



## Great Glen Newsletter

**August 2018**

Registered Charity No. 1099411

[www.greatglenu3a.co.uk](http://www.greatglenu3a.co.uk)

A very warm welcome to our new members: Jenni Shelton and Helen Swift

### **Chairman's Chat**

Hello everyone.

August is generally a quiet time for our U3A with many groups taking a summer break. But there are lots of local events to visit if you want to get out and about, including the Great Glen Wheelbarrow Race and Fête on 1<sup>st</sup> September.

And of course we have our 'Open Day' from 10.00 to 11.30 a.m. on Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> August. If you are reading this as a visitor to our Open Day then I hope you see that we have a wide range of interest groups you can join – book groups, history groups, arts and crafts groups, sports, games, music and dancing groups – talk to the people on the stands, take away membership application forms or even join Great Glen U3A today. Nearly all of our groups meet in rooms in Great Glen, either in the Methodist church or the Sports Centre next to the Village Hall. If you are already a member then take this opportunity to look at other groups you might be interested in joining. Later in this newsletter

you'll find an update on the new Walking group, which is something many members have requested.

As I have mentioned previously, there are various committee changes in progress or in the offing and this month I'd like to mention two more. The current holders of the two roles of Newsletter Editor and Webmaster will relinquish these roles next May. As you might imagine both roles require a moderate level of IT competency. If you are interested in either role then you can work alongside the current holders before taking over the roles next year. Contact me or any committee member to find out more. Obviously we would like to keep both our newsletter and website going and this is only possible with members' involvement.

Finally, back to the Open Day, and a big 'Thank You' to all those involved in its organisation both in the planning and on the day itself.

That's all for now. Let's all get out as much as possible now the weather has returned to an enjoyable level.

Best wishes to you all

*Peter Russell* [chairman@greatglenu3a.co.uk](mailto:chairman@greatglenu3a.co.uk)

01572 822198

## **Post-script**

### **Methodist Hall Room Charges**

We have been advised of a significant increase in the rental charges for the main hall and the Ruth Warner room. The new rates are effective from 1<sup>st</sup> September.

At the end of the year we shall be looking carefully at the effect of this increase on our financial position, but at present we do not anticipate any changes to our membership or group subscriptions.

## Monthly Meetings

**Our meeting on 14 August is the annual Open Day. This is a great opportunity to introduce family members and friends to our U3A and to learn something about other groups/innovations.**

14 August 2018

*Open Day*

11 September 2018 *Grandfather William Coltman*

*VC, in WW1 Tim Coltman*

9 October 2018 *The Driving Test!*

*(factual but humorous!) Brian Johnson*

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).*

14 August – **History Group**

11 September – **History of Art Group**

9 October – **Line Dancing Group**

## **Masters of Mirth – Mike Storr** *(July Meeting)*

Mike Storr shared with us the fruits of his researches into the history of the Music Hall, which had its origins in the lively back rooms of Victorian public houses. Music hall entertainment was rooted in a curious mixture of reverence for, and the more or less subtle mockery of, what typified the times and patriotism. We were treated to some lively impersonations of the stars of a bygone era, awakening echoes of less edgy and frenetic times. The bill at our ‘palace of varieties’ included Rob Wills, George Robey, Pam Ayres, Bernard Miles and Stanley Holloway, complete with suitable stage props. It was good to be reminded of such masterpieces as ‘The Recumbent Posture’, ‘The Bricklayer’s Lament’ and ‘Clive the Birdman’.

*Robert Mansfield*

## **LEARN SOMETHING NEW**

### **The Sun, the Moon and the Stars**

Are you interested in a beginner’s guide to Astronomy? Would you like to come to a taster session to find out more about the skies above us? If you remember with fondness *The Sky at Night* you may be interested in finding out a bit more. There isn’t a date yet, but if there is enough interest we will

try to put together a Learn Something New session in the autumn to learn more about the pleasures of looking more closely at the night sky.

Sign up at the Open Day or contact me to put your name on the list and I shall keep you informed.

