



Great Glen Newsletter

July 2016

Registered Charity No. 1099411

www.greatglenu3a.co.uk



A very warm welcome to our new members: Margaret and David B Lee, Janet Lowe, Patrick McArragher, Anne and Christopher Smith, and John Wilson

Chairman's Chat

Last Monday I was among nearly 20 members of the History Group who travelled to the village of Hallaton to visit the World War 1 exhibition in the museum. On arrival we were divided into two groups. My group first visited Hallaton Church which is adjacent to the Museum; our guide, a very knowledgeable man, gave us an excellent tour and showed us many things we wouldn't have seen if we had not had his local expertise. It was then our turn to visit the museum. The exhibition was well worth seeing, very informative and very moving. Afterwards we all repaired to the Hare Pie Cafe for wonderful home-made cakes etc.

Whichever way you voted in the referendum, it's worth bearing in mind these beautiful words attributed to Johann Wolfgang von Goethe: "Whatever you can

do, or dream you can do, begin it. Boldness has genius, power and magic in it.” This is certainly a brave new world, and as long as we continue to dream and dare to be bold, Britain has the brightest possible future ahead. Life isn’t about waiting for the storm to pass – it’s about learning to dance in the rain. And we’ll do it better together.

Patricia Mansfield chairman@greatglenu3a.co.uk

270 8284

Let’s not Miss the Coach!!

As you all know, after doing a wonderful job Pat Tate has now stepped down from running outings other than Kilworth House theatre trips. This leaves a space which as a U3A of over 300 people surely we can fill.

As your business secretary I have recently received information from the central office about various interesting trips, days out and concerts etc which have been specially laid on for U3A members but which we miss out on. There must be someone or a couple of friends or partners who would not find it too arduous to book a coach and make a list of interested people and then take the helm on a day out. My husband and I did this for several years and many people still remember the fun we had. Come on Great Glen. If you are fairly recently retired and still have some energy and enthusiasm, or just the last two qualities then I need to hear from you. A telephone number and e-mail

address is helpful when making arrangements but otherwise there are no special requirements. Let me know - an outing in September or October would be great.

Stella Orbell secretary@greatglenu3a.co.uk 2592095

2016/2017 Programme Cards

New Programme Cards may be collected at the monthly meeting or from the kitchen at the Methodist Church. There are still plenty to be collected!

Forthcoming Monthly Meetings

12 July 2016 *Elizabeth Countess of Shrewsbury* Julie Ede

16 August 2016 *Open Day*

13 September 2016 *The last Naval Hero* Roy Smart

Meetings are held in the Village Hall on the second Tuesday of each month. Doors open 10.00 a.m. for tea and coffee, speaker 10.30 a.m.

Coffee Rota

Coffee, tea and sugar are provided. Please bring milk.

12 July – Croquet

16 August – Minibridge (Village Hall), Family History
(Youth Centre)

13 September – Flower Arranging

Fascination of the English Language

(June monthly meeting)

David Siddons has been fascinated by the English language from his infancy. He shared his enthusiasm with us in a lively and well-researched account of how modern English has been shaped by influences going back to the emergence of the Celtic Group of European languages. He reminded us that ours is a global language, spoken by some 400 million people. The nationality with the greatest number of English speakers is now the Chinese. English contains the largest vocabulary (615,000 words in the last edition of the Oxford English Dictionary – rising to 3 million if technical terms are added).

The first language spoken in England was a form of Gaelic used by the Celts. After the Romans invaded there was a limited intermingling of Latin and Gaelic words. Ancient Gaelic words survive today in place names (*avon* meaning river, and so on). The Anglo-Saxon invasions drove back the Celts to Cornwall, Wales, the Isle of Man, Scotland and Brittany. The invaders brought with them Germanic languages with new words and complicated grammar. 96 of the 100 most commonly spoken words today are apparently of Anglo-Saxon origin, and traces of Anglo-Saxon linger

on in place names – for example all those containing the syllable ‘ing’.

