



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 *The Life and Works of Agatha Christie*

John Martin

11 April *Medical Detection Dogs*

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 "*pipied 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

Family History

The Group will meet as usual from February onwards at 9.30 a.m. on the second and fourth Wednesdays in the Methodist Church Hall.

Eric Orbell ericorbell332@btinternet.com 259 2095

History

The next two meetings will be on Monday 6th March and Monday 3rd April, at 2:00 p.m. in the Methodist Hall. Everyone welcome.

Peter Russell prussell@russellscott.co.uk 271 0889

History of Art

The next meeting is on Wednesday 15th February when we will be looking at the life and work of the impressionist, Monet. We last looked at Monet in April 2011 so the DVD will be new, as will the still pictures. The meeting will take place in the Methodist Hall as usual commencing at 10 o'clock. All members are welcome.

David Brooke dnbrooke@fsmail.net 259 2520

Indoor (Winter) Bowls

Indoor bowls is again in full swing on Tuesday mornings at 10.00 a.m. in the Market Harborough Leisure Centre. Anyone interested in joining should contact ...

Ann Spray spray194@btinternet.com 281 0324

Line Dancing

Line dancing continues to have a good attendance, despite illness and holidays. We have two new members this year, and would welcome anyone else who would like to try this fun way to exercise. You do not have to have had experience, it is easy to pick up.

We are all beginners with varied abilities and the dances have something to suit everybody. Come along on a Thursday to the Sports Hall 1.30 - 3.00 p.m. – we look forward to seeing you.

Jackie Jordan jkj1506@btinternet.com 259 9199

Luncheon Club

I have now opened a waiting list for anyone who may be interested in joining. We meet at the Bell, Burton Overy, on the fourth Tuesday of the month, 12 o'clock for 12.30 p.m. We alternate

each month between starter plus main and main plus dessert courses. The food is of excellent quality and well presented. You will find me at the monthly meeting, on the left as you enter the Village Hall, with the menu for the next lunch. If you cannot attend the meeting, and live in the village, I will put a menu

through your door. I have sample menus for you to look at. Do let me know if you are interested in joining us.

Joyce Davies mervjoycedavies@btinternet.com

259 3436

Military History

The Group will next meet on Wednesday 1st March at 10.00 a.m. in the Methodist Church hall, when we shall continue our studies on the final months of WW1.

Eric Orbell ericorbell332@btinternet.com 259 2095

New-Age Kurling

The next three meetings are on Fridays 10th February, 24th February and 10th March at 10.00 a.m. at Great Glen Sports Centre. Everyone welcome.

Peter Russell prussell@russellscott.co.uk 271 0889

Papercraft

At our next meeting on February 20th we shall have a go at making a card for the men in our lives. Well, why not? Hope to see you all then at 2.00 p.m. We have room for one or two more people.

Stella Orbell stellamo@hotmail.co.uk 259 2095

Quiz Group

Our next meeting will therefore be on 27th February at 2.00 p.m. in the Main Hall of the Methodist Church, when Peter Russell will be setting the questions.

Rachel Snashall rsnashall@hotmail.com 259 2830

Singing for Fun

Following the very enjoyable session last December we are hoping to hold quarterly group meetings in March, June, September and December. However, both Catriona and Jenny have many existing commitments and we are still trying to find dates when they are both available and when the hall is also available. Keep watching the newsletter for up-to-date news.

Peter Russell prussell@russellscott.co.uk 271 0889

Sunday Singles Lunch

We meet on the second Sunday of the month, single ladies and gentlemen, at 1.00 p.m. We can now accommodate a few more members and gentlemen would be particularly welcome! The next venues are:
12th February 2017 – The Leicestershire Golf Club,
12th March 2017 – The Bell, Burton Overy.

Judith Measom

279 1509

Swimming

Attendance was good on 1st February at 27. We need to average 21 to cover the hire fee. Please note that there will be no swimming on 15th February because of a gala.

David Brooke dnbrooke@fsmail.net 259 2520

Table Top Games

Come and join us on 23rd February and 9th March at 2.00 p.m. in the Methodist Church Hall.

Gillian Farrar 270 8375 Helen Edwards 212 7547

Ukuleles

Following the Learn Something New trial, a new Ukuleles group has been formed and will be meeting on the first and third Mondays of each month. The first meeting was on 6th February but new members are very welcome to join at the next couple of meetings. There are some instruments available which can be borrowed for a few weeks so that you have time to decide whether you wish to continue and then buy your own ukulele. You don't need to be able to read music as the playing notation uses chord names. Come along and have a go.

Monday 20th February 10:00 a.m. Ruth Warner room.

Peter Russell prussell@russellscott.co.uk 271 0889