*Sue Russell* [lsn@greatglenu3a.co.uk](mailto:lsn@greatglenu3a.co.uk) 01572 822 198

## **Creative Writing**

Members may be interested to know that Glenfield U3A Writers' Group is running a study day on 'Choosing your Words' on Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> September at Glenfield Sports Pavilion from 10.00 to 15.30. This follows a successful event last year. If you are interested in taking up one of the few remaining places please email [gail.nunn@zen.co.uk](mailto:gail.nunn@zen.co.uk) or telephone 231 4895.

Of course, Great Glen U3A used to have a Creative Writing Group until quite recently. Would anyone be interested in joining and possibly helping to run such a group? If so, please contact me.

*Sue Russell* [lsn@greatglenu3a.co.uk](mailto:lsn@greatglenu3a.co.uk) 01572 822 198

## **GROUP NEWS**

### **Art Group**

Our next meeting is on Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> September. A reminder for members to let me have a couple of items to display at the open day.

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

## **Book Group (Thursdays)**

The inaugural meeting is on Thursday 27 September from 10.00 a.m. to 12.00 noon. There are still places for more members, men or women, to join us. Anyone interested please contact me direct.

*Patricia Mansfield* [patriciamansfield@btinternet.com](mailto:patriciamansfield@btinternet.com)  
270 8284

## **Carpet Bowls**

Why not try your hand at carpet bowls? No experience necessary. We meet every Thursday afternoon 2.00 to 4.00 p.m. in the Village Hall. We are a friendly group and you will be made most welcome.

*Peter Stanley* [carpetbowls@greatglenu3a.co.uk](mailto:carpetbowls@greatglenu3a.co.uk)  
259 2152

## **Croquet**

For the first time in many years we have two places available for the 1.30 till 3.00 p.m. croquet session on Tuesdays, and also two places for the 10.00 till 11.30 a.m. session on Thursdays. Coffee/tea is available and included in your £1.50. You will not get wet and the hall is warm in winter. We play on the carpet in the Chapel Hall.

*John Lawson* [croquet@greatglenu3a.co.uk](mailto:croquet@greatglenu3a.co.uk) 259 3421

## **English Country Dancing**

The English Country Dancing Group finished its 2017/18 dancing season at the end of June and is now taking a break through July and August. Over the course of 37 sessions this year we have danced 153

different dances, several on multiple occasions. The dances have included a variety of formations (circles and longways sets "for as many as will", as well as two-, three- and four-couple sets) and vintages. The earliest were recorded first by John Playford in 1651 but are probably much older, eg *Sellenger's Round*, while one of the most recent, *The Beast from the East*, was written in March of 2018 to commemorate the severe cold weather of the last winter!

The Group will resume its regular weekly activities on Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> September, from 1.30 to 3.30 p.m. in the Sports Hall as usual, and we are always pleased to welcome new members. Most of our dances are conducted at walking pace, with occasionally skipping so are not too vigorous. The music we use ranges from classical (Handel, Purcell, Mozart, Bach) to modern compositions, sometimes even jazz, and for the older dances often features tunes that will be familiar to anybody who enjoys English traditional 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.

Why not make a note in your diary now, to come along in September!

*Peter Meacock* [ecd@greatglenu3a.co.uk](mailto:ecd@greatglenu3a.co.uk) 279 2600

## **Evening Bridge**

**Do you enjoy bridge? Why not join us?**

We are a friendly (non-League) social bridge group playing Duplicate Bridge every Tuesday evening in the **Great Glen Methodist church hall** (except the third week of the month when we meet at the **Great Glen Community Library**. We would love to meet new members to enlarge our group. You will be made most welcome.

*Andy Tyler* [eveningbridge@greatglenu3a.co.uk](mailto:eveningbridge@greatglenu3a.co.uk)  
259 2264, or *John Burnham* 264 0077

## **Family History**

We shall be restarting after the Summer break on Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> September at 9.30 a.m. in the Methodist Church Hall. If you watch '*Who do you think you are?*' on TV then come along and learn how to do it yourself. However, a word of caution – unless you are reasonably able to use a computer then this won't be for you, I'm afraid.

*Eric Orbell* [familyhistory@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

## **French Conversation**

We meet again, *après les vacances*, on 5<sup>th</sup> September.

