



Great Glen Newsletter July 2017

Registered Charity No. 1099411
www.greatglenu3a.co.uk

Chairman's Chat

Hello everyone. I hope you are all enjoying the sunshine and getting out and about as much as you can. The long school holidays will be upon us any day now and I know many of you enjoy the extended time with young grandchildren. It's a great opportunity to pass on your own memories from the past and to try to catch up with all the latest apps they have on their phones.

At this quieter time for U3A can I ask Group Leaders to be sure they are notifying room cancellations to the appropriate person where necessary.

Not everything stops, though, and the next Singing for Fun session is on Wednesday 12th July (the day after the monthly meeting). Come along and sing some sun-themed songs.

Following the renewal period, we now have an updated membership list of around 330 members. I was interested to look at the geographical make-up of our membership. About 140 live in Great Glen, about 80 in Oadby and the remaining 110 are from many nearby villages and Leicester itself.

Our U3A has been very fortunate in having excellent central premises at the Methodist church and elsewhere in which to hold meetings. I'm sure that this makes it much easier for residents and non-residents of Great Glen to become members and attend groups. And with a bit of luck, parking should be back to normal when activities are in full swing again in September.

I'm sure those of you who attended the June meeting enjoyed John Parrington's monologue at the beginning. And we have another volunteer to kick off the July meeting. If any of you would like to do a similar 5-minute spot please contact me – stories, songs, travel tales, films or anything of a lighter nature to get the meeting off to a good start.

So have a great July, and start thinking about doing something new with Great Glen U3A when the summer is waning.

Peter Russell prussell@russellscott.co.uk 271 0889

Committee News

U3A at the Wheelbarrow Race Saturday 2nd September 2017

As you know we are holding a simple raffle at the main meeting this month and next in order to raise the money for our donation to LOROS. We have planned a display to showcase our U3A at the Wheelbarrow Race Fête and this is our 'rent' for the afternoon. We

plan to use a gazebo in case of rain or windy weather (or even to keep off the baking sun!). We were offered a 4m X 4m gazebo but this unfortunately was destroyed in a storm and although we have a 3m X 3m, a slightly larger one would be better. If you could lend us one for the day please let me know.

Stella Orbell stellamo@hotmail.co.uk 259 2095

Calling all Group Leaders – Registers

Could you all ensure that your **registers up to the end of June** are sent to the Gift Aid Secretary please?

Email them directly to GiftAid@greatglenu3a.co.uk, pass them to Roger Edwards or David Brooke, or if you are in Oadby, drop them in to 45 Glen Way, just off Ash Tree Road. Thank you.

Sue Russell

271 0889

Monthly Meetings

Our meeting on 11th July features a talk about “Mercy Ships” by Alison Briggs.

8 August *Anthony Nolan Trust – Hollies Legacy*

Kathy Carter

12 September *Colourful Characters of Bradgate Park*

Peter Tildesley

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 – see below.**

Coffee Rota

Coffee, tea and sugar are provided. Please bring milk (2 litres).

11 July – Learn Spanish Together

8 August – Table Tennis

12 September – Table Top Games

Witches and Witchcraft through the Ages

(June monthly meeting)

The meeting began with John Parrington delivering one of his monologues with his usual dry panache, perhaps the first of a series of ‘turns’ to showcase members’ talents.

Sandy Leong then treated us to a well-researched, illustrated account of witches and witchcraft. We learned how in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, in particular, accusations of witchcraft led to the deaths of thousands, mainly women living without men on the fringes of society. Witches, also known as ‘cunning folk’, often performed services to their communities, providing healing remedies, lucky charms and

sometimes curses. They were obvious candidates for blame when misfortunes occurred in times when superstition was rife. We learned something of the process of casting spells and much more about the methods by which witches were detected, such as pricking, swimming and the search for the marks of the devil, and of the zealotry of Matthew Hopkins aka ‘the Witchfinder General’. It was interesting to hear about of the enactment of the statutes defining the offences for which witches could be convicted and to discover that some of these remained unrepealed until our own lifetimes. We were spared any reference to present day occult practice – just as well, no doubt!

