



Great Glen Newsletter

June 2016

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



A very warm welcome to our new members: Hilda Johnson, Mary Smith and John Sturgess

Chairman's Chat



Our AGM, held on 10th May, gave me an opportunity to thank members of our Committee for their work throughout the year. Without the Committee, the Group Leaders and you, the members there would of course be no Great Glen U3A. The new Committee for 2016/2017 is as follows:

Post	Holder	email
Chairman	Patricia Mansfield	chairman@greatglenu3a.co.uk
Vice-Chair / Webmaster	Peter Russell	webmaster@greatglenu3a.co.uk
Treasurer	Roger Edwards	treasurer@greatglenu3a.co.uk
Secretary	Stella Orbell	secretary@greatglenu3a.co.uk
Membership Secretary	Liz Adams	membership@greatglenu3a.co.uk
Speakers Secretary	Rachael Snashall	speakers@greatglenu3a.co.uk
Newsletter Editor	Robert Mansfield	newsletter@greatglenu3a.co.uk
Gift Aid Secretary	Sally Wassell	giftaid@greatglenu3a.co.uk
Media Officer	Toni Smith	media@greatglenu3a.co.uk
Co-opted Registration Officers	Janet Hobson Chris Taylor	registration@greatglenu3a.co.uk

After the AGM we enjoyed a wonderful selection of films made by Toni and Barbara Peake. The skill with which they had sought out and matched music to the themes of their films was most impressive. They must have spent a great deal of time coordinating film clips with the musical accompaniment. The films provided an excellent end to the event.

Patricia Mansfield chairman@greatglenu3a.co.uk 270 8284

Committee News

In response to a request made at the recent Group Leaders' Meeting, there will be a trial period from now until the end of March 2017 during which the membership fee for new Associate Members (that is members of other U3As wishing to take part in the activities of Great Glen U3A) will be reduced to £5. The aim is to help those of our groups who need to expand to recruit more members. At the end of the trial there will be an assessment of its impact. This change does not

affect the limitation that prospective members are allowed to attend one main meeting and/or one group session only before being expected to join and the requirement for them to make sessional donations for all attendances.

2016/2017 Programme Cards

New Programme Cards are now available. They may be collected at the monthly meeting or from the kitchen at the Methodist Church.

Forthcoming Monthly Meetings

14 June 2016	<i>Fascination of the English Language</i>	David Siddons
12 July 2016	<i>Elizabeth Countess of Shrewsbury</i>	Julie Ede
16 August 2016	<i>Open Day</i>	

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.***

14 June – Three Groups: Bridge, Calligraphy and Crochet

12 July – Croquet

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

Garden Visits Group – what they do and where they go

The Garden Visits (formerly Garden) Group is exactly what it now says it is. Many of our members are keen gardeners, but we all love looking round other people's gardens. We visit not only large gardens open to the public but also those which are privately owned, our trips always culminating in tea and cakes. We have been to gardens old and new, large and small, and have been impressed by the work, the love and the passion which has been lavished on them all.

Blatherwycke Hall Gardens in Northamptonshire is one such example. The Hall was demolished in 1948 and it was only in April 2011 that work began on the derelict four-acre walled gardens.

Blatherwycke now boasts a kitchen garden, wall trained fruit trees, extensive herbaceous borders, seasonal beds and wild flower meadows and work is still continuing. In Stoke Albany, Leicestershire, there is a four-acre country garden in pristine condition containing fine trees and shrubs with wide herbaceous borders, sweeping striped lawn, water garden and sculptures.

We did not know what to expect when we visited a garden on the outskirts of Leicester, privately owned by a very dedicated couple. As soon as we stepped out into this beautiful garden the feeling was of being in the country. It was extensive and contained lawned areas and fantastic herbaceous borders; plants of all types could be purchased from the area at the far end of the garden. Another little known treasure on the outskirts of the city of Leicester is the wonderful hidden garden behind Belgrave Hall. This has wooded areas and formal lawns and is maintained by volunteers.

On a somewhat smaller scale we have visited a one acre bungalow garden containing over 450 varieties of penstemons, with many for sale. Needless to say we returned home feeling very

pleased with our purchases and hoping that our own quarter acre plot or bijou patio would look exactly the same!

We shall shortly be visiting Barnsdale Gardens near Oakham in Rutland. This garden was originally the work of Geoff Hamilton and it will afford us the opportunity of seeing several garden "rooms" such as the gentleman's garden and the rose garden. One can purchase plants, visit the shop and enjoy the luxury of tea and cakes afterwards.

The beauty of these visits is to view an abundance of plant life enabling us to return home and, hopefully, put some of these ideas into practice with renewed vigour!

