



# Great Glen Newsletter

**February 2019**

Registered Charity No. 1099411

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

A warm welcome to our new members: Joyce Ball, Beryl Bedder, Lorraine Buckley, Berni Colbert, Christine and Gary Glover, Anthony Goodman, Barry and Elizabeth Miller and Sheila Wright

## Chairman's Chat



Hello everyone

We Brits talk a lot about the weather but I'm extremely grateful for the mild conditions this winter. Sue and I are driving regularly to Great Glen from Uppingham and the road conditions (and the scenery en route) couldn't be better for the time of year.

So now it's the time when we start our membership renewals. You'll all be receiving your renewal forms this month. I hope that you feel your membership is worthwhile and will join us for another year. Can I stress the

importance of ticking the box to continue receive the Third Age magazine. We are now legally obliged to ask this question as the distribution is handled by a separate company. See Sue's piece later in this newsletter.

It's good news on the committee recruitment front. We have a volunteer to take over as newsletter editor from Robert, namely Lynda Williams, who will work alongside Robert before talking over after the AGM. Thank you, Lynda. Of course, any member can be nominated to become part of our committee and if that appeals to you see the item later in this newsletter for details.

And to end, we are looking for more ideas for our one-off Learn Something New sessions. If you have suggestions whether for something crafty or technical or just plain interesting, then contact Sue Russell or me and we'll see what can be done.

Make the most of your U3A membership in 2019. Best wishes.

*Peter Russell*

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

01572 822198

## Committee News

### Interested in Joining the Committee?

Great Glen U3A would have to cease its existence if it had no Trustee Committee. We have been successful in finding volunteers recently, but some of our existing members are stepping down at the next AGM, and we should be pleased to recruit more now. All you need to do in the first instance is to return a completed nomination form to the Chairman (or any Committee member). Forms are available on the website, at the Reception Desk for monthly meetings and at the Methodist Hall. The next step would be an exploratory chat about what is involved and how you could best contribute.

*Robert Mansfield*

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

270 8284

## Membership Renewals

First, thank you to everyone who volunteered to help with the distribution of letters. Many hands (or feet!) make light work and your offers of help are appreciated. You will be receiving your letter and Renewal Form in the next week or so, reminding you that your membership subscription is due soon. The letter gives full details of how and when you can pay your subscription.

Changes to Data Protection rules mean that in order to receive the Third Age Matters Magazine **YOU MUST SELECT THE CHECKBOX ON THE FORM GIVING YOUR PERMISSION TO SHARE YOUR ADDRESS AND RETURN YOUR RENEWAL FORM** with your payment. If we don't have your signed permission, we cannot arrange for you to continue to receive the magazine, which is included in a full subscription.

Last year our membership responded so well to appeals to pay by bank transfer or cash, rather than by cheque, that we avoided excess bank charges. We are hoping to do as well this year. You can pay in person at the Monthly Meeting in February, March or April or at the Methodist Hall 10.00 to 12 noon on Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> February or 2.00 to 4.00 p.m. on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> March. (If you prefer, you can deliver your renewal form and payment by hand to Janet Fanko, 6 Wych Elm Close, Great Glen, LE8 9GY.) Thank you for supporting our U3A and I hope you will continue to do so.

Sue Russell

[membership/at/greatglenU3A.co.uk](http://membership/at/greatglenU3A.co.uk)

01572 822 198

## Monthly Meetings

**At our meeting on 12<sup>th</sup> February Josephine Burgess will talk to us about *Save the Children*.**

12 February 2019	<b><i>Save the Children</i></b>	<i>Josephine Burgess</i>
12 March 2019	<b><i>Transport Technology</i></b>	<i>Terry Spall</i>
9 April 2019	<b><i>Stormy Stories and Tragic Tales</i></b>	<i>Fools Gold</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 February – **Pub Lunches Group**  
12 March – **Sunday Singles**  
9 April – **Swimming Group**

## Tribute to Les Dawson (January meeting)



It came as an unwelcome surprise to hear that Mike Leonard had decided to retire from the speaker circuit and that his Tribute to Les Dawson was to be his final talk to Great Glen U3A. Mike went out on a high. Having seen little of Les Dawson as a comic and knowing almost nothing about him, I confess to awaiting this event without great enthusiasm. We were however treated to an astonishing and empathetic account beginning with an early life without apparent promise, rather a blundering litany of failures and misfortunes. But Les Dawson was a man of character and pluck who, having found his metier as a comic, was able to draw upon his varied and somewhat chaotic experiences to become a giant in that world. Whatever our prior sentiments, I am sure we all ended up wondering at his spirit and impressed by his ultimate great success.

