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Great Glen Newsletter

December 2018

Registered Charity No. 1099411

www.greatglenu3a.co.uk

A very warm welcome to our new members:
Christine Belton, Heather MacDermid, Magi Nipper,
Angela Parker, Ken Reeve and Trevor Wright.

Chairman's Chat



Hello everyone.

It's the December 'Christmas Crackers' meeting on 11th December. There are still a few tickets available from Rachael Snashall. Don't miss it! Doors open at 9.30 with music from 9.45 a.m. I'm expecting to see you all in your Christmas costumes.

There was a successful Learn Something New session on Astronomy last month and a further meeting is planned to see if there will be a continuing interest in this topic (see under Learn Something New below). Contact John

Johnson if you would like to join in.

Be sure you know when your groups are meeting during this month and early January. One session that is on is the annual Singing-for-fun Christmas meeting on 19th December. There will be carols and other seasonal songs to be sung – it starts at 2.00 p.m. at the Methodist Hall. Come along and take a break from Christmas shopping.

I was just musing over what next year might bring and realised that it will mark 50 years since man first set foot on the moon. Seems like yesterday to most of us! And although it feels quite early in the month to be saying this, I wish you all a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. Make the most of your U3A membership in 2019.

Best wishes to you all

Peter Russell

chairman/at/greatglenu3a.co.uk

01572 822198

Committee News

Committee Vacancies

It has been heartening to receive recently some expressions of interest in joining the Trustee Committee, and some are now learning the ropes so we can have a smooth transition at the next Annual General Meeting. That said, there are still vacancies. If you might be interested in joining us, and feel you have something to offer, please have a word with any Committee member or contact Peter Russell.

New Members Meeting – Friday 30th November

Many thanks to members and group leaders who attended the meeting.

Peter Russell

chairman/at/greatglenu3a.co.uk

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Calling All Group Leaders: Registers for October and November

As we approach the end of 2018 and three quarters of the way through our current Gift Aid year, I would like to thank all those Group Leaders who have submitted registers for October and November and who are up-to-date. I shall be very grateful if Group Leaders who still have registers outstanding for October and/or November could submit these as soon as possible and by the end of the year at the very latest. Thank you for your valuable help and cooperation.

Bill Maxted

giftaid@greatglenu3a.co.uk

259 2616

Monthly Meetings

At our meeting on 11 December Great Glen U3A members (with some invited guests from St. Cuthbert's School) will provide a festive farrago to get you in the mood for Christmas.

11 December 2018 **Christmas Crackers!** (seasonal entertainment)

8 January 2019 **Tribute to Les Dawson**

12 February 2019 **Save the Children**

Mike Leonard

Josephine Burgess

Meetings are held in the Village Hall on the second Tuesday of each month. For Christmas Crackers! (admission by ticket only) doors open 09.30 a.m. with refreshments at the end of the show. Otherwise 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).

11 December – **Military History and New Age Kurling Groups**

8 January – **Papercraft Group**

12 February – **Pub Lunches Group**

What Space has Done for Us (November meeting)



Professor Mark Sims stepped into the breach at rather short notice to deliver what proved to be a masterclass in how to present a highly technical subject to a lay audience. We learned that space contributes a massive £16 bn to the UK economy, and that the University of Leicester plays an important worldwide role. The talk described the history of spacecraft before moving to review the great range of applications to modern life on earth. I was shocked to hear one of my few pieces of prior 'knowledge', gleaned from a previous talk, swiftly debunked: apparently we do not owe

the development of Teflon to space science! But there have been huge advances in medicine, location plotting, weather forecasting and climate monitoring, monitoring changes in the surface and atmosphere of the planet earth etc on which we are now heavily dependent. We were treated to illustrations from satellites of extraordinary resolution and clarity. Other developments include advancing efforts to protect the earth from catastrophic impacts from asteroids. The talk led to the liveliest question and answer session I can recall. Although we did not get definitive answers on how to deal with the ever-growing problems of space debris or whether anyone else is 'out there', I

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think we all accepted Mark's words that, 'If only we are wise enough we can make a great future for ourselves out of space.'

Robert Mansfield

On the recent Death of Bill Miller

Linda Hobart writes:

I would very much like to say a few words about Bill as, other than being a great Calligraphy teacher, he was a dear friend of mine. I have been in touch with both Andrew and Jane during Bill's latest illness and they have kept me informed as to his condition. I visited him in Glenfield and at Devonshire Court but whilst there he deteriorated.

I cannot remember what profession Bill was in before he became a fire fighter but during our 'lessons' he would occasionally talk of some of the problems he had had to face in this line of work, whether or not the outcome had been successful. When Amy and I could no longer go to their flat for lessons we still kept in touch. He suffered with Paget's Disease (a condition which affects the bones) for many years, but did not let it affect his way of life although it was clear that he was in a great deal of pain. He was a gentle man with a good sense of humour and a very kind nature and I will miss him very much.

