



Great Glen Newsletter February 2018

Registered Charity No. 1099411

www.greatglenu3a.co.uk

A very warm welcome to our new members: Catriona Crombie, Christine Hunter, Anna Kimble, Susan Moore, Lorna and Michael Rodber, Diana Stevens, Sandra Stopford and Patricia Welsh.

Chairman's Chat

Hello everyone. My word, it's cold!

I'll start this edition with news that the trial of Tai Chi has been successful and looks like continuing as a fully-fledged group. Many thanks to Rosie for bringing this to our U3A.

Thanks to the efforts of all our group leaders we have a wide range of interest groups. But we have no group which addresses any area of science. I don't have a clear idea of what we might do in this context but if any of you have a general or specific interest then I would welcome a chat with you – I'm not looking for any commitment at this time, just a source for ideas. Of course, this invitation extends to any ideas for new groups irrespective of their nature.

It's that time of year again when we start our membership renewals. You'll all be receiving your renewal forms around now. I hope that you feel your membership is worthwhile and will join us for another year.

If you'd like to have a go at the introductory slot at the monthly meeting then I would be pleased to hear from you. We have come to the end of our current list of volunteers and so are looking for more short pieces to kick off the meetings.

And there are still committee vacancies so if this is something you can get involved with please let me or any current committee member know. You can come along to a committee meeting to see what goes on.

Finally, I hope you continue to enjoy everything you do at our U3A. We are always looking to develop our range of interests and all suggestions are welcomed.

Peter Russell chairman@greatglenu3a.co.uk 271 0889

Committee News

Demise of Paper £10 Notes

Please note that from 1st March the newer polymer notes only will be legal tender. If you have a box full of the old paper ones now is the time to get along to your bank and exchange them. You will still be able to do this for a while after 1st March but shops will not have to accept them after that date.

Notice of Change to the £1 Group Meeting Charge

As previously advised, there will be no change to the annual subscription rates this year but please note that starting Sunday 1st April 2018, the standard group charge will be increased from £1 to £1.50. This is the first increase in this charge since the founding of Great Glen U3A in 2001 and I hope that it will be several years before it needs to change again. There will continue to be exceptions for one-off sessions where additional material costs are involved; these sessions will also be subject to the same 50p increase.

Peter Russell chairman@greatglenu3a.co.uk 271 0889

It's Time to Renew your Subscription

We are in the process of issuing renewal letters. We are doing our best to keep our administration costs as low as possible and your committee has been out delivering by hand as many letters as we can to save postage. Please help us to keep our costs down by NOT paying your subscription by cheque if possible. Your letter will explain the options but bank transfer and cash payments are free of charge, whereas every cheque we pay in costs us at least 40p.

Could you pay in cash?

You can pay in cash at the February or March monthly meeting or at the Methodist Hall on Thursday 22nd March 2-4 p.m. or Tuesday 27th March 10-12 noon. Bring your signed renewal form with you.

Could you do a bank transfer?

Coffee Rota

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

13 February – **Short Croquet Group**

13 March – **English Country Dancing Group**

10 April – **Duplicate Bridge Group**

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 7th March 2018**.

Robert Mansfield

robertrmansfield@btinternet.com 270 8284

Queen of the Air – The Life of ‘Amy Johnson’ *(January Meeting)*

The meeting opened with a polished recital by our member, Dorothy Leavesley, of four humorous poems. Having never attempted to address a meeting before, she showed that it is never too late to step outside one’s comfort zone. Word perfect without her text, she held her audience in thrall.

Next, we enjoyed a lively multimedia presentation from Roy Smart on Amy Johnson, 'Queen of the Air'. This spanned her entire life from early days near the reeking fish docks of Hull, where her father built up a thriving business, through to her mysterious and untimely end crashing into the Thames estuary in an RAF fighter plane that was way off course in fog. We learned how a bright, rebellious and bored young woman got the flying bug after a failed marriage and took up flying lessons. Though by no means a natural pilot she persevered. Desperate to prove herself in a man's world she first qualified as an Aircraft Engineer (the first woman to do so) and then gained her flying licence. Her ambition was to become a licensed pilot. For this to happen in the face of entrenched male prejudice, she was told that she would have to make her mark. She decided to emulate the recent solo flight to Australia made by Bert Hinkler. The necessary funds were raised and permissions gained, and off she set on her historic journey with modest previous flying experience, without maps or radio, and often in appalling weather. Her eventual arrival owed something to good fortune but was an astonishing feat of endurance, determination and courage. She became an overnight international celebrity. The talk moved on to her heyday and bittersweet relationship with fellow aviator Jim Morrison and finally to her service in the Air Transport Auxiliary. Many of the obstacles she faced still resonate today. The talk was excellently

brought to life with pictures and contemporary newsreel footage and sound recordings.

Robert Mansfield

LEARN SOMETHING NEW

Tai Chi – New Group

We are very lucky to have Rosie Nightingale, a qualified Tai Chi and Chinese Wand instructor, as a member. She has now completed a very successful Learn Something New short course in Tai Chi for us. Many of those who attended are keen to continue and Rosie has kindly agreed to run the group which will meet on Tuesday afternoons, 4-5 p.m. The few places that became available have been offered to people on the waiting list and so the group is now full. I know some people who had expressed interest will be disappointed but there may be a further opportunity later in the year. Please read the newsletter for details and contact at me as soon as it is announced. First come, first served!

Sue Russell sue@suerussell.co.uk 271 0889

Learn Something New – Fabric Flower Wreath

On Wednesday 7th February Rachael Snashall showed an enthusiastic group of crafters how to make a lovely fabric flower wreath. Everyone thoroughly enjoyed the afternoon and went home with new skills and an impressive decorative wreath. Thank you, Rachael.

If you have an idea for a small craft project to share with our members do get in touch with me to discuss it as we have some tools and materials available we could use.

Sue Russell sue@suerussell.co.uk 271 0889

GROUP NEWS

Art Group

The meeting on the 15th February has been cancelled as the Ruth Warner room is needed for funeral refreshments. Our next meeting will be on 1st March.

Rachael Snashall rsnashall@hotmail.com 259 2830

Carpet Bowls

We meet every Thursday afternoon at 2.00 p.m. in the Village Hall. New members are most welcome.

Peter Stanley

Peterandphyllis.stanley@btinternet.com 259 2152

Croquet

Of the three groups playing INDOOR croquet two are full but the Thursday 10.00 till 11.30 group at last has 2 vacancies for players or beginners. Tea or Coffee is included (but you are expected to wash up your own pots). Give me a ring if you would like to play this scientific game.

John Lawson jlawson123@btinternet.com 259 3421

English Country Dancing

The Group continues to grow and we recently achieved a record 22 members dancing together - with two more we shall be able to try Sicilian Circle dances at long last, and do our regular 3-couple, 4-couple and longways dances with nobody having to sit out! Since the start of the year we have tried dances ranging in dates from 1529 (*Horses Branle*, and *The Ould Almain*) to 2010 (*Snowdrops*, and *Pine Tree Quadrille*).

During January several group members attended a *Tea Dance* at the local Burton Overy club, dancing to the well-known Loughborough-based Caller Lynne Render who was supported by the excellent band *Patchwork*. Members also enjoyed a *Burns Night Ceilidh* complete with Haggis, Pipes and the Rabbie Burns Ode at St Peters Centre in Oadby; the Scottish-style dances were called by the ECD Group Leader, Peter, to almost 80 attendees. February and March will bring several more public dances, including a "Playford" (Georgian/Regency period) costume Ball at the Bede House in Higham Ferrers - our chance to don our finery and act out the roles of Miss Bennett and Mr Darcy of *Pride & Prejudice*!

We continue to meet weekly on Tuesday afternoons 1.30 to 3.30pm in the Sports Hall, and still can accommodate a few more members. No previous experience is needed as all the dances are explained and walked through before setting them to music. Nor

do you need to come with a partner; singles of both sexes are welcomed. Plus, it's fun and good exercise for both body and brain. Come, join us and give it a try!

Peter Meacock petermeacock112@btinternet.com
279 2600

Evening Duplicate Bridge

There is an error in the latest Glen Sence. The extra session on the third Tuesday of the month at the Library is the same time as all the meetings on the other Tuesdays at the Chapel Hall, namely 7.00 p.m. for a prompt start at 7.15 finishing about 10.00 p.m.

John Lawson jlawson123@btinternet.com 259 3421

Family History

We shall meet this month on Wednesday 14th and Wednesday 28th at 9.30 a.m. in the Methodist Church Hall.

Eric Orbell ericorbell332@btinternet.com 259 2095

French Conversation

We still have a vacancy for anyone who wishes to get involved in our exciting conversations in French, Franglaise and (sadly) English.

Jim Picken djpicken95@gmail.com 259 2007

Garden Visits

Our next meeting is on Friday 16th February when we shall be walking up to Newton Harcourt Church from

the Wistow Garden Centre to see the snowdrops. If you cannot walk that far please inform Ros Aldwinckle (271 7338) and a lift will be arranged for you. We shall be meeting at the Village Hall car park at 2.00 p.m. to give lifts to those without transport. Hopefully from 3.00 p.m. seats will have been reserved for us at the Wistow tea room for refreshments but if you arrive back there a little earlier there are several interesting shops in which to browse or a wander around the flower and shrub department is always enjoyable. Please let Ros know if you would like to come.

ADVANCE INFORMATION. On Friday 20th April we are going by coach to visit Felley Priory gardens in Nottinghamshire, hidden half a mile from the M1. The house and its 2.5 acre garden has many rare and unusual plants and has been carefully planted for the visitor to see plants of interest all year round. There is also a fully stocked nursery from which visitors can purchase competitively priced plants. Refreshments can also be purchased from The Farmhouse Tea Room. We shall be meeting at the Village Hall in Great Glen at 9.45 a.m. to leave promptly at 10.00 a.m. and will be leaving promptly at 3.45 p.m. The cost is £20 p.p. and I would prefer payment by cash please as I am informed if cheques are used that there may be a charge by the bank of 50p per cheque. Please let me know if you would like to come along. Payment can be made either at one of the next two U3A meetings

(13th February or 13th March) or at the Garden Visits Group Meeting on 16th Feb. but certainly no later than the next G.V.G. meeting on 16th March. Thank you.

Linda Hobart lindahobart@outlook.com

319 8095

History

The next session is on Monday 5th March at 2:00 p.m. in the Methodist Hall. Toni Smith will be presenting.

Peter Russell prussell@russellscott.co.uk 271 0889

History of Art

The next meeting will be on Wednesday 21st February when we shall be looking at the work of William Hogarth, 1697 to 1764, described as the most significant English artist of his generation. The meeting will be in the Methodist Hall as usual commencing at 10.00 a.m. All members are welcome.

David Brooke dnewtonbrooke@gmail.com 259 2520

Learn French Together

The French group for beginners. The group meets on first and third Tuesdays at 10.00 a.m. in the Ruth Warner Room.

Marie-Christine Grenham mcgrenham@gmail.com

07764 154374

Line Dancing

Line Dancing has started the New Year with a flourish. Three new members and a steady dozen or

so dancers each week. We still have room for more, so if your New Year's Resolution is to get more exercise, but you can't decide what to do, then come along and give line dancing a try. We are all beginners of varying abilities, dancing to all kinds of music, and having many a laugh while learning the routines. Join us in the Sports Hall each Thursday 1.30 - 3.30 p.m.
Jackie Jordan jkj1506@btinternet.com 259 9199

Military History

The next meeting will be on Wednesday 7th March at 10.00 a.m. in the Methodist Church hall when we shall be continuing our look at the English Civil Wars.
Eric Orbell ericorbell332@btinternet.com 259 2095

Mini Bridge

Mini-Bridge is proving to be as popular as ever. We usually have 7 or 8 tables on Tuesday mornings 9.45 a.m. for a prompt start at 10.00 at the main hall at the chapel finishing before 12.15.

John Lawson jlawson123@btinternet.com 259 3421

New Age Kurling

If you've not tried it then come and have a go – it provides gentle exercise and lots of fun. The next sessions are on Friday 9th February and Friday 23rd February at 10.00 a.m. at the Sports Centre.

Peter Russell prussell@russellscott.co.uk 271 0889

Papercraft

At our next Papercraft session on 19th February at 2.00 p.m. we will have a second go at iris folding. Please bring back any patterns you took home and remember your sellotape and scissors.

Stella Orbell stellamo@hotmail.co.uk 259 2095

Quiz Group

The next meeting is on 26th February in the Main Hall of the Methodist Church at 2 o'clock. Mick Burton is question master. Please come along if you like quizzing, you will be made very welcome.

Rachael Snashall rsnashall@hotmail.com 259 2830

Singing for Fun

The next singing meeting is to be held on Wednesday, 21st February at 2.00 p.m. in the Methodist schoolroom. The main theme will be songs from around the British Isles. Jenny, Peter and I look forward to seeing you all.

Catriona Scott scottpin@dsl.pipex.com 259 3663

Sunday Singles Lunch

The next meetings arranged are as follows: 11th February The Crown Inn, Tur Langton; 11th March Leicestershire Golf Club; 8th April Leicestershire Golf Club.

Judith Measom

279 1509

Swimming

Numbers reached 27 on 31st January, let's trust we can achieve somewhere around this number each week.

Please note there will be no swimming on Wednesday 14th February as it will be half term.

David Brooke dnewtonbrooke@gmail.com 259 2520

Table Top Games

Our 8th February meeting will already have taken place by the time you read this, and we have the same timing issue next month so dates to note in your diaries are Thursday afternoons 22nd February, and 8th and 22nd March. Newcomers are always welcome, so please feel free to come and give us a try.

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. The next meeting will be on 19th February. Please contact the leader of the Group if interested in joining. After our successful gig at Devonshire Court in November we are now practising new songs for our next gig at South Lodge on 9th April.

Kate Smith kate@kateandbobsmith.co.uk 259 2599

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

Tailpiece

The First Spring Day

I wonder if the sap is stirring yet,
If wintry birds are dreaming of a mate,
If frozen snowdrops feel as yet the sun
And crocus fires are kindling one by one:
Sing, robin, sing;
I still am sore in doubt concerning Spring.

I wonder if the springtide of this year
Will bring another Spring both lost and
dear;
If heart and spirit will find out their Spring,
Or if the world alone will bud and sing:
Sing, hope, to me;
Sweet notes, my hope, soft notes for
memory.

The sap will surely quicken soon or late,
The tardiest bird will twitter to a mate;
So Spring must dawn again with warmth
and bloom,
Or in this world, or in the world to come:
Sing, voice of Spring,
Till I too blossom and rejoice and sing.

Christina Georgina Rossetti