



Great Glen Newsletter

August 2017

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

Chairman's Chat

Hello everyone.

As I write this, the BBC web site is headlining a *Lancet* article and video clip on a newly released report on dementia, a very topical issue which now features regularly in news bulletins. The report lists nine things which we can do which might help us. These include 'keep learning new things', 'keep active' and 'be sociable' which, of course, are key aims of U3A. If indeed these can contribute to delaying this awful condition then we should make the most of the opportunities that are available.

Secondly, this is the last opportunity I shall have to remind you of our participation in the Wheelbarrow Race & Fête on September 2nd. If you have friends who want to find out more about U3A then get them along to our stand. Many thanks to Stella and Toni for organising this for us and to those of you who have volunteered to support on the day.

After excellent contributions from John Parrington and Margaret Hudson, I'm still looking for more volunteers for party pieces to kick off the monthly meetings. It can be travel tales, a musical item, a personal story, a favourite poem, or short films or photographs of an

outing or event. Please get in touch with me to arrange it.

Have a lovely August and be ready to spring back into action in September when all the groups get going again.

Peter Russell prussell@russellscott.co.uk 271 0889

Committee News

JANET HOBSON

We are sorry to inform you that Janet passed away in July. Janet was a founder member of the Luncheon Club and, as well as attending a number of other groups, she was, for several years, one of our registrars at the main meeting. She was a member of the U3A committee for some time and many people will remember her.

It is always sad to lose a friend but we shall always think of her fondly and we send our sympathies to Roger and the family.

Stella Orbell, Secretary

CAR PARKING AT THE METHODIST HALL

Please note that car parking is still suspended on the Methodist Hall car park and for a little longer than originally expected. When the carpark is available

again, probably after 11th August, the 'No Parking' notice will be removed.

U3A AT THE WHEELBARROW RACE SATURDAY 2ND SEPTEMBER 2017

No, we are not entering a wheelbarrow team in the race!! We are showcasing our U3A in the accompanying fête which takes place on the Recreation Ground at the same time. Come along and bring a friend and the family. If you know anyone recently retired bring them along to our display and let them find out all about us.

Stella Orbell stellamo@hotmail.co.uk 259 2095

Monthly Meetings

8 August *Anthony Nolan Trust – Hollies Legacy*

Kathy Carter

12 September *Colourful Characters of Bradgate Park*

Peter Tyldesley

10 October *John, Paul, George and Me* *Andy Smith*

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).

8 August – **Table Tennis**

12 September – **Table Top Games**

10 October - **Ukulele**

Mercy Ships

(July monthly meeting)

After Peter had welcomed everyone, Margaret Hudson provided the ‘warm up’ with a brief humorous recitation, which was well received.

The main business was an illustrated talk by Alison Briggs about Mercy Ships. She introduced us to children and then adults from the poorest African countries whose lives had been blighted by severe disfigurements, hard to bear in themselves and harder still because of the severe social consequences. There were some brutal statistics to illustrate the dearth of medical provision, itself virtually inaccessible to those living in remote rural communities. The contrast in life expectancy with the Western world was stark. She showed us how the problems were compounded by the mass migrations of refugees, lack of clean water, poor sanitation and poverty.

This is the context for the work of Mercy Ships, a charity where everyone – not least Gerry Parker,

surgeon, now in his twenty-ninth year of volunteering – works for free. In 1978 a visit by ‘Youth for the Mission’ identified the need for ships to go to countries where medical help was desperately needed. It took four years to raise the money for the first ship, *Anastasia*. This had two operating theatres and recovery wards for those who needed them. All the healthcare provided was, and remains, free. Now pensioned off, she was replaced by *African Mercy Ship*, with five theatres, recovery wards, and the only scanner operating in West Africa. Another ship is almost ready.