Linda Hobart

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 13 July 2016**.

Robert Mansfield robertmansfield@btinternet.com 270 8284

Never too old or are we?

I think most of us have our favourite place for holidays, and mine happens to be The Scilly Isles – a small group of islands about 26 miles off Lands End. I have been going there most years since my first visit in 1956. In May this year I went for a week with a friend that had never been before, so it was going to be special as I could show her around the beautiful islands, and having made over 100 visits myself, I know my way pretty well.

St Mary's is the largest island, measuring around 5 miles by 3 miles across and boasting 9 miles of road. There is a circular bus service that goes round the island about 5 times a day – it can go round one way only as the corners are sharp and roads are such that you can't pass other vehicles. There are no traffic lights, and not even a roundabout on the island! So when I saw a new service – 'Hire a Buggy' at Scillycart.com we decided to have a go.

Now I had driven my car from Great Glen to Penzance, where we caught RMV Scillonian to take us 52 miles along the Cornish coast and out into the Atlantic to reach the Islands. It's a 316 mile drive from Great Glen, using the M69 / M6 / M42 / M5 and finally the A30. Not bad I thought for a couple of oldies! So driving licence in hand, we went to The Scilly Cart Company only to be told "You are too old to hire a buggy". "It's the law, you have to be between 21 and 75." (They had previously, that week, refused a 90 year old who had driven his Rolls Royce to Penzance from Scotland)



But we weren't beaten.... as the next day my colleague, aged 74, proudly produced her driving licence and we did get our day with the buggy after all. Ironically, my colleague has never driven an automatic car (which I have). But with my instructions and her skill, we had a wonderful day tootling around St. Mary's. We were passing elderly ladies with walking sticks, and stopping to

chat as they were bemoaning their luck at being too old to hire, so with great difficulty they were having to walk everywhere. "Privilege withdrawn just when you need it most", they said. I wonder where 'Mr Jobsworthy' is that made that rule?

I am now looking for another colleague to take next time I go – but they must hold a driving licence and be 75 or under please!!! (Note the main road in the picture that goes round the island!)

Toni Smith

Visit to Kilworth House Theatre – Saturday 11 June

The coach will leave Great Glen Village Hall at 12.00 noon. The performance commences at 2.30 p.m. and we all need to be in our seats no later than 2.15 p.m. The performance will finish at approximately 5.30 p.m. I have the tickets; these will be distributed as you arrive at the coach. If you have any queries, please telephone me after 6.00 p.m.

Pat Tate

259 1001

Visit to Barnsdale Gardens – Friday 17 June

The coach will leave Great Glen Village Hall at 12.00 noon, and the journey should take about 75 minutes. We shall depart Barnsdale at 4.30 to 5.00 p.m. depending upon the weather!! There are excellent tea rooms (no picnicking allowed, though), shop and nursery. If you have any queries, please telephone me after 6.00 p.m.

Pat Tate

259 1001

Review of the U3A Outing to Chatsworth 26th May 2016

Whilst the weather was a bit dull, at least it did not rain! Our visit to Chatsworth was to the House and gardens. Our visit at Christmas, when the House was decorated, was truly wonderful – and we were in for another treat this time as well. Rooms not normally open to the public were on display, beautifully set out so that we could gain intriguing insights into how people lived their lives. The garden and parkland provided fantastic vistas and opportunities to view The Cascade and the majestic Emperor Fountain.

As always Chatsworth offered excellent shopping, of which some of us took good advantage! We were also given the chance to visit the Farm Shop even though we had not booked this. We took it! Many thanks to those on the trip for their prompt arrivals and returns to the coach, thereby enabling us all to keep to the time schedule.

Pat Tate

Learn Something New

New Age Kurling

We had an enjoyable introductory session and I am now trying to see if there is enough interest to form a regular group. I have sent emails or letters to everyone who attended. If you have not yet replied please be sure to check your email and let me have your response as soon as possible. This is something that could be demonstrated at the Open Day in August if we can get it going.

Peter Russell

prussell@russellscott.co.uk

271 0889

Group News

Art Group

The next Art Group meeting is on Thursday 1st September in the Ruth Warner Room of the Methodist hall. Owing to holidays we have decided to cancel meetings in June, July and August.

Rachel Snashall

rsnashall@hotmail.com

259 2830

Crochet

I look forward to seeing all crocheters on 21st June. Beginners welcome. Hooks and wool supplied for your first lesson! No crochet in July.

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 will continue to meet each week on Tuesday afternoons from 2.00 to 4.00 p.m. in the Sports Hall until 12th July. Then we shall break for the summer and resume regular dancing on Tuesday 6th September.

