



Great Glen Newsletter

November 2016

Registered Charity No. 1099411

www.greatglenu3a.co.uk



A very warm, welcome to our latest new members: Nicolette Bowden, June Dobney, Jane and John Freeland, and Ann Trinder

Chairman's Chat



I write this piece having just spent an afternoon on the patio uplifting geranium plants from the tubs and potting them up so that they can be brought indoors to overwinter in the warmth. We usually manage to preserve a couple of dozen each year. It was rather chilly, even though I was well wrapped up. However I saw no reason to complain as we have just enjoyed the warmest October for many years.

Last week we held a meeting for new members who had joined since December 2015 (and one or two on the point of joining). Those who came felt it gave them a much better understanding of U3A. They met the members of the Trustee Committee and a number of the Group Leaders, mainly those from groups that would currently like to welcome some more members, and were able to contribute some ideas for the future.

Some of our recent 'Learn something new' sessions are really bearing fruit, and I am looking forward to hearing our new Ukulele Group playing as part of our Christmas Entertainment on 13 December. Tickets for this event have been selling well (see below).

Patricia Mansfield

chairman@greatglenu3a.co.uk

270 8284

Forthcoming Events

Our next monthly meeting on 8th November features Mary Matts talking about 'Life on the Canals'. Mary is a specialist in this field. Do come along. Tickets for the Christmas Entertainment (£2 each, members only, proceeds to LOROS) on 13th December will be on sale at the November meeting. If you wish to come please make sure to buy your ticket then as there are not very many left. Please note that this year there are no tickets for the Christmas Sing Along on 20th December at 2.00 p.m. in the Methodist Church Hall – just contribute the standard £1 donation at the door on arrival.

Committee News

A demonstration / trial of portable hearing loop equipment that might help individual members with hearing difficulties was held on 1st November with representatives of Action on Hearing Loss and 'hard of hearing' U3A members. The results were promising and the Committee is now seeking answers to some practical questions about how to organise such a service. The Committee hopes

to decide at its December meeting whether to prepare a bid for the funding that would be needed to pay for the equipment.

Following various recent changes there is now at least one vacancy on the Committee. Without an active Trustee Committee Great Glen U3A would be unable to continue. Patricia would be most interested to hear in confidence from anyone willing to take on a leadership or administrative role, ideally with some previous committee / trustee experience.

Robert Mansfield

newsletter@greatglenu3a.co.uk

270 8284

Gift Aid

Great Glen U3A benefits greatly from use of the Gift Aid Scheme. We are only entitled to claim if you have filled in a declaration form and you are continuing paying income tax. If your circumstances have changed please advise Sue Russell, our Gift Aid Secretary, to take you off our claim form. If you have changed address, then do tell the Membership Secretary. She will arrange for your magazine to come to your new address and we also need a new Gift Aid declaration form for your new home.

If you need the total of your annual donations for your tax return do ask for details from the Gift Aid Secretary.

Sue Russell

giftaid@greatglenu3a.co.uk

271 0889

The next Monthly Meetings

8 November 2016	<i>Life on the Canals</i>	Mary Matts
13 December 2016	<i>Christmas Entertainment</i>	Music and Good Company Group
10 January 2017	<i>Stoneywell Cottage NT</i>	Roy Mitchell

Meetings are held in the Village Hall on the second Tuesday of each month. Doors open 10.00 a.m. for tea and coffee, speaker 10.30 a.m. **Coffee rota – see below.**

Coffee Rota

Coffee, tea and sugar are provided. Please bring milk (2 litres).

8 November – Garden Visits

13 December – History

10 January 2017 – Line Dancing

Italy – from Head to Toe

(October monthly meeting)

This was a very interesting and informative talk for anyone interested in Italy and of special interest for those who enjoy an occasional glass of Italian wine.

Our speaker, Sue Lobb, described herself as an experienced ‘wines and spirits educator’, having spent many years training students who planned to move into the wines and spirits or hospitality business. She began our education by explaining that wines labelled English or Welsh were made from grapes grown in the respective country whereas British wine was made from imported grape ‘mush’. It could even be made from pears and still be called British wine!

