



# Great Glen Newsletter

## August 2016

Registered Charity No. 1099411

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



A very warm welcome to our new members: Mike Cheeseman, Angela Hazelton and Louise Phillips

### Chairman's Chat



On a recent most enjoyable week in Somerset we were able to make good use of our National Trust memberships, with visits to Tyntesfield House and Montacute House. Tyntesfield I had long wished to see after watching a TV documentary about it some years ago. Now largely free of building works, we could really appreciate this splendid Victorian Gothic revival. A magnificent property inspired by religious belief and the ideal of self-sufficiency, set in expansive grounds including 52 acres of woodland, a home farm where traditional craftsmen produce all sorts of wooden artefacts, and splendid gardens and parkland, made for a memorable experience. Montacute House is a much older property dating from 1611, but again well worth a visit.

We also managed to pull in visits to the beautiful city of Wells, to see again the magnificent cathedral and for the first time the Bishop's Palace and gardens (and of course the wells) and to soak up some of the local history. The hotel where we were pampered itself deserves a mention, as a beautifully restored country house set in its own 30 acres with a river running through.

*Patricia Mansfield*

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

270 8284

### Obituary – Mary Lawson

All our U3A members will be sad to hear of the recent death of Mary Lawson. Mary was the founder member of Great Glen U3A. It was in 2001 that Mary recognised the potential for a U3A in Great Glen, and advertised a meeting for villagers to attend to learn about the University of the Third Age. Thirty-five people attended (mainly women). Her initiative was so successful that in the first six months they had inaugurated no less than nine groups, monthly meetings and a regular Newsletter.

I was lucky enough to have joined U3A whilst Mary was still on the committee and so worked alongside her for a few years, and saw the dedication that she put into everything she did.

Mary died after a long illness, and we send our sympathy to her husband John and all the family.

Thank you, Mary, for starting the Great Glen U3A. It has grown somewhat since 2001, with a present membership of 350, and without your forward looking ideas and leadership I am sure it would never have got off the ground.



*Toni Smith*

## An Appeal from Your Committee

The Committee is looking into improving access to U3A activities for those with hearing loss. Potential solutions are likely to entail significant outlay, for which we would need to seek funding. As a next step we wish to find out how many members find difficulty hearing at our group activities and monthly meetings. We should also like to understand the causes of such difficulties, for example because of background noise. If you are affected by significant hearing difficulty, please let your Group Leader know or contact me direct. We should also like to hear about any others who may be held back from joining Great Glen U3A because of hearing problems.

Robert Mansfield

[robertrmansfield@btinternet.com](mailto:robertrmansfield@btinternet.com)

270 8284

## Outings Organiser Still Wanted!!



As you all know, after doing a wonderful job Pat Tate has now stepped down from running outings other than Kilworth House theatre trips. This leaves a space which as a U3A of over 300 people surely we can fill. As your business secretary I have recently received information from the central office about various interesting trips, days out and concerts etc which have

been specially laid on for U3A members but which we miss out on. There **must surely** be someone or a couple of friends or partners who would not find it too arduous to book a coach and make a list of interested people and then take the helm on a day out. My husband and I did this for several years and many people still remember the fun we had. Come on Great Glen! If you are fairly recently retired and still have some energy and enthusiasm, or just the last two qualities, then I need to hear from you. A telephone number and e-mail address is helpful when making arrangements but otherwise there are no special requirements. Let me know – an outing in September or October would be great.

Stella Orbell

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

2592095

## Forthcoming Monthly Meetings

9 August 2016

**NO MEETING**

16 August 2016

**Open Day**

13 September 2016

**The last Naval Hero**

Roy Smart

11 October 2016

**Wines of Italy**

Sue Lobb

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

*Coffee, tea and sugar are provided. Please bring milk.*

**16 August** – Mini Bridge (Village Hall)

**13 September** – Flower Arranging

**11 October** – French

## Elizabeth, Countess of Shrewsbury, 1527-1608

*(July monthly meeting)*



Julie Ede gave us a fascinating talk on Elizabeth, Countess of Shrewsbury. She is well known to many of us as "Bess of Hardwick" as she has connections to many famous places in the Midlands, but this was the first time I have heard such a comprehensive story of her life. She was indeed a very remarkable person and an astute business woman. To live and prosper in Tudor times she needed both skill and intelligence.

