



Great Glen Newsletter
December 2019
Registered Charity No. 1099411

**A warm welcome to our new members:
Judy Mansfield, Angela Skerritt, Graham Harvison, Brian Elks,
and Valerie Hawes**

www.greatglenu3a.co.uk

Chair's Chat

Hello everyone

As winter frosts set in we may reflect that although heating costs are rising the cold is supposedly killing off some harmful bugs as well. The frost has certainly stripped the last few leaves off the trees overhanging my lawn and I have just completed this year's raking of the grass. No leaf blower on this occasion, you will be pleased to note, as I think the leaves were too wet and well embedded, so I have spared the environment and had some healthy exercise.

This year's Christmas Crackers, our in-house entertainment at the December monthly meeting, features some old favourites and some new faces. In the end we had a pleasing response to the request for talent. While ticket sales have been strong, there are still a few tickets available. The event is for the benefit of the Alzheimer's Society. Following November's much improved attendance; I look forward to seeing a packed house for a magnificent medley of seasonal

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music, carol singing, and rollicking readings and recitations, followed by a Christmas buffet. This year there will be more opportunity to join in, as well.

Your Committee has been pleased to learn of good progress in setting up the new and improved membership system (the Beacon system). You will be hearing more about this next year as we move towards the renewal of memberships. It should make life easier.

My very best wishes to you all for a merry Christmas and a happy and healthy New Year.

Robert Mansfield [chairman/ at /greatglenu3a.co.uk](mailto:chairman@greatglenu3a.co.uk)
270 8284

Committee News

Beacon Membership System

Great Glen U3A will shortly be joining the 400 U3As who already use the Third Age Trust's (TAT) Beacon Membership System. Several neighbouring U3As already use the system e.g. South Leicestershire and Countesthorpe. We will use the system to consolidate all our locally held membership and finance records onto one database held by the TAT.

Joint members will have a new/revised membership number as we need to dispense with the J numbering and have a unique number for each member. One member will retain the old number

without the J but the partner will have a new number.

We will need your help to check we have put the right information into the new system, and this will most

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likely be when we ask you to renew your subscription in February.

Roger Edwards, Treasurer

A message from the Membership Secretary

Following on from the Treasurer's information above, I am letting you know that a new system will be in place for the renewals due on 31 March 2020.

IF WE CURRENTLY HOLD AN E-MAIL ADDRESS FOR YOU, YOUR RENEWAL REMINDER WILL BE SENT TO YOU USING THIS E-MAIL ADDRESS. Please ensure that the e-mail address we hold is the one that you currently use.

If we do not hold an e-mail address for you, you will receive your renewal notice by post.

I will give further details of the renewal process in the January newsletter. We will do everything to make the process run smoothly but if there are any problems please let me know.

Janet Fanko [membership/ at /greatglenu3a.co.uk](mailto:membership@greatglenu3a.co.uk)

4624679

HELP!

A plaintive cry from John Johnson – he still has the waif and stray telescope to which no-one is claiming parentage. In the absence of any willing adopters for the telescope we may have to arrange sale of the item. If you can help in getting the telescope back to its owner (who did say that they would like it returned if

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no longer of any use) please contact John to arrange its return on 07527520504 or using the details below.

John Johnson [groupcoordinator/ at /greatglenu3a.co.uk](mailto:groupcoordinator@greatglenu3a.co.uk)

212 2469

East Midlands Regional Conference – Making a Difference

This conference is taking place at Eastwood Hall Conference Centre, Mansfield Road, Eastwood, NG16 3SS on Tuesday 21 April 2020. The speakers will be Professor Chris French – the psychology of false memory; and Sam Mauger the CEO of the Third Age Trust. There will also be break out groups to attend.

Please put the date in your diaries.

Christmas Crackers

There are still a few tickets left for this year's December monthly meeting – they will be available to purchase on the day – Tuesday 10 December – so come and join us for some light hearted fun, entertainment, and food! We look forward to seeing everyone there.

