



Great Glen Newsletter April 2017

Registered Charity No. 1099411
www.greatglenu3a.co.uk



A very warm welcome to our new members: Gina Hardy and Jane Ramsay

Chairman's Chat

I love April, the month when the trees, shrubs and flowers are bursting with life again. We have robins, wrens and a blackbird and a rook building their nests in our garden, so with all this activity and the lighter evenings winter seems finally over.

I hope you have all renewed your subscriptions for the coming year and pass on a word of thanks from Liz, who has been pleased by the large number of renewals she has received to date. Cash payments and bank transfers are particularly welcome as they save us the bank charges we now have to pay on cheques.

As previously announced, our AGM will be held on Tuesday 9th May in the Village Hall. Coffee / tea are served from 10.00 a.m. ready for a prompt start at 10.30. I look forward to a good attendance.

Patricia Mansfield chairman@greatglenu3a.co.uk

270 8284

Committee News

The Committee has reviewed the finances of Great Glen U3A. We have again operated in deficit, and are faced with increases in costs on various fronts. Given that there has been no change to the costs of membership for some years it will be necessary to increase the standard sessional contribution. Further details will be published shortly.

We have been advised by Great Glen Methodist Church that building improvements will be carried out from 24th April until early July. During this period please note that the car park will be unavailable and that entry will be via the kitchen only. There may also be some unavoidable noise.

We have received a useful paper from the national U3A Trust on 'Getting involved in Research'. Any member who might be interested is invited to contact me in the first instance.

Robert Mansfield robertrmansfield@btinternet.com

270 8284

Monthly Meetings

Our speaker on 11th April is Wendy Coley. Her subject is 'Medical Detection Dogs'.

9 May 2017 *Annual General Meeting and Films*

13 June 2017 *Witches and Witchcraft*

through the Ages

Sandy Leong

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).

11 April – Committee

9 May – Papercraft

13 June – Quiz

The Life and Works of Agatha Christie

(March monthly meeting)

John Martin diverted Great Glen U3A members and guests with an enthralling account of the life and works of Agatha Christie, based on an encyclopaedic grasp of his subject. But then, as he reminded us, he is a career librarian turned author. The talk led us from Agatha Christie's childhood to the end of her life in 1975 and her continuing and expanding literary success thereafter. Her oeuvre in terms of worldwide sales

ranks third, exceeded only by the Bible and the works of Shakespeare. And, as John explained, her reach has of course been greatly expanded by the adaptation of her books for the theatre, film and TV. It is through the definitive interpretations of Joan Hickson and David Suchet that many of us have come to know Miss Marple and Hercule Poirot so well.

John recounted his tale with skill, alluding frequently to the detective (and other) books that Agatha Christie wrote, but always careful not to give away too much of the plot. What made the talk of particular interest was the interweaving of life events and influences with the development of the author: her discovery of Conan Doyle, ‘the season’ in Egypt, dealings with Belgian soldiers and poisons during the Great War, time out for Spanish ‘flu, her sister, publishers and her marriages. We came to appreciate her skills as an innovator in moving the genre of detective fiction forward. She is credited with the introductions of such devices as the ‘unreliable narrator’, the ‘fall guy’ and multiple murders. And of course she had extraordinary insights into people. We all learned something new about someone very familiar to most of us.

Robert Mansfield

... the talk prompted this recollection from a member ...

I listened fascinated to last week's speaker about the Life and Works of Agatha Christie, hoping he might mention the link to my late husband's family. I knew this existed but could not be sure enough of my facts to mention it. When I got home I looked it up, and sure enough the lady with whom Archibald Christie was having the affair which triggered the disappearance of Agatha was Nancy Neele. Had John Martin mentioned her name it would have rung a bell. Nancy Neele, who Christie later married, was the daughter of Mabel Lily Neele who in 1939 became the second wife of my husband's grandfather, Sir Frederick Arthur Greer. Nancy had a sister Molly whom I well remember visiting in the 1970s and who told us all about the scandal.