Sue started with some historical background. Italy was once appropriately known as Oenotria which translates as 'the land of wine'. We were told something of the history of wine and the vessels used to store and serve it. The Etruscans, after which Tuscany is named, used a vessel called an amphora which was 18" high and held an incredible 39 litres of wine! It was quite fragile and had a pointed base so needed to stand in sand or soil and lean against a wall. The top was 'stoppered' with a cloth soaked in resin which imparted a certain flavour to the wine. The development of glass bottles at the end of the 17th / early 18th century marked an important change and led ultimately to wine being cleaner, lasting longer and being available from anywhere in the world.

Vines flourish in the areas 30°-50° north and south of the equator. Italy, which extends from 38° to 46° north, is therefore ideally placed. In general, white grapes grow best in the cooler areas because they need less sun to ripen. Black grapes flourish in the warmer south. They are used to make red or rosé wine but can also be used to make white wine since most black grapes have white juice. In fact, most champagne is made from black grapes! Italy produces 6 ½ billion of the 26 billion bottles of wine produced each year, slightly more than France. We produce a mere 2 ½ million bottles per year here in the UK.

Sue then took us on a journey through the various regions of Italy, from the chalky soils of Valle d'Aosta, Piedmont and Lombardy in the north down to Puglia, Calabria and Sardinia in the south, explaining the wines particular to each region, the varieties of grape and the foods the wines were developed to accompany. We learned that the ideal accompaniment to fish and chips is champagne!

After the talk those that wished were able to try two of the wines mentioned. These were: Le Stelle Vermentino di Sardegna 2015 DOC £6.29 (light white) from Waitrose, Oadby and La Piuma Montepulciano d'Abruzzo 2014 DOC £7.69 (light red) also from Waitrose, Oadby. Do try them – Sue certainly recommended them very highly!

Sue Russell

A Penny for Your Thoughts ...

If you have a memory, 'thought piece' or anecdote you are willing to share with other members please do send it in to me. The cut-off date for the next Newsletter is noon on **Wednesday 7th December 2016**.
Robert Mansfield robertmansfield@btinternet.com 270 8284

June 2017 Outing

Next year's summer show will be 'Kiss Me Kate', music by Cole Porter. Bookings cannot be made until the end of November 2016, following which I shall provide further details. Watch this space ...

Pat Tate

259 1001

LEARN SOMETHING NEW!

SINGING FOR FUN

Wednesday 9th November 2:00 PM Methodist Hall

Note that most lyrics will be projected onto the screen. There will also be a couple of music sheets as handouts.

Peter Russell

prussell@russellscott.co.uk

271 0889

CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS

Monday 14th November 2:00-4:00 PM Methodist Hall

For those attending this session all materials will be provided but if you have any, or all, of these tools please bring them with you: secateurs to cut sticks; sharp scissors; glue gun; UHU all-purpose glue; ruler. If you don't have them, don't worry, there will be enough to share.

The suggested donation for this session is £2.

Sue Russell

sue@suerussell.co.uk

271 0889

ABSOLUTE BEGINNERS – LEARN A LANGUAGE

To Start Early 2017

We're looking to see if there is enough interest in forming a 'learn together' session for any, or all, of the three 'holiday' languages – French, Spanish and Italian.

We would be using on-line language courses such as those from the BBC – watching, listening and practising with each other. If you think you would be interested then please use the sign-up sheet at the monthly meeting or contact me by phone or email to register your interest.

Sue Russell

sue@suerussell.co.uk

271 0889

Group News

Art Group

The theme for 3rd and 17th November is poppies and seed heads, using any medium. New members will be made very welcome. Just come along to the Ruth Warner Room in the Methodist building at 2 o'clock.

Rachel Snashall

rsnashall@hotmail.com

259 2830

Book Group

Book Group will not be meeting on 19th December. Instead we will be meeting on **Monday 12th December** in The Yews for our Christmas meal. The table is booked for **12.30**, so we can meet in the bar at 12.15 p.m.

Liz Adams

liza27@btinternet.com

271 6281

Crochet

The next meeting is on 15th November at 2.00 p.m. Regretfully this will be our last crochet session owing to lack of demand. If you wish to learn a particular stitch or interpret a pattern please bring these along and I will hope to help you out.

Stella Orbell

stellamo@hotmail.co.uk

259 2095

Croquet

Indoor croquet has now returned to its usual pattern of sessions on Tuesday afternoons and Thursday mornings. If we had a few more members we could possibly start another session.