Pauline Pratt and Robert Mansfield

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 26th July 2017**.

Robert Mansfield robertrmansfield@btinternet.com

270 8284

OUTINGS

‘Scrooge’ at Curve Theatre: The Curve’s Christmas production this year is ‘Scrooge’. Tickets have been

reserved for the matinée on **Wednesday 13th**
December 2017 at 2.30 p.m. and a coach will leave
from the Village Hall at 1.15 p.m. Payment of £34.50
per person is now due and should be made at the
August monthly meeting or before. There are still a
few remaining tickets to be sold.

Pat Tate

259 1001

GROUP NEWS

Art Group

We are taking a break through July and August, so our
next meeting will be on 7th September.

Rachael Snashall rsnashall@hotmail.com 259 2830

English Country Dancing

The English Country Dancing Group is taking a break
through July and August. We shall resume our regular
weekly meetings on Tuesday 5th September 1.30 to
3.30 p.m. in the Sports Hall. New members are always
welcome. No previous experience is needed as all the
dances are explained and walked through before
setting them to music. Nor do you need to come with a
partner; singles of both sexes are welcomed.

Peter Meacock petermeacock112@btinternet.com

279 2600

Evening Bridge

Anyone interested in playing Duplicate Bridge on Tuesday evenings 19.00 till 22.00-ish will be made welcome in ideal conditions. Tea or coffee is included in the £1 sessional fee. Prospective members please ring in advance ...

John Lawson jlawson123@btinternet.com 259 3421

Family History

No meetings until September.

Eric Orbell ericorbell332@btinternet.com 259 2095

French Conversation

The Group is en vacances till 6th September.

Jim Picken djpicken95@gmail.com 259 2007

Garden Visits

Our next meeting is on Friday July 19th when we shall visit Mill House, 118 Welford Road, Wigston LE18 3SN, a small walled town garden with an extensive plant variety, many rare and unusual. A plant lovers' garden with interesting designs incorporated in the borders, rockery and scree, it is full of surprises with memorabilia and bygones, a reminder of our past. There are plants for sale. Admission £5 to include tea and cakes. We meet at 2.00 p.m. in the Great Glen Village Hall car park to give lifts to those in need. Please call Margaret Wright (0116 243 2550) if you

would like to go and inform her if you need a lift or are going straight to the venue. Thank you.

ALTERATION TO OCTOBER VENUE

As the weather may be inclement in October and there will be little or no shelter for us we have decided to alter the venue to Winterbourne House and Gardens, which are owned by the University of Birmingham, and to go by coach leaving the Great Glen Village Hall car park at 9.15 a.m. This is an Arts and Crafts inspired Garden featuring a Japanese Bridge, a Tea House and pergola. The house is an example of a 20th century suburban villa with beautifully decorated exhibition rooms offering an insight into the Edwardian lifestyle. There is a small tearoom offering snacks and hot drinks, a shop, a small art gallery and a bookshop. The Barber Institute Art Gallery is 2/3 minutes' walk away, which can also be visited should you wish. We shall leave Winterbourne at 3.30 p.m. and the cost will be £16 p.p. Please inform Pat Tate (0116 2591001) as soon as possible if you would like to come. Pat will be collecting payment at the September U3A meeting but should you wish to pay her at a meeting prior to that she would be very pleased!

Linda Hobart lindahobart@outlook.com 319 8095

History

There is no meeting in August. The next meeting is on Monday 4th September at 2.00 p.m. in the Methodist Hall.

Peter Russell prussell@russellscott.co.uk 271 0889

History of Art

On 19th July we shall be looking at the paintings of Edward Burra. The meeting will be held in the Methodist Hall commencing at 10.00 a.m. All members are welcome.