As Alison described to us, Mercy Ships is a most professional organisation with a skilful planning team negotiating the next long-term moorings years in advance, well-organised reception and triage, providing not only life-changing operations but also aftercare, healthcare products and education, and help with agricultural and sanitation projects. Towards the end we saw children and adults whose lives had been transformed by corrective surgery – to eyes, cleft palates, monstrous growths, feet pointing backwards Of course there is not always a magic solution and for the disappointed the volunteers provide palliative care, comfort and prayer.

This was far removed from a ‘hard sell’. But what could we do if we wished to help? Pray, volunteer, collect toothbrushes, give aid. A very moving and

excellently presented talk.

John Stewart-Smith and Robert Mansfield

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 6th September 2017**.

Robert Mansfield robertrmansfield@btinternet.com

270 8284

OUTINGS

'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 at 2.30 p.m. and a coach will leave from the Village Hall at 1.15 p.m. Payment of £34.50 per person is now due and should be made at the **August** monthly meeting or before. There are still a few remaining tickets to be sold.

Pat Tate

259 1001

Winterbourne House and Gardens: For details of day outing on **Friday 20 October 2017 departing 9.15 a.m.** see entry under Garden Visits Group below. Payments of £16.00 per person to me please by no later than the **September** meeting.

Pat Tate

259 1001

LEARN SOMETHING NEW

Découpage

Come along to this session (2 hours) and learn the art of découpage. It is craft technique that will enable you to transform a variety of objects into works of art (or keep your grandchildren entertained for hours!). Sally Wassell will show us how to take a simple bowl and printed paper and make it into a unique piece that we can use to display decorative objects or just admire! This class will run in **October** – date to be confirmed. If you are interested please sign up at the monthly meeting or contact me. Depending on numbers, the cost is likely to be £2.50, including all materials.

Sue Russell sue@suerussell.co.uk 271 0889

GROUP NEWS

Art Group

We are taking a break through July and August, so our next meeting will be on 7th September.

Rachael Snashall rsnashall@hotmail.com 259 2830

English Country Dancing

The English Country Dancing Group is taking a break through July and August. We shall resume our regular weekly meetings on Tuesday 5th September 1.30 to 3.30 p.m. in the Sports Hall. New members are always welcome. No previous experience is needed as all the

dances are explained and walked through before setting them to music. Nor do you need to come with a partner; singles of both sexes are welcomed.

Peter Meacock petermeacock112@btinternet.com
279 2600

Evening Bridge

Anyone interested in playing Duplicate Bridge on Tuesday evenings 19.00 till 22.00-ish will be made welcome in ideal conditions. Tea or coffee is included in the £1 sessional fee. Prospective members please ring in advance ...

John Lawson jlawson123@btinternet.com 259 3421

Family History

No meetings until September.

Eric Orbell ericorbell332@btinternet.com 259 2095

French Conversation

The Group is en vacances till 6th September.

Jim Picken djpicken95@gmail.com 259 2007

Garden Visits

Our next meeting is Friday 18th August when we shall visit Green Wicket Farm, Ullesthorpe Road, Bitteswell, LE17 4LR. Created in 2008 on a working farm with clay soil and very exposed but beginning to look established. Many unusual hardy plants and old favourites have been used to provide a long season of colour and interest. Anemone, iris, sedums and salvias are of particular interest, formal ponds, water feature

and some gravel paths. The garden is situated behind Bitteswell Cricket Club where parking is available subject to weather conditions. The cost is £5 per person to include tea and cakes. We will meet at 2.00 p.m. in the Village Hall car park to share lifts. Should you wish to go please contact Joanna (0116 259 2429) and inform her if you are going straight there or if you need a lift. Thank you.

ALTERATION TO OCTOBER VENUE AND DATE.

