



Great Glen Newsletter

June 2017

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

A very warm welcome to our
new member: Mary Plumb

Chairman's Chat

Hello everyone. What a great privilege it is to have been elected as your chairman for the coming year. I'll do my best to emulate my predecessors, all of whom have put in sterling service to Great Glen U3A.

As you may know, this year we are occupying a stand at the Wheelbarrow Race & Village Fête instead of having an Open Day. Our pitch is being organised by Stella Orbell and Toni Smith who have already put in quite a lot of work. You will see requests for assistance on the day below and if you can spare a couple of hours on 2nd September please contact either of them. U3A provides wonderful opportunities to keep us stimulated and active in our retirement, and we want to encourage local membership as much as possible. We are hoping that the event will help make our presence better known to the public and bring in more members to benefit from all that we do.

And can I encourage all of you to look at our groups and find one more that you might like to attend? Try

something you've never done before; go along and see what it's like.

As we go through my year in office, you might get fed up with me pestering you to do things – but that is how it's going to be. I would like as many members as possible participating in as many groups and events as possible. Fill up the groups and have a jolly good time!

Peter Russell prussell@russellscott.co.uk 271 0889

Committee News

U3A at the Wheelbarrow Race Saturday 2nd September 2017

This year instead of an Open Day we hope to showcase our U3A at the fête which always accompanies the Great Glen Wheelbarrow Race. The race takes place round the village but there are various fun events on the Recreation Ground at the same time. The whole event is in aid of LOROS. We intend to put up a gazebo on the field and display photos and information to attract new members and raise the profile of Great Glen U3A. Most exhibitors raise money for LOROS by selling items but we just need to make a donation. In order to