



# Great Glen Newsletter

## December 2017

Registered Charity No. 1099411

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

A very warm welcome to our new members: Mervyn Davies, Walter James, Christine and David Noble, Anne Swierczek, and John and Sandra Williams

### Chairman's Chat



Hello everyone.

As I sit here writing this piece, I'm looking forward to our December meeting organised by our Music & Good Company Group. It will start with another welcome visit from the children of St Cuthbert's Primary School and we shall have contributions from individual members and some sing-along tunes from our Ukulele Group. And of course, there is programme of recordings selected by members of the M&GC Group.

Then, as we get closer to Christmas Day, why not take a break from your Christmas preparations and come along to the Singing-for-Fun session on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> December and join in singing some carols and popular seasonal songs. (Methodist Hall; 2.00 p.m.) A reminder that we are looking for additional committee members to help in the running of our U3A. You can contact any committee member about this.

I also need to let you know that your committee has been looking carefully at our ongoing financial position and we have concluded that a change to the £1 meeting charge is now unavoidable. I appreciate that it's not a very Christmassy topic and the detail will be in the next newsletter. So I'd like to say, in this final chat for the year, on behalf of the committee, a big "Thank You" to all our Group Leaders and other helpers for the work they have done during 2017. And to all our members, I wish you all of the joys and happy memories that the festive season brings. A merry Christmas to you all.

*Peter Russell*

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

271 0889

### Committee News

#### Access to Methodist Church Rooms

As a result of a recent unfortunate car accident the kitchen door at the Great Glen Methodist Church is out of service pending repairs. Until further notice the entrance/exit to the Main Hall will be via the door at the Oaks Road end. Entry to the Ruth Warner Room will be up the steps, via the double doors and along the corridor. Anyone unable to do this should go via the Main Hall.

*Peter Russell*

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

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#### U3A 2018 Diaries

I still have a few U3A 2018 diaries for sale. At £2.50 they are good value. Anyone wishing to buy one should see me at the December monthly meeting or contact me direct.

*Stella Orbell*

[stellamo@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:stellamo@hotmail.co.uk)

259 2095

## Register to Receive the National U3A Newsletter Online

To receive the U3A national newsletter online together with other updates and national and regional news items, please visit [u3a.org.uk/about/newsletter](http://u3a.org.uk/about/newsletter) to register. The process is very straightforward.

## Monthly Meetings

**Our meeting on 12<sup>th</sup> December features Christmas Entertainment organised by our Music & Good Company Group. Admission is by ticket (£2, payable in advance or at the door for the benefit of REMAP). Members and prospective members welcome.**

12 December 2017	<b>Christmas Entertainment</b>	<i>Music &amp; Good Company Group</i>
10 January 2018	<b>Queen of the Air – The Life of ‘Amy Johnson’</b>	<i>Roy Smart</i>
13 February 2018	<b>The King in the Car Park and his Re-interment</b>	<i>Roy Mitchell</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).*

- 12 December – **Book Group**
- 10 January – **French Conversation and French Beginners Groups**
- 13 February – **Short Croquet Group**

## Leicester Trams

*(November monthly meeting)*

Toni Smith provided the warm-up with a marvellous speeded up film, complete with Benny Hill theme tune, depicting the setting up, operation and dismantling of our U3A gazebo at this year’s Wheelbarrow Race Fête. We certainly saw some of our stalwarts in a new light!



Malcolm Riddle then gave us a most informative and well-illustrated talk on Leicester’s trams. His presentation began with the introduction of the first horse-drawn bus in 1863 and ended with the forlorn remains of some of the few motor trams to be found decaying quietly in the county – or being lovingly restored by enthusiasts. Though the talk dealt with many technical aspects, including the evolution of methods of power, vehicle design, route and track development, facilities and impact on traffic flows, it was pitched at a readily accessible level. Much of the track lies buried beneath Leicester’s

streets. Who knows – will Leicester one day join the growing number of cities reintroducing modern trams?

*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 submissions for the next Newsletter is noon on **Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2018**.

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

## OUTINGS

### 'Scrooge' at Curve Theatre: Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> December 2017

The coach will leave from the Village Hall at 1.15 p.m. on the above date. The performance starts at 2.30 p.m. Tickets will be issued on the day.

