



Great Glen Newsletter

April 2019

Registered Charity No. 1099411

www.greatglenu3a.co.uk

**A warm welcome to our new members:
Janet Felstead, Michael Green, Angelika
Hall, Margaret Page, Stella Pearce and
Gary Smith.**

Chairman's Chat

Hello everyone

So we start our new year with our U3A thriving. We reached more members than ever in the year just ended and have more groups than ever and I'm always pleased when newer members tell me they have been made welcome at our U3A. Let's keep this up and encourage even greater participation in our groups. I can see that most members have now renewed so if you've overlooked this please do so this month. There will be a Renewals desk at the April monthly meeting. The new Walking-without-stiles group is going well and we are having just the weather for it – so why not have a go yourself?

Next month (May), instead of our regular monthly meeting, we shall have our AGM, when we produce our reports on the past year. As well as the formal

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business, which includes the election of a new committee, we shall have some of Toni Smith's short films and also contributions from the Writing for Pleasure group. Do come along. I'm now approaching the end of my stint as chairman. I shall hand over the baton (well, the bell, actually) at the AGM at the end of two interesting years. So next month's chat will include a lot of thank-yous. That's all for now. Make the most of your U3A membership in 2019. Best wishes.

Peter Russell chairman/ at /greatglenu3a.co.uk
01572 822198

Committee Notices

Renewals – Final Call

We are now in a new Membership Year. If you haven't yet renewed, your last chance to pay in person is at the Monthly Meeting on Tuesday 9th April. Please remember to bring your signed renewal form with you. If you have paid, but not returned your form, please could you bring it to the meeting, hand it to any Committee Member or deliver it to Janet Fanko at 6 Wych Elm Close, Great Glen, LE8 9GY. Thank you, your co-operation is much appreciated.

Sue Russell membership/ at /greatglenU3A.co.uk
01572 822198

Calling All Group Leaders: Registers, Gift Aid and End of Tax Year 2018/2019

As we reach the end of the 2018/2019 tax year my thanks go to all those Group Leaders who have submitted completed registers up to the end of March 2019. I shall be very grateful if Group Leaders who still have registers outstanding for February and/or March 2019 submit these as soon as possible to the Treasurer, Roger Edwards, David Brooke or the Gift Aid Secretary, Bill Maxted (7 Fordview Close, Great Glen LE8 9FG). This will enable us to make a Gift Aid claim without delay in the new tax year. Thank you for your help.

Bill Maxted [giftaid/ at /greatglenu3a.co.uk](mailto:giftaid@greatglenu3a.co.uk) 259 2616

Calling Group Leaders: Cancelled Sessions

A reminder to leaders of groups meeting at the Methodist Hall. If you have to cancel a scheduled session, the correct procedure is to notify Jenny Ritchie at the Church as early as possible by email ([jjritchie/ at /btinternet.com](mailto:jjritchie@btinternet.com)) with a copy to Roger Edwards ([treasurer/ at /greatglenu3a.co.uk](mailto:treasurer@greatglenu3a.co.uk)), otherwise we may be asked to pay for unnecessary room hire and others who could have used the room may be denied. Generally this is what happens, but there are occasional glitches.

Robert Mansfield [newsletter/ at /greatglenu3a.co.uk](mailto:newsletter@greatglenu3a.co.uk)
270 8284

Monthly Meetings

At our meeting on 9th April we shall be entertained by Fools Gold with a glistering mix of songs and what lies behind them.

