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Great Glen Newsletter August/September 2019

Registered Charity No. 1099411

www.greatglenu3a.co.uk

**A warm welcome to our new member:
Eileen Heybrock**

Chairman's Chat



Hello everyone

As we continue to experience the vagaries of this year's abnormal summer weather, it is probably just as well that this is the close season for many of our U3A groups! As we have had to put back this year's Open Day to early September, your Committee decided to save money by having a single edition of the Newsletter to cover August and September, hence the slightly later publication date this time.

Please help to ensure the Open Day, on Tuesday 03 September from 10.00 a.m. to 12.00 noon, is well attended. It is the main opportunity each year for us to attract new members and to interest existing members in new activities. This year there will be exhibits and demonstrations in the Village Hall, the Sports Hall and the Methodist Church Hall, showcasing what we have to offer and providing some opportunities to take part. Please bring along friends, family members and neighbours, all of whom are assured of a warm welcome.

The following week, on Tuesday 10 September, is our next monthly meeting – see later in this newsletter for details. We are delighted to welcome back by popular request Andy Smith, accomplished guitar player, singer and raconteur. His title on this occasion is 'Sing a Century'. We hope to see a packed hall.

Robert Mansfield

chairman/at/greatglenu3a.co.uk 270 8284

Committee News



DVD PLAYER AND MONITOR

This equipment was purchased by lottery grant but has barely been used. Groups have instead made use of YouTube. If your group could use it in any way please let me know, but otherwise we are happy to let it go to a good home for a small donation. It is as new and works beautifully. I look forward to your call.

Stella Orbell Business Secretary 2592095

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INVITATION TO VISIT THE HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT

We have received an e-mail from Narinder Singh from the office of Neil O'Brien, MP for Harborough, Oadby and Wigston. He says 'Neil and I have a lot of time and respect for the work of U3A and the important role it plays in the lives of so many people'. Neil joined the Market Harborough U3A a few months ago to speak at one of their events about general parliamentary matters, in a non-party political way, as I understand U3A is apolitical.

We also invited the MH U3A members to Parliament for a coach visit earlier this week, where approximately 40 of them came for a tour, followed by a Q&A session and a group picture on the terrace overlooking the Thames. See below where they look very happy!



We would like to extend the same invite to the Great Glen U3A also, to see if this might be of interest to you and your members. If it would be, please do let me know as we would be happy to make arrangements for this to take place later in the year. We can accommodate groups of any size up to 50.

An article in the MHU3A Newsletter says they had a wonderful day and learnt a lot about the Houses of Parliament and enjoyed the meeting with Neil O'Brien.

If you would be interested in joining a group visiting the Houses of Parliament please let me know.

Robert Mansfield chairman/at/greatglenu3a.co.uk 270 8284



Great Glen U3A Open Day

Tuesday 03 September 2019 10.00 a.m. to 12 noon



We hope to see as many members of GGU3A at the Open Day, along with friends, family and neighbours. It is an opportunity to see all the activities that happen over each month and maybe it will interest you in joining something new. Or even to suggest a new activity that is not currently being offered.

There are demonstrations starting at 10am in the Methodist Hall (Association Croquet), and in the Sports Hall (Table Tennis, English Country Dancing, Line Dancing, and New Age Curling). Do pop in and have a look.

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Monthly Meetings

At our meeting on 10 September 2019 we will be entertained by Andy Smith with 'Sing A Century'

03 September 2019	Open Day in village and sports halls	
10 September 2019	<i>Sing a Century</i>	<i>Andy Smith</i>
08 October 2019	<i>Life of Coco Chanel</i>	<i>Julie Ede</i>
12 November 2019	<i>Great Ormond Street Hospital</i>	<i>Marilyn Horner</i>

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).

- 10 September – **Ukulele Group**
- 08 October – **Monday Book Group**
- 12 November – **Carpet Bowls**

YOU CANNOT BE SERIOUS : THE LIFE OF A WIMBLEDON UMPIRE (*July meeting*)



Alan Gray gave a delightfully entertaining and informative talk on his experiences during his 25 years as a Wimbledon Umpire and Line Judge. He has since spent time training ball boys and girls who are now chosen from local schools, having originally been selected from Barnardo's children's homes. Alan, a former Scottish under 18 boys tennis champion, is no stranger to Great Glen. He once lived in Kibworth Beauchamp, played table tennis at Great Glen Youth Club and umpired an exhibition match at Kibworth Tennis Club featuring three club players and local tennis celebrity, Mark

Cox.