LEARN SOMETHING NEW

Astronomy

The prospective Astronomy Group will be meeting on Monday 17th December in the Ruth Warner Room at 10.00 a.m. All those interested in getting this group off the ground are asked to come to discuss all aspects of how the group will proceed. Please try to come along if you can, if there are any issues you can call me.

John Johnson

07527 520504

Sign Language

How many of you would be interested in learning the basics of sign language? Maybe you already have some experience you could share. Do you know someone who could provide a couple of hours training? Watch out for further details in the next newsletter and at the January monthly meeting.

Peter Russell

chairman/at/greatglenu3a.co.uk

01572 822198

GROUP NEWS

Art Group

Our last meeting in 2018 is on 6th December. We shall meet again on 3rd and 17th January 2019, when we shall try our hand at Winter scenes.

Rachael Snashall

art/at/greatglenu3a.co.uk

259 2830

Book Group (Thursdays)

The Group will not meet in December. Our next meeting is on Thursday 24th January 2019 at 10.00 a.m. in the Ruth Warner Room.

Patricia Mansfield

patriciamansfield/at/btinternet.com

270 8284

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Bowling

We are looking for new players to join our Group. We play at the indoor bowls centre at Market Harborough Leisure centre every Tuesday from 10.00 a.m. to 12.00 noon during the winter months.
Ann Spray 281 0324

Carpet Bowls

We are still looking for news members so why not come along and give us a try? We meet every Thursday afternoon in the Village Hall from 2.00 to 4.00 p.m. No previous experience necessary. There will not be a meeting on Thursday 27th December but we shall start again on Thursday 3rd January 2019.

Peter Stanley

carpetbowls/at/greatglenu3a.co.uk

259 2152

English Country Dancing

Christmas Greetings from English Country Dancers - *Wassail!*



On Tuesday December 4th the ECD group welcomed the Beaker Folk music group of Kibworth U3A to play for our dancing. The group is run by Michael and Lorna Rodber and features Jennifer Hawley on keyboard, all of whom are also regular members of the ECD group. We enjoyed dancing to two pieces played by Beaker Folk - firstly a circle dance, *Gathering Peascods* which was first recorded in the 1651 edition of John Playford's "English Dancing Master" series. Secondly we danced *Juniata*, a longways dance written in 2011 by the American dance-writer Sharon Green, to the tune "Drifting on the Lazy Juniata" by the American composer Jonathan Jensen; the slow waltz-time movements of the dance portray drifting down the picturesque Juniata river in Pennsylvania on a hot summer afternoon - very different to a cold winter afternoon in Great Glen! We thank Beaker Folk for joining us, and hope we may be able to dance to their playing again. To conclude the afternoon some of the musicians joined us for a traditional English dance from 1713, *In the Fields of Frost and Snow*, the lyrics of which are the song of a young swain who complains he has to rise early on cold winter mornings to tend the animals on his father's farm; his song lists the various animals and the noises they make, and is considered a forerunner of the popular children's song "*Old MacDonald had a Farm*"!

The ECD Group will finish its 2018 meetings on Tuesday 18th December when we shall hold our "Christmas Party" afternoon. Please note we shall start at 1.00 p.m. instead of 1.30 p.m. and group members are invited to wear Christmas hats and jumpers and bring festive food to share! We shall dance to popular "Singalong" Christmas tunes and carols: *Jingle Bells*, *Hark the Herald Angels Sing*, *See Amid the Winter's Snow*, *We Three Kings*, *Good King Wenceslas*, *Deck the Halls with Boughs of Holly*, and *Rudolph the Red-nosed Reindeer*, so everybody can join in!

The group will then break for Christmas and the New Year and resume its regular Tuesday dancing on 8th January. Over the Christmas/New Year period there are Christmas Party dances at several local folkdance clubs which members are invited to attend. For details, contact ...

Peter Meacock

ecd/at/greatglenu3a.co.uk

279 3600

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Evening Bridge

Members of the Tuesday evening bridge group at the Methodist church are asked to note that for December only we shall be playing at the Library on the second week (11th December) instead of the third week (18th December).

The Group wishes all Great Glen U3A members a very happy Christmas and a happy New Year.

Andy Tyler

eveningbridge/at/greatglenu3a.co.uk

259 2264 or 07879 234046

Family History

We shall meet as usual on 12th December but have decided not to meet on Boxing Day. We shall also meet as usual next month on 9th and 23rd January. All welcome at 9.30 a.m. in the Methodist Church Hall.

Eric Orbell

familyhistory/at/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

After the meeting on 12th December, there will be no further meetings till 9th January. Joyeux Noel!

Jim Picken

frenchconversation/at/greatglenu3a.co.uk

259 2035

History

We've just had our annual History quiz. The next History group meeting is on Monday 7th January 2019 at 2.00 p.m. in the Methodist Hall when we shall be looking further at the Plantagenets.

Everyone is welcome.