9 April 2019 *Stormy Stories and Tragic Tales*

Fools Gold

14 May 2019 *Annual General Meeting – and other delights!*

11 June 2019 *Women in the Great War*

David Humberston

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

Coffee Rota

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

9 April – **Swimming Group**

14 May – **Quiz Group**

11 June – **Table Tennis Group**

Transport Technology (*March meeting*)

Terry Spall took us behind the scenes at MIRA (or Horiba MIRA, as it now is), a centre of engineering design and consultancy excellence almost on our doorstep, just up the A5. Now with the financial backing of a strong Japanese partner they are able to fund the development of their specialist services and the associated research and test facilities, diversify their portfolio and realise the potential of their substantial site. Horiba takes a long-term view, and MIRA's efforts are focused on addressing 'megatrends' as relating to, for example, mobility, communications, air pollution and exposure to traffic accidents. Perhaps one of the most heartening developments about which we heard was the creation of the MIRA Institute of Technology, designed to educate and expand the pool of technologists available to address the continuing challenges and opportunities in transport technology.

Robert Mansfield

OUTINGS

History Group Outing to Kenilworth

There are some places available to any U3A member for this trip which is on Monday 3rd June. We have a

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guided tour around the castle and there will be some free time for your own exploration.

The cost is £33 (or £24 for English Heritage members), which includes travel, entrance, tour and a cream tea.

The coach leaves Great Glen Village Hall at 11.30 a.m. and we leave Kenilworth at 4.30 p.m. to return to Great Glen. Please contact me before Friday 12th April to book a place.

Peter Russell [history/ at /greatglenu3a.co.uk](mailto:history@greatglenu3a.co.uk)

01572 822198

GROUP NEWS

Art Group

We shall continue with the Spring theme on the Thursdays 4th and 18th April.

Rachael Snashall [art/ at /greatglenu3a.co.uk](mailto:art@greatglenu3a.co.uk) 259
2830

Astronomy Group

This group meets on the first Monday of the month at 2.00 p.m. We need more members for this group to continue. The next meeting will be on 3rd June owing to the Bank Holiday in May. Anyone interested contact ...

John Johnson [astronomy/ at /greatglenu3a.co.uk](mailto:astronomy@greatglenu3a.co.uk)

212 2469

Book Group (Mondays)

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The next meeting of the Monday Book Group will be on 15th April when we shall be discussing "Eleanor Oliphant is Completely Fine" by Gail Honeyman. Our book for May is "A Place called Winter" by Patrick Gale.

Liz Adams [books/ at /greatglenu3a.co.uk](mailto:books/at/greatglenu3a.co.uk) 271
6281

Book Group (Thursdays)

Our next meeting is on Thursday 25th April at 10.00 a.m. in the Ruth Warner Room. We have a vacancy – please contact me for further details.

Patricia Mansfield [patriciamansfield/ at /btinternet.com](mailto:patriciamansfield/at/btinternet.com)

270 8284

Bowling

Indoor Bowls at Market Harborough will end on 9th April for the summer, recommencing in October.

Ann Spray 281 0324

Carpet Bowls

We meet every Thursday afternoon in the Village Hall from 2.00 to 4.00 p.m. but PLEASE NOTE that on Thursday 25th April and Thursday 2nd May there will not be any carpet bowls owing to other events. No previous experience is necessary. New members will be made very welcome.

Peter Stanley [carpetbowls/ at /greatglenu3a.co.uk](mailto:carpetbowls/at/greatglenu3a.co.uk)

259 2152

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English Country Dancing

The English Country Dancing Group will not be meeting on Easter Tuesday, 23rd April. Apart from that we shall continue our regular weekly meetings through April and May until the end of June:

Tuesdays, 1.30 to 3.30 p.m. in the Sports Hall.

Various members of the ECD group attended the Burton Overy Dancers Annual Dance on 9th March, where they joined over 50 other dancers to enjoy the terpsichorean delights of the nationally-renowned Caller *Ivan Aitken* with the band *Kelly's Eye!* On the following day some attended, in period costume, a "Playford" (1650-1728) Tea Dance at Higham Ferrers Bede House, Northants, this time dancing to music from the duo *Childgrove*.

April sees the start of the season of Folk Dance Festivals around the UK, and brings St George's Day (23rd April) shortly followed by May Day (1st May), when Morris dancers and Maypoles will be out and about. Watch out for public-participation Maypole dancing in Orton Square, outside the Curve Theatre in Leicester on Saturday 20th April, and in Leicester's Guildhall on 6th May. All are welcome to go along and join in!

