



**Great Glen Newsletter**  
**July 2019 Registered**  
**Charity No. 1099411**

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

**A warm welcome to our new members:  
Eileen Thompson and Janet Arnott**

## **Chairman's Chat**

As many of our Groups take a break over the summer recess, your Committee has been putting further work into plans for the next Open Day. As previously explained this event takes place on Tuesday 03 September this year, from 10.00 to 12.00 noon. Now that the dust has settled after the flurry of renewals for 2019/2020 it is clear that, as every year, we need to recruit quite a number of new members just to stand still. The Open Day is one of our prime opportunities to do that. This year we shall be showcasing the great things we do at **three** locations: the Village Hall, the Sports Hall and the Methodist Church Hall. You can all play your part by attending and bringing along friends, neighbours and acquaintances who will receive a cordial welcome. Please put the date in your diaries now.

I am sure that we need also to find new ways to promote Great Glen U3A, because as we all know 'the times they are a'changing'. I should be very interested to hear from anyone with social media skills and

For email replace / at / with @

experience who might have ideas about how we might best go about this. If you might be that person, please contact me.

My best wishes both to those embarking on holidays – perhaps you may care to share some of your experiences with us via the newsletter? – and those, like Patricia and me, who for July remain at home. And a reminder to the latter: there is the usual monthly meeting in July, at which I hope we shall see a better attendance than at the last two meetings, no meeting in August, and then the usual meetings from September onwards – see this newsletter for details.

*Robert Mansfield*                      [chairman/ at](mailto:chairman@greatglenu3a.co.uk)  
[/greatglenu3a.co.uk](mailto:chairman@greatglenu3a.co.uk)                      270 828

## **Committee News**

### **INTER U3A QUIZ NIGHT -03 OCTOBER 2019**

We have been invited by Hinckley U3A to send one or two teams of four quizzers to the Inter U3A Quiz Night to be held at the Earl Shilton Constitutional Club, 75 Station Road, Earl Shilton, LE9 7EG. There is a licenced bar, free car park, disabled parking and disabled access to the first floor by stair lift. The evening starts at 6.45pm for a 7.00pm start for the quiz, supper around 8pm and the evening ending around 9.30pm. Cost is £8.00 per team – drinks and bar snacks available to buy but if you want something more substantial fish and chips or chicken and chips can be ordered in advance for £5.50. We need to let

For email replace / at / with @

Hinckley U3A have details of our teams by early September.... So if there are any of you out there who are secret masterminds and would like to get together and form one or two teams for our U3A please contact...*Rachael Snashall* [rsnashall/ at /hotmail.com](mailto:rsnashall@hotmail.com)  
259 2830

### **Emergency Contact Details**

Rules and Regulations strike again! Our group leaders are now required to have emergency contact numbers for all members of their groups. They have your home telephone number but this may not be the number needed to contact a family member or friend in case of illness or accident. We would therefore like to ask you all to carry a small card in a pocket giving the details of your emergency contact where it could easily be found if needed. Other options that we have discussed require the need to obtain the consent of the person nominated as the emergency contact and we are trying to avoid this. If you have any concerns about this please let the committee know via the Chairman.

### **DVD PLAYER AND MONITOR**

This equipment was purchased by lottery grant but has barely been used. Groups have instead made use of YouTube . If your group could use it in any way please let me know, but otherwise we are happy to let it go to a good home for a small donation. It is as new and works beautifully. I look forward to your call.  
Stella Orbell Business Secretary 2592095

## Monthly Meetings

**At our meeting on 09 July 2019 we  
will be hearing about  
'The life of a Wimbledon Umpire'  
a talk given by Alan Gray**

09 July 2019 *The life of a Wimbledon Umpire*

*Alan Gray*

13 August 2019 **There will be no monthly meeting  
on this date**

03 September 2019 **Open Day in village and sports  
halls**

10 September 2019 *Sing a Century* *Andy Smith*

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, tea and sugar are provided.*

*Please bring milk (2 litres).*

09 July – **Table Top Games**

*No meeting in August*

03 September – **Tai Chi**

10 September – **Ukulele Group**

**WOMEN IN THE GREAT WAR** (*June meeting*)

David Humberston gave this talk and began by setting the scene with the battle of Ypres, which changed history and geography.

He talked about the roles of many well-known women, starting with the tragic tale of Edith Cavell, and including stories of numerous titled ladies who set up various charities which aided the war effort at home and abroad.

Marie Curie (the only woman to be awarded two Nobel Prizes) obtained a number of vehicles which were fitted out as mobile X-Ray centres, and with the help of her daughter and various volunteer radiologists drove them to the front line medical posts which enabled surgeons to make better, more accurate diagnoses thereby treating the wounded quicker and more effectively.