Bess was born to relatively minor gentry but prospered greatly through her marriages. She was married four times, firstly to Robert Barlow. They were

both very young but he died shortly afterwards. Secondly she married the wealthy Sir William Cavendish who was twice her age. They had eight children only six of whom survived infancy. Thirdly she married Sir William St Loe and finally George Talbot, Earl of Shrewsbury. Elizabeth outlived all four husbands and seems to have been remarkably healthy prior to her death in 1608 aged 80yrs. She was buried in a vault at All Saints Church, Derby which is now Derby Cathedral. There is a memorial to her there.

I was unaware of her connection to the Gray family at Bradgate. Bess spent time at Bradgate and was married there to Sir William Cavendish at 2.00 a.m.!

Bess was a Lady-in-Waiting to Queen Elizabeth I. When Mary Queen of Scots fled from Scotland Queen Elizabeth felt obliged to help her but because of the threat she represented to the throne Mary was put into the protective custody of the Earl of Shrewsbury and stayed at many of their houses including Chatsworth. Bess spent time with her and they were both keen needlewomen. Much of their work is still on display at Hardwick Hall.

As we heard of the troubled times through which Bess of Hardwick lived I thought of the problems we are experiencing now following Brexit and the turmoil in government. Only yesterday a new prime minister was announced. At least politicians who fall from power today are no longer sent to the tower or executed!

*Jean Geall*

## Update on the Adam Sisters

*(Continuing the account of John Lawson's family history enquiry ...)*

Eric Orbell has found that the Adams sisters are twins and were born on 5<sup>th</sup> June 1934 in Andover, named June A and Mary E Adams. Later they attended the Collegiate School for a few years but I have no evidence that they sat their 'O' levels. They may have been living at 39 Kingsmead Road, Leicester (off Welford Road). It is thought they moved abroad, possibly about 1949 or even before. Did they ever write to a friend and possibly reveal their married names?

Does anyone know of John William Connaught Adams (brother of the twins) who was at the City Boys School from 1941 to 1946? He was born on 25 September 1929 and died in Harrogate in 1998. He was living at the time with Suzanna Adams. Was this his second wife and if so did they have children?

I thank everyone who has helped me. If someone has any further information please let me know.

*John Lawson*

[jlawson123@btinternet.com](mailto:jlawson123@btinternet.com). 0116 2593421

## **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 7 September 2016**.

*Robert Mansfield*      [robertmansfield@btinternet.com](mailto:robertmansfield@btinternet.com)      270 8284

## **Learn Something New**

There are no new sessions scheduled at present but we shall be looking to build a programme for the autumn and winter months so we are constantly looking for suggestions. If you have topics that you think would be suitable for a single 2 hour session then please visit the stand at the Open Day and add your ideas to the list you will find there.

We shall be looking for at least one session on handmade Christmas decorations, maybe some absolute beginners language sessions; ukulele bands seem popular in other U3As although I'm not quite sure how we would get instruments for a trial session. But please bring forward all your ideas and we'll see what we can do.

*Peter Russell*                      [prussell@russellscott.co.uk](mailto:prussell@russellscott.co.uk)                      271 0889

## **Group News**

### **Art Group**

We begin again on September 1st in the Ruth Warner Room at 2.00 p.m. The subject is drawing using charcoal.

*Rachel Snashall*                      [rsnashall@hotmail.com](mailto:rsnashall@hotmail.com)                      259 2830

### **Crochet**

It is too warm for crochet at the moment (generally speaking) so please re-join us on the third Tuesday in September in the Ruth Warner room at 2.00 p.m. Newcomers always welcome – hook and wool provided for the first lesson.

*Stella Orbell*                      [stellamo@hotmail.com](mailto:stellamo@hotmail.com)                      259 2095

### **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](mailto:jlawson123@btinternet.com)                      259 3421

### **English Country Dancing**

The English Country Dancing Group will not be meeting during August. However we shall be performing some demonstration dances at the U3A Open Day on 16<sup>th</sup> August, so do come along and

see if this graceful and elegant form of social dancing appeals to you – there will be opportunity for U3A members to "have a go"!