David Brooke dnbrooke@fsmail.net 259 2520

Learn French Together

The new French group for complete beginners. The group meets on first and third Tuesdays at 10.00 a.m. in the Ruth Warner Room.

Marie-Christine Grenham mcgrenham@gmail.com
07764 154374

Learn Spanish Together

A new Spanish group for beginners has just started, meeting on the second and fourth Mondays of the month. Please note that the Group will meet informally through the summer and that classes are not being held at the Methodist Chapel, Great Glen.

Val Barba valbarba@talktalk.net 271 6505

Line Dancing

Line Dancing will re-start on Thursday 7th September at 1.30 p.m. in the Sports Hall. New members will, as usual, be made very welcome. No experience is needed, line dancing is very easy to pick up, and we are all beginners. Come along and give it a try, gentle exercise to varied music, and lots of laughs as well.

Jackie Jordan jkj1506@btinternet.com 259 9199

Luncheon Club

We resume in July. I hope to see you then.

Joyce Davies mervjoycedavies@btinternet.com

259 3436

Military History

No more meetings until September.

Eric Orbell ericorbell332@btinternet.com 259 2095

New Age Kurling

The next sessions are 14th and 28th July at 10.00 a.m. at the Sports Centre.

Peter Russell prussell@russellscott.co.uk 271 0889

Papercraft

We shall not meet in July and August but I look forward to starting again on 18th September. Enjoy the summer.

Stella Orbell stellamo@hotmail.co.uk 259 2095

Quiz Group

Our next meeting is on September 25th when David Green will be the question master. Please note we do not have meetings during July and August.

Rachael Snashall rsnashall@hotmail.com 259 2830

Singing for Fun

The next session for this year is on Wednesday 12th July at 2:00 p.m. at the Methodist Hall with Catriona and Jenny. Come along and sing some sun-themed songs.

Peter Russell prussell@russellscott.co.uk 271 0889

Sunday Singles Lunch

Sunday Singles are going to be using a fixed venue for the remainder of the year. So we are meeting at the Leicestershire Golf Club on the second Sunday of each month.

Judith Measom 279 1509

Swimming

We start again on 13th September.

David Brooke dnbrooke@fsmail.net 259 2520

Table Tennis

We shall be playing every week in July and as usual break for the month of August (restart on 4th

September). There is still a short waiting list, but we'll contact those on it when a place becomes available.

Janet Freestone alan.freestone@mypostoffice.co.uk

259 2803

Table Top Games

Our next meetings are as follows: 13th and 27th July, 10th & 24th August (1.55 for 2.00 p.m. start) at the Methodist Church. Come and give us a try.

Newcomers are always welcome. Please phone beforehand so we know to expect you.

Helen Edwards 212 7547 *Gillian Farrar* 270 8375

Ukulele Group

We meet on the first and third Mondays of the month in the Ruth Warner room at 10.00 a.m. There will be no meetings during July and August and so our next meeting is on the 4th September. Group members were given plenty of homework to practise during the holiday. Please contact the leader of the Group if interested in joining to find out which chords to master.

Alan Mawby alanmawby@btinternet.com 2592599

Please contact the Group Leader (see your U3A programme card or the website for details) if you are interested in joining any Group.

Sunbeam Trip Reminder – Stop Press

Trip on 12th July now fully booked. There is however a possibility of another opportunity in September or on Wednesday 4th October, subject to demand. Anyone interested please contact me.

John Lawson jlawson123@btinternet.com 259 3421

Thinking of Contacting Third Age Matters? – See below first

The list of names and addresses of FULLY PAID UP members of Great Glen U3A which is sent to Third Age Matters (the U3A magazine) is kept and regularly updated by me. If you have an issue with an address or missing delivery please do NOT contact the Third Age Trust or the producers of the magazine who have no control over such matters. You should contact either me or any member of the committee. This does NOT apply to U3A members who pay a reduced subscription.

Eric Orbell ericorbell332@btinternet.com 259 2095