



Great Glen Newsletter

July 2020

Registered Charity No. 1099411

www.greatglenu3a.co.uk

Chair's Chat

Hello everyone

Living as we do in Leicester, Patricia and I join about half our members in enduring an extension of lockdown. The root causes are shrouded in mystery. We shall probably never know who is to blame (and obviously when fortunes go awry someone has to be!): reckless protesters, Asian sweat shops, food processing factories, Eid celebrants, thoughtless pub goers or something in the air have all been suggested, but there seems no firm evidence to identify the culprits with certainty. Anyway, I felicitate the virtuous inhabitants of Great Glen and other rural parts of our catchment area upon the gradual easing of their restrictions and trust that they will, naturally with appropriate regard to the continuing risk to themselves, enjoy their greater freedom to the full.

More lockdown though, or more freedom, your Committee believes it may well be 2021 before we see a return of any significance to the face-to-face activity and socialising which is the core of our U3A. We have therefore decided to try to arrange virtual monthly meetings for the remainder of 2020. These will be open to members who have provided us with an email address and who have downloaded the *Zoom* app. This

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can, as many members already know, be downloaded free on to a computer, tablet, smartphone or similar device. Downloading, installing and using *Zoom* is straightforward. If anyone would welcome being talked through the process, please let me know. **We have experts on hand who can help in confidence on a one-to-one basis.** I shall shortly be emailing members with more information on this, and I hope that we shall see an excellent turnout at our monthly meetings. Details of forthcoming meetings are published in the newsletter.

Also in the newsletter you will find details of a **competition that will enable you to share the delights of your garden this year**, refreshed as it must be by the recent summer showers, and to show off your photographic skills. Of course, these days we do not need to have cameras: a tablet or a phone will do the job perfectly! I look forward to seeing lots of entries to cheer us all up. My thanks to John Johnson for organising this.

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

Committee News

Elaine Batchelor attended and was welcomed to her first committee meeting on 07 July 2020 in her role as Business Secretary. She is familiarising herself with the policies and procedures to ensure our U3A operates in line with the rules of The Third Age Trust, the Charity Commissioners, and legal requirements.

Monthly Meetings



HOORAY - WE'LL BE BACK IN BUSINESS IN AUGUST



We will be using Zoom to hold the meetings. If you have a computer, a laptop, a tablet or a smart phone you will be able to download Zoom and join the meetings. We know that this will be new to many of you but installation of Zoom is usually quite straightforward. National U3A has produced user guides for installing Zoom and these can be found on the front page of the Great Glen website www.greatglenu3a.co.uk

If you are finding it a challenge to set up Zoom Peter and Sue Russell have offered to help on a one-to-one basis over the phone so that as many of you who want to join the meetings can. Their contact details are 01572 822198 or email to [lsn/ at /greatglenu3a.co.uk](mailto:lsn@greatglenu3a.co.uk)

The meetings will not be quite the same as meeting at the Village Hall. Perhaps not the opportunity of chatting with friends in the same way and you will have to make your own tea or coffee! But you will be able to see familiar faces and speak to friends and enjoy the programme of entertainment

The plans for meetings are as follows:-

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- **11 August Songs & Story's**
with Steve & Carol **Fools Gold**
- **08 September The Jack Castle Books**
Philip Caine, author
- **13 October The History of Inn Signs**
Michael Astrop
- **10 November The Royal Yacht Britannia**
Tony Noble
- **08 December Christmas Through The Ages**
Eddie Smallwood

Here is a little more about what to expect at the August meeting –

DON'T MISS FOOL's GOLD
By ZOOM Tuesday 11
August at 10.30 a.m.



Acoustic duo Carol and Steve have delighted us not so long ago with one of their programmes of music songs, brought to life by accounts of the histories, mysteries and sometimes tragedies that lie behind them. Be sure to join their Zoom programme at our August virtual monthly meeting. Wait for emails from Robert on how to attend, or phone him on 0116 270 8284

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Summer Garden Photograph Competition

The Great Glen U3A is having a competition for all the members to show off the work done in their gardens while we have all been in a lock-down situation.

All photographs must be of your own garden and taken during the recent lockdown, only one photograph per garden please. You must agree that the photographs may be reproduced in the monthly newsletter.

Please send your entries by email to:

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

Closing date for entries is 21 August 2020.

The committee will judge the winning entry and so will be looking for that special shot to take the winner's spot

**This will be announced
In the September newsletter**

GROUP NEWS

U3A Newsletter Express can be found on the following link <https://mailchi.mp/u3a/u3a-newsletter-express-4-06-29-20?e=d927e63c30> – it gives information on what other U3A groups are doing during lockdown and other information about U3A. Do take a look – it may give you ideas for getting the groups you attend meeting up again, albeit virtually.

The front page of our website has a link to a list of all activities currently running on zoom, email or in other ways. Go to www.greatglenu3a.co.uk

Our groups keeping in touch through e-mail and/or telephone are:

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- **Monday and Thursday Book Groups** who continue to read agreed books, and submit reviews to the Group Leader who circulates them to the members of the group
- **Tabletop Games** who have a weekly quiz and keep in touch by telephone
- **Mini Bridge** who have a daily quiz

Our groups keeping in touch through Zoom are:

- **History, Family History, French for Beginners, New Age Kurling, Ukeleles, Writing for Pleasure, and Zoom Quiz**

And **Walking without Stiles** hopes to start walking again shortly

If your group is not meeting at present why not have a chat with the Group Leaders for these groups – you may find you want to join in with them until your group starts again. Go to the front page of the website www.greatglenu3a.co.uk for contact details for the above groups

Some special information from groups

Writing for Pleasure

I am pleased to report that our membership has again increased. We are currently working on a serialised story, taking it in turns to write successive episodes before passing the buck, I mean baton to another, unsuspecting, member. The book of memories is now around 20,000 words so an end is in view. We could

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still do with a few more contributions though! Anyone who would like to join in please contact me. We are next meeting by Zoom on Tuesday 28 July in the afternoon.

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

History Group

Meetings are being held on the first Monday, using Zoom. At the 03 August meeting we are getting a bit more recent and looking at events of the early 1950s.

Everyone is welcome, but if you are new to the group, please let me know you want join in so that I can include you in the Zoom invitation.

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

New Age Kurling

We are holding short Zoom meetings for group members on our scheduled days, second and fourth Fridays each month with chat and any mindless games we can manage on Zoom.

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

Ukuleles Group on You-Tube

If you want to see a bunch of individual performances from our uke3a members then put this link into your browser address bar. See what the group has been up to during lockdown. (If you are reading this online then you can just use Ctrl+Click to follow the link)

<https://youtu.be/Ornyxwu6-C8>

Do check this out to see some happy ukulele players.