Nurses featured heavily including the Red Cross and St John's Ambulance Brigade. He also covered women in the Land Army and women taking over the factory jobs due to a shortage of men as they had gone to fight. He mentioned the Canary Girls, who were women working with TNT which discoloured their skins yellow, hence their nickname.

He spoke about the women Secret Agents and Spies who worked both at home and in France and Belgium many of whom, if discovered, were executed.

This is just a snapshot of a very interesting talk.

Patricia Mansfield

## GROUP NEWS

### Art Group

We meet on the 1st and 3rd Thursday of each month. We resume our meetings again on Thursday 15th August in The Ruth Warner Room, at 2 0'clock.

*Rachael Snashall* [art/ at /greatglenu3a.co.uk](mailto:art@greatglenu3a.co.uk)

259 2830

### Astronomy Group

The Astronomy group will be having a break for the summer and will be meeting again in September, the actual date will be notified nearer the time. New members would be very welcome so if anyone is interested in joining this group please contact

*John Johnson* [astronomy/ at /greatglenu3a.co.uk](mailto:astronomy@greatglenu3a.co.uk)

212

2469

### Book Group (Mondays)

The next meeting of the Monday Book Group will be on 15 July at 2 pm. We will be discussing "A Foreign Field" by Ben Macintyre. Our book for August will be "The Green Bicycle Mystery" by Anthony M. Brown.

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

271

6281

### Book Group (Thursdays)

The next meeting of Thursday Book Group is on 25 July at 10am in the Ruth Warner Room. We shall be discussing 'The Last Runaway' by Tracy Chevalier. Our book in August will be 'This is going

For email replace / at / with @

to hurt: the secret diaries of a Junior Doctor'. New members will be made very welcome - anyone interested should contact ...

*Patricia Mansfield*      [patriciamansfield/](mailto:patriciamansfield@btinternet.com)      [at](mailto:patriciamansfield@btinternet.com)  
[/btinternet.com](mailto:patriciamansfield@btinternet.com)      270 8284

## **Bowling**

Indoor Bowls at Market Harborough will end on 09 April for the summer, recommencing in October. Date will be advised nearer the time.

*Ann Spray*      281 0324

## **Carpet Bowls**

We meet every Thursday afternoon in the Village Hall from 2.00 to 4.00 p.m. New members will be made very welcome. No previous experience is necessary.

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

## **Croquet**

### **A Croquet Story.**

Thursday morning, 9.55a.m. The carpet has been hoovered. The hoops are on their rightful spots. The centre post has been checked along the diagonals.

Next we need the notorious pack of eight playing cards, all jokers, four red and four black. Our blind choices establish today's two teams, and which team should choose its colours.

Black and blue are usually favoured over red and yellow, for some obscure reason. The decision about

For email replace / at / with @

whether to start or whether to put the other team in first is more debatable.

But it is now 10 o'clock so here we go. Even at the first hoop it's pretty competitive. The new carpet slows the balls down just nicely. We play to "Association" rules but with a few tweaks.....the game on a carpet is very different from the game on grass, hence the tweaks. However on either surface it's the "croquet" shot [which follows each "roquet shot"] which gives the game its special technical and challenging style-----part snooker, part bowls, part ruthlessness No genteel Edwardian ladies or gentlemen here, no, we are not jokers [they're the cards], we're ruthless!

Each ball must go through the six hoops on a clockwise route [from God's viewpoint] followed by the same six hoops anticlockwise. So confusing, and hardly time for a quick coffee and one biscuit. Just keep concentrating!

For some of the group it's a long way to come by buses or cars to Great Glen every Thursday morning, for some it's home territory.....but there is one thing in common, **WE ALL LOVE IT!**

**Thank you Tony Baxter for this interesting insight into the game of Croquet.**

There are three separate Croquet Groups:

**Group A Thursday morning 10.00am till**

**11.30am.** We have 2 vacancies for this group

Beginners or experienced players – all will be made welcome.

For email replace / at / with @

**Group B Thursday morning 11.30am till 1.00pm.** At present there are no vacancies

**Group C Tuesday afternoon 1.30pm till 3.15pm.** It is possible there will 2 vacancies in this group. If you are interested in joining contact.....

*John Lawson* [jlawson123/ at /btinternet.com](mailto:jlawson123@btinternet.com)  
2593421

### **English Country Dancing**

The English Country Dancing Group finished its current season on 02 July, and will not be meeting during the remainder of July and August. We shall be performing some demonstration dances at the U3A Open Day on 03 September, so do come along and see if this graceful and elegant form of social dancing appeals to you - If time allows there will be opportunity for other U3A members to "have a go"!

