more effectively.

Learning English with her makes me feel interested, engaged, and enthusiastic.

It has really helped me a lot. It is never easy to come to a new country and start a new chapter of life. There are many unpredictable situations ahead. But I believe that eventually, a rainbow will come after the rain and when the sun shines.





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