John Lawson

jlawson123@btinternet.com

259 3421

Duplicate Bridge (Evenings)

We are back to our usual times: Tuesdays 7.00 p.m. (for a prompt start at 7.15 p.m.) till 10.00 p.m.-ish. There is no play on the third Tuesday of the month. Pairs will be made welcome, singles may be put on a waiting list. Anyone interested should contact ...

John Lawson

jlawson123@btinternet.com

259 3421

English Country Dancing

We have been pleased to welcome a few more new members and recently the group achieved a record number of twenty people dancing together! That meant we were able to try for the first time a longways "Beckett" formation dance, the ever-popular *Bucksaw Reel*. In this type of dance couples face couples in two long lines, and progress moving up one line and down the other so a good sense of direction is needed - great fun, and the members mastered it after only a few attempts! Having enough people means we can try these different and "zippy" dances which make a refreshing change to the more sedate "Playford" and "Regency" style dances that we normally do. With the festive season approaching there will be several opportunities for members to attend Christmas and New Year dances at local folk dance clubs.

If anybody else would like to try this fun activity please do get in touch. As demonstrated at the Open Day, most of our dances are conducted at walking pace, with occasional skipping, so are not too vigorous. The dances are performed in specific formations of circles, squares and longways sets, and they span English Country, English Court (Playford), and American Square and Contra styles. Some dances date back to the Stuart and Georgian/Regency periods, or even earlier, while others were written very recently. The music we use ranges from classical (Handel, Purcell, Mozart, Bach, Strauss all wrote dance tunes!) to modern compositions, sometimes even jazz; for the older country dances many of the tunes will be very familiar to anybody who enjoys traditional English folk music. No previous experience is needed as all the dances are fully explained, the moves are walked through before setting them to music and the dances are called throughout. Also, no special clothing needed - just light-weight shoes or sandals and comfortable clothing suitable for gentle dancing. Nor do you need to come with a partner; singles of both sexes are welcomed, and we often change partners during the dances so that everybody is involved. The only requirement is to be prepared to join in, and enjoy yourself. Come and join us!

Peter Meacock

petermeacock112@btinternet.com

279 3600

Family History

We will meet as usual on the 9th and 23rd November. Sessions start at 9.30 a.m. in the Methodist Church Hall.

Eric Orbell

ericorbell332@btinternet.com

259 2095

Garden Visits Group

Our next meeting is on Friday 18th November when we shall be visiting Palmers Garden Centre at St. John's, Enderby (post code LE19 2BS). We shall meet in the Village Hall car park at 2.00 p.m. to give lifts for those without transport. I have arranged with Palmers to have some seats reserved for us from 3.30 when you can then purchase your tea or coffee and choose one of their delicious cakes. This will give us all plenty of time to have a look round their delightful gift and plant areas. If you did not put your name down at the last meeting and would like to go please contact me so I can inform them of exact numbers nearer the day. Many thanks.

Unfortunately places for the Christmas lunch have now been filled, so anyone else wishing to go will be entered on a waiting list though there is no guarantee of there being a place available.

Linda Hobart lindahobart@outlook.com 319 8095

History Group

This month's meeting is on Monday 7th November in the Methodist Hall at 2.00 p.m. We shall be hearing Eric talking about "Stagecoaches". The meeting after this is on Monday 5th December, same time and place. Everyone welcome.

Peter Russell prussell@russellscott.co.uk 271 0889

History of Art

The next meeting is on Wednesday 16th November, when we shall be looking at the work of Renaissance Painters North of the Alps. The meeting will commence at 10.00 a.m. at the Methodist Church. All members are welcome.

David Brooke [dnbrooke@fsmail.net](mailto:dubrooke@fsmail.net) 259 2520

Indoor (Winter) Bowls

Indoor bowls is again in full swing on Tuesday mornings at 10.00 a.m. in the Market Harborough Leisure Centre. Anyone interested in joining should contact ...

Ann Spray spray194@btinternet.com 281 0324

Indoor Croquet

All groups are back to the usual times: Tuesday weekly, 1.30 till 3.00 p.m.; Thursday weekly, first group 10.00 till 11.30 a.m., second group 11.30 a.m. till 1.00 p.m. All groups are full at present.