His talk was wide ranging, included a brief history of tennis and explained the global popularity of the Wimbledon tournament which now has TV coverage in 180 countries. During his time officiating at Wimbledon he had the dubious pleasure of escorting Boris Becker to the gents' loo during a match and was the target of John McEnroe's verbal attack, and I quote, "answer my question, the question jerk". Interestingly, Alan believed that the behaviour of Messrs. McEnroe, Connors and Nastase, during the 1970s and 1980s did the game a favour in that it prompted the introduction of a 'code of conduct' that continues today. He gave the example that, during this year's tournament, Serena Williams has been fined £8,000 for damaging a practice court with her tennis racquet.

When umpiring matches, Alan used his own list of the naughtiest swear words, in various foreign languages, so that he would know when, for example, Ilie Nastase, was swearing at him in Romanian! He could then warn him about his behaviour.

Overall, Alan's proudest day at Wimbledon was meeting the Queen and he described the electrifying impact that her presence had on the tournament during her visit.

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Alan finished his presentation by saying that the tournament does not stand still but continues to evolve. The most recent example is the purchase of the neighbouring golf course to expand the facilities to enable the pre-Wimbledon qualifying rounds to be played on site.

Alan's presentation was of the highest quality and continued the standard that we have become used to at our monthly meetings.

Bill Maxted

GROUP NEWS

Art Group

We meet on the 1st and 3rd Thursday of each month. We meet again on 15 August in the Ruth Warner room at 2 o'clock. If possible I would like members to bring 2 finished art works to be displayed at the Open Day on 3rd September.

The theme for September 5th and 19th is Mushrooms and Toadstools.

Rachael Snashall

art/at/greatglenu3a.co.uk

259 2830

Astronomy Group



The Astronomy group will be having a break for the summer and will be meeting again in September, the actual date will be notified nearer the time. New members would be very welcome so if anyone is interested in joining this group please contact

John Johnson

astronomy/at/greatglenu3a.co.uk

212 2469

Book Group (Mondays)

The Monday Book Group continued to meet throughout the summer. Our next books are - 19 August "The Green Bicycle Mystery" by Antony M. Brown, 16 September "The Nightingale" by Kristin Hannah and on 21 October "English Passengers" by Matthew Kneale.

We will meet at 2 pm as usual in the Ruth Warner Room.

Liz Adams

books/at/greatglenu3a.co.uk

271 6281



Book Group (Thursdays)

Our August meeting is cancelled due to holidays. The next meeting is on 26 September for 'This is going to hurt: The Secret Diaries of a Junior Doctor' by Adam Kay; followed on 24 October by 'Inglorious Empire' by Shashi Tharoor. New members will be made very welcome - anyone interested should contact

...

Patricia Mansfield

patriciamansfield/at/btinternet.com

270

8284

Carpet Bowls

We meet every Thursday afternoon in the Village Hall from 2.00 to 4.00 p.m. PLEASE NOTE there will not be a meeting on Thursday 26 September owing to another event being held in the Hall.

New members will be made very welcome. No previous experience is necessary.

Peter Stanley

carpetbowls/at/greatglenu3a.co.uk

259 2152

Croquet

A new venture for our Open Day on 03 September – we are pleased that we will be demonstrating the game of Association Croquet in the main hall of the Methodist Church with its new carpet which makes an excellent playing surface, and inviting spectators to join in if they want to.

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Our group has all the advantages of dry conditions, a place to sit and watch, have tea\coffee at anytime (and toilets if required!). No steps to climb and little physical energy required but plenty of fun. The Tuesday group are also planning to play on Open Day afternoon from 1.30 till 3pm if you are unable to join us during the morning. We hope to see you all on the Open Day

There are three separate Croquet Groups:

Group A Thursday morning 10.00 a.m. till 11.30 a.m.