The group will resume its regular weekly dancing on Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> September, 2.00 to 4.00 p.m. in the Sports Hall. With the forthcoming (8<sup>th</sup> October) Leicestershire & Rutland Playford Costume Ball in mind, we shall practise dances from the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> 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, whilst 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 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 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.

*Peter Meacock*                      [petermeacock112@btinternet.com](mailto:petermeacock112@btinternet.com)    279 3600

### **Family History**

The Family History Group will meet again after the break on Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> September at 9.30 a.m. in the Methodist Church Hall. If you are computer literate and would like to join us please give me a ring first.

*Eric Orbell*                      [ericorbell332@btinternet.com](mailto:ericorbell332@btinternet.com)            259 2095

### **Garden Visits Group**

Our next visit is on Friday 19<sup>th</sup> August when we will be visiting Thorpe Lubenham Hall gardens, Farndon Road, Market Harborough, LE16 9TR. Here there are 15 acres of formal and informal gardens surrounded by parkland and arable, mature trees, traditional herbaceous borders, various water features and other interesting items. The cost is £3.50 which includes a cream tea! We will meet in the Great Glen Village Hall car park at 1.30 p.m. to share lifts. If you would like to come along please let me know as soon as possible in order for me to inform them as to numbers attending. If you are going direct to the venue please also let me know so we won't be waiting for you in the car park!

May I also draw your attention to our 16<sup>th</sup> September meeting when we are going to Blatherwycke Hall gardens. After the demolition of the Hall in 1948 the 4 acres of these tiered, walled gardens became totally overgrown and it wasn't until April 2011 that the new owner of the land began to restore it to its former glory (with a great deal of help from a head gardener and many volunteers) and work is continuing still. We went last year and everyone agreed that we must return to view the progress as we enjoyed it so much. The cost is £4.50 including tea and cakes. Meeting once again in the Village Hall car park at 1.30 p.m. so please let me know if you would like to come.

*Linda Hobart*                      [lindahobart@outlook.com](mailto:lindahobart@outlook.com).            319 8095

### **History Group**

There is no History Group meeting in August. The next meeting at the Methodist Hall will be on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> September 2.00 p.m. when Toni Smith will be talking about the History of Medicine.



Then in October, one of the research groups will be telling us about the Mineral Wealth of Leicestershire and its History. Everyone welcome.

*Peter Russell*

[prussell@russellscott.co.uk](mailto:prussell@russellscott.co.uk)

271 0889

### **History of Art**

The next meeting will be on Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> August when we will be looking at the paintings of Edward Hopper, a prominent American painter and printmaker, who died in 1967. The meeting will be held in the Methodist Hall as usual commencing at 10.00 a.m. All U3A members are welcome.

*David Brooke*

[dnbrooke@fsmail.net](mailto:dnbrooke@fsmail.net)

259 2520

### **Indoor (Winter) Bowls**

Indoor bowls will begin again in October.

*Ann Spray*

[spray194@btinternet.com](mailto: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](mailto:jlawson123@btinternet.com)

259 3421

### **Line Dancing**

Do you like different kinds of dance music, like Waltz, Rumba and Foxtrot? Might you benefit from some gentle exercise? Do you enjoy a good laugh? If the answer is yes, then Line Dancing is just the thing for you. You don't even need a partner! All you do need is a comfy pair of shoes and two hours to spare every Thursday afternoon at 2.00 p.m. New members will be warmly welcomed, male and female. Yes, men do line dance, I have seen them! We will be giving a demonstration at the Open Day on 16<sup>th</sup> August, so if you are still a little unsure, come along and watch, and hopefully join in.

*Jackie Jordan*

[jkj1506@btinternet.com](mailto:jkj1506@btinternet.com)

259 9199

### **Luncheon Club**

We would like to invite new members to our lunches. 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 and main and main and dessert. 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. Come and give us a try to see if you would like to join us. We look forward to seeing you soon.

*Joyce Davies*

[mervjoycedavies@btinternet.com](mailto:mervjoycedavies@btinternet.com)

259 3436

### **Military History**

We will re-commence hostilities after our summer break on Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> September at 10.00 a.m. in the Methodist Church Hall. Everyone with an interest in the subject is welcome.

*Eric Orbell*

[ericorbell332@btinternet.com](mailto: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](mailto:jlawson123@btinternet.com)

259 3421



## Tailpiece



*The dawning of a new era in our international relations?*