John Lawson jlawson123@btinternet.com 259 3421

Line Dancing

The line dancing group continues to flourish, and we have two new members as well, which is great. Despite losing four members each fortnight to other pursuits, we still manage to have a good number of dancers each week. New dances are tried every two weeks, and now we have quite a repertoire, with music ranging from Waltz through Rumba, Tango, Foxtrot and Charleston, and of course Country.

New members are always welcome to join us on Thursday at 1.30 p.m. in the Sports Hall. We are a mixed ability group of beginners, so if you have never line danced before you will soon pick it up, and have a good laugh at the same time. We look forward to seeing you.

Jackie Jordan jkj1506@btinternet.com 259 9199

Luncheon Club

After my invitation last month for new members to join us, the response has been excellent.

I have now opened a waiting list for anyone who may be interested in the future. We meet at the Bell, Burton Overy, on the fourth Tuesday of the month, 12 o'clock for 12.30 p.m. We alternate each month between starter plus main and main plus dessert courses. The food is of excellent quality and well presented. You will find me at the monthly meeting, on the left as you enter the Village Hall, with the menu for the next lunch. If you cannot attend the meeting, and live in the village, I will put a menu through your door. I have sample menus for you to look at. Do let me know if you are interested in joining us.

Joyce Davies mervjoycedavies@btinternet.com 259 3436

Military History

We shall meet on Wednesday 7th December at 10.00 a.m. in the Methodist Church Hall when we shall continue our look at WW1.

Eric Orbell ericorbell332@btinternet.com 259 2095

Mini Bridge

We are back to our usual times – Tuesday weekly 9.45 a.m. (for a prompt start at 10.00 a.m.) till 12.15 p.m. Singles or pairs are welcome, but please ring Terry (259 2102) or me before your first visit.

John Lawson jlawson123@btinternet.com 259 3421

New-Age Kurling

We are now meeting on 2nd and 4th Fridays for the foreseeable future so the next two sessions are on 11th and 25th November at 10:00 in the Sports Centre (next to the Village Hall). Everyone welcome, but if you have not done so already please let me know you are coming.

Peter Russell prussell@russellscott.co.uk 271 0889

Papercraft

Our last session this year, on 21st November, will take the form of a Christmas workshop. Christmas dies, stamps, papers and toppers will be provided but designs will be down to group members. Gluey glitter may be in demand! Please let me know if you cannot attend.

Stella Orbell stellamo@hotmail.co.uk 259 2095

Quiz Group

The next meeting is on Monday 28th November at 2 o'clock in the main hall of the Methodist church. The question master is Liz Adams. New members are always welcome. This will be the last meeting of 2016 as the fourth Monday in December falls on Boxing Day.

Rachel Snashall rsnashall@hotmail.com 259 2830

Sunday Singles Lunch

We meet on the second Sunday of the month, single ladies and gentlemen, at 1.00 p.m. We can now accommodate a few more members and gentlemen would be particularly welcome! The next venues are: **13th November** – The Golden Shield, Fleckney, **11th December** – The Leicestershire Golf Club, **8th January 2017** – The Queen's Head, Saddington.

Judith Measom 279 1509

Swimming

In the two weeks since the price increase to £3 we have had attendances of 23 and 22 swimmers so we are covering the cost of hiring the pool. Let us trust this will continue. New members welcome.

David Brooke [dnbrooke@fsmail.net](mailto:dnbroke@fsmail.net) 259 2520

Table Top Games

This month our sessions are on 10th and 24th November at 2:00 p.m. in the Methodist Church Hall. You are very welcome to join us to play one of our games or to bring one of your own to share. Canasta, Rummikub, Upwords, Triolet and Scrabble are all available. Chess might be, but please phone so we can try to sort out an opponent.

Advance notice: there will only be one session in December on Thursday 8th December.

Gillian Farrar

270 8375

Helen Edwards

212 7547

Table Tennis

Table Tennis continues to be popular and at the U3A Open Morning we started another waiting list with five more people wishing to join. We look forward to playing a possible friendly match with another U3A in the Spring.

Janet Freestone

alan.freestone@mypostoffice.co.uk

259 2803

Tailpiece