The arrival of St Augustine in 597 A.D. saw a successful attempt to revive Christianity in England, and with him came churchmen speaking Latin. Many Latin words were absorbed into the native language. The Roman alphabet was introduced and replaced Celtic runes. The churchmen also brought with them parchment, making possible the first early works in written English: *The Lindisfarne Chronicles*, *the Anglo-Saxon Chronicles*, and Bede’s *History*. Then followed the invasions by the Vikings and the Danes, bringing with them different dialects of Old Norse language. These invasions led to the use of different words in the north and south of England, and eventually to a truce under which England to the north of Watling Street was ruled by the Danes and to the south by the Anglo-Saxons. The footprints remain today in place and familial names. (Names ending in ‘son’ are Viking in origin. Place names ending in ‘by’ are Danish. Viking words such as dale, beck, clough are found exclusively in the north.) The Vikings simplified the complex grammar of the Anglo-Saxons, removing the genders of nouns and the cases of adjectives, thereby creating the Old English in use at the time of the Norman invasion of 1066.

After the arrival of the Normans, there was a sharp social divide. The ruling classes spoke Norman French and this was the language used in church, legal and political affairs, while the peasants continued to speak Old English. Old French words persist today in matters relating to government, the aristocracy and culture. Our words today for domestic animals are Anglo-Saxon (sheep, cow, pig and so on), the language of those that tended them, but the names of the meats that graced the tables of the powerful are French (mutton, beef, pork).

Local dialects proliferated. Poor road systems meant that there was often little interaction between communities. Words acquired differences of meaning (for example, 'while' was used in some places to mean 'until' and in others 'during'). Dialects gave rise to differences in spelling. Habits of speech changed words. In 1450 the invention of printing made possible the mass production of books and leaflets, and led to the establishment of a government committee of scholars to standardise spelling and grammar. The result is that people today can read and understand the works of Shakespeare.

Foreign travel has led to the importation of a huge number of foreign words and expressions, most recently many Americanisms. Many modern additions are the names of inventors (wellington, cardigan, sandwich, hoover, google etc.) Some new words just

appear, as ‘hassle’ apparently did around 1945. Others, like the regrettable ‘medalling’ so much in vogue at the last Olympics, seem to owe their emergence to the current fashion for abbreviation taken to extremes in texting. David reminded us that the evolution of our great language has also seen the dropping of features no longer seen as of value. He cited the loss of the letters, the long ‘s’ and the thorn ‘þ’.

Modern English with its simplified grammar is easy to pick up. But its pronunciation and spelling are largely without rules. We were invited to consider the various different meanings / pronunciations of the word ‘bow’; these have a variety of old English, Norse and Germanic roots. And how difficult it is to explain the sequence in which adjectives of different types should be ordered when used in combination – though native speakers do this without thinking. Clearly a believer in plain English, he concluded by treating us to an astonishing example of periphrastic circumlocution issued by a bank, as an example of just how not to do it.

Robert Mansfield

Great Glen U3A History of Art Group visit to Leicester Art Museum 18th May 2016

Ten members of the Group visited the Museum and were conducted round the Victorian and Modern

Paintings Exhibitions by Simon Lake the Curator of Fine Art. Mr Lake gave us an explanation of each painting in a detailed and interesting way. To mention just three of the many paintings we saw

... the first one was a large painting of the River Thames with St Paul's in the background. We were told that this was a very smelly area as sewage was discharged into the river. The smell got so bad that it permeated the Houses of Parliament causing the City Fathers to have the sewage piped away. The painting included examples of work carried out by the river and was very pleasing.

A painting of a young girl caught the attention of many in the Group, particularly the way light was reflected on her face. It reminded the members of Vermeer's Girl with a Pearl Ear Ring.

An original Lowry painting on display was commissioned for the Festival of Britain and was a typical Lowry industrial scene full of fascinating detail. Good to see an original. A very interesting visit which was enjoyed by us all.

David Brooke

Can Anybody Help John Lawson with this (Family History) Query?

I am in contact with a gentleman in Africa who is attempting to find living relatives of his father who left him (without trace) when he was about 2 or 3 years old. The best I have managed to tell him so far is that he has two aunts (sisters) and they would be about 80 years old now. I know they attended Leicester Collegiate Girls School in the late 1940s and sat School Certificate in the early fifties: G Adams in 1951 and M Adams in 1952.