*Pat Tate*

259 1001

### Kilworth House Open Air Theatre: June 2018

The outing to Kilworth House is on Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2018 to see a matinée performance of Guys and Dolls and the coach will leave the Great Glen Village Hall at 1.00 p.m. The cost per person is £40.50 which includes the price of the coach. (Please note that the theatre ticket prices have increased by 10%.) If you would like to go, bookings with payment will be taken at the U3A monthly meeting on 12<sup>th</sup> December by cash or cheque and NO LATER THAN 9<sup>th</sup> January when cash only will be accepted - sorry no cheques. If you have any queries please contact:

*Linda Hobart*

[lindahobart@outlook.com](mailto:lindahobart@outlook.com)

319 8095

## LEARN SOMETHING NEW

### NEW! Fabric Flower Wreath

**Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> February 2018, 1.30 – 4.00 p.m. in the Methodist Hall**



We have a new offering for all our crafters! Rachael Snashall is going to show us how to make this lovely fabric flower wreath. You could make individual flowers to use as a decoration or as a brooch – lots of possibilities!

So that we can finish the wreath, the class will run from 1.30 p.m. to 4.00 p.m. – an extra half hour. All materials will be provided but you will need to bring a sewing needle, thread (colour doesn't matter as it won't be seen), a few pins and a pair of sharp scissors. The cost will be £2.50 including materials.

There are only 12 places so please sign up if you would like to come along.

*Sue Russell*

[sue@suerussell.co.uk](mailto:sue@suerussell.co.uk)

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## T'ai Chi – Update

**Tuesdays 4.00 – 5.00 p.m. 9<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> January in the Methodist Hall**

We had lots of people interested in coming along to these sessions and we currently have a full class and a waiting list. Rosie will take as many as she can safely manage in the class. Preference will be given to those who signed up first **and are expecting to attend all 4 sessions**. I will call you early in January to check that you are still expecting to come along and to explain what you need to wear. I'll offer any places that become available to those on the waiting list, in order. After we have run these four sessions we will see if there is anything we can do for those who are interested but didn't get in this time. Keep an eye on the newsletter and / or the website ([greatglenu3a.co.uk](http://greatglenu3a.co.uk)).

Sue Russell

[sue@suerussell.co.uk](mailto:sue@suerussell.co.uk)

271 0889

## GROUP NEWS

### Art Group

Our last meeting for 2017 will be on 7<sup>th</sup> December. We meet again on 4<sup>th</sup> January when we have a Winter theme.

Rachael Snashall

[rsnashall@hotmail.com](mailto:rsnashall@hotmail.com)

259 2830

### Book Group

Book Group will not be meeting on the third Monday in December. Instead we shall be meeting for lunch at the Yews on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> December at 12.30 p.m. prompt.

Liz Adams

[lizadams271@gmail.com](mailto:lizadams271@gmail.com)

271 6281

### Carpet Bowls

This is just to let you know that the Carpet Bowls Group is now taking a break until the new year. The next meeting is on Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2018 at 2.00 p.m. at the Village Hall. All welcome.

Peter Stanley [Peterandphyllis.stanley@btinternet.com](mailto:Peterandphyllis.stanley@btinternet.com) 259 2152

### Short Croquet Group

There will be no meetings on 12<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> December. Best wishes to all for a snow free Christmas and a kind 2018.

John Lawson

259 3421

### English Country Dancing

#### Seasonal Greetings to Country Dancers everywhere - *Wassail!*



The ECD Group will finish its 2017 meetings on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> December when we shall hold our "Christmas Party" afternoon. Group members are invited to bring festive food to share; please note we shall start at 1.00 p.m. instead of 1.30 p.m. We shall dance off excess calories with some traditional seasonal dances, such as *The Merry Wassail* (1651), *The Punch Bowl* (1701), *In the Fields of Frost and Snow* (1713), *Round About Our Coal Fire* (1766), and *The Goose and Gridiron* (1768). We shall also have a "Singalong" with modern dances written for popular 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*





### Table Top Games

Our final session this year is on 14<sup>th</sup> December. We'll be back in our usual slots of second and fourth Thursdays each month in January, so if you fancy an afternoon in the warmth and wonder what games we have, do come and join us (no obligation to come a second time, but we hope you do!) Following the resignation of our group founder we welcome a new joint leader, Eileen, whose contact details are below.

Helen Edwards            212 7547                            Eileen Appleby            259 2513

### Ukulele Group

We meet on the first and third Mondays of the month in the Ruth Warner room at 10.00 a.m. Please contact the leader of the Group, if interested in joining.

Alan Mawby                            [alanmawby@btinternet.com](mailto:alanmawby@btinternet.com)            2592599

## UKE 3A Hits the Road!



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



Your editor sends you all very best wishes for a happy and peaceful Christmas and a healthy 2018, and warmest thanks to all those who have contributed. The U3A is entirely dependent on its members and their efforts.

*Robert Mansfield*