*Robert Mansfield*

## GROUP NEWS

### Art Group

The theme for 7<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> February is painting with acrylics. We shall be watching a short video on the basics of acrylic painting as an introduction.

*Rachael Snashall*

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

259 2830

### Astronomy Group



1051648064 FreeArt ©

The Group meets on the first Monday of the month at 2.00 p.m. in the Ruth Warner room. Anyone interested in joining this group should call me or just come along on the day. **We are also looking for someone to take on the running of this group. Anyone interested in helping with this, please contact ...**

*John Johnson*

[astronomy/at/greatglenu3a.co.uk](http://astronomy/at/greatglenu3a.co.uk)

212 2469

### Book Group (Thursdays)

Our next meeting is on Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> February at 10.00 a.m. in the Ruth Warner Room.

*Patricia Mansfield*

[patriciamansfield/at/btinternet.com](http://patriciamansfield/at/btinternet.com)

270 8284

### 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 new members, so why not come along and give carpet bowls a try? We meet every Thursday afternoon in the Village Hall from 2.00 to 4.00 p.m. No previous experience necessary. You will be made most welcome.

*Peter Stanley*

[carpetbowls/at/greatglenu3a.co.uk](http://carpetbowls/at/greatglenu3a.co.uk)

259 2152

## English Country Dancing

The Group is thriving with regular attendances in the high teens to low twenties which means we can try a good variety of dances. In late January, with a record attendance of 24, we finally managed to dance a Sicilian Circle - an ambition of the Group Leader since the group started over three years ago!

On 12<sup>th</sup> February the Group will be holding its belated "Xmas Lunch" at The Yews hostelry, before our normal dancing - hopefully a glass of wine won't affect too much our distinction of "right" from "left"!

Several members enjoyed a *Burns Night Ceilidh* at St Peter's Centre in Oadby on 26<sup>th</sup> January: the evening featured a Haggis supper, Pipe music and the Rabbe Burns "Ode to the Haggis" before most of the 80 plus attendees took to the floor for some Scottish-style dances called by the ECD Group Leader, Peter. February and March bring several more public dances that group members may choose to attend including the *Burton Overy Club's Annual Dance* on 9<sup>th</sup> March when the dance Caller will be the nationally-known Ivan Aitken supported by the superb band Kelly's Eye – a fun-filled evening is guaranteed! And then on the following day members have a chance to don their Georgian/Regency period finery for a *Playford* costume Ball at the Bede House in Higham Ferrers, Northamptonshire!

We continue to meet weekly on Tuesday afternoons 1.30 to 3.30 p.m. in the Sports Hall

For further details contact ...

*Peter Meacock*

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

279 3600

## Family History

We shall meet next on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> February and Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> February. Both meetings start at 9.30 a.m. in the Methodist Church Hall.

*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. New members will be very welcome.

*Beryl Connolly*

07423 311 013

## Garden Visits

Our next meeting is on Friday 15<sup>th</sup> February, when we are visiting The Botanic Gardens at Glebe Road in Oadby to see their snowdrops. We shall be leaving the Village Hall at 2.00 p.m. with those members who are in need of a lift. Afterwards we are going to The Cow and Plough who, I am pleased to say, are NOW providing us with tea AND cakes for the price of £7 per person. Please let me know as soon as possible if you would like to come as I shall be giving them our numbers shortly. If you put your name down last month and cannot now attend **please** let me know so that I am able to adjust those numbers accordingly. Thank you.

