



Great Glen Newsletter

January 2020

Registered Charity No. 1099411

www.greatglenu3a.co.uk

We wish all our members
A very Happy New Year

Chair's Chat

Hello everyone

A very happy new year to you all. Though as the horrors of weather extremes and political tensions elsewhere in the world continue to manifest themselves with violence the auspices do not look entirely favourable. We must be grateful that locally we have had little more than squelchy lawns, muddy paws and a few extra pence on the price of petrol so far visited upon us.

I should like to thank the many members who contributed – whether as organiser, entertainer, caterer, raffle prize donator, ticket seller, mover and shifter – to our December monthly meeting, for which we had a good attendance and very positive feedback. I found it a most enjoyable occasion which showed Great Glen U3A at its best. Proceeds from the event totalled £196, and the Alzheimer's Society (our chosen charity for the meeting) has been delighted to receive a cheque for that amount. If the holder of raffle ticket 112 would care to see me at the January meeting I shall be pleased

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to hand over an unclaimed raffle prize. Otherwise this item will feature in the next raffle!

I am very pleased to let you know that your Committee has given its blessing to the launch of a Shared Learning Project in response to encouragement from the Third Age Trust nationally for U3As to do this. Our project will involve Groups and individual members working together, possibly with people outside the U3A. Our theme is 'Changes in Occupations in Great Glen from the mid-Nineteenth Century', and we shall be drawing on population statistics, local businesses and service organisations, local residents, media sources and so on. The objective is to produce an attractive illustrated exhibition for display locally in time for National U3A Day on 03 June 2020. We shall need to get our skates on. Toni Smith has agreed to lead the project. Please contact Toni or me if you would like to be involved, for example as researcher, provider of information or photos, writer, artist, crafter The possibilities are wide-ranging.

Robert Mansfield [chairman/ at /greatglenu3a.co.uk](mailto:chairman@greatglenu3a.co.uk) 270
8284

Committee News

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL PROCEDURE 31 MARCH 2020

If you receive your renewal notice by email, it is not necessary to print a copy. Please note that joint

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members now have individual membership numbers and if we have email addresses for each of you, then you will BOTH receive emails and I would appreciate it if you would both reply to these emails.

Please then proceed as follows:

Reply to the email to let me know that:

- a. You DO wish to renew your membership for 2020/21 and at the same time, inform us of any changes there may be to your details, or
- b. You do NOT wish to renew your membership for 2020/21.

If you receive your renewal notice by post, proceed as follows:

You will have received a paper reminder by post, **please ensure that you return this form to me** with your payment.

However you receive your renewal notice, **these are the options for paying your subscription:**

- a. Bank Transfer – this is, at present, our preferred method. Our sort code is 40-52-40 and our account number is 00092066. Please use your surname, your initials and your membership number as a reference. (If you are paying a joint membership, one of your numbers will have changed this year. Please use both numbers as your reference.)

b. By cheque, or cash. If you pay by cheque, please write your name and membership number on the back of the cheque. If you pay by cash, you will receive a receipt. These payments can be made at the monthly meetings in March, or April 2020. If you wish, you can send a cheque (name and membership number on the back please) to Janet Fanko, 6 Wych Elm Close, Great Glen. LE8 9GY. Please do **NOT** send cash through the post, or put it through my letter box. If you wish to pay by cash in person at my address, please ring first on 0116 462 4679 and I will make sure that I am here to receive your payment and give you a receipt.

PLEASE NOTE THAT WE WILL NOT BE ISSUING MEMBERSHIP CARDS THIS YEAR

Janet Fanko [membership/ at /greatglenu3a.co.uk](mailto:membership@greatglenu3a.co.uk)
4624679

Calling All Group Leaders: Registers

As we enter the New Year we are three quarters of the way through our current Gift Aid year. I would like to thank all those Group Leaders who have submitted registers and who are up-to-date at year-end 2019. I shall be very grateful if the Group Leaders who still have registers outstanding for any period since April

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2019 could please submit these as soon as possible.
Thank you all for your valuable help and cooperation.
Bill Maxted [giftaid/ at /greatglenu3a.co.uk](mailto:giftaid@greatglenu3a.co.uk) 259
2616

Monthly Meetings

Sadly the Leicestershire Wildlife Hospital have cancelled their planned talk on 14 January at short notice. Our thanks must go to Patricia Mansfield who has given her time and made numerous telephone calls to locate a new speaker – see details below –

**At our meeting on 14 January
2020
we will be having a talk about
“Clement Edward Stretton”
and “The Leicester &
Swannington Railway”**

14 January 2020 **The Swannington Heritage Trust** Bis Biswell
11 February 2020 *The Ukelele Sensation* Mark Walsh
10 March 2020 *Rutland – Multum in Parvo* Richard Adams

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).