*Jim Picken* [frenchconversation@greatglenu3a.co.uk](mailto:frenchconversation@greatglenu3a.co.uk)

259 2035

## **Garden Visits**

On Friday 17<sup>th</sup> August we are visiting Tresillian House on Dalby Road in Melton Mowbray (post code LE13 0BQ). We reach our destination by turning on to the B6047 from the A47 and going through some very attractive villages until we come to the outskirts of Melton where on the left-hand side there is a school. Our venue is a little further along on the right-hand side. A ¾-acre garden re-established by the current owner with blue cedar trees, an excellent specimen tulip tree and a variety of plants and bushes. An original bog garden, natural pond and a Koi pond added in 2015. The cost is £7.50 for admission plus tea and cakes. If you would like to come please contact Margaret Wright (243 2550) and let her know whether you need a lift. We shall meet in the Great Glen Village Hall car park at 1.30 p.m. to pick up those without transport.

## TRIP TO NEWSTEAD ABBEY ON FRIDAY 19<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER - ANCESTRAL HOME OF LORD BYRON.

There are still a few seats available on the coach. The cost is £22 p.p. which includes coach travel, admission and a one hour guided tour of the house. (I am informed it is advisable to be able to manage stairs in order to complete the house tour.) The coach will leave Great Glen car park promptly at 10.00 a.m. Please let me know if you would like to come. I should be grateful for payment as soon as possible (as these trips request payment prior to the visit) and definitely either at or before the meeting on 11<sup>th</sup> September. Cash or cheque (made payable to Great Glen U3A) are both acceptable. Many thanks.

*Linda Hobart* [gardenvisits@greatglenu3a.co.uk](mailto:gardenvisits@greatglenu3a.co.uk)

319 8095

## **History**

Our group covers a wide range of topics from monarchs to machines, from writers to rogues, from television to transport with a mixture of member presentations and DVDs. There is no meeting in August. The next meeting at the Methodist Hall is on Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> September at 2.00 p.m. when the topic will be 'Silk'.

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

01572 822198

## **History of Art**

Our next meeting will be on Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> August when we shall be looking at the work of Degas. The meeting will commence at 10.00 a.m. in the Methodist Hall. New members are welcome.

*David Brooke* [historyofart@greatglenu3a.co.uk](mailto:historyofart@greatglenu3a.co.uk)

259 2520

## **Indoor Bowling**

Indoor Bowls at Market Harborough Leisure Centre is not to be confused with Indoor Short Mat Bowls. We play on a full-size rink with full size bowls every Tuesday morning from 10.00 a.m. until noon from October to March. We have room for new members, beginners welcome. Contact me.

*Ann Spray* [bowls@greatglenu3a.co.uk](mailto:bowls@greatglenu3a.co.uk)

281 0324

## **Learn French Together**

Would you like to learn French? We are an informal, friendly, self-teaching group of beginners. We meet on the first and third Tuesdays at 10.00 a.m. in the Ruth Warner Room. Please contact me.

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

212 2469

## **Line Dancing**

Line Dancing re-starts after the summer break, on Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> September in the Sports Hall at 1.30 p.m. New dancers will be very welcome to join us. If you have never line danced before, don't worry, it is easy to

pick up. Come along and give it a try, and be prepared to laugh a lot!

*Jackie Jordan* [linedancing@greatglenu3a.co.uk](mailto:linedancing@greatglenu3a.co.uk)

259 9199

### **Military History**

We shall be restarting after our Summer break on Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> October at 10.00 a.m. in the Methodist Church Hall when we will be looking into the whys and wherefores of the Boer Wars. Everyone welcome as this will be the first meeting on this subject. If you had a relative who fought in these Wars then come along and find out what he was up against.

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

259 2095

### **New Age Kurling**

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. There are no meetings in August but we'll be back again on 14<sup>th</sup> September at 10.00 a.m. at the Sports Centre next to Great Glen Village Hall.

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

01572 822198

### **Papercraft**

We meet next on 17<sup>th</sup> September. If you have any items which you could let me have for the Open Day display please bring them to 2 Stackley Road or let me have them at a U3A meeting in good time.

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

259 2095

## **Quiz Group**

Our next meeting is on Monday 24<sup>th</sup> September, when the questions will be asked by David Green.