Did you know that there are proven health benefits from dancing, especially for those of mature years? Family doctors are being urged by health chiefs to take up "social prescribing" after research found such activities cut GP visits and trips to A & E units by

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over a quarter. So, it's good fun and healthy exercise for both body and brain. Come, dance with us!

Peter Meacock [ecd/ at /greatglenu3a.co.uk](mailto:ecd@greatglenu3a.co.uk) 279 3600

Evening Duplicate Bridge

This is a very friendly social group who meet at 7.00 for a 7.15 p.m. start. Meetings are held at the Great Glen Methodist Hall, except for the third Tuesday in each month when we meet at the Great Glen Community Library. Our numbers, I am pleased to say, have increased to five or six tables. We should love to meet new members to enlarge our group even more. You will be made most welcome.

Andy Tyler [eveningbridge/ at /greatglenu3a.co.uk](mailto:eveningbridge@greatglenu3a.co.uk)
07879 234046

Family History

We shall meet as usual at 9.30 a.m. in the Methodist Church Hall on Wednesdays 10th and 24th April.

Newcomers welcome.

Eric Orbell [familyhistory/ at /greatglenu3a.co.uk](mailto:familyhistory@greatglenu3a.co.uk)

259 2095

Flower Arranging

Creating new arrangements as we move from season to season can be very rewarding and provides our homes with wonderful decoration. Come along and join us on the first Wednesday afternoon each month. New members will be very welcome.

Beryl Connolly 07423 311 013

Garden Visits

Our next meeting is on Friday 19th April, when we are visiting The Plant Man at Braybrooke – post code LE16 8LP. I am informed that the prices have increased but I think the quality of their plants is always exceptional. Afterwards we shall be going to The Greenhouse at the East Langton Garden Centre where you can have tea and cakes. (Those who are in need of a lift should note that we shall be leaving the Great Glen car park at 2.00 p.m.) If you have not already put your name on the list and would like to come please inform Joanna (tel. 259 2429) whether you need a lift or will be going straight to the venue. Many thanks.

Forthcoming Visit.

On Friday 16th August we are visiting by coach The Easton Walled Gardens at Easton near to Grantham, the Estate having been owned and managed by the Cholmeley family since 1561. The house there was demolished in 1951 and the 400-year-old gardens were abandoned until 2001. The chaos has now been replaced with meadows, sweet peas, roses, vegetables, cut flowers and drifts of bulbs in a stunning parkland setting. This has also put the heart back into the village as many of the community have some involvement in the gardens which have created different habitats for butterflies, bees, birds and

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mammals. There is a tearoom providing light lunches and cream teas and a gift shop, and plants can be purchased. The cost is approximately £22, possibly less with a good response. As I have to pay for the coach and tickets in advance, I shall be taking names only until the U3A meeting on Tuesday 9th July.

Please let me know if you would like to come.

Linda Hobart [gardenvisits/ at /geatglenu3a.co.uk](mailto:gardenvisits@geatglenu3a.co.uk)

319 8095

History

There will be NO meeting on Bank Holiday Monday, 6th May. The next History Group meeting is on Monday 3rd June when we are expecting to have an outing to Kenilworth (see details earlier in this newsletter). Everyone is welcome.

Peter Russell [history/ at /greatglenu3a.co.uk](mailto:history@greatglenu3a.co.uk)

01572 822198

Learn French Together

This group meets on the second and fourth Tuesday of the month from 10.00 a.m. to 12.00 noon. All are welcome to this very friendly informal French conversation group. The next meeting will be on Tuesday 30th April owing to the Easter holidays and some of the group being “en vacances”. If you would like to join this group please contact ...