Group B Thursday morning 11.30 a.m. till 1.00 p.m.

Group C Tuesday afternoon 1.30 p.m. till 3.15 p.m.

If you are interested in joining contact.....

John Lawson

[jlawson123/ at /btinternet.com](mailto:jlawson123@btinternet.com)

2593421

English Country Dancing

We shall be performing some demonstration dances at the U3A Open Day on 03 September, so do come along and see if this graceful and elegant form of social dancing appeals to you - If time allows there will be opportunity for other U3A members to "have a go"!

The group will resume its regular weekly dancing on Tuesday 10 September, 1.30 to 3.30pm in the Sports Hall. There will be various public dances at local folk dance clubs in the Autumn period, including a Playford (1651 to 1728) Ball at Rushden on October 5th where attendees are invited to wear period costume. With that in mind we shall practice dances from the 17th and 18th centuries so that any members planning to attend the Ball can take to the floor with confidence and in style!

We are always pleased to welcome new members to our weekly meetings for an afternoon of fun and gentle exercise in good company. Most of our dances are conducted at walking pace, with occasionally 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) to modern compositions, sometimes even jazz, and for the older country dances often features tunes that 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 flat 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, laugh and enjoy yourself.

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. Now that the darker nights are drawing in it would be a good time to come along to the Duplicate Bridge sessions on Tuesday evenings, join our social group and meet new friends. We should love to meet new members -you will be made most welcome.

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

07879

234046

Family History

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Meetings are held in the Methodist Church Hall and we will re-start on Wednesday 10 October at 9.30 a.m. If you would like to join us but have little or no experience of the subject then we now have a member who is willing to run a short course on the subject so you can start from scratch. Please either contact me or see me at the Open Day on Tuesday 3 September between 10.00 a.m. and 12 noon.

All you need is enthusiasm and to be computer literate. Beginners are, of course, also welcome to join us. Please contact....

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

French Conversation

Our meeting will re-start on Wednesday 04 September at 10.30 a.m. with perhaps one or two more members. We will, of course, spend the Summer reading the works of French authors from Voltaire, Satre, Pascal and Simenon. Anyone interested in joining or just coming along to see how we spend our time, please contact...

Jim Picken

[djpicken95/ at /gmail.com](mailto:djpicken95@gmail.com)

259 2035

French for Beginners – Lets Learn Together

This group meets in the morning on the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays of the month. Our next meeting will be on 17 September. New members will be made very welcome so if you would like to join this group please contact ...

Jan Johnson

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

212 2469

Garden Visits



Our next meeting is on Friday 20 September when we will be visiting Coton Manor Garden (post code NN6 8RQ) This ten acre garden, originally laid out in 1925 by the grandparents of the present owner, encloses a series of smaller gardens providing interest, variety and colour throughout. There is also The Stableyard Cafe where tea and cakes can be purchased. I have discovered that for a group of more than 15 the cost is only £6.50 p.p. If you would like to come please let me know as soon as possible and whether you need a lift or are going straight to the venue.

The owners of the Garden have requested one payment for all as this will be easier for them instead of counting several visitors through the entrance at the reduced price. Therefore I would be most grateful if members could let me have the money in advance, either at the Open Day on Tuesday 03 September or at the Monthly Meeting on Tuesday 10 September. If this is not possible then on the day in the Great Glen car park or at the venue but BEFORE you go in. I will give everyone a sticker to wear for identification! I would also be very grateful if you could give me the exact coinage - this is very helpful to me. We will be leaving the car park at 1.30 p.m. Many thanks.

Linda Hobart.

[gardenvisits/ at /greatglenu3a.co.uk](mailto:gardenvisits@greatglenu3a.co.uk)

319 8095

History

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The next meeting at the Methodist Hall is on Monday 2nd September, 2.00pm. The topic will be 'Elizabeth Cellier- the Popish Midwife' presented by Sue Russell. Then on Monday 07 October at 2.00p.m. we will have 'Marie Curie' presented by Patricia Mansfield. Everyone is welcome. We will be looking for ideas for next year's programme.

