



Great Glen Newsletter

January 2019

Registered Charity No. 1099411

www.greatglenu3a.co.uk

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

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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

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 5th February** some letters for

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your area for delivery between 5th and 11th February?
If you are willing and able to help as described, please
contact me by Friday 18th 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

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Monthly Meetings

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

8 January 2019 *Tribute to Les Dawson* Mike Leonard
12 February 2019 *Save the Children* Josephine
Burgess
12 March 2019 *Transport Technology* Terry Spall

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

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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

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GROUP NEWS

Art Group

Our next three meetings will be on 3rd and 17th January and 7th 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 259 2830

Astronomy Group

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 7th 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 288
8389

Book Group (Mondays)

English Country Dancing

Happy New Year to English Country Dancers! The English Country Dancing Group finished off 2018 with a Christmas Party on 18th December – complete with festive foods, Xmas hats and jumpers, and a celebration glass of mulled wine! We enjoyed dancing *Xmas Flirle*, *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 8th 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; these will include Burns' Night celebrations, around 25th 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

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joining the English Country Dancing Group one of your New Year resolutions? For further details contact

...

Peter Meacock ecd/at/greatglenu3a.co.uk 279 3600

Family History

We shall meet next on Wednesday 13th January and Wednesday 27th January. Both meetings start at 9.30 a.m. in the Methodist Church Hall.

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. New members will be very welcome.

Beryl Connolly

07423 311 013

Garden Visits

Our 18th 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

319 8095

History

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

Peter Russell history/at/greatglenu3a.co.uk

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History of Art

A Happy New Year to all who attend History of Art. Our first meeting in the New Year will be on 16th 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 16th January commencing at 10.00 a.m. All members are welcome.

David Brooke 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

212 2469

Line Dancing

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We re-started our weekly sessions in the new year on Thursday 3rd January in the Sports Hall at 1.30 p.m. New members are always welcome, so if you feel that you need some regular exercise after all the Christmas feasting, do come along and give line dancing a try. It is good for both the body and the brain, and it is great fun too.

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

259 9199

Military History

The next Military History meeting will be on Wednesday 6th February at 10.00 a.m. in the Methodist Church Hall when we will start a new series of meetings covering the War of 1812 against the USA.

Eric Orbell [militaryhistory/at/greatglenu3a.co.uk](mailto:militaryhistory@greatglenu3a.co.uk)

259 2095

Mini Bridge

I should like to welcome back all our Minibridge Players and any new people who would like to join us, and wish them all a Happy New Year. We recommence on Tuesday 8th January at 9.45 a.m. for a 10.00 a.m. start of play. I hope everyone has enjoyed Christmas and is looking forward to another year of friendly competition. See you all at the next meeting.

Terry Evans [minibridge/at/greatglenu3a.co.uk](mailto:minibridge@greatglenu3a.co.uk)

259 2102

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New Age Kurling

No ice and no frantic brushing! Our stones run on castors on a wooden floor. Why not come along and try your hand at this activity? It's very easy to play and it provides gentle exercise and lots of fun. This month's sessions are on 11th and 25th January at the Sports Centre (next to the village hall) at 10.00 a.m.

Peter Russell kurling/at/greatglenu3a.co.uk

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Papercraft

We shall meet on Monday 21st January at 2.00 p.m. to start on a new year of paper-crafting. I hope you all had some lovely new supplies to use in your card making. I thought we might try tea bagging to start off with and have acquired some paper for this. Hope to see you there,

Stella Orbell papercraft/at/greatglenu3a.co.uk

259 2095

Pub Lunches

All those wanting details of forthcoming pub lunches should contact ...

Margaret Hudson

271 5064

Quiz Group

Our next meeting is on 28th January, when Peter Russell will be asking the questions.

Rachael Snashall quiz/at/greatglenu3a.co.uk

259 2830

Singing for Fun

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The Group had an enjoyable Christmas meeting. We are planning another 'songs from shows and films' for our next meeting which will be held at on Wednesday 27th March at 2.00 p.m. in the Methodist schoolroom. Please note the date is a week later than that given to you in December. New members are always welcome at this informal group.

Peter Russell chairman/at/greatglenu3a.co.uk

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Sunday Singles Lunch

Meetings for January take place at the Leicestershire Golf Club. We are looking for a new venue thereafter.

Judith Measom

279 1509

Swimming

A Happy New Year to all swimming members. Time to work off that overindulgence at Christmas and the New Year. We start swimming again on Wednesday 9th January. I look forward to a good turnout.

David Brooke swimming/at/greatglenu3a.co.uk

259 2520

Table Tennis

After a three-week break, we are back in action on Monday 7th January and look forward to a full complement.

Janet Freestone tabletennis/at/greatglenu3a.co.uk

259 2803

Table Top Games

Our next meetings are on 10th and 24th January at 2.00 p.m. in the Methodist Church. We look forward to welcoming members old and new to play a variety of games. New members please phone so we know to expect you.

Helen Edwards [ttgames/at/greatglenu3a.co.uk](mailto:ttgames@greatglenu3a.co.uk)

212 7547, or *Eileen Appleby* 259 251

Ukulele Group

Meetings will resume on the first Monday in January (7th) and continue in the usual pattern of first and third Mondays. In mid-December UKE3A was warmly received at the Leicester Bowling club for a pre-Christmas concert and we appreciated the audience participation in our programme of songs and carols. A surprise bonus was a donation of £30 which has been given to a charity supported by the U3A. Now it's time to get back to strumming practice after the brief holiday!

Alan Mawby [ukes/at/greatglenu3a.co.uk](mailto:ukes@greatglenu3a.co.uk) 259 2599

Walking Without Stiles

The next walk is planned for 29th January. This will be a Historic Village Trail around Foxton. All meet at the Robert Monk Hall on Middle Street in Foxton at 10.30 a.m. There is a car park at this location and there is

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also street parking. Refreshment is available at “Bridge 61” at the locks.

The walk should take between two and two and a half hours. As usual please wear suitable clothing in case of rain. We look forward to seeing you all on the day. Please give John Johnson a call if you intend to come along so that we can let you know if we have to cancel.

John Johnson 212 2469 or 07527 520504

Elizabeth Cooke walking/at/greatglenu3a.co.uk

270 4524 or 07957 288060

Writing for Pleasure

We meet again on 22nd January at 2.00 p.m. Anyone who feels that they might like to come along for a taster would be most welcome. We are trying our hand this time at a short story at home and then Anne is planning a short exercise for us to do in the afternoon. We are taking it in turns to find something interesting using the U3A information booklet as a basis.

Stella Orbell

259 2095

West Leicestershire U3A seeks Musicians

West Leicestershire U3A has a small music group that has been meeting since the spring in its current form. It consists of four members, two guitarists, a drummer and a keyboard player. They would like more members

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and extend an invitation to members of other U3As should they be interested.

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)