This meeting is now on Friday 20th October and my apologies for not providing this new date in the July Newsletter. We have decided to visit Winterbourne House and Gardens which are owned by the University of Birmingham, as there may be little or no shelter at Westonbirt Arboretum should it rain. We are going by coach which will leave Great Glen Village Hall car park at 9.15 a.m. The Arts and Crafts inspired garden features a Japanese Bridge, Tea House and pergola. The house is an example of a 20th century suburban villa with beautifully decorated exhibition rooms offering an insight into the Edwardian lifestyle. There is a small tearoom offering snacks and hot drinks, a shop, a small art gallery and a bookshop. The Barber Institute Art Gallery is 2/3 minutes' walk away, should you wish to visit. We shall leave Winterbourne at 3.30 p.m. The cost is £16 p.p. Please inform Pat Tate (0116 2591001) as soon as possible if you would like to come. Pat will be collecting payment at the

September U3A meeting but would appreciate payment prior to this if possible.

Linda Hobart lindahobart@outlook.com 319 8095

History

There is no meeting in August. The next meeting is on Monday 4th September at 2.00 p.m. in the Methodist Hall.

Peter Russell prussell@russellscott.co.uk 271 0889

History of Art

Our next meeting is on Wednesday 16th August, when Ann Spray will be talking to us about her ancestor Edward Seago. The meeting will be held in the Methodist Hall commencing at 10.00 a.m. All members are welcome.

David Brooke dnbrooke@fsmail.net 259 2520

Learn French Together

The new French group for complete beginners. The Group meets on first and third Tuesdays at 10.00 a.m. in the Ruth Warner Room.

Marie-Christine Grenham mcgrenham@gmail.com
07764 154374

Learn Spanish Together

A new Spanish group for beginners has just started, meeting on the second and fourth Mondays of the month. Please note that the Group will meet

informally through the summer and that classes are not being held at the Methodist Chapel, Great Glen.

Val Barba valbarba@talktalk.net 271 6505

Line Dancing

Line Dancing will re-start on Thursday 7th September at 1.30 p.m. in the Sports Hall. New members will, as usual, be made very welcome. No experience is needed, line dancing is very easy to pick up, and we are all beginners. Come along and give it a try, gentle exercise to varied music, and lots of laughs as well.

Jackie Jordan jkj1506@btinternet.com 259 9199

Luncheon Club

Our next lunch is on Tuesday 22nd August. I shall be at the monthly meeting on Tuesday 8th with the menu as usual. If you are not at the meeting, and do not live in Great Glen, please telephone me for your menu choice by Monday 14th. I shall deliver menus around Great Glen as usual. If you know that you are unable to join us on 22nd August I should appreciate a phone call.

Joyce Davies mervjoycedavies@btinternet.com
259 3436

Military History

No more meetings until September.

Eric Orbell ericorbell332@btinternet.com 259 2095

New Age Kurling

There is no meeting in August. The next session will be on Friday 8th September at 10.00 a.m. at the Sports Centre.

Peter Russell prussell@russellscott.co.uk 271 0889

Papercraft

We re-start on Monday 18th September at 2.00 p.m. If you would like to join us please ring me. No experience needed.

Stella Orbell stellamo@hotmail.co.uk 259 2095

Quiz Group

Our next meeting is on September 25th when David Green will be the question master. Please note we do not have meetings during July and August.

Rachael Snashall rsnashall@hotmail.com 259 2830

Singing for Fun

The next session for this year is on Wednesday 20th September at 2.00 p.m. at the Methodist Hall with Catriona and Jenny. We'll be basing the programme on the suggestions received from the July meeting.

Peter Russell prussell@russellscott.co.uk 271 0889

Sunday Singles Lunch

Sunday Singles are going to be using a fixed venue for the remainder of the year. We are meeting at the

Leicestershire Golf Club on the second Sunday of each month.

Judith Measom

279 1509

Swimming

We start swimming again on Wednesday 27th September.

David Brooke dnbrooke@fsmail.net

259 2520

Table Tennis

We shall as usual break for the month of August (restart on 4th September). There is still a short waiting list, but we'll contact those on it when a place becomes available.