14 January – **English Country Dancing**
11 February – **Evening Duplicate Bridge**

10 March

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Family History

Christmas Crackers! (*December meeting*)

It was genuinely the start of the Season of Goodwill when Great Glen's U3A went Christmas Crackers. We were treated to a wonderfully varied programme of seasonal entertainment provided by our own members together with the delightful choir from St Cuthberts School. The festivities began with a performance of 'A Couple of Swells' by Margaret Hudson and Graham Harrison which was so good that it had to be repeated. Ann de Voil presented 'The Yorkshire Messiah' and John Parrington, that marvellous maestro of monologue, continued with 'Sam's Christmas Pudding'. After the raffle, the St Cuthberts choir sang a variety of new and old Christmas favourites followed by readings by Margaret Lee ('When I grow old....') and Robert Mansfield (The Foolish Fir Tree). The entertainments were concluded by Jean and Chris Obern leading a joyous 'sing along' of a number of our favorite Christmas carols.

We concluded with a buffet contributed by members and which was brilliantly arranged by Stella Orbell and Rachael Snashall. It was indeed a great start to the festive season.

Bill Maxted

GROUP NEWS

Groups Learning and having fun!

Art Group

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Our next meeting is scheduled for Thursday 16 January when the subject is Winter. We are getting desperately short of members as one or two have moved away. Anyone who is interested in joining us will be made very welcome. Our following meetings are Thursdays 06 and 20 February.

Rachael Snashall [art/ at /greatglenu3a.co.uk](mailto:art/at/greatglenu3a.co.uk) 259
2830

Writing for Pleasure

We get together again on Tuesday 28 January to enjoy any contributions you may have penned during the break and to move forward we hope with a plan for future meetings. As usual there will be one or two exercises to enjoy in the group. We have a wide range of experience so anyone who enjoys putting pen to paper is welcome. Apparently it is considered very therapeutic so if the post-Christmas blues have hit then this may well be worth a go. 2.00 p.m. in the Ruth Warner Room at the Methodist Church.

Stella Orbell [writing/ at /greatglenu3a.co.uk](mailto:writing/at/greatglenu3a.co.uk) 259
2095

French for Beginners – Lets Learn Together

Our meetings are on the first and third Tuesdays of the month, starting at 10.00 a.m. until 12.00 noon in the Ruth Warner room at the Methodist Church. The group's sessions restarted on the 07 January 2020 with the next meeting on 21 January. To join this group please contact...

For email replace / at / with @

Jan Johnson [frenchbeginners/ at /greatglenu3a.co.uk](mailto:frenchbeginners@greatglenu3a.co.uk) 2122469

Needles and Pins

We are looking for some new members, male and female. Why not come along bringing unfinished work or something new? We are a small friendly group that meets on the second Monday of each month.

Beryl Connolly [needles/ at /greatglenu3a.co.uk](mailto:needles@greatglenu3a.co.uk) 07423
311013

History

The next meeting at the Methodist Hall is on Monday 03 February at 2pm

We shall be hearing about ‘the life and death of Rasputin’. Everyone is welcome.

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

Family History

Meetings are held in the Methodist Church Hall on the second and fourth Wednesdays each month. Our next meeting will be on Wednesday 22 January at 9.30am in the Methodist Church hall. If you would like to know how to start looking into your Family History please let me know and we can make arrangements to give you basic tuition. If you would like to join us you will most welcome. Please contact....

Eric Orbell [familyhistory/ at /greatglenu3a.co.uk](mailto:familyhistory@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 in the Ruth Warner room at the Methodist Church. New members will be very welcome.