I really must read some more of Agatha's books.

Jane Moelwyn-Hughes

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 3rd May 2017.**

OUTINGS

Day Out to Ely

The History Group is arranging a day trip to Ely to visit the Cathedral and Oliver Cromwell's house, which are very close to each other. We shall have guided tours of both locations. This is an all-day trip on **Monday 5th June**. There is a small number of spare places available on the coach and if you would like to come along please contact me no later than Thursday 20th April. The cost including travel and both guided tours will be approximately £30 per person.

Peter Russell prussell@russellscott.co.uk 271 0889

Visit to Chatsworth House and Christmas Market

Tickets have been booked for a visit on **Wednesday 29th November 2017**. Chatsworth require payment by the end of June, hence this early notification. As this outing has been arranged in response to requests from several members the list has already started to fill! The cost is £17.50 admission plus £12.50 for the coach, a total of £30.00 per person. I shall be taking bookings and payments at the **May** monthly meeting.

Pat Tate

259 1001

‘Scrooge’ at Curve Theatre

The Curve’s Christmas production this year is ‘Scrooge’. Tickets have been reserved for the matinée on **Wednesday 13th December 2017** and a coach has been booked. The total cost is £34.50 per person. I shall be ‘selling’ places at the **September** monthly meeting, when names and payments will be taken.

Pat Tate

259 1001

GROUP NEWS

Art Group

At our next meeting, on 20th April, we will be continuing with the theme of Spring.

Rachael Snashall rsnashall@hotmail.com 259 2830

Book Group

There will be no meeting of the Book Group in April due to Easter Monday falling on our meeting day. The next meeting will be on Monday 15 May when we shall be discussing “Bleeding Heart Square” by Andrew Taylor.

Liz Adams liza27@btinternet.com

271 6821

Garden Visits Group

Our next meeting takes place on Friday 21st April when we are visiting a 5-acre garden at Long Close, 60 Main Street, Woodhouse Eaves LE12 8RZ. The

garden boasts rhododendrons, azaleas, camellias, magnolias and much more besides. Upon entering the village you will pass the church on the left-hand side, and round a bend there are shops on the right followed by The Village Hall and a long grey concrete wall. We shall enter through the tall double doors on the right-hand side of the wall. Parking will be on the road where there is space. The cost is £4 including tea and biscuits. Should you have any difficulty regarding the route to Woodhouse Eaves please call me. We shall be meeting at the Village Hall car park at 1.30 p.m. to provide lifts to those who need one. If you have put your name down and find that you are unable to come, please do let me know in advance. Otherwise if you would like to come along please contact me. Many thanks.

Linda Hobart lindahobart@outlook.com 319 8095

History

There is no meeting of the Group on 1st May as this is a public holiday. The next meeting, due on 5th June, should be an outing to Ely Cathedral and Oliver Cromwell's House; this will be confirmed as soon as arrangements have been finalised.

Peter Russell prussell@russellscott.co.uk 271 0889

History of Art

The next meeting will be on 19th April when Sue Russell will be introducing us to the Portuguese artist

Paula Rego who lives and works in London. The meeting will be held in the Methodist Hall as usual commencing at 10.00 a.m. All members are welcome.
David Brooke dnbrooke@fsmail.net 259 2520

Indoor Bowling

We finish indoor bowls this season on April 11th. We start again in October.

Ann Spray spray194@btinternet.com 281 0324

Learn French Together NEW

A new French group for complete beginners. An initial meeting for all interested members has been arranged for Tuesday 16th May at 10.00 in the Ruth Warner Room. At present we envisage the Group meeting on first and third Tuesdays. If this is of interest to you, please do let me know by email or phone.

Peter Russell prussell@russellscott.co.uk 271 0889

Learn Spanish Together NEW

A new Spanish group for beginners has just started, meeting on the second and fourth Mondays of the month. We have two Spanish speakers to help support the Group. If you are interested, please come along - it is for complete beginners and you will be very welcome.