Janet Freestone alan.freestone@mypostoffice.co.uk

259 2803

Table Top Games

Our next meetings are on 10th and 24th August (1.55 for 2.00 p.m. start) at the Methodist Church. Come and give us a try. Newcomers are always welcome. Please phone beforehand so we know to expect you.

Helen Edwards 212 7547 *Gillian Farrar* 270 8375

Ukulele Group

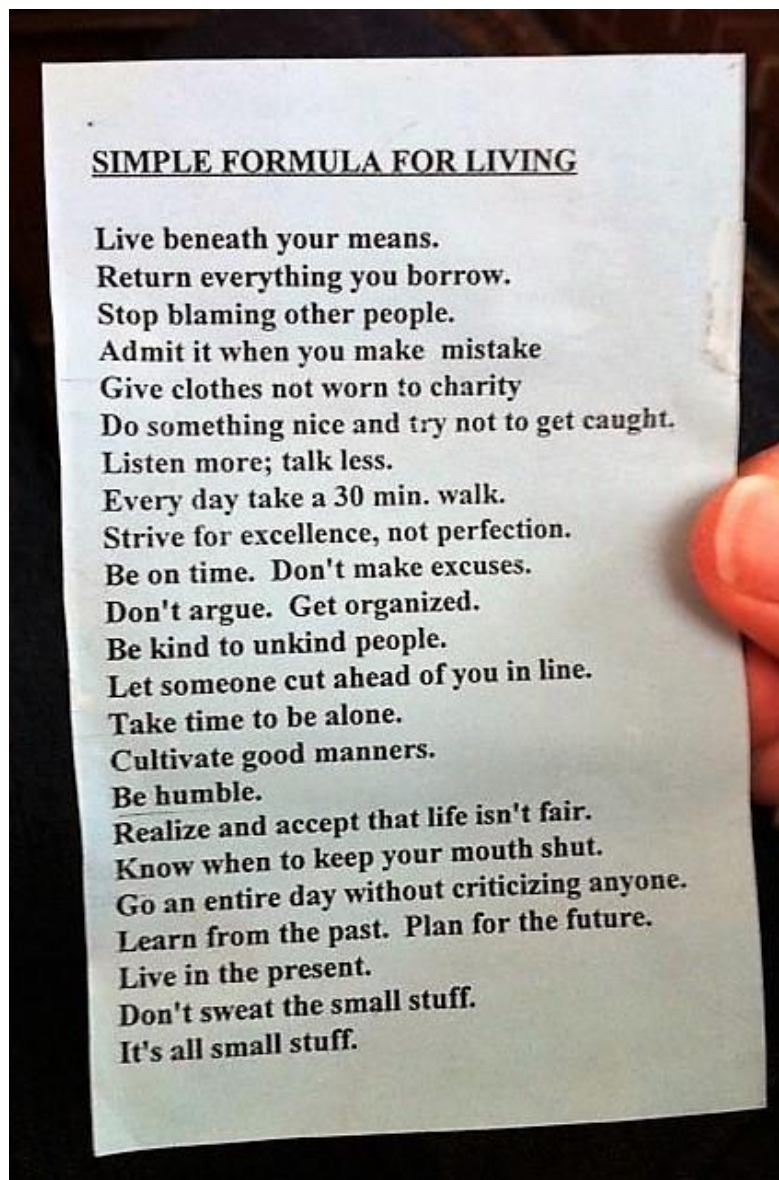
We meet on the first and third Mondays of the month in the Ruth Warner room at 10.00 a.m. There will be no meetings during August and so our next meeting is on the 4th September. Group members were given plenty of homework to practise during the holiday.

Please contact the leader of the Group, if interested in joining, to find out which chords to master.

Alan Mawby alanmawby@btinternet.com 2592599

Please contact the Group Leader (see your U3A programme card or the website for details) if you are interested in joining any Group.

Tailpiece ...



Yooper Pastor