



Great Glen Newsletter July 2018

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

A very warm welcome to our new members:
Ian Howden, Ian and Mary Johnson, and
Derek Stopford

Chairman's Chat

Hello everyone.

I hope you are all enjoying the sunshine and getting out and about as much as you can. Personally, I have seldom found the chilled food aisles of Sainsbury's so appealing!

Now, please make sure you know when your groups are meeting as we go into a generally quieter time for our U3A. If you can tear yourself away from Wimbledon we have a Singing for Fun session on Wednesday 11th July – no football that afternoon – so come along to the cool of the Methodist Hall.

I'm pleased to say that John Johnson, a new committee member, is taking up the role of liaising with all groups on behalf of the committee as our new Group Co-ordinator. You'll see John around your groups in due course.

We are keen to find someone who can work alongside Sue Russell to take over as Membership Secretary at

the end of the year. This role involves maintaining records of our members, sending out new-member welcome packs and organising the annual renewal process. If you would like to talk about this please get in touch.

GGU3A has been asked to participate in the inaugural Leicester History Festival at the Grammar School in September following some work from Toni Smith and Liz Adams relating to Great Glen soldiers in WW1. See the item later in the newsletter and the poster at the Methodist Hall for more details.

But before then we have our Open Day on 14th August. If you have friends who you think might enjoy our U3A then tell them to come along to the village hall to find out more about us.

That's all for now. Keep using the sunscreen and let's hope for a great world cup result.

Best wishes to you all.

Peter Russell chairman@greatglenu3a.co.uk 271 0889

Committee News

Renewals – The Final Chapter

You will remember my many appeals to renew your membership promptly and to pay by bank transfer or in cash where possible. I am delighted to report that most of you did just that and as a result we incurred NO excess bank charges this year. Last year we had to pay £60, so that is a significant saving for us.

Thank you all very much!

Sue Russell membership@greatglenu3a.co.uk

271 0889

Thursday Book Group

As we now have six people willing to join our second book group the Ruth Warner Room has been booked for Thursday 27th September from 10.00 a.m. to 12 noon. More men and women are welcome to join us. If you are interested please contact me direct. Future notices will appear under Group News below.

Patricia Mansfield patriciamansfield@btinternet.com

270 8284

Walking Group

Plans are progressing well to launch a new walking group. Dates/days have to be decided but **routes will be chosen which do not require climbing over stiles**, and this may involve travelling out of the immediate locality. All those interested are invited to contact me.

John Johnson john.b.johnson@icloud.com 212 2469

Monthly Meetings

10 July 2018 *Masters of Mirth* *Mike Storr*

14 August 2018 *Open Day*

11 September 2018 *Grandfather William Coltman*

VC, in WW1 *Tim Coltman*

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).

10 July – **Bowling Group**

14 August – **History Group**

11 September – **History of Art Group**

Sherlock Holmes – John Martin

(June Meeting)

We were treated to a most informative and interesting talk by John Martin about Sherlock Holmes. The great detective's creator, Arthur Conan Doyle, was one of ten children. He had a very good education and became a doctor, though not a very good one. Of more significance were his prolific facility for creating stories and his extraordinarily logical mind. We heard how from the publication of the first novel in 1885, Sherlock Holmes progressed through monthly short stories in the Strand Magazine and more novels. He soon straddled the Atlantic to feature in a stage play and then silent movies and talkies, including Hammer House of Horror films. Now a global icon, we may

instinctively associate Sherlock Holmes with the Victorian era, but of course his recent appearances on television show him without some outmoded eccentricities and thoroughly au fait with modern technology. He will doubtless go on for ever!

Margaret Hudson

JUST JANE

At the beginning of July last year Stella and I had a much anticipated (by me) day out at RAF East Kirkby near Spalding. It is the home of one of only three Lancaster bombers still able to taxi (correct spelling in case you ask!) along a runway. The other two can also fly.

It was a lovely summer day and together with about a couple of hundred others we watched as 'Just Jane' started her engines and then revved them up to full throttle making a magnificent sound. The 'Roar of the Merlins' was back! It brought back to me all the memories of the sound of the planes going over our house at night on their way to war and returning early in the morning after a frightening night over Europe. 'Just Jane' went on to the grass on the airfield and then went for about a 20 minute run around before coming back to the apron. She did this twice. Once in the morning and again in the afternoon taking with her about 10 passengers each time and who each paid £390 for the privilege. Needless to say, we just watched.

