



Great Glen Newsletter

February 2020

A warm welcome to our new members:

Sally Wassall, Christine Wigley, David and Diane Richardson, Elaine Smith,
Rosemary Hincks, Stewart Peterson, Ian and Valerie Bowler,
& Caroline Howard

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

Chair's Chat



Hello everyone

I hope that I do not tempt providence by suggesting that Spring may be arriving a tad early this year. Our lawn is no longer waterlogged, though it has (once again!) been judged still too wet and damaged for its annual aeration and scarification. But it is cheering to see this year's snowdrops and crocuses showing their

fresh colours.

The Shared Learning Project has slightly changed its focus and is now contrasting Great Glen just before World War 2 and the present day, with a focus on local occupations. We are also looking at interactions between types of occupations (and methods of working) and factors such as changes in land use, transport, technology, population size, leisure, aspirations ... So far we have completed an analysis of the Population Register for 1939 and we are well into a survey of local employers. We are

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drawing on some published local research. Members' contributions are starting to come in, and we need plenty more. Please contact Toni Smith *tel: 0116 259 3886*) if you have (or know someone who might provide) photographs, pictures, artefacts or information that might help to illustrate our 'Then and Now' theme or you are interested in taking part. Wherever you live, you can help with research or with items typifying immediately pre-war.

Our AGM is fast approaching (12 May). Before then we need to have a full Trustee Committee willing to stand for 2020/2021. I have just received the sad news that Stella Orbell will be standing down after many years of committed service as Chair and Business Secretary. At the very least we are looking for one other Trustee, ideally (but not necessarily) able to undertake the role of Business Secretary to take brief notes of our meetings, produce the minutes on a computer and deal with correspondence. Please contact me if you may be interested.

Your Committee has been taking seriously advice from the Third Age Trust about governance. Accordingly, we have now adopted a formal Accessibility and Welfare policy, which will shortly be displayed on our website (www.greatglenu3a.co.uk), and I am pleased to announce that we have just appointed Lynn Francis as our Disability and Welfare Officer. Lynn (*email: welfare/at/greatglenu3a.co.uk tel: 0116 259 2685*) is now the first point of contact for any member or prospective member who has a concern about these matters. We have also adopted a Members Code of Conduct, as recommended. This is also to be found on the website, together with the procedure to be followed in those very rare instances of a breach of the code.

Robert Mansfield chairman/at/greatglenu3a.co.uk 270 8284

Committee News

MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS 2020/2021

Your renewal notifications will be with you, either by email, or letter, during the next couple of weeks. If you have not received a notification by the end of February please call me on 0116 462 4679. If I am not there to take your call please leave a message and I will get back to you.

Janet Fanko membership/at/greatglenu3a.co.uk 4624679

Monthly Meetings

COMING SOON

**At our meeting on 11 February 2020
we will be having a talk about
“The Ukulele Sensation”**

Renowned speaker and actor **Mark Walsh** shares his life experiences with us. Mark appears all round the world in theatre shows and cabaret, and is a regular guest on BBC Radio 2's 'Friday Night is Music Night'. Often to be seen at the Hackney Empire and the London Palladium, he is rated as one of the best ukulele players in the world. Mark is Chairman of 'The Good Old Days' at Leeds City of Varieties Theatre.

**We should be in for a real treat. Be there!
Doors open at 10.00 a.m. for coffee and tea.**

11 February 2020 *The Ukulele Sensation*

Mark Walsh

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10 March 2020 ***Rutland – Multum in Parvo*** Richard Adams

14 April 2020 ***Another Icarus*** Roy Smart

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, tea and sugar are provided. Please bring milk (2 litres).

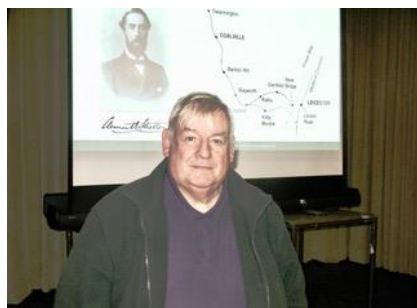
11 February – **Evening Duplicate Bridge**

10 March – **Family History**

14 April – **The French Groups**

Clement Edward Stretton and the Leicester and Swannington Railway

(January Meeting)



Bis Biswell stepped into the breach at very short notice to give us a fascinating illustrated account of Clement Stretton and the history of the Leicester and Swannington Railway. Its beginnings lay in

the high cost and inconvenience of transporting coal from collieries in the Coalville area to Leicester. Clement Stretton was the prime mover behind the development of the railway, including the famous Swannington incline, which halved the cost of coal in Leicester and greatly boosted demand from the collieries. The talk also included a description of the work of the Swannington Heritage Trust and the various places of interest it has restored and opened to the public.

