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## Great Glen Newsletter

**January 2019**

Registered Charity No. 1099411

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

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### Chairman's Chat



Hello everyone; I wish you a happy new year.

I'd like to start this piece by thanking all who participated in the December 'Christmas Crackers' meeting: Stella and Rachael who organised the event, all the entertainers, everyone who brought food for the buffet and all who helped with setting up, serving and clearing up. It was great to see so many members involved. Thank you very much.

I'm pleased to see that an Astronomy group is launching, and I wish it every success – see the details later in the newsletter - do you by chance have an unused telescope in your loft that could be used by the group? And remember we now have recent new groups for Writing for Pleasure and Walking without Stiles which are happy to take additional members.

It's now time for the committee to organise the upcoming membership renewals programme. We are looking for some volunteer posties to help with distribution of renewal letters. See the notice later in the newsletter and let Sue Russell know if you can help. At the AGM in May, Sue will be standing down from her role as Membership Secretary. We are fortunate to have a replacement volunteer in Janet Fanko who has been co-opted to the committee for the remainder of this year and will stand formally for election at the AGM.

Also at this stage in our year we review our finances and our forecast suggests we shall have a small surplus for this year and next. The significant unknown factor in our assessment is the pending village development affecting our use of the village hall and next-door sports centre and when this might start to impact on us.

So here we are at the start of another year. Brexit looms (or not, who knows?) and nights will soon start getting shorter. Have you made any new-year resolutions? Why not add "Join a new U3A group" to your list. 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

#### Could you help deliver Renewal Letters?

We are looking for some additional 'postmen' to help the Committee to deliver U3A Renewal Letters in February in order to save postage. If you live outside Great Glen could you collect from the Ruth Warner Room at the Methodist Church **between 1.00 and 2.00pm on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> February** some letters for your area for delivery between 5<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> February? If you are willing and able to help as described, please contact me by Friday 18<sup>th</sup> January. Once I have some volunteers, I'll organise the letters into 'rounds' and let you know what we have in your area. Thank you.

Sue Russell

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

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## Monthly Meetings

**At our meeting on 8<sup>th</sup> January Mike Leonard returns, this time to present his *homage* to Les Dawson.**

8 January 2019	<b><i>Tribute to Les Dawson</i></b>	<i>Mike Leonard</i>
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>

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).*

8 January – **Papercraft Group**  
12 February – **Pub Lunches Group**  
12 March – **Sunday Singles**

### Christmas Crackers! *(December meeting)*



It was Christmasy and some of it was indeed crackers. Compered by our own mystery Santa rigged head to toe in super-snug fitting costume and bushy white beard



and equipped with a fund of Christmas cracker jokes, we were treated to a lively programme of seasonal entertainment provided mostly by our own members. Uke3A got us off to a festive start. Robert Mansfield, Margaret Hudson, Ann Harcourt, Ann de Voil and John Parrington read, recited and monologued. Choristers from St Cuthbert's School again delighted. David Green led audience participation with a well-pitched musical quiz and a singalong. John Gough provided mood music. We concluded with a buffet contributed by members. The morning was excellently coordinated by Stella Orbell and Rachael Snashall. Marie Curie charity were delighted to receive £216, being the proceeds from the sale of tickets and the raffle.

*Robert Mansfield*

## LEARN SOMETHING NEW

### Sign Language

We would like to put on a 2-hour session on the basics of sign language. But we need someone who could lead such a session. Could you do this or do you know someone who could help with this and would be willing to volunteer? If so please let us know and we will follow it up.

*Peter Russell / Sue Russell*

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

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## GROUP NEWS

### Art Group

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Our next three meetings will be on 3<sup>rd</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> January and 7<sup>th</sup> February, in the Ruth Warner Room of the Methodist Hall at 2 o'clock. The theme for January is Winter. We have room for one or two new members who will be made very welcome.

*Rachael Snashall*

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

259 2830

### **Astronomy Group**



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This newly formed group meets on the first Monday of the month at 2.00 p.m. in the Ruth Warner room. The next meeting is on 7<sup>th</sup> January, we will be looking at things to see in the night sky during January. Anyone interested in joining this group should call me or just come along on the day.