The rest of the original RAF buildings have been turned into a replica of a WW2 Bomber Station so there was plenty to see and do in between the two runs. One of the things which we found interesting was the size of a ‘bouncing bomb’ as used in the Dam Busters raid. It is really huge and seeing it made it very difficult to understand how such a large object could bounce along the water.

A great day out for anyone interested in WW2 and especially the sound of a Lancaster bomber at full throttle.

The cost for pensioners was only £7 each and lunch was available in the NAAFI.

Eric Orbell

OUTINGS

Outing to Barnsdale (Garden Visits Group) Friday 21st September 2018

This is a reminder for those who have booked to go to Barnsdale that payment is now due. Payment can be made at the July monthly meeting or at the next garden visit in July – if you are going! The cost is £18 per person. The coach will depart from Great Glen Village Hall at **11.00 a.m.** Many thanks.

Pat Tate

259 2001

GROUP NEWS

Art Group

We are taking a break through July and August, so our next meeting will be on 6th September in the Ruth Warner Room at 2.00 p.m.

Rachael Snashall art@greatglenu3a.co.uk 259 2830

Carpet Bowls

Why not have a go at carpet bowls? No experience necessary. Come and join us. We meet every Thursday afternoon from 2.00 to 4.00 p.m. at the Village Hall. You will be most welcome.

Peter Stanley carpetbowls@greatglenu3a.co.uk

259 2152

English Country Dancing

The English Country Dancing Group finished its 2017/18 dancing season at the end of June and is now taking a break through July and August. Over the course of 37 sessions this year we have danced 153 different dances, several on multiple occasions. The dances have included a variety of formations (circles and longways sets "for as many as will", as well as 2-, 3- and 4- couple sets) and vintages. The earliest were recorded first by John Playford in 1651 but are probably much older, eg. *Sellenger's Round*, while one of the most recent, *The Beast from the East*, was written in March of 2018 to commemorate the severe cold weather of the last winter!

The Group will resume its regular weekly activities on Tuesday 4th September, from 1.30 to 3.30pm in the Sports Hall as usual, and we are always pleased to welcome new members. Most of our dances are conducted at walking pace, with occasionally skipping so are not too vigorous. 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 familiar to anybody who enjoys English traditional 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.

Why not make a note in your diary now, to come along in September!

Peter Meacock ecd@greatglenu3a.co.uk 279 2600

Evening Bridge

Do you enjoy bridge? Why not join us? We are a friendly (non-League) social bridge group playing Duplicate Bridge every Tuesday evening in the **Great Glen Methodist church hall** (except the third week of the month when we meet at the **Great Glen**

Community Library. We would love to meet new members to enlarge our group. You will be made most welcome.

Andy Tyler eveningbridge@greatglenu3a.co.uk
259 2264, or *John Burnham* 264 0077

Family History

The Group now has a break until 12th September.

Eric Orbell 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

Meetings will be held each Wednesday morning till 11th July. Then our long, lazy vacances will begin and continue till we meet again on 5th September.

Jim Picken frenchconversation@greatglenu3a.co.uk
259 2035

Garden Visits

Our next garden visit is on Friday 20th July to 'Barracca', Ivydene Close in Earl Shilton (post code LE9 7NR). A one-acre garden with silver birch walk, wildlife pond, apple tree garden, Mediterranean

planted area, lawns surrounded with herbaceous plants and shrubs and a patio area with climbing roses and wisteria and much more ... The cost is £7 per person which includes tea and cakes. We shall gather in the Village Hall car park at 2.00 p.m. to give lifts to those without transport. If you would like to go please contact Ros (tel. 271 7338) and inform her whether you need a lift or are going straight to the venue. Thank you.

FORTHCOMING VISIT

On Friday October 19th we will be visiting Newstead Abbey by coach. This was once the ancestral home of poet Lord Byron. The cost is £22 per person (not £23 as in your diary) and this includes a guided tour of the house lasting approx. one hour and entry to the park and gardens. I am informed that visitors must be able to manage some stairs to complete the house tour. The coach will be leaving from outside the Great Glen Village Hall at 10.00 a.m. promptly. If you would like to go please contact me **AS SOON AS POSSIBLE** as we need to pay for this visit in advance, therefore payment with name please. Many thanks.

Linda Hobart gardenvisits@geatglenu3a.co.uk

319 8095

History

There is no meeting in August. The next meeting is on Monday 3rd September at 2.00 p.m. at the Methodist Hall.

Peter Russell history@greatglenu3a.co.uk 271 0889

History of Art

Just a reminder that there will be no meeting on Wednesday 18th July. Our next meeting will be on Wednesday 15th August.