Patricia Mansfield

Group Outing

The History group are planning a day trip to The Black Country Living Museum (<https://www.bclm.co.uk/>) on Monday 01 June 2020 leaving Great Glen at 8.30am and

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returning by 6pm. If anyone is interested in joining us please contact Elizabeth as soon as possible at latest before 01 March by email cookes/at/cookes-uk.com or text or call my mobile 07957 288 060.

GROUP NEWS

Groups Learning and having fun!

Art Group

We will continue with the theme of Winter on 20 February. The March dates are 05 & 19 which are Thursdays. We would welcome any new people who like to draw or paint.

Rachael Snashall art/at/greatglenu3a.co.uk 259 2830

Writing for Pleasure

After a small hiatus over the past two months, the Group resumes its regular meetings on the fourth Tuesdays at 2.00 p.m. in the Ruth Warner Room. At our next meeting, on 25 February Jim Picken will present a proposal for a project to which we should all be able to contribute, drawing upon our own life experiences, and a format for our meetings. The business of the meeting will be to discuss and develop this into 'bite size' chunks to form the basis of future activity. If you enjoy writing of any kind this would be an excellent time to join the Group, to which newcomers will be most welcome.



Robert Mansfield writing/at/greatglenu3a.co.uk 270 8284

French for Beginners – Lets Learn Together

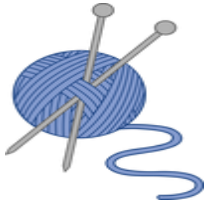
The French for beginners group are meeting on the first and third Tuesdays of the month in the Ruth Warner Room at the Methodist Church. We start at 10.00 am until 12.00. New members will be

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made very welcome. If you are interested in joining this group please contact...

Jan Johnson frenchbeginners/at/greatglenu3a.co.uk 212 2469

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 Connolly needles/at/greatglenu3a.co.uk 7423 311013

History

The next meeting at the Methodist Hall is on Monday 02 March, 2pm. Eric will be talking about Diaries of 1815. Everyone is welcome.

Peter Russell 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. The February meetings will be on Wednesdays 12 & 26 at 9.30am. In addition we are also planning a 'Try Something New' for those of you who would like to start finding out about your Family History. Watch this space!

If you would like to join us you will most welcome. Please contact...

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

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in the Ruth Warner room at the Methodist Church. New members will be very welcome.

Beryl Connolly

07423 311 013

Papercraft

The Group next meets on 17 February with Rachael kindly in charge again. I hope I may see you all in the not too distance future. It was lovely to have a new member last time – come and join us.

Stella Orbell papercraft/at/greatglenu3a.co.uk

259 2095

Military History



Military History meets on the first Wednesday each month at 10.00am in the Methodist Church Hall. Our March meeting will be at 10.00am on Wednesday 04 March when we will continue with our look at the career of the Duke of Marlborough. No pre-knowledge is required. New members welcome.

Eric Orbell militaryhistory/at/greatglenu3a.co.uk

259 2095

French Conversation



We continue to delight in (and sometimes mangle) the French language. We meet every Wednesday in the Ruth Warner room, and would welcome inquiries from would-be francophones as well as those wanting to use their language skills.

Jim Picken frenchconversation/at/greatglenu3a.co.uk 259 2035

Groups that Exercise and have fun!



New Age Curling

The next two sessions are at 10 a.m. on Fridays – 14 and 28 February in the Sports Centre next to the village hall.

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

Walking Without Stiles



The next walk will be Tuesday 25 February 2020 when we hope to do a walk exploring the pathways of Kibworth Beauchamp starting 10.30 am at the large lay-by on the west of the A6. We will visit a cafe in the centre of Kibworth where we can get various drinks, snacks and meals.

The paths may be muddy in places so please wear suitable footwear. For more information please contact me by email, phone or mobile phone.

If you have any queries about the walk or if you would like to join the group 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.

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Experience is not required. We look 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:



Group A Thursday morning 10.00 a.m. till 11.30 a.m.

Tony Baxter

Group B Thursday morning 11.30 a.m. till 1.00 p.m.