The group will resume its regular weekly dancing on Tuesday 10 September, 1.30 to 3.30pm in the Sports Hall. There will be various public dances at local folk dance clubs in the Autumn period, including a Playford (1651 to 1728) Ball at Rushden on October 5th where attendees are invited to wear period costume. With that in mind we shall practice dances from the 17th and 18th centuries so that any members planning to attend the Ball can take to the floor with confidence and in style!

We are always pleased to welcome new members to our weekly meetings for an afternoon of fun and gentle exercise in good company. Most of our dances are

For email replace / at / with @

conducted at walking pace, with occasionally skipping so are not too vigorous. The dances are performed in specific formations of circles, squares and longways sets, and they span English Country, English Court (Playford), and American Square and Contra styles. Some dances date back to the Stuart and Georgian/Regency periods, or even earlier, while others were written very recently. The music we use ranges from classical (Handel, Purcell, Mozart, Bach) to modern compositions, sometimes even jazz, and for the older country dances often features tunes that will be very familiar to anybody who enjoys traditional English folk music.

No previous experience is needed as all the dances are fully explained, the moves are walked through before setting them to music and the dances are called throughout. Also, no special clothing needed - just light-weight flat shoes or sandals and comfortable clothing suitable for gentle dancing. Nor do you need to come with a partner; singles of both sexes are welcomed, and we often change partners during the dances so that everybody is involved. The only requirement is to be prepared to join in, laugh and enjoy yourself.

*Peter Meacock*

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

279 3600

## **Evening Duplicate Bridge**

For email replace / at / with @

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, except for the third Tuesday in each month when we meet at the Great Glen Community Library. Duplicate bridge on Tuesday night will continue throughout the summer as normal. We should love to meet new members -you will be made most welcome.

A Tyler [eveningbridge/ at /greatglenu3a.co.uk](mailto:eveningbridge@greatglenu3a.co.uk) 07879234046

### **Family History**

Meetings are held in the Methodist Church Hall. However we are taking a break until Wednesday 09 October. Newcomers are always welcome – if you are interested 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. New members will be very welcome.

Beryl Connolly

07423 311 013

### **French Conversation**

Our last meeting of the Summer will be on Wednesday 10 July. We will meet again for the Michaelmas Term on Wednesday 04 September at 10.30 am with perhaps one or two more members. We will, of course, spend

For email replace / at / with @

the Summer reading the works of French authors from Voltaire, Satre, Pascal and Simenon. Anyone interested in joining or just coming along to see how we spend our time, please contact...

*Jim Picken*

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

259 2035

## **French for Beginners – Lets Learn Together**

This group meets in the morning on the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays of the month. We will not be meeting in August or on 03 September due to the Open Day, so the next meeting after 16 July will be 17 September. New members will be made very welcome so if you would like to join this group please contact ...

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

212

2469

## **Garden Visits**

‘Our next meeting is on Friday 19 July when we visit Farmway in Willoughby Waterleys LE8 6UD. This is a plants lover’s garden with many unusual plants in colour themed borders. The cost is £5 which includes admission and refreshments. Numbers are restricted to 25 so if you would like to go please contact myself (not Margaret Wright as your diary says). Also please let me know if you would like a lift or are going straight to the venue. We will be leaving the car park in Great Glen at 2.00 p.m.

For email replace / at / with @

**PLEASE NOTE DIRECTIONS:** We have been asked to park by the Church/Village Hall (the Church being on the left hand side and the Village Hall on the right just after you have entered Willoughby Waterleys). Go through the green gates at the side of the Church and proceed along the path. There is a farm on the left, a brick wall on the right, turn right and Farmway is the first bungalow on the right.

**A REMINDER** for those of you going to Easton Walled Gardens on Friday 16 August. Please be at the Great Glen car park in time for the coach which will be leaving at 10.00 a.m. promptly! Many thanks.

Linda Hobart      [gardenvisits/ at /greatglenu3a.co.uk](mailto:gardenvisits@greatglenu3a.co.uk).      319  
8095

## **History**

There is no meeting in August. The next meeting at the Methodist Hall is on Monday 02 September, 2.00pm. Everyone is welcome.

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

## **Line Dancing**

Line dancing has now stopped for the summer break, and will re-start on 05 September, 1.30 in the sports hall. New members will as always be very welcome.

We will be giving a demonstration at the open day, and hope that you will come along and see just what line dancing is like. It is no longer the all American style with boots and Stetsons that it used to be. We will be

For email replace / at / with @

doing some quite simple dances, to music that you will all remember, plus an easy invitation dance that we hope you will join in with and enjoy.

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

259 9199

## **Military History**

Military History meets on the first Wednesday each month at 10.00am in the Methodist Church Hall However we are taking a break through the summer and will re-convene on Wednesday 02 October at 10.00am when we will start to look at The Indian Mutiny.