Peter Russell

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

01572 822198

Indoor Bowls

We meet at Market Harborough Leisure Centre every Tuesday morning from 10am until 12 starting the first Tuesday in October and until March. We are a small friendly group who have been meeting for several years but we would like some new members so the group keeps going. Experience is not required. If interested please contact...

Ann Spray

281 0324

Learn Something New

Decorative Fabric Beads

Wednesday 16 October 2.00-4.00 p.m.



Here's a chance to come and try your hand at making decorative fabric beads. This is a one-off session, all materials will be provided, and everyone is welcome. No special skill is required – anyone can have a go! Places will be limited, though so please put your name down at the Open Day or contact me if you would like to attend. I look forward to seeing you there.

The cost is £5 for the class, including materials. If you have any of the following, please bring them with you: Scissors to cut fabric,

CLEAR fabric glue like Fabri-tac, small pliers.

Sue Russell

[sue/ at /suerussell.co.uk](mailto:sue/at/suerussell.co.uk)

07976 263 206

Line Dancing

Our next meeting is on 05 September at 1.30 p.m. in the Sports Hall. New members will, as always, be very welcome.

We will be giving a demonstration at the Open Day on 03 September, and hope that you will come along and see just what line dancing is like. It is no longer the all American style with boots and Stetsons that it used to be. We will be doing some quite simple dances, to music that you will all remember, plus an easy invitation dance that we hope you will join in with and enjoy.

Jackie Jordan

[jkj1506/ at /btinternet.com](mailto:jkj1506/at/btinternet.com)

259 9199

Military History

Military History meets on the first Wednesday each month at 10.00am in the Methodist Church Hall. No meeting in September. We will re-commence on Wednesday 02 October at 10.00 a.m. in the Methodist Church Hall when we will start looking at 'The Indian Mutiny'.

Eric Orbell

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

259 2095

Mini Bridge

Meetings are held every Tuesday at the Methodist Church Hall. We start at 9.45 a.m. (please try to be there at least 5 minutes before) and finish at approximately noon.

We welcome anyone who would like to learn the game, some experience in playing cards is useful although not essential. For further information please contact....

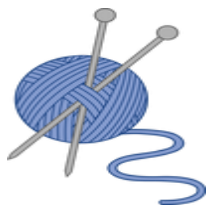
Terry Evans

[evans.t9/ at /pobroadband.co.uk](mailto:evans.t9/at/pobroadband.co.uk)

259 2102

Needles and Pins

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We are 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? It's very easy to play and it provides gentle exercise and lots of fun. Everyone is welcome.

After our summer break we shall be back again at 10 a.m. on 13 September and 27 in the Sports Centre next to the village hall.

Peter Russell

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

01572 822198

Papercraft

We hope to meet on Monday 19 August so that we can produce something with the WOW factor for the Open Day on 03 September. Please bring some glue which is stronger than Prit Stick if possible. Also remember any cards for the display. Help with setting up on the 19 August from 1.30 would be appreciated. I look forward to seeing you.

Stella Orbell

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

259 2095

Pub Lunches

We continue to meet for lunch each month on the second Tuesday, after the monthly U3A meeting, to enjoy good food and fellowship. We have our favourite venues but try to visit local 'pubs' during the winter months and go further afield in the better weather.

New members will be made very welcome and if you would like to join us please contact.....

Margaret Hudson

271 5064

Quiz Group

We begin again on 23 September in the main hall of The Methodist Church at 2 o'clock. New members will be very welcome.

Rachael Snashall

[quiz/ at /greatglenu3a.co.uk](mailto:quiz@greatglenu3a.co.uk)

259 2830

Singing for fun

Come and exercise your lungs on Wednesday 09 October at 2pm in the Methodist Hall. It's 'Pick of the Pops' time with songs from 1960's and 70's. Everyone is welcome to join us - we're not a choir, just singing for fun!

Peter Russell

[singing/ at /greatglenu3a.co.uk](mailto:singing@greatglenu3a.co.uk)

01572 822198

Sunday Singles

Our next lunch will be at the Leicestershire Golf Club on 18 August 2019 (*please note change of date*). Following lunches are on 08 September, 13 October, 03 November (*again please note change of date*), and 08 December for our Christmas Lunch. Gentlemen are welcome to join our usual members.