Members of the Great Glen U3A committee

A reminder for all Group Leaders

December and January are months that meetings are often cancelled due to Christmas and New Year festivities. Please can all group leaders ensure that they have advised the owners of their venues of any dates that there will no meeting held – this is to ensure we do not get charged for empty rooms. Thank you.

Monthly Meetings

**At our meeting on 10 December
2019 we will be having our
Christmas Entertainment
“Christmas Crackers”**

10 December 2019 *Great Glen u3a Christmas
entertainment GGu3a*

14 January 2020 *Leics Wildlife Hospital*

11 February 2020 *The Ukelele Sensation*
Mark Walsh

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 December – **Croquet Group**

14 January – **English Country
Dancing**

11 February – **Evening Duplicate
Bridge**

GREAT ORMOND STREET HOSPITAL

(November meeting)



At our November Monthly Meeting Marilyn Horner gave a fascinating and heart-warming account of the establishment and development of the Great Ormond Street (Children's) Hospital (GOSH). Marilyn is a volunteer ambassador of the GOSH Charity and has links to the hospital through her daughters and two sisters who were members of the medical staff.

Marilyn explained that GOSH was founded by Dr Charles West (1816-1895) who believed that sick children needed a dedicated hospital for treatment, shelter and nourishment and should include those who could not afford to pay for medical services. The hospital opened on the 14 February 1852 with just 10 bed spaces. It was funded by donations and legacies which included support from Charles Dickens and Queen Victoria who donated £100 and who became a patron of the hospital. Its mission 'Child First and Always' has remained the same throughout its 167 year history. A purpose built hospital building containing 100 beds, an operating theatre and an out-patients department was opened in the late 1800s and still forms part of the hospital premises today. From 1948 the day-to-day funding has been provided by the NHS. However, GOSH continues to rely heavily on charitable donations for new buildings, refurbishments, medical research and 'state of the art' medical

equipment. One of the hospital's most famous benefactors is James Barrie the author and creator of Peter Pan. In 1929 James Barrie gifted the copyright of Peter Pan to the hospital so that it receives into perpetuity all the income generated from Peter Pan books and films.

Throughout its history GOSH has been one of the world's leading children's hospitals. From its very beginning it has been at the forefront of both medical practice and treatment together with the general well-being and aftercare of its child patients and their parents. It recognised the vital role that women could play in medicine. Catherine Wood, for example, was a hospital nurse who developed a children's nursing training schedule. Dr Mildred Cook was the hospital's first female consultant and was the founder of child psychiatry in Britain. Whilst at GOSH she increased visiting hours for patients (originally just one hour on a Sunday) and encouraged a better appreciation of children's emotional needs and helped parents in their distress. More clinical achievements include the first heart and lung bypass machine for children (GOSH has conducted over 500 heart and/or lung transplants), the first bone marrow transplants and gene therapy trials for children born without fully functioning immune systems. Current research programmes include investigations into child leukaemia, rare diseases, the use of robotics in micro-surgery and new

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developments in sight and sound which represents the biggest group of child out-patients.

Today, GOSH has 4,700 members of staff, 1000 volunteers and receives approximately 238,000 outpatient visits a year (2018/19 figures). Over 50% of patients are referred to GOSH from outside of Greater London. GOSH has 63 different clinical specialities and provides the UK's widest range of specialist health services for children all located on one single site. Additional facilities that are provided range from free accommodation for parents, play teams for children who are in hospital for long periods, schooling, and a Chaplaincy and spiritual care which is available for parents, families and staff in those very sad situations when a child passes away.

Marilyn concluded an enlightening presentation by saying that GOSH is something that the whole country can be very proud of. However, we should not forget that this extraordinary hospital depends on significant charitable support in addition to its NHS funding.

Bill Maxted

GROUP NEWS

Groups Learning and having fun!

Art Group

We meet on the first and third Thursday of each month. Our next meeting will be on 2nd January 2020 and the theme for January is Winter Snow..

Rachael Snashall [art/ at /greatglenu3a.co.uk](http://art/at/greatglenu3a.co.uk)

259 2830

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Writing for Pleasure

My thanks to Robert for holding the fort in November and thanks too for your good wishes. Happy Christmas to you all.