Beryl Connolly

07423 311 013

Papercraft

We meet again on 20 January when Rachael has kindly agreed to keep you all busy. I hope you had lots of papercraft goodies for Christmas. We can squeeze in one or two more people if you would like to join us. Bring pencil, ruler, scissors, pva glue and a cutting mat if you have one. No experience required at all.

Stella Orbell [papercraft/ at /greatglenu3a.co.uk](mailto:papercraft@greatglenu3a.co.uk) 259 2095

Military History

Military History meets on the first Wednesday each month at 10.00am in the Methodist Church Hall. Our next meeting will be on Wednesday 05 February at 10.00am in the Methodist Church Hall. New members will be welcomed. No pre-knowledge is required. New members welcome.

Eric Orbell [militaryhistory/ at /greatglenu3a.co.uk](mailto:militaryhistory@greatglenu3a.co.uk) 259 2095

French Conversation

After our prolonged Christmas vacation the group recommenced its weekly meetings on Wednesday 08

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January at 10.30 am in the Ruth Warner room. Our next meeting will be on Wednesday 15 January.

Jim Picken [djpicken95/ at /gmail.com](mailto:djpicken95@gmail.com)

259

2035

Groups that Exercise and have fun!

New Age Kurling

The next three sessions are at 10 a.m. on Fridays - January 10 and 24 and then February 14 in the Sports Centre next to the village hall. No ice and no frantic brushing! Our stones run on castors on a wooden floor. Why not come along and try your hand. It's very easy to play and it provides gentle exercise and lots of fun. Everyone is welcome.

Peter Russell [kurling/ at /greatglenu3a.co.uk](mailto:kurling@greatglenu3a.co.uk) 01572

822198

Walking Without Stiles

The next walk will be Tuesday 28 January 2020 when we hope to be able to do the postponed Great Glen walk at 10.30 am starting from Wych Elm Close (outside number 6) Great Glen. Graham Fanko will be leading the walk in a figure of eight centred on Dolly's café where we can get various drinks, snacks and meals. The path may be muddy in places so please wear suitable footwear. And bring protective clothing in case of inclement weather.

If you have any queries about the walk or if you would like to join the group please contact...

For email replace / at / with @

Elizabeth Cooke [walking/ at /greatglenu3a.co.uk](mailto:walking@greatglenu3a.co.uk) 270 4524 or
07957 288060

Indoor Bowls

We meet at Market Harborough Leisure Centre every Tuesday morning from 10am until 12 from October until March. We are a small friendly group who have been meeting for several years but we would like some new members so the group keeps going. Experience is not required. We look forward to seeing members old and new. If interested please contact...

Ann Spray

281 0324

Croquet

We meet at the Methodist Church Hall. There are three separate Croquet Groups:

Group A **Thursday morning 10.00 a.m. till 11.30 a.m.**

Group B **Thursday morning 11.30 a.m. till 1.00 p.m.**

Group C **Tuesday afternoon 1.30 p.m. till 3.15 p.m.**

We recommenced our weekly sessions on 07 January - if you are interested in joining contact.....

John Lawson [jlawson123/ at /btinternet.com](mailto:jlawson123@btinternet.com)

2593421

Carpet Bowls

We meet every Thursday afternoon in the Village Hall from 2.00 to 4.00 p.m. We are growing in numbers but are always pleased to welcome new members. No previous experience necessary. Due to the holiday

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period and another event there will not be any bowls on Thursday 02 January, 09 January and the 23 January 2020.

Hope to see everyone on Thursday 16 January 2020 and getting back to our normal routine from 30 January.

Peter Stanley [carpetbowls/ at /greatglenu3a.co.uk](mailto:carpetbowls@greatglenu3a.co.uk) 259 2152

Table Tennis

We start playing again in 2020 on Monday 06 January 2020 with our next meeting on Monday 13 January.

Janet Freestone [alan.freestone/ at /mypostoffice.co.uk](mailto:alan.freestone@mypostoffice.co.uk) 259 2803

Swimming



The 2020 Sessions started on Wednesday 06 January at 13:30 in the Leicester Grammar School pool. Please note that there will be no swimming on 19 February.