Did they marry? Did they have children? What are their first names?

Can you help me? Do you know any old girls of the School? Any help you can give me would be appreciated.

John Lawson jlawson123@btinternet.com 2593421

A Penny for Your Thoughts ...

If you have a memory, 'thought piece' or anecdote you are willing to share with other members please do send it in to me. The cut-off date for the next Newsletter is noon on **Wednesday 10 August 2016**.

Robert Mansfield

robertrmansfield@btinternet.com 270 8284

Learn Something New

New Age Kurling

We now have one set of kit and so we can look to get a group going. In view of summer holidays during July and August, I am proposing to start the group in September. However, before that I shall be looking for volunteers to join the demonstration at the Open Day on 16th August. The New Age Kurling demonstration is scheduled for 11.30 to 11.55 a.m. in the Sports Centre.

Peter Russell prussell@russellscott.co.uk 271 0889

Group News

Art Group

We are taking a break during the summer months, so we will begin again on 1st September.

Rachel Snashall rsnashall@hotmail.com 259 2830

Crochet

We are now resting our hooks until September when we shall start again on 20th September at 2.00 p.m.

Everyone is welcome - all materials provided for the first lesson. Just let me know if you cannot come.

Stella Orbell stellamo@hotmail.com 259 2095

Duplicate Bridge (Evenings)

We are back to our usual times: Tuesdays 7.00 p.m. (for a prompt start at 7.15 p.m.) till 10.00 p.m.-ish.

There is no play on the third Tuesday of the month.

Pairs will be made welcome, singles may be put on a waiting list. Anyone interested should contact ...

John Lawson jlawson123@btinternet.com 259 3421

English Country Dancing

The English Country Dancing Group finishes the current session on 12th July, and will not be meeting during the remainder of July and August. However we shall be performing some demonstration dances at the U3A Open Day on 16th August, so do come along and see if this graceful and elegant form of social dancing appeals to you – there will be opportunity for U3A members to "have a go"!

The group will resume its regular weekly dancing on Tuesday 6th September, 2.00 to 4.00 p.m. in the Sports Hall. With the forthcoming (8th October)

Leicestershire & Rutland Playford Costume Ball in mind, we shall practise 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 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, whilst 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 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 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, and enjoy yourself.

Peter Meacock petermeacock112@btinternet.com

279 3600

Family History

No meetings in July and August.

Eric Orbell ericorbell332@btinternet.com 259 2095

Garden Visits Group

Our next meeting is on Friday 15th July when we shall be visiting Whetstone Pastures just off the Lutterworth

Road (A426) and 2 miles south of Blaby. The site can be reached by going through Countesthorpe and turning left at the A426 and is a short distance along on the left hand side up Whetstone Gorse Lane. We shall be meeting at the Great Glen Village Hall car park at 1.30 p.m. to share lifts. Whetstone Pastures is a Pick Your Own farm offering strawberries, berries and gooseberries in abundance to pick if you like or, if this proves too strenuous for some, they can be purchased at the Strawberry Cottage Tearoom where lunches, snacks and indulgent cream teas can also be purchased made, of course, with home-made scones and jam. Sandra's jams are made here in the farmhouse kitchen, with no artificial additives and locally sourced eggs; vegetables and ice cream can also be purchased. There will be a short introductory talk with a tractor ride round the farm (don't worry, ladies, you do not have to hitch up your skirt to get alongside the driver!!) I understand a trailer is attached, or you can walk if feeling energetic. If you would like to come please contact Margaret Darlaston on 0116 271 5419, and please let her know if you will be going to the Village Hall first or straight there. Their website suggests NOT to use the postcode - it takes you to the wrong farm!! Look forward to seeing you there with your punnets at the ready!

Linda Hobart lindahobart@outlook.com. 319 8095

History Group

A party of 19 enjoyed an informative trip to Hallaton on 4th July with guided tours of the WW1 exhibition in the museum and of the adjacent church.