If enough group members are available we hope to perform some demonstration dances at the U3A Open Day on August 16th, and there will be opportunity for other U3A members "to have a go" too! We are always pleased to welcome new members who would like to join us for an afternoon of fun and gentle exercise in good company. Most of our dances are performed 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 date back to the Stuart and Georgian/Regency periods 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 dances often features tunes that will be very familiar to all those who enjoy traditional English folk music. No previous experience is needed as all the dances are fully explained and walked through before setting them to music, and then called throughout. You do not need to come with a partner; singles of both sexes are welcomed. Just wear light-weight shoes and comfortable clothing suitable for gentle dancing and, most importantly, be prepared to laugh a lot!

Peter Meacock

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279 3600

Family History

Our next meeting will be on Wednesday 8th June at 9.30 a.m. in the Methodist Church Hall when we will be helping each other to break down our research 'brick walls'. We meet on the second and fourth Wednesdays of the month at 9.30 a.m. and welcome new members.

Eric Orbell

ericorbell332@btinternet.com

259 2095

Garden Visits Group

Our next meeting is on Friday 17th June, when we are visiting Barnsdale Gardens by coach. For all details please see "Outings" in this Newsletter. Please note that the meeting on Friday 21st October has been changed, as Glebe Gardens' new owners would not honour the arrangement we had with Bernard for a talk and tea and cakes. More information about this at a later date.

Linda Hobart

lindahobart@outlook.com

319 8095

History Group

The next meeting on 4th July will be our visit to Hallaton (see notice immediately below). All of you who expressed interest in this trip should receive full details this week. I shall contact everyone to be sure everyone can get there OK. I would be grateful to any of you who can offer lifts there and back to those who need transport.

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 the research groups will be telling us about the History of the Mineral Wealth of Leicestershire. Everyone welcome.

Private Visit to Hallaton Museum 4th July 2016

Hallaton museum is running an exhibition called 'Tales of the Unexpected' at weekends from the end of April until the beginning of October; this is open to the public. We shall be making a private visit just for Great Glen U3A members on Monday 4th July, which will include guided tours of the museum exhibition, the church next door and a village walk. The theme of the exhibition is: "The fascinating and unusual stories of Hallaton men and women in different theatres of war".

There are posters on the notice board at the Methodist Hall where you can see more detail.

We shall make our own way to the exhibition. The museum is asking for a voluntary donation of £5 per person for a private party, which is payable to me in advance. **There are still a couple of places available if you are interested.**

Peter Russell

prussell@russellscott.co.uk

271 0889

History of Art

The next meeting is on Wednesday 15th June when we will be looking at the work of Claes Oldenburg, a Swedish born painter and sculptor. The meeting will be held in the Methodist Hall commencing at 10am. All are welcome.

David Brooke

[dnbrooke@fsmail.net](mailto:dubrooke@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

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259 3421

Line Dancing

Line Dancing continues to flourish, but because of the 'summer', numbers are yoyo-ing as people go on holiday or look after grandchildren. Therefore we shall close for the summer break, and the last session will be on 9th June. We shall restart on 4th August at 2.00 p.m. so that we can practise for the demonstration on the Open Day.

New members will be very welcome on 4th August, but if you are unsure about what we do, come along to the demonstration on 16th August. I look forward to seeing you all again on 4th August, and getting back in the swing of line dancing.

Jackie Jordan

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259 9199

Tailpiece



Family History Conference, Buxton, 17th September 2016

Family History Conference to be held in Buxton, Derbyshire on the 17th September. Our speakers are:

- Dr Nick Barratt "Medieval & Early Modern History"
- Nigel Lutt "Researching Army Ancestry"
- Maurice Clarke "The Heir Hunters Association"
- Bill Taylor "Skeletons in the cupboard"

Talks begin at 9.30 a.m. Exhibitor stands will be open from 08.30 a.m. and throughout the day, currently:

- My History
- Nottinghamshire FHS
- Chris Makepeace Maps
- Manchester & Lancashire FHS
- The Family History Partnership - Books
- North Cheshire FHS
- Derbyshire Record Office
- Huddersfield FHS
- Picture the Past (DRO)
- Guild of One Name Studies
- UKBMD/ UKGDL / UKMFH
- 'FoSSA , The Friends of Staffordshire and Stoke on Trent Archives'.

The cost for the day, which includes the talks, refreshments, lunch and car parking is, £20. Registration and refreshments between 08.30 a.m. and 09.30 a.m.

Booking Essential

Full details and booking form available from taylor.ian9@gmail.com