Frank Wilcock [swimming/ at /greatglenu3a.co.uk](mailto:swimming@greatglenu3a.co.uk) 431 9706

Line Dancing

Happy New Year to all our dancers past, present and future.

If Christmas has been a little excessive, and you need some gentle exercise, or if you just want to try something new, come along and try Line Dancing. We meet on Thursday at 1.30pm at the Sports Hall.

New members are always welcome, and line dancing is very easy to pick up. Yes, you will make mistakes, we

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all do, but you will have lots of laughs in the process. Line dancing is meant to be fun, not a competition, 'Strictly' it ain't!!!

I look forward to seeing you all on Thursday January 9th in the Sports Hall at 1.30.

Jackie Jordan [jkj1506/ at /btinternet.com](mailto:jkj1506@btinternet.com) 259 9199

English Country Dancing

Happy New Year to English Country Dancers!

After the Christmas-New Year break the ECD group resumes its weekly dancing on Tuesday January 14.

Two dances to try that are appropriate to the end of the festive season are *New Year's Day in the Morning* from Johnson's 1750 collection, and *Twelfth Night*, by the American dance-writer Louis Vosteen which uses the tune *Twelfth Eve* from the 1702 edition of Playford's Dancing Master.

Then later in the month on January 25 several members of the group will be attending a Burn's Night Supper and Ceilidh at St Peter's Centre, Oadby, where the dances will be called by the ECD group leader, Peter. After a traditional supper of "Haggis, Neeps and Tatties with a wee dram" the dancing will have a Scottish flavour, and include such old favourites as the *Gay Gordons*, the *Dashing White Sergeant* and the *Strip the Willow*, along with the *Atholl Highlanders* and the *Geud Man O' Ballangigh*. The last is a reference to King James V of Scotland (1512-1542) who used to dress as a common man, a yeoman farmer,

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to travel around his kingdom *in cognito* in order to learn his people's views and thoughts. One story from Fife is that on reaching the banks of the Dreel Burn in Anstruther the Geud Man was reluctant to ford the stream because he was wearing new hose which he did not wish to get wet, so a local beggar woman, not realising who he was, hoisted him on her back and carried him over - whereupon she received the king's purse in gratitude!

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 pm with a refreshment break halfway through. English Country Dancing provides good exercise that keeps both body and mind fit and agile, 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?

Peter Meacock [ecd/ at /greatglenu3a.co.uk](mailto:ecd@greatglenu3a.co.uk) 279 3600

Tai Chi

Tai Chi is continuing to hold meetings but unfortunately we are unable take any new members as we currently do not have a qualified instructor.

Lynda Woodford [uzupa63/ at /gmail.com](mailto:uzupa63@gmail.com) 259 2186

Groups that challenge our brains and still have fun!

Mini Bridge

Meetings are held every Tuesday at the Methodist Church Hall. We start at 9.45 a.m. (please try to be there at least 5 minutes before} and finish at approximately noon.

Our next meeting will be on Tuesday 14 January - if you would like to join us please contact....

Terry Evans [minibridge/ at /greatglenu3a.co.uk](mailto:minibridge@greatglenu3a.co.uk) 259
2102

Quiz Group

The next meeting is on Monday 27 January with the quiz master being Mick Burton. If you like quizzing then please come along and join us - new members are always welcome.

Rachael Snashall [quiz/ at /greatglenu3a.co.uk](mailto:quiz@greatglenu3a.co.uk) 259 2830

Table Top Games

Now 2020 has finally arrived and Christmas is becoming just a memory, we recommence our bi-monthly sessions. We meet on the second and fourth Thursday of each month at 2:00pm at the Methodist Church. It's likely that our first January meeting will be past when you read this, so make a note in your diary to join us on 23 January or 13 February.

As well as the ever popular canasta, we have a variety of board games, or you are welcome to bring your own

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to share. No experience is necessary: we will endeavour to teach you.....or you can teach us! Not sure? Come along and give us a try. No obligation to come a second time, but we hope you will!

Please phone so we know to expect you.

Helen Edwards [ttgames/ at /greatglenu3a.co.uk](mailto:ttgames@greatglenu3a.co.uk) 212 7547

Book Group (Mondays)

The next meeting of the group will be on 20 January at 2 pm in the Ruth Warner Room. The group will be discussing "The Big Sleep" by Raymond Chandler.