*Rachael Snashall* [quiz@greatglenu3a.co.uk](mailto:quiz@greatglenu3a.co.uk)

259 2830

## **Singing for Fun**

The next meeting will be in October – the date to be confirmed in next month's newsletter. The theme will be 'Musicals'. Everyone is welcome.

*Peter Russell* [chairman@greatglenu3a.co.uk](mailto:chairman@greatglenu3a.co.uk)

01572 822198

## **Sunday Singles Lunch**

Meetings for the remainder of the year take place at the Leicestershire Golf Club.

*Judith Measom*

279 1509

## **Swimming**

Swimming starts on Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> September, same time, 1.30 p.m., at the Grammar School.

*David Brooke* [swimming@greatglenu3a.co.uk](mailto:swimming@greatglenu3a.co.uk)

259 2520

## **Table Tennis**

As usual we shall take a break during August. Anyone interested is welcome to join our short waiting list. We start again on Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> September.

*Janet Freestone* [tabletennis@greatglenu3a.co.uk](mailto:tabletennis@greatglenu3a.co.uk)

259 2803

## **Table Top Games**

This is a small, friendly group for people who enjoy playing games and trying to keep those little grey cells

exercised. You do **not** have to be an expert to join us. We're happy to teach you new games, or, if you choose to bring a favourite from home, we're happy to learn. Currently we play a variety of card and board games (Canasta, Upwords, Rummikub & Scrabble, and chess by arrangement.) These are played concurrently, so, if you prefer say, numbers rather than word ones, we should be able to oblige.

We meet on the second and fourth Thursdays at the Methodist Church. We appreciate it if you can arrive by 1.55 for a 2.00 p.m. start, giving us the chance to sort out which games we are all playing. New members are always welcome, so please give us a try. Phone Eileen or Helen to let us know. August dates: 9<sup>th</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup>; September dates: 13<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup>.

*Helen Edwards* [ttgames@greatglenu3a.co.uk](mailto:ttgames@greatglenu3a.co.uk) 212 7547, or *Eileen Appleby* 259 251

## **Ukulele Group**

The Group meets on the first and third Monday mornings and will resume on 3<sup>rd</sup> September. Concerts and guest spots for the autumn are already being planned, but we could still use a bass player. If you think you would enjoy strumming (and singing along) with this convivial group, please give me a call.

*Alan Mawby* [ukes@greatglenu3a.co.uk](mailto:ukes@greatglenu3a.co.uk) 259 2599

## **Walking Without Stiles**

The first walk will take place in and around Foxton on Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> September starting 10.30 a.m. Meet

outside the Foxton Village Hall on Middle Street, where parking is available. The length of the walk is approximately three miles so duration will be between two and three hours, with lunch available at a number of places in the bottom lock area. If you would like to participate please contact John Johnson. Further walks are being planned for:

- Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> October starting in Market Harborough.

- Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> November starting in Glen Parva.

For these walks contact Elizabeth Cooke. No walks are to be held in December; we shall restart in January 2019.

*John Johnson*                      212 2469 or 07527 520504

*Elizabeth Cooke*                270 4524 or 07957 288060

[walking@greatglenu3a.co.uk](mailto:walking@greatglenu3a.co.uk)

## **A Date for your Diary**

Leicester Grammar School is proud to be hosting the inaugural Leicester History Festival on Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> September 2018. The aim of the event is to provide a spectrum of historical exhibits and activities focused around a broad range of historical periods. Among the exhibitors confirmed are RAF Museum Cosford, the Sealed Knot Civil War re-enactment group, a range of academic speakers debating the big questions of World War One, a Roman Soldier and a team from Great

Glen U3A! Why not visit this prestigious event, learn something new and enjoy a great day?

*Toni Smith*

## **Sunbeam 2**

The river trip cancelled earlier in the year is now booked for Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> September leaving the Library Car Park at 9.30 a.m. and returning about 4.30 p.m. We are limited to 12 passengers and we plan to reach a waterside pub for lunch or picnic. This is not a U3A outing and preference will be given to friends who are no longer able to manage aboard normal boats. Sunbeam 2 is owned by Mosaic who help disabled people in many ways.

Please ring me to book your place. The cost is £12 per person to cover your trip and morning coffee/tea and afternoon tea/coffee.

*John Lawson*

259 3421