We hope to have our next meeting on the 28 January at 2 p.m. when we shall have a look at your offerings over the Christmas break and try to come up with a plan for future meetings. No doubt we shall also have a go at a few fun exercises.

All levels of budding writers welcome. Just come along on the day

Stella Orbell [writing/ at /greatglenu3a.co.uk](mailto:writing@greatglenu3a.co.uk) 259 2095

French for Beginners – Lets Learn Together

Our meetings are on the first and third Tuesdays of the month, starting at 10.00 a.m. until 12.00 noon in the Ruth Warner room at the Methodist Church. The group's last meeting before Christmas will be 17 December and will start again on the 07 January 2020. To join this group please contact...

Jan Johnson [frenchbeginners/ at /greatglenu3a.co.uk](mailto:frenchbeginners@greatglenu3a.co.uk) 2122469

Needles and Pins

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 Connoll [needles/ at /greatglenu3a.co.uk](mailto:needles@greatglenu3a.co.uk) 07423 311013

History

The next meeting at the Methodist Hall is on Monday 06 January 2020, with a DVD yet to be chosen.

Peter Russell [history/ at /greatglenu3a.co.uk](mailto:history/at/greatglenu3a.co.uk) 01572 822198

Family History

Meetings are held in the Methodist Church Hall on the second and fourth Wednesdays each month. Our next meeting will be on 08 January 2020. If you would like to join us you will most welcome. Please contact....

Eric Orbell [familyhistory/ at /greatglenu3a.co.uk](mailto: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 in the Ruth Warner room at the Methodist Church. New members will be very welcome.

Beryl Connolly 07423 311 013

Papercraft

Happy Christmas to all. I hope Santa brings all the craft items you requested! No meeting in December. I hope to be able to have Papercraft on 20 January and look forward to seeing you then.

Stella Orbell [papercraft/ at /greatglenu3a.co.uk](mailto:papercraft/at/greatglenu3a.co.uk) 259 2095

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Military History

Military History meets on the first Wednesday each month at 10.00am in the Methodist Church Hall. Due to unforeseen circumstances there will be no meeting in January 2020 with the next meeting on 05 February 2020. New members welcome.

Eric Orbell [militaryhistory/ at /greatglenu3a.co.uk](mailto:militaryhistory@greatglenu3a.co.uk) 259 2095

French Conversation

We are having a short change in our routine, due to the illness of our leading linguist, Joan Stephens. We wish her a speedy recovery. While this emergency lasts we will not be meeting in the Methodist Room, but rather less formally in one of our homes. When we can see more clearly into the future, all members of the group will be informed and the information circulated in the Newsletter

Jim Picken [djpicken95/ at /gmail.com](mailto:djpicken95@gmail.com) 259 2035

Groups that Exercise and have fun!

New Age Kurling

We meet on the second and fourth Fridays each month at the Sports Hall. Our next meetings will be on 10 and 24 January 2020. 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.

Peter Russell [kurling/ at /greatglenu3a.co.uk](mailto:kurling@greatglenu3a.co.uk) 01572 822198

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Walking Without Stiles

Unfortunately the November walk was postponed due to a pretty damp forecast and very muddy conditions. We are not meeting in December (it would have been on Christmas Eve!!) .Therefore the next walk will be Tuesday 28 January 2020 when we hope to be able to do the postponed Great Glen walk at 10.30 am starting from Wych Elm Close (outside number 6) Great Glen. Graham Fanko will be leading the walk in a figure of eight centred on Dolly's café where we can get various drinks, snacks and meals.

If you would like to join the group or want further details please contact...

Elizabeth Cooke

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

270 4524 or 07957 288060

Indoor Bowls

We meet at Market Harborough Leisure Centre every Tuesday morning from 10am until 12 from October 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. Looking forward to seeing members old and new. If interested please contact...

Ann Spray

281 0324

Croquet

We meet at the Methodist Church Hall. There are three separate Croquet Groups:

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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.