Val Barba valbarba@talktalk.net 271 6505

Luncheon Club

There is a waiting list for anyone who may be interested in joining. 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

New Age Kurling

There is no meeting on Good Friday, 14th April. So the next session is on 28th April at 10.00 at the Sports Centre.

Peter Russell prussell@russellscott.co.uk 271 0889

Papercraft

Our next three meetings will take place on 10th April (**note change of week**), 15th May, and 19th June.

Please note the dates as this information will not be repeated. Should there be a need to cancel I will

inform you individually. All meetings start at 2.00 p.m.

Stella Orbell stellamo@hotmail.co.uk 259 2095

Quiz Group

At our meeting on 24th April the quiz questions will be presented by Toni Smith. New members will be very welcome.

Rachael Snashall rsnashall@hotmail.com 259 2830

Singing for Fun

The next session for this year is provisionally scheduled for Wednesday 12th July at 2.00 p.m. at the Methodist hall - just before the school summer break - so pop it in your diary. Catriona and Jenny will again be leading a mixture of old and not quite so old tunes with some rounds. All the words will be on the screen. Come along and have a jolly good time!

Peter Russell prussell@russellscott.co.uk 271 0889

Sunday Singles Lunch

We meet on the second Sunday of the month, single ladies and gentlemen, at 1.00 p.m. The next venues are: **9th April** – Leicestershire Golf Club, **14th May** – The Bell, East Langton, **11th June** – Queens Head, Saddington, **9th July** – Leicestershire Golf Club; **13th August** – The Bell East Langton.

Judith Measom

279 1509

Swimming

We shall be back swimming on the 26th April. There will be no swimming on the earlier Wednesdays in April owing to the Easter holidays.

David Brooke dnbrooke@fsmail.net 259 2520

Table Top Games

Our session on 27th April is cancelled as so many group members have chosen that week for holidays. We meet as usual on 13th April, then, from May onwards, on the second and fourth Thursday of each month in the Methodist Church Hall.

If you missed the Learn Something New Canasta sessions and would like to learn how to play, we have group members prepared to share their expertise with you. Please phone to let us know to expect you. You would be very welcome to come along..... and if you decide it is “not for you”, we have other games you might enjoy.

Gillian Farrar 270 8375 *Helen Edwards* 212 7547

Almost all groups (including Croquet and Bridge) are currently able to accommodate new members. Please contact the Group Leader (see your U3A programme card for details) if you are interested.

POSSIBLE NEW GROUP

Cycling

We have an offer from a member to lead an occasional cycling group for rides around Leicestershire, all beginning and ending in Great Glen covering distances of around 10km – so not too strenuous. If you would be interested in joining such a group then please contact me or look for the sign-up sheet at the monthly meeting.

Peter Russell prussell@russellscott.co.uk 271 0889

Would you like a trip on narrowboat ‘SUNBEAM’?

Leave the village at 9.30 a.m. on **Wednesday 12th July 2017** and arrive back at 4.30 p.m. Travel will be by private car. Sunbeam will depart in the morning from the Hope & Anchor for the Space Centre and return to the Hope & Anchor for lunch or a picnic. In the afternoon we shall travel downstream to Sileby Mill for ice cream, before returning to her mooring. Tea and coffee will be served going upstream and on the return trip.

We expect to be very fortunate in having David Scott with us. Sunbeam is owned by Mosaic, and has ramps

and a lift for boarding. There is also an excellent toilet on board. A donation of £12 per person is expected for this trip.

Please note that this is not a U3A outing, so if you know of anyone who would never have expected to have the chance of a day out like this, please invite them. Anyone interested should contact John Lawson 259 3421.

And in conclusion a recent email correspondence...

MUM

“Just received a wonderful letter about my old age pension. After my 80th birthday I will receive an extra 25p per week. Wow”

OFFSPRING

“Wow, you always wondered when you would get your reward for surviving a world war, contributing to society, coping with marriage, being a mum a grandma, dog sitter, well there you have it, 25p per week, can't be bad, I can't wait till I reach 80.”