*Eric Orbell*                      [militaryhistory/ at /greatglenu3a.co.uk](mailto:militaryhistory@greatglenu3a.co.uk)    2592095

## **Mini Bridge**

Meetings are held every Tuesday at the Methodist Church Hall and as usual Minibridge is continuing throughout the summer. Starting at 9.45am (please try to be there at least 5 minutes before) and finishing at approximately noon.

We welcome anyone who would like to learn the game, some experience in playing cards is useful although not essential. For further information please contact....*Terry Evans* [evans.t9/ at /pobroadband.co.uk](mailto:evans.t9@pobroadband.co.uk)

259 2102

## **Needles and Pins**

We are looking for some new members, male and female. Why not come along bringing unfinished

For email replace / at / with @

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/at/greatglenu3a.co.uk) 07423 311013

## **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.

The next session is on Friday 12 July at the Sports Centre (next to the village hall) at 10 a.m. We shall be then taking a break and be back again on 13 September. Everyone is welcome.

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

## **Papercraft**

Please come along on 19 August to the last Papercraft before the Open Day. Bring along any cards that you would like to display adding your name on the back. We shall try to produce vases of flowers in different sizes – in paper of course! See you there,

*Stella Orbell* [papercraft/ at /greatglenu3a.co.uk](mailto:papercraft/at/greatglenu3a.co.uk)

259

2095

## **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

For email replace / at / with @

venues but try to visit local 'pubs' during the winter months and go further afield in the better weather.

Our venue for 09 July will be the Crown at Tur Langton. New members will be made very welcome and if you would like to join us please contact.....

*Margaret Hudson*

271 5064

## **Quiz Group**

We are taking a break through July and August. Our September meeting will be on Monday 23rd September in the Main Hall of the Methodist Church at 2 0'clock.

*Rachael Snashall*     [quiz/ at /greatglenu3a.co.uk](mailto:quiz/at/greatglenu3a.co.uk)

259 2830

## **Sunday Singles**

Our next lunch will be at the Leicestershire Golf Club on 14 July. Gentlemen are welcome to join our usual members.

*Judith Measom*

279 1509

## **Swimming**

Swimming sessions have finished for the school summer break. They will start again on 11 September.

New swimmers of any standard are always welcome.

*Frank Wilcock*     [swimming/ at /greatglenu3a.co.uk](mailto:swimming/at/greatglenu3a.co.uk)

431

9706

## **Table Tennis**

Meetings as usual for July and we will take a break for the month of August and restart on Monday 02 September.

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

259

2803

## **Table Top Games**

The advent of the holiday season & an unfortunate clash with the Great Glen Gardening Club trips has meant that our group is no longer viable. Consequently we are having an extended break during June, July & August, and hope to reconvene in September. Newcomers are always welcome to join us, but please phone so we know to expect you. No experience or knowledge is necessary. We need more members, so if you enjoy card and/or board games we hope you will join us in the Autumn. More details will be included in the newsletter once we have sorted definite dates.

Group members are happy to teach you new games.....or you can bring your own to teach us! In the meantime we hope all members & non-members enjoy their Summer break.

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

## **Tai Chi**

Tai Chi is continuing through the summer, 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

## **Ukulele Group**

The group normally meets on the first and third Mondays each month. We are taking a holiday so

For email replace / at / with @

no meeting on July 15 or any in August. We will resume normal service with meetings on September 02 and 16.

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

## **Walking Without Stiles**

Unfortunately we had to cancel our last walk at short notice due to inclement weather and holidays. Our next walk will be on a field road around Langton Caudle on Tuesday 23 July 2019 starting at 10.30am, followed by refreshments nearby. Please contact me, Elizabeth Cooke, know if you intend to come so that we know you are coming and we can contact you if the walk has to be cancelled at the last minute due to unforeseen circumstances.

If you would like to join the group or want further details please contact...

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

## **Writing for Pleasure**

At the moment we do not have a re-start date. We hope to recruit one or two more people at the Open Day. Please encourage friends to come along and sign up.

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

**And finally..**

## **St Swithin's Day – 15 July**

St. Swithin was a beloved ninth-century bishop (born *c.* 800—died July 2, 862) of Winchester, England. He served as counsellor to Kings Egbert and Aethelwulf of the West Saxons. On or about October 30, 852, he was consecrated bishop of Winchester. He requested that he be buried in the churchyard – some say to be close to the common people, whom he loved; some say so that he could enjoy God's gift of rain for all eternity. When he died in 862, his request was honoured. But about 100 years later it was deemed unseemly that so holy a man should rest in a common grave. On July 15, the saint's feast day, the people attempted to enshrine his remains in his church. However, legend has it that St. Swithin caused torrential rains to fall for 40 days, until the intended transfer was abandoned. Folklore now reports that if it rains on St Swithin's Day it will rain for 40 days more! So keep your fingers crossed for sunny weather on 15 July.