There will be no Croquet on the following dates -
Tuesday's 24 December and 31 December, and
Thursdays 26 December and 02 January 2020.

I wish everyone a good Christmas and a happy New Year

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

John Lawson [jlawson123/ at /btinternet.com](mailto:jlawson123@btinternet.com) 2593421

Carpet Bowls

We meet every Thursday afternoon in the Village Hall from 2.00 to 4.00 p.m. We are growing in numbers but are always pleased to welcome new members. No previous experience necessary.

PLEASE NOTE Due to the election there will not be any bowls on Thursday 12 December 2019.

Due to the Christmas period there will not be any on Thursday 19 December and 26 December 2019, and owing to holidays and another event there will not be any on Thursdays 02 January, 09 January and 23 January 2020.

Hope to see everyone on Thursday 16 January 2020.

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

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Table Tennis

We will continue to play up to and including the 16 December and then take our Christmas break for the next two weeks. We recommence playing on the first Monday of 2020, 06 January.

Janet Freestone [alan.freestone/ at /mypostoffice.co.uk](mailto:alan.freestone@mypostoffice.co.uk) 259 2803

Swimming

There is no swimming in December. Sessions start again on January 8th 2020.

Seasons greetings to all swimmers! See you in the new year. Thank you for your support.

Frank Wilcock [swimming/ at /greatglenu3a.co.uk](mailto:swimming@greatglenu3a.co.uk) 4319706

Line Dancing

Line dancers meet on Thursday at 1.30pm at the Sports Hall. They say that line dancing does help strengthen muscles, and therefore ease some of the aches and pains that we all suffer at our age.

New dancers are always welcome, so do come along and give line dancing a try.

Jackie Jordan [jkj1506/ at /btinternet.com](mailto:jkj1506@btinternet.com) 259 9199

English Country Dancing

The ECD Group will continue dancing until Tuesday December 17 when we shall hold our "Christmas Party" afternoon. Members please note we shall start at 1.00pm instead of 1.30pm, and group members are invited to wear Christmas hats and jumpers and bring festive food to share! As is customary we shall dance

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to popular "Singalong" Christmas tunes and carols;- *Jingle Bells, 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*, that everybody can join in! We shall also try two old English dances - *Sir Roger De Coverley* that features in Charles Dickens' "A Christmas Carol" when the Ghost of Christmas Past took Scrooge back to Old Fezziwig's Christmas Party, and *In the Fields in Frost and Snow* which has an accompanying song of a young swain who has to tend the animals on his father's farm - a forerunner of the popular children's song "*Old MacDonald had a Farm*"!

The group will then break for Christmas and the New Year and resume its regular Tuesday dancing on January 07.

Over the Christmas/New Year period there are festive dances at several local folk dance clubs which members are invited to attend:- the Leicestershire and Rutland District Folk Committee is holding its annual "Xmas Mix" dance on Saturday December 07 when members of all the local clubs and U3A groups meet to dance to live music; then on Wednesday the local Burton Overy Club is holding a "Medieval Christmas" party with the popular band *Hobson's Choice* - a chance to try some very old (15th century) dances such as *Halfe Hannikin, Horses Brawle, Ould Almaine, Sellenger's Round* and *Graies Inne Maske*; all great fun!

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Then in the new year members of the group can celebrate "Burns Night" with Scottish dancing - both on the nearest Tuesday at U3A, and on the actual day (January 25) when the Group Leader, Peter, will be calling the dances at "Burns Night Supper and Ceilidh" in Oadby.

Finally, we wish all our readers *A Very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year* . Why not make it your resolution for 2020 to take up English Country Dancing and come along? Wassail!

Peter Meacock [ecd/ at /greatglenu3a.co.uk](mailto:ecd@greatglenu3a.co.uk) 279 3600

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@gmail.com) 259 2186

Groups that challenge our brains and still have fun!

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 will not be playing Minibridge on the 24 & 31 December. If anyone would like to join us please contact....