Peter Russell

history/at/greatglenu3a.co.uk

01572 822198

History of Art

The meeting scheduled for 19th December has been cancelled. Meetings will start again on 16th January when we shall be looking at the paintings of Fred Cumming. Never heard of him? Come to the meeting and find out what he has been painting.

David Brooke

historyofart/at/greatglenu3a.co.uk

259 2520

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/at/greatglenu3a.co.uk

212 2469

Line Dancing

This year's line dancing will finish for the Christmas break on Thursday 13th December. We shall re-start in the new year on 3rd January in the Sports Hall at 1.30 p.m. New members are always welcome, so if you feel that you need some regular exercise after all the Christmas feasting, do come along and give line dancing a try. It is good for both the body and the brain, and it is great fun too. Happy Christmas to you all.

Jackie Jordan

linedancing/at/greatglenu3a.co.uk

259 9199

Military History

We shall meet as usual on Wednesday 2nd January at 10.00am in the Methodist Church Hall.

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Eric Orbell

militaryhistory/at/greatglenu3a.co.uk

259 2095

Mini Bridge

I would like to wish everyone at Minibridge a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. This year we shall not be playing over the Christmas period. The proposed session on Thursday 27th December is cancelled and as New Year's Day is a Tuesday we shall not be playing again until Tuesday 8th January. Hope to see you all in the New Year.

Terry Evans

minibridge/at/greatglenu3a.co.uk

259 2102

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 at this activity? It's very easy to play and it provides gentle exercise and lots of fun. The final session for 2018 will be on 14th December. Then 11th January next year.

Peter Russell

kurling/at/greatglenu3a.co.uk

01572 822198

Papercraft

Our New Year meeting will be on Monday 21st January at 2.00 p.m. Meanwhile have a great Christmas and make sure you send all those lovely cards that you have made over the last two months. No meeting in December.

Stella Orbell

papercraft/at/greatglenu3a.co.uk

259 2095

Pub Lunches

All those wanting details of forthcoming pub lunches should contact ...

Margaret Hudson

271 5064

Quiz Group

We will not be meeting in December as the fourth Monday falls on Christmas Eve. The next meeting will be on 28th January when Peter Russell will be asking the questions.

Rachael Snashall

quiz/at/greatglenu3a.co.uk

259 2830

Singing for Fun

Wednesday 19th December at 2.00 p.m. in the Methodist Hall
Carols and other Christmas songs
Everyone is welcome

Peter Russell

chairman/at/greatglenu3a.co.uk

01572 822198

Sunday Singles Lunch

Meetings for December and January take place at the Leicestershire Golf Club. We are looking for a new venue thereafter.

Judith Measom

279 1509

Swimming

There is no swimming in December. The next swim will be on 9th January.

David Brooke

swimming/at/greatglenu3a.co.uk

259 2520

Table Tennis

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We are taking a Christmas break on 24th and 31st December. After that we meet again on 7th January.

Janet Freestone

tabletennis/at/greatglenu3a.co.uk

259 2803

Table Top Games

Our final session this year is at 2.00 p.m. on 13th December in the Methodist Chapel. We then look forward to welcoming members old and new on 10th January 2019, when we resume our monthly pattern of meeting on the second and fourth Thursdays. New members please phone so we know to expect you.

Helen Edwards tgames/at/greatglenu3a.co.uk 212 7547, or Eileen Appleby 259 251

Ukulele Group

After performing at the U3A Christmas Concert and for the Leicester Bowling Club, the Ukulele Group, "Uke3A", will be taking a rest until the new year when our normal meetings will resume on 7th January. Merry Christmas everyone.

Alan Mawby

ukes/at/greatglenu3a.co.uk

259 2599

Walking Without Stiles



The Group after a pleasant walk round at Glen Parva, waiting for well-deserved refreshment

The next walk will be on Tuesday, 29th January 2019 around and about Foxton village and locks. Everyone interested in joining in the walk please contact

John Johnson

212 2469 or 07527 520504

Elizabeth Cooke

walking/at/greatglenu3a.co.uk

270 4524 or 07957

288060

Writing for Pleasure

So far we have had two successful meetings in which we have looked at characterisation and setting when considering writing a short story. So now we have quite a long time to think of a plot and a story to interest our fellow authors. Our next meeting will be on the fourth Tuesday in January – Tuesday January 22nd at 2.00 p.m. (No meeting in December as it would have been on Christmas

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Day!) We should love it if there is anyone else who would like to join us. We are having fun and you are missing out!

Stella Orbell

259 2095

Animal Antics



**A duck, a skunk and a deer
Went out for dinner
At a Great Glen restaurant
One night.**

**When it came time to pay
The skunk didn't have a scent
The deer didn't have a buck
So they put the meal on the Duck's bill**



Editor's Note:

Dear readers, be assured that no one was harmed in the making of this tale. However please do NOT take these festive creatures as your seasonal role models. Have a wonderful Christmas and a peaceful, healthy and active New Year!