



Great Glen Newsletter

February 2017

Registered Charity No. 1099411

www.greatglenu3a.co.uk



A very warm welcome to our new members: June Green, Glenys Holloway, Elaine Janeba, Carole John, Sheila Sterynowicz and Margaret Ward

Chairman's Chat



After two miserable months of protracted illness, finally diagnosed as pneumonia, that has not responded to antibiotics, I am pleased to report that I am once again on the path to recovery. I am again most grateful to my fellow Committee members, and especially Peter, despite his own family problems, for keeping the U3A show on the road in the meantime. I was able to chair the Committee meeting on 7 February and it has been heartening to see some expressions of interest from members willing to undertake duties for Great Glen U3A either as Trustees / Committee members or in other capacities. I should still be pleased to hear from anyone else interested in helping with administration, organisation, and setting up the room for our monthly meetings.

Patricia Mansfield

chairman@greatglenu3a.co.uk

270 8284

Committee News

Annual subscriptions

If you have not already done so, please pay your annual membership fee as requested.

Those heavy tables



If you want an easier way to fold the Go pak tables please use the tool provided. There is a How to use video, using the tool Towards the end of the How to Fold legs. <http://www.gopak.co.uk/how-to> The tool is about a foot long and is hanging up in the Church store room next to the Go-Pak tables. Please replace after use.

Showcasing our U3A – a change of approach

This year we have decided instead of holding an Open Day to take a pitch at the Wheelbarrow Race Fete on 2nd September 2017. We hope that this will gain us exposure to more local people.

Monthly Meetings

Our speaker on 14th February is Douglas Clinton. His subject is 'A Leicestershire Saint'. He will tell us the story of St. Wystan of Wistow.

14 March 2017
11 April 2017

The Life and Works of Agatha Christie
Medical Detection Dogs

John Martin
Wendy Coley

Meetings are held in the Village Hall on the second Tuesday of each month. Doors open 10.00 a.m. for tea and coffee, speaker 10.30 a.m. **Coffee rota – see below.**

Coffee Rota

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

14 February – Military History
14 March – Music and Good Company
11 April – Needles and Pins

Stoneywell Cottage NT

(January monthly meeting)



At the January meeting Roy Mitchell, a National Trust volunteer, gave us an interesting presentation on Stoneywell Cottage and its history. Stoneywell Cottage was built in the style of the Arts and Craft Movement which began in Britain about 1880 and was at its height between 1895 and 1915. Its origins lie with the great thinkers John Ruskin and William Morris. Their philosophies, good craftsmanship and pride in their work were embraced by Ernest Gimson, Sydney and Ernest Barnsley, Charles Rennie Macintosh and Edward Lutyens. Such artists used local

materials and designed their buildings and furniture down to the last detail.

Ernest Gimson was one of a large Leicester family living on New Walk, Leicester. His father Josiah founded and ran an engineering firm at the Vulcan Works adjoining the Midland Railway. The family were prominent members of The Leicester Secular Society. It was there as a 19-year old that Ernest met, and was greatly impressed by, William Morris. Ernest was training to be an architect and moved to London to continue his training, returning regularly to Leicester.

He then moved to the Cotswolds where he collaborated with the Barnsley brothers, designing Stoneywell Cottage including some of its furnishings for his brother Stanley. All the time he remained true to William Morris's ideal: *'Nothing should be made by man's labour which is not worth making, or must be made by labour degrading to the makers.'*

The cottage was designed to appear as if growing out of the rocky outcrops of Charnwood Forest. Eleven rooms sit on seven different levels. (What a playground for the children!! Hide and Seek in and out of the windows at different levels!) The thatch roof was destroyed by fire in 1939 and was replaced by slate (local of course!) Apart from the thatch much of the original remains.

The cottage was built as a summer house for the family but it became a family home in 1950.

Walking around the house one is very much aware that it was lived in and enjoyed by the family.

The garden blends naturally into the landscape providing a wonderland to explore, each season offering its own particular charm.

After a visit to Stoneywell Cottage it is well worth a visit to Leicester museum to see the display of furniture designed and made by Ernest and his associates. If you have not yet visited Stoneywell Cottage, it is a must and our thanks go to Ray for reminding us what treasures are on our doorstep.

Val Barba

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 for the next Newsletter is noon on **Wednesday 8th March 2017**.

Robert Mansfield robertrmansfield@btinternet.com 270 8284

GROUP NEWS

Art Group

The subject for 2nd and 16th February is Spring flowers and bulbs. New members will be very welcome. All meetings are held in the Ruth Warner Room at 2.00 p.m.

Rachel Snashall rsnashall@hotmail.com 259 2830

Croquet

Indoor croquet has now returned to its usual pattern of sessions on Tuesday afternoons and Thursday mornings. If we had a few more members we could possibly start another session.

John Lawson jlawson123@btinternet.com 259 3421

Duplicate Bridge (Evenings)

No meetings on 14th and 21st February. Normal meetings in March as usual: 7.00 p.m. for a prompt start at 7.15 and finishing 10.00 p.m.-ish. Plenty of parking is available.

John Lawson jlawson123@btinternet.com 259 3421

English Country Dancing

On Saturday 28th January, several members of the Group attended a *Burns Night Celebration* organised by St Peter's Church in Oadby. In traditional style, after being "*piped in*" the haggis was addressed with the *Ode to a Haggis*, written by Robbie Burns, and then enjoyed accompanied by *tatties, neeps and a wee dram!* After the excellent meal, all present took to the floor for some "Scottish-style" dances called by the GG U3A ECD Group Leader, Peter Meacock. Members, and others, danced *Circassian Circle*, *The Gay(ish) Gordons*, *The Duke of Kent's Waltz*, *Star Trek*, and *Postie's Jig*, before finishing with *The Circle Waltz*. All in all a most enjoyable evening that showed the pleasure that comes from country dancing!

The Group is always pleased to welcome new members. In recent weeks we have been very pleased to welcome several new members and we hope they will decide to come along regularly to join in this fun and sociable activity.

Peter Meacock petermeacock112@btinternet.com 279 3600