Jan Johnson [frenchbeginners/ at /greatglenu3a.co.uk](mailto:frenchbeginners@greatglenu3a.co.uk)

212 2469

Military History

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Our next meeting will be on Wednesday 1st May at 10.00 a.m. in the Methodist Church Hall, when we shall be looking further into the War of 1812.

Eric Orbell [militaryhistory/ at /greatglenu3a.co.uk](mailto:militaryhistory@greatglenu3a.co.uk)

259 2095

Needles and Pins

We looking for some new members, male and female. Why not come along bringing unfinished work or something new? We are a small friendly group that meets on the second Monday of each month.

Beryl Connolly [needles/ at /greatglenu3a.co.uk](mailto:needles@greatglenu3a.co.uk)

07423 311013

New Age Kurling

No ice and no frantic brushing! Our stones run on castors on a wooden floor. Why not come along and try your hand at this activity? It's very easy to play and it provides gentle exercise and lots of fun.

Everyone is welcome. The next 3 sessions are on Fridays 12th and 26th April and then 10th May at the Sports Centre (next to the village hall) at 10.00 a.m.

Peter Russell [kurling/ at /greatglenu3a.co.uk](mailto:kurling@greatglenu3a.co.uk)

01572 822198

Papercraft

We shall be making Easter cards on Monday 15th April. Hope to see you there.

Stella Orbell [papercraft/ at /greatglenu3a.co.uk](mailto:papercraft@greatglenu3a.co.uk)

259 2095

Pub Lunches

All those wanting details of forthcoming pub lunches should contact ...

Margaret Hudson

271 5064

Quiz Group

We are meeting this month on the fifth Monday, which is 29th April, because the fourth Monday is Easter Monday. Please remember to bring your ten questions if you have not already given them to me.

Rachael Snashall [quiz/ at /greatglenu3a.co.uk](mailto:quiz/at/greatglenu3a.co.uk) 259
2830

Sunday Singles

Lunches for the next few months will continue at the Leicestershire Golf Club. The next dates are: Sundays 10th March, 14th April and 12th May. Gentlemen are welcome to join our usual members.

Judith Measom

279 1509

Swimming

The last swimming session before Easter takes place on 10th April. Next month's sessions run from 1st to 22nd May inclusive. There are then no sessions until September (start date as yet unknown). New swimmers of any standard are always welcome.

Frank Wilcock [swimming/ at /greatglenu3a.co.uk](mailto:swimming/at/greatglenu3a.co.uk)

431 9706

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Table Top Games

Our next meetings are on 11th & 25th April at 2.00 p.m. in the Methodist Chapel. Do come along and swell our numbers. You will be most welcome.

Helen Edwards [ttgames/ at /greatglenu3a.co.uk](mailto:ttgames/greatglenu3a.co.uk)

212 7547, or *Eileen Appleby* 259 251

Ukulele Group

This month the group will meet three times, on the first and third Mondays as usual and then again on 29th April. This will be instead of the first meeting in May which falls on a Bank Holiday Monday. Our gig at the Wigston branch of Age UK went well last week with our audience joined in the singing enthusiastically.

Alan Mawby [ukes/ at /greatglenu3a.co.uk](mailto:ukes/greatglenu3a.co.uk) 259 2599

Walking Without Stiles

The last walk was around Humberstone with a visit to the “Humberstone”. The next walk will be on Tuesday 30th April (not the usual date so as to avoid the Easter week), starting at 10.30 a.m. from the cafe car park at Waterloo Farm, Harborough Road, on the way to Great Oxendon, Market Harborough LE16 8NB. Further details will be emailed to everyone later in the month, but the walk will be along the old railway track. The cafe should be open for various drinks, snacks and meals when we get back. If you are interested in this walk contact ...

For email addresses replace / at / with @

Elizabeth Cooke walking/ at /greatglenu3a.co.uk
270 4524 or 07957 288060

Writing for Pleasure

We shall meet again on 23rd April to finalise our work for the main meeting in May.

Stella Orbell writing/ at /greatglenu3a.co.uk 259
2095