*Linda Hobart*

[gardenvisits/at/geatglenu3a.co.uk](mailto:gardenvisits/at/geatglenu3a.co.uk)

319 8095

## History

The next History Group meeting is on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> March 2019 at 2.00 p.m. in the Methodist Hall when we shall be viewing a DVD on the history of Fabergé. Everyone is welcome.

*Peter Russell*

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

01572 822198

### History of Art

Meetings of the Group are on hold until June, as your Group Leader is indisposed. A programme has been prepared, so if someone is prepared to take this on the programme can continue. Anyone interested should contact me.

*David Brooke*                      [historyofart/at/greatglenu3a.co.uk](mailto: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](mailto:frenchbeginners/at/greatglenu3a.co.uk)                      212 2469

### Military History

The next Military History meeting will be on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> March at 10.00 a.m. in the Methodist Church Hall when we shall start a new series of meetings covering the War of 1812 against the USA.

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

### Needles and Pins

We 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 Connolly*                      [needles/at/greatglenu3a.co.uk](mailto:needles/at/greatglenu3a.co.uk)                      07423 311013

### 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. This month's sessions on 8<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> February at the Sports Centre (next to the village hall) at 10.00 a.m.

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

### Papercraft

The next meeting will take place on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> February when we shall be tackling iris folding again, so you will need sellotape and small scissors. Please bring an extra £1 if you would like to use the new pre-cut shapes as I have to buy them in. See you there.

*Stella Orbell*                      [papercraft/at/greatglenu3a.co.uk](mailto: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

The next meeting of the Quiz Group will be on Monday 25<sup>th</sup> February. Rachael will be asking the questions.

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

### Singing for Fun

Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> March at 2.00 p.m. in the Methodist Hall

More Songs from Shows and Musicals

Everyone is welcome

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

### **Sunday Singles**

Lunches for the next few months will continue at the Leicestershire Golf Club. The next dates are: Sundays 10<sup>th</sup> February, 10<sup>th</sup> March, 14<sup>th</sup> April and 12<sup>th</sup> May. Gentlemen are welcome to join our usual members.

*Judith Measom*

279 1509

### **Swimming**

I am holding the fort for David Brooke as he is currently indisposed. No swimming on 20<sup>th</sup> February as it is half term. Attendance has been in the low twenties so far this year, so there is room for some more swimmers of any standard. It's been cold outside, but it is warm in the pool and showers at the Grammar School. Why not start getting "beach ready" in the pool this month?

*Frank Wilcock*

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

431 9706

### **Table Top Games**

Our next meetings are on 14<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> February at 2.00 p.m. in the Methodist Chapel. You are always welcome to join our small friendly group. We have a variety of card and board games, or you can bring your own to share. Please phone so we know to expect you.

*Helen Edwards* [ttgames/at/greatglenu3a.co.uk](mailto:ttgames/at/greatglenu3a.co.uk) 212 7547, or *Eileen Appleby* 259 251

### **Tai Chi Group**

I have taken over leadership of the Group for the time being as Rosie Nightingale is currently not well. She will attend when she feels up to it. A consequence of this is that we are regretfully unable to take on new members for a while.

*Lynda Woodford*

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

259 2186

### **Ukulele Group**

Our meetings continue to be held on the first and third Mondays of the month in the Ruth Warner room at the Methodist Hall, from 10.00 a.m. until noon. Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> February was WORLD UKULELE DAY and several of our band joined Market Harborough Ukulele Group to celebrate with a mixture of solo and group performances at the Congregational Hall.

*Alan Mawby*

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

259 2599

### **Walking Without Stiles**

The next walk, to be led by Elizabeth Cooke is on 26<sup>th</sup> February: meet at 10.30 a.m. at Shady Lane arboretum for a walk around the arboretum and golf course with a coffee stop in Evington.

*John Johnson*

212 2469 or 07527 520504

*Elizabeth Cooke*

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

270 4524 or 07957

288060

### **Writing for Pleasure**

Do come and join us for a fun afternoon. Just bring pen and paper. We are concentrating on writing stories at the moment but we also do some exercises in the Group. You do not need any expertise to join in. Next meeting 2.00 p.m. Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> February in the Ruth Warner Room.

*Stella Orbell*

259 2095