Judith Measom

279 1509

Swimming

Swimming sessions start again on Wednesday 11 September. Time in the pool, 13:30 to 14:30. Place, Leicester Grammar School, Great Glen. New swimmers of any standard are always welcome. See you there!



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Frank Wilcock

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

431 9706

Table Tennis

Our next meeting will be on Monday 02 September. If you are interested in joining us please contact...

Janet Freestone

[alan.freestone/ at /mypostoffice.co.uk](mailto:alan.freestone/at/mypostoffice.co.uk)

259 2803

Table Top Games



After the summer break the group returns to its usual bi-monthly games sessions. We meet on the 2nd & 4th Thursday of each month, so 12 & 26 September, in the Methodist Chapel. It helps if you arrive at 1:55 p.m., so we can decide who will play what and with whom, for a 2:00 p.m. start.

We have a variety of word and number board games, as well as playing cards (Canasta is currently a great favourite).....or members are welcome to bring their own games to share. No experience is necessary as we're

happy to teach you new games (after all we are the **University** of the Third Age!)

We'd love to welcome new members, so if you enjoy playing games please come along. If you are unsure, do come and give us a try, or visit our table at the Open Day to have a chat and find out more.

New members please phone beforehand so we know to expect you.

Helen Edwards [tgames/ at /greatglenu3a.co.uk](mailto:tgames/at/greatglenu3a.co.uk) 212 7547, or Eileen Appleby 259 251

Tai Chi

Tai Chi is continuing to hold meetings but unfortunately we are unable take any new members as we currently do not have a qualified instructor.

Lynda Woodford

[uzupa63/ at /gmail.com](mailto:uzupa63/at/gmail.com)

259 2186

Ukulele Group

The group normally meets on the first and third Mondays each month. We will resume normal service with meetings on September 02 and 16.

Alan Mawby

[ukes/ at /greatglenu3a.co.uk](mailto:ukes/at/greatglenu3a.co.uk)

259 2599

Walking Without Stiles



There will be no meeting on Tuesday 27 August. Our next walk will be on Tuesday 24 September 2019 at 10.30 a.m. starting from the car park at Wistow Rural Centre, Wistow Rd, Kibworth Harcourt, Leicester LE8 0QF. We will be walking along a route following part of the canal path. The café should be open before we go and when we get back for various drinks, snacks and meals. Please contact me, Elizabeth Cooke, know if you intend to come so that we know you are coming and we can contact you if the walk has to be cancelled at the last minute due to unforeseen circumstances. If you would like to join the group or want

further details please contact...

Elizabeth Cooke

[walking/ at /greatglenu3a.co.uk](mailto:walking/at/greatglenu3a.co.uk)

270 4524 or 07957

288060

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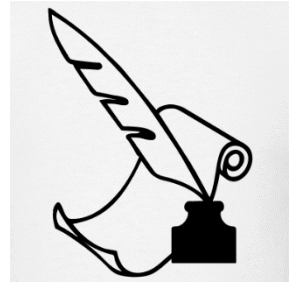
Writing for Pleasure

At the moment we do not have a re-start date. We hope to recruit one or two more people at the Open Day. Please encourage friends to come along and sign up.

Stella Orbell

259 2095

[writing/ at /greatglenu3a.co.uk](mailto:writing@greatglenu3a.co.uk)



And finally..

A SMILE

A **SMILE** costs nothing, but gives much!

It enriches those who receive, without making poorer those who give.

It takes but a moment, but the memory of it sometimes lasts forever.

None is so rich or mighty that he can get along without it, and none is so poor but that he can be made rich by it.

A **SMILE** creates happiness in the home, fosters goodwill in business, and is the countersign of friendship.

It brings rest to the weary, cheer to the discouraged, sunshine to the sad, and it is nature's best antidote for trouble.

Yet - it cannot be bought, begged, borrowed or stolen, for it is something that is of no value to anyone until it is given away.

Some people are too tired to give you a **SMILE**.

Give them one of yours, as none needs a **SMILE** so much as he who has no more to give.

Anon.