Len Sumpter

Group C Tuesday afternoon 1.30 p.m. till 3.15 p.m. Brian Purkiss
if you are interested in joining contact the organiser for the session you would like to join at..... croquet/at/greatglenu3a.co.uk

Carpet Bowls

We meet every Thursday afternoon in the Village Hall from 2.00 to 4.00 p.m. We are a very friendly group and will welcome any newcomers'

Peter Stanley carpetbowls/at/greatglenu3a.co.uk

259 2152

Table Tennis

We meet every Monday at the Sports Hall and our next meeting is on Monday 17 February.

Janet Freestone tabletennis/at/greatglenu3a.co.uk

259 2803

Swimming



Swimming sessions are on Wednesdays at 1:30 at the Leicester Grammar School pool, except on 19 February when it will be closed for half term. All welcome.

Frank Wilcock swimming/at/greatglenu3a.co.uk 431 9706

Line Dancing

New members are always welcome, and line dancing is very easy to pick up. Yes, you will make mistakes, we all do, but you will

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have lots of laughs in the process. Line dancing is meant to be fun, not a competition, 'Strictly' it ain't!!!

I look forward to seeing you all on Thursday 13 February in the Sports Hall at 1.30.

Jackie Jordan [linedancing/at/greatglenu3a.co.uk](mailto:linedancing@greatglenu3a.co.uk) 259 9199

English Country Dancing

We continue to meet weekly on Tuesday afternoons 1.30 to 3.30pm in the Youth Centre/Sports Hall. Very pleasingly, attendances have been in the mid-twenties recently, which has allowed us to do dances in a good variety of formations; we always try to include as many people as possible so that few are left out.

The Group held its "belated" Christmas lunch at The Yews on Tuesday 28 January, the usual convivial get-together, and then proceeded to dance as usual, despite full "tummies"!

Several members attended the *Burns Night Celebration* at St Peters Centre in Oadby on 25 January; the evening featured a Haggis supper, live music and the Rabbin Burns "Ode to the Haggis" before many of the 96 attendees took to the floor for some lively Scottish ceilidh dances called by the ECD Group Leader, Peter. The week earlier some members attended a *New Year Tea Dance* at Burton Overy on 19 January with live music from the ever-popular band *Kelly's Eye* and dance-calling by the nationally-known "Wrights of Lichfield", Kathryn and David Wright. February and March bring other public "dancers-dances" that group members may choose to attend. These include a "Playford" costume Ball at the Higham Ferrers Bede House on Sunday March 8 when members can don their 17th/18th century (Georgian/Regency) finery for some historical, and modern, terpsichorean delights! Then another highlight of the local dancing year on Saturday 28 March will be the *Burton Overy Club's Annual Dance*, when the dance-Caller will be another nationally-known figure, Frances Richardson, supported by the superb band

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"*Keeping Thyme*"; this evening should be an absolute "must go" for all keen country dancers!

Peter Meacock ecd/at/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 taichi/at/greatglenu3a.co.uk 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. I would like to wish all the Minibridge members a belated Happy New Year and thank them for the support they have given to the Group over 2019. We have quite a few new members that have joined during 2019 and I hope that they and all our long standing members will continue to enjoy the company and atmosphere of playing Minibridge in 2020. We will still welcome anyone who is interested in joining us and would like to learn how to play Minibridge. If you can play cards, we can show you how to play and enjoy Minibridge. Please contact....

Terry Evans minibridge/at/greatglenu3a.co.uk 259 2102

Quiz Group

Our next meeting is on Monday 24 February. All members have been asked to provide 10 questions each for this meeting. I'm looking for someone to provide the questions for the March meeting so will members please think about doing this. If you like

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quizzing then please come along and join us - new members are always welcome.

Rachael Snashall quiz/at/greatglenu3a.co.uk 259 2830

Table Top Games



Our meetings this month are on 13 & 27 February at 2:00p.m. in the Methodist Chapel.

We've been pleased to welcome new members recently, but still have room for more! Please phone so we know to expect you if you would like to give us a try...or

with any queries. As well as the ever popular canasta, we have a variety of board games, or you are welcome to bring your own to share. No experience is necessary: we will endeavour to teach you.....or you can teach us! Not sure? Come along and give us a try. No obligation to come a second time, but we hope you will!

Helen Edwards ttgames/at/greatglenu3a.co.uk 212 7547

Book Group (Mondays)

The next meeting of the Monday Book Group will be on 17 February at 2pm in the Ruth Warner Room. We will be discussing "Diary of an Ordinary Woman" by Margaret Forster.