Our February book will be "Diary of an Ordinary Woman" by Margaret Forster.

Liz Adams [books/ at /greatglenu3a.co.uk](mailto:books@greatglenu3a.co.uk) 271
6281

Book Group (Thursdays)

Our next meeting is at 10.00am Thursday 23 January when we shall be discussing 'Becoming Michelle Obama' by Michelle Obama. Our 20 February book is 'The Nightingale' by Kristen Hannah.

We are very happy to welcome new members to our group we meet in The Ruth Warner Room at The Methodist Hall. Men and women are invited. Please contact....

Patricia Mansfield [patriciamansfield/ at /btinternet.com](mailto:patriciamansfield@btinternet.com)
2708284

Evening Duplicate Bridge

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This is a very friendly social group who meet at 7.00 for a 7.15 p.m. start. Meetings are held at the Great Glen Methodist Hall on Tuesdays, except for the third Tuesday in each month when we meet at the Great Glen Community Library. We should love to meet a few more new members in addition to one who has joined us following the Open Day -you will be made most welcome.

Andy Tyler [eveningbridge/ at /greatglenu3a.co.uk](mailto:eveningbridge@greatglenu3a.co.uk) 07879 234046

Groups that socialise and have fun!

Sunday Singles

Our next lunch will be at the Leicestershire Golf Club on January 12, followed by February 09, March 08, and April 12.

Gentlemen are welcome to join our usual members.

Judith Measom

279 1509

Singing for fun

The next session will be a mixed bag of well known tunes to sing along with. We are trying to arrange a new date in February as Claire is no longer available on the 05 February.

Please listen out for an announcement at the monthly meeting, watch your e-mail for an update, and watch for the poster on the Methodist Hall notice board.

But do come along, everyone is welcome.

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

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Pub Lunches

We continue to meet for lunch each month on the second Tuesday, after the monthly U3A meeting, to enjoy good food and fellowship. We have our favourite venues but try to visit local ‘pubs’ during the winter months and go further afield in the better weather.

New members will be made very welcome and if you would like to join us please contact.....

Margaret Hudson

271 5064

Ukulele Group

The Ukulele Group meet in the Church room on the first and third Monday of the month at 10am. After our break for the festive season we resumed on 06 January 2020 and our next meeting will be on 20 January. Happy New Year everybody.

Alan Mawby

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

259 2599

Luncheon Club

We meet at The Bell, Burton Overy on the fourth Tuesday of the month. We alternate between a starter and main course and a main course and dessert.

At the moment we cannot take any more members. If you are interested in being on a waiting list and would like more information please contact me on the details below.

Joyce Davies

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

2593436

Garden Visits

For email replace / at / with @

Firstly I and my small committee would like to wish all members of the U3A a very happy and healthy 2020 and long may we wander around other people's gardens!! Our next meeting will be on Friday 17 January in the Methodist Church Hall when we will be watching a garden themed DVD with, of course, a break for tea/coffee and biscuits at half time. We will commence at 2.00 p.m. so please arrive a little earlier in order for you to register and pay £3, (£1.50 towards the cost of the Hall and the remainder towards the possibility of having a speaker in the future). Once again we have our good friend Toni Smith who will be in charge of the technology and to whom we give our grateful thanks.

Linda Hobart [gardenvisits/ at /greatglenu3a.co.uk](mailto:gardenvisits@greatglenu3a.co.uk). 367
0766

and finally...

Some random facts about January

The Anglo-Saxons called January "Wulfmonath" as it was the month hungry wolves came scavenging at people's doors.

The Romans named it January after Janus, the God of gateways. Janus had two heads so he could look in both directions, back

at the old year and forward towards the new year, at the same time.

Daytime temperatures in January make it the coldest month of the year in the UK.

The only Shakespeare plays that mention January are Much Ado About Nothing and Winter's Tale.

The birthstone for January is the garnet; the flower is the carnation.

The first recorded reference to a "January sale" in the UK was in 1865.

There is a variety of cold-tolerant winter cabbage grown in England known as January King.

January is National Soup Month in the United States

Leap year exempted, January always begins on the same day as October. In leap years, January always begins on the same day as April and July

Happy New Year!