Terry Evans [minibridge/ at /greatglenu3a.co.uk](mailto:minibridge@greatglenu3a.co.uk) 259 2102

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Quiz Group

We meet again at 2 o'clock in the Methodist Hall on 27 January when the person asking the questions will be Mick Burton. New members welcome.

Rachael Snashall [quiz/ at /greatglenu3a.co.uk](mailto:quiz@greatglenu3a.co.uk) 259 2830

Table Top Games

Our final meeting this year is at 2:00pm on Thursday 12 December. We start back again on 09 January 2020. If you've not joined us before and have enjoyed playing board or card games over the Christmas holiday, why not come and give us a go? Please phone so we know to expect you or if you have any queries. Happy Christmas all!

Helen Edwards [ttgames/ at /greatglenu3a.co.uk](mailto:ttgames@greatglenu3a.co.uk)
212 7547, or *Eileen Appleby* 259 2513

Book Group (Mondays)

There will be no December meeting of the Monday Book Group. But there will be a Christmas lunch meet up at the Yews on Monday 09 December - 12.15 for 12.30. The next meeting of the group will be on 20 January at 2 pm in the Ruth Warner Room. The group will be discussing "The Big Sleep" by Raymond Chandler. Our February book will be "Diary of an Ordinary Woman " by Margaret Forster.

Liz Adams [books/ at /greatglenu3a.co.uk](mailto:books@greatglenu3a.co.uk) 271
6281

Book Group (Thursdays)

We shall have no meeting in December as I am sure we all have things to do on Boxing Day.

We resume in 2020 on 23 January with *Becoming Michele Obama* by Michele Obama.

New members will be made very welcome - 10.00 a.m. on the fourth Thursday of each month in the Ruth Warner room - anyone interested please contact ...

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

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. We should love to meet a few more new members in addition to one who has joined us following the Open Day - you will be made most welcome. **Please note** that the December bridge meeting in the Library will be on the 10 December and not the usual 3rd week of the month

Andy Tyler [eveningbridge/ at /greatglenu3a.co.uk](mailto:eveningbridge@greatglenu3a.co.uk) 07879 234046

Groups that socialise and have fun!

Sunday Singles

Our next lunch will be at the Leicestershire Golf Club on 08 December for our Christmas Lunch. And our

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dates for the early part of 2020 are January 12, February 09, March 08, and April 12.

Gentlemen are welcome to join our usual members.

Judith Measom

279 1509

Singing for fun

Come and exercise your lungs on the first Wednesday of February at 2pm in the Methodist Hall. Everyone is welcome; we're not a choir, just singing for fun!

Peter Russell singing/ at /greatglenu3a.co.uk 01572 822198

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

Ukulele Group

The Ukulele Group meet in the Church room on the first and third Monday of the month at 10am. After our last meeting this month (December) on the 16 we shall be celebrating with a Christmas Lunch at the Bell Inn, Burton Overy. Then we shall resume on January 06, 2020 followed by the 20 January. I hope to be able to

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include a photo next time showing the band in our new polo shirts. Merry Christmas to everybody.

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

259 2599

Garden Visits

Our Christmas Lunch on Friday 06 December at The Bell, Burton Overy and I look forward to seeing you all there. Our first meeting in 2020 will be on Friday 17 January

Linda Hobart. [gardenvisits/ at /greatglenu3a.co.uk](mailto:gardenvisits/at/greatglenu3a.co.uk). 367 0766

**and finally as we tuck into those little extras at
Christmas...**

TROUSERS

A lady was buying a regular size, off-the-peg trouser suit. The jacket fitted perfectly.

Unfortunately, too many lunches, Christmas pudding, mince pies, and glasses of wine meant that the waistband was a little tight.

“Don’t worry” said the cheerful saleswoman, we can alter that for a small charge.

The lady then pointed out that the trousers were too long and the saleswoman cheerfully agreed to alter them for FREE.

“Wait a minute” the lady queried.

“Why have you charged me for the waist alteration but not the length?”

“Well Madam,” said the saleswoman with a smile, “that’s because the length of your legs is not your fault!”