David Brooke historyofart@greatglenu3a.co.uk
259 2520

Indoor Bowling

Indoor Bowls at Market Harborough has now finished for the summer season. We begin again at the beginning of October.

Ann Spray bowls@greatglenu3a.co.uk 281 0324

Learn French Together

Would you like to learn French? We are an informal, friendly, self-teaching group of beginners. We meet on the first and third Tuesdays at 10.00 a.m. in the Ruth Warner Room. Please contact me.

Jan Johnson frenchbeginners@greatglenu3a.co.uk
212 2469

Line Dancing

Line dancing is now taking its usual summer break. We re-start all bright eyed and bushy tailed on 6th September. New members would be very welcome to join us in the Sports Hall, Thursdays at 1.30 p.m. If

you have never done line dancing, do come along and give it a try. Gentle exercise, varied music and a lot of fun.

Jackie Jordan linedancing@greatglenu3a.co.uk

259 9199

Luncheon Club

We will not be meeting in June as several of our diners will be on holiday. Hope to see you all back in July suitably suntanned (or rusty!).

Joyce Davies luncheonclub@greatglenu3a.co.uk

259 3436

Military History

There will be no meetings in July or August. We shall restart at 10.00 a.m. on Wednesday 5th September in the Methodist Church hall.

Eric Orbell militaryhistory@greatglenu3a.co.uk

259 2095

New Age Kurling

Why not come along and try your hand at this activity. It's very easy to play and you will soon be as good (??) as the regulars. Playing provides gentle exercise and lots of fun. So come and have a go – the next session is on Friday 13th July at 10am at the Sports Centre next to Great Glen Village Hall. There are no meetings in August and then we'll be back again on 14th September.

Peter Russell kurling@greatglenu3a.co.uk 271 0889

Papercraft

We meet next on 17th September. If you have any items which you could let me have for the Open Day display please bring them to 2 Stackley Road or let me have them at a U3A meeting in good time. Have a great summer,

Stella Orbell papercraft@greatglenu3a.co.uk

259 2095

Quiz Group

There will be no meeting in July and August so our next meeting will be on 24th September when the question master will be David Green.

Rachael Snashall quiz@greatglenu3a.co.uk 259 2830

Singing for Fun

Wednesday 11th July at 2.00 p.m. in the Methodist Hall

Songs from around the country and some summer songs.

Everyone welcome

Just the thing for a warm summer's day!

Sunday Singles Lunch

Meetings for the remainder of the year take place at the Leicestershire Golf Club.

Judith Measom

279 1509

Swimming

Swimming starts again on 12th September.

David Brooke swimming@greatglenu3a.co.uk

259 2520

Table Tennis

As usual we shall be playing every week in July and break for the month of August. Anyone interested is welcome to join our short waiting list. After the break we start again on Monday 3rd September.

Janet Freestone tabletennis@greatglenu3a.co.uk

259 2803

Table Top Games

We continue our meetings throughout the summer, so if you have extra spare time while other groups are taking a break, do please feel free to join us for one or more of our summer sessions. We will be meeting on 12th and 26th July, and 9th and 23rd August at 2.00 p.m. in the Methodist church. We currently play a variety of card and board games (including chess by arrangement) and are also happy for you to bring games from home to share. No experience is necessary; we will do our best to teach you. Please phone so we know to expect you.

Helen Edwards ttgames@greatglenu3a.co.uk

212 7547, or *Eileen Appleby* 259 2513

Ukulele Group

The Uke3A ukulele group is now enjoying a summer break, the next meeting will be on 5th September.

Concerts and guest spots for the autumn are already

being planned, but we could still use a bass player. If you think you would enjoy strumming (and singing along) with this convivial group, please give me a call.
Alan Mawby ukes@greatglenu3a.co.uk 259 2599

A Date for your Diary

Leicester Grammar School is proud to be hosting the inaugural Leicester History Festival on Saturday 29th September 2018. The aim of the event is to provide a spectrum of historical exhibits and activities focused around a broad range of historical periods. Among the exhibitors confirmed are RAF Museum Cosford, the Sealed Knot Civil War re-enactment group, a range of academic speakers debating the big questions of World War One, a Roman Soldier and a team from Great Glen U3A! Why not visit this prestigious event, learn something new and enjoy a great day?

Toni Smith

All Aboard the Sunbeam 2!

Wednesday 11th July, just to remind you. Passengers must be at the Library car park ready to leave at 9.30 a.m. Be prepared for sun or rain. The river trip on Sunbeam 2 is expected to be fully booked, but another trip could be run later in the season if enough people show an interest. Looking forward to seeing you all.

John Lawson

259 3421