There is no History Group meeting in August. The next meeting at the Methodist Hall will be on Monday 5th September 2.00 p.m. when Toni Smith will be talking about the History of Medicine. Then in October, one of our research groups will be telling us about the history of the Mineral Wealth of Leicestershire. Everyone welcome.

Peter Russell prussell@russellscott.co.uk 271 0889

History of Art

The next meeting will be on 20th July when we will be looking at the work of Caravaggio, a notorious bad boy of Italian Baroque art. The meeting will start at 10.00 a.m. in the Methodist Hall. All members are welcome.

David Brooke dnbrooke@fsmail.net 259 2520

Indoor (Winter) Bowls

Indoor bowls will begin again in October.

Ann Spray spray194@btinternet.com 281 0324

Indoor Croquet

All groups are back to the usual times: Tuesday weekly, 1.30 till 3.00 p.m.; Thursday weekly, first

group 10.00 till 11.30 a.m., second group 11.30 a.m. till 1.00 p.m. All groups are full at present.

John Lawson jlawson123@btinternet.com 259 3421

Line Dancing

Line Dancing has stopped for the summer break but will restart on 4th August. We shall be practising the dances for the demonstration on open day, but otherwise it will be a normal session. Is any session normal? No doubt the dancers will think that they have forgotten all the moves, but once the music starts it will all come flooding back. If we make mistakes we shall do what we always do, have a good laugh and then try again. Line dancing is all about fun, not perfection, so if anyone out there wants to give it a try, do come along on 4th August at 2.00 p.m.

Jackie Jordan jkj1506@btinternet.com 259 9199

Luncheon Club

We would like to invite new members to our lunches.

We meet at the Bell, Burton Overy, on the fourth Tuesday of the month, 12 o'clock for 12.30. We alternate each month between starter and main and main and dessert. The food is of excellent quality and well presented. You will find me at the monthly meeting, on the left as you enter the Village Hall, with the menu for the next lunch. If you cannot attend the meeting, and live in the village, I will put a menu through your door. I have sample menus for you to

look at. Come and give us a try to see if you would like to join us. We look forward to seeing you soon.
Joyce Davies mervjoycedavies@btinternet.com

259 3436

Military History

The Group has now stopped meeting for the summer but will re-convene on Wednesday 7th September in the Methodist Church Hall at 10.00 a.m. to continue our look at WW1. Anyone who is interested is warmly invited to come along.

Eric Orbell ericorbell332@btinternet.com 259 2095

Mini Bridge

We are back to our usual times – Tuesday weekly 9.45 a.m. (for a prompt start at 10.00 a.m.) till 12.15 p.m. Singles or pairs are welcome, but please ring Terry (259 2102) or me before your first visit.

John Lawson jlawson123@btinternet.com 259 3421

Papercraft

There will be no meeting in July but we meet again on 15th August to make something for the Open Day.

Please let me know if you cannot come, and if that is the case let me have items for the display.

Stella Orbell stellamo@hotmail.com 259 2095

Quiz Group

We meet again on 25th July in the Main Hall of the Methodist Church at 2 o'clock. Remember, the Quiz Group meets on the 4th Monday of each month, which isn't always the last Monday.

Rachel Snashall rsnashall@hotmail.com 259 2830

Sunday Singles Lunch

We meet on the second Sunday of the month, single ladies and gentlemen equally very welcome! The next venues are: **10th July** – The Bell, East Langton, **14th August, 12.45 p.m.** – The Queen's Head, Saddington, **11 September, 1.00 p.m.** – Leicestershire Golf Club. Please note the times!

Judith Measom 279 1509

Swimming

Please note that there will be no more swimming until 14th September.

David Brooke dnbrooke@fsmail.net 259 2520

Table Tennis

As usual, we shall break for the month of August. Also, there will be no Table Tennis on 11th July as there will be some painting going on in the Youth and Sports Centre.

Janet Freestone alan.freestone@mypostoffice.co.uk
259 2803

Table Top Games

Our sessions will continue throughout the summer on the second and fourth Thursday afternoons of each month in the Methodist Church. We look forward to seeing you there.

Gillian Farrar 270 8375 Helen Edwards 212 7547

Tailpiece