Our book for March will be "Arthur and George" by Julian Barnes.

Liz Adams books/at/greatglenu3a.co.uk 271 6281

Book Group (Thursdays)

We are happy to accept new members (men and women will be welcome) and we meet at 10am in The Ruth Warner Room at The Methodist Church.

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We shall be discussing 'The Nightingale' by Kristen Hannah on 27 February, and 'Educated' by Tara Westover on 26 March.

Please contact for further information....

Patricia Mansfield books2/at/greatglenu3a.co.uk 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 on Tuesdays, 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.

Andy Tyler eveningbridge/at/greatglenu3a.co.uk 07879 234046

Groups that socialise and have fun!

Sunday Singles

Our next lunch will be at the Leicestershire Golf Club on February 09, followed by 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 Wednesday 12th February at 2pm in the Methodist Hall. We shall have a mixed bag of tunes to sing along to. We're not a choir, just singing for fun! Do come along, everyone is welcome.

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

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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



Some of the Uke3A band who played at the Leicester Bowling Club on 05 February, showing off our new polo shirts for the first time.

The Ukulele Group meet in the Church room on the first and third Monday of the month at 10am.

Alan Mawby ukes/at/greatglenu3a.co.uk

259 2599

Luncheon Club

We meet at The Bell, Burton Overy on the fourth Tuesday of the month. We alternate between a starter and main course and a main course and dessert.

At the moment we cannot take any more members. If you are interested in being on a waiting list and would like more information please contact me on the details below.

Joyce Davies luncheonclub/at/greatglenu3a.co.uk

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Garden Visits

Our next meeting is on Friday 21 February when we will be visiting the Newton Harcourt Church to see the snowdrops and afterwards at the Wistow Garden Centre for tea and cakes. We will be at the Village Hall car park in order to give a lift to those who do not have transport and will be leaving there at 2.00 p.m. If you have not put your name down and wish to go please contact Margaret Wright on 243 2550 and inform her whether you need a lift or are going straight to the venue. Many thanks.

Linda Hobart. gardenvisits/at/greatglenu3a.co.uk. 367 0766

**And a last chance
to claim as yours, or give the
Astronomy Group's
telescope a home
before it is offered for sale!**

Please contact John Johnson by e-mail at john.b.johnson/at/icloud.com or by telephone on 0116 2122469

and finally....

There are two interesting days in February Valentine's Day (14th) and Leap Day (29th)

There are many theories about the origin of
Valentine's Day

Here are two to consider.

One is that the day derives from Lupercalia, a raucous Roman festival in February where men stripped naked and spanked young maidens in the hopes of upping their fertility – not sure who was boosting whose fertility!

The second is that while the Roman Emperor Claudius II was trying to bolster his army, he forbade young men to marry, because apparently single men make better soldiers. In the spirit of love, St. Valentine defied the ban and performed secret marriages. For his disobedience, this romantic man was executed on 14 February - hence St Valentine's Day.

Think I prefer the latter explanation!

Why a Leap Day?

Leap days are needed to keep our calendar in alignment with the Earth's revolutions around the Sun. It takes the Earth approximately 365.242189 days - or 365 days, 5 hours, 48 minutes, and 45 seconds - to circle once around the Sun. This called a tropical year. Without an extra day on February 29 nearly every four years, we would lose almost six hours every year. After only 100 years, our calendar would be off by approximately 24 days.

Julius Caesar introduced the first leap year around 46

B.C., but his Julian calendar had only one rule: Any year evenly divisible by four would be a leap year. That created too many leap years, but this was not sorted out until Pope Gregory XIII introduced his Gregorian calendar more than 1,500 years later. There's a leap year every year that is divisible by four, except for years that are both divisible by 100 and not divisible by 400. The year 2000 was a leap year, but the years 1700, 1800 and 1900 were not. The added rule about centuries (versus just every four years) was an additional fix to make up for the fact that an extra day every four years is too much of a correction.

Leap Year Traditions

It's acceptable for a woman to propose to a man on Feb. 29. The custom has been attributed to St. Bridget, who is said to have complained to St. Patrick about women having to wait for men to propose marriage. Patrick supposedly gave women one day to propose.

Leap years in history

During leap years, George Armstrong Custer fought the Battle of the Little Bighorn (1876), the Titanic sank (1912), Benjamin Franklin proved that lightning is electricity (1752) and gold was discovered in California (1848).