*Ann Norton*

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

288 8389

### **Book Group (Mondays)**

The next meeting of the Monday Book Group will be on 21<sup>st</sup> January. We shall be discussing "The Mistletoe Murder" by P.D. James. For those of you who want to make an early start – the book for February is "A Boy made of Blocks" by Keith Stuart.

*Liz Adams*

[liza27/at/btinternet.com](mailto:liza27/at/btinternet.com)

271 6281

### **Book Group (Thursdays)**

Our next meeting is on Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> January at 10.00 a.m. in the Ruth Warner Room.

*Patricia Mansfield*

[patriciamansfield/at/btinternet.com](mailto: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**

Now Christmas is over perhaps you would like to try something new so why not come along to carpet bowls? We meet every Thursday afternoon in the Village Hall from 2.00 to 4.00 p.m. No experience is necessary. There will not be a meeting on Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> January 2019 as the hall has been booked for another event.

*Peter Stanley*

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

259 2152

### **English Country Dancing**

#### **Happy New Year to English Country Dancers!**

The English Country Dancing Group finished off 2018 with a Christmas Party on 18<sup>th</sup> December – complete with festive foods, Xmas hats and jumpers, and a celebration glass of mulled wine! We enjoyed dancing *Xmas Fliricle*, *Jingle Bells*, *Down the Chimney*, *Mistletoe Kisses*, *Winter Sunshine*, *The Snowball*, *Christmas Hornpipe*, and *Mistletoe Waltz* – all to popular sing-along Christmas tunes and carols. The group will resume its regular dancing on Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> January.

Over the next few months there will be several public dances at local folk-dance clubs that ECD group members can attend to mix and dance with the wider local country dancing community;

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these will include Burns' Night celebrations, around 25<sup>th</sup> January, with some excursions into Scottish Country Dancing too.

The group has a regular attendance of around 20, but we have capacity for a few more so would be pleased to welcome other members who would like to join us in this fun and sociable activity. We meet every Tuesday in the Sports Hall/Youth Centre, next to the Village Hall, from 1.30 to 3.30 p.m. with a refreshment break halfway through. English Country Dancing provides good exercise that keeps both body and mind fit, and is an ideal way to burn off those pounds gained from too much rich Christmas fare! Why not make joining the English Country Dancing Group one of your New Year resolutions? 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> January and Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> January. 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 18<sup>th</sup> January meeting takes place in the Methodist Church Hall in Great Glen at 2.00 p.m. We shall be watching a DVD entitled 'A Year in the Life of Kew Gardens' with a cup of tea/coffee and biscuits at half time. There is no need for you to let us know whether or not you are attending but we hope to see as many of you as possible. We wish you all peace and good health throughout 2019.

*Linda Hobart* [gardenvisits/at/geatglenu3a.co.uk](mailto:gardenvisits/at/geatglenu3a.co.uk) 319 8095

### **History**

The next History Group meeting is on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> January 2019 at 2.00 p.m. in the Methodist Hall when we shall be looking further at the Plantagenets. Then on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> February Eric will talk about 'A 17<sup>th</sup> Century (K)Night Out'. Everyone is welcome.

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

### **History of Art**

A Happy New Year to all who attend History of Art. Our first meeting in the New Year will be on 16<sup>th</sup> January when we will be looking at the work of Fred Cummings RA. Fred has exhibited widely throughout the UK and Overseas and has paintings in collections all over the World. Want to learn more about him? Then come to the meeting on in the Methodist Hall on 16<sup>th</sup> January commencing at 10.00 a.m. All members are welcome.

*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

### **Line Dancing**





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The group plays popular songs, mostly from the '60s and '70s, but is open to any suggestions. The group is looking for other players of instruments particularly bass guitar and singers but would also welcome hearing from anyone who plays an instrument that could be part of a popular song arrangement. Whilst not beginners members class themselves as intermediate/improving level. They currently meet monthly in Huncote but are open to other venues.

Anyone interested should Email ...

*Peter Benson*

[us2/at/mynafon.plus.com](mailto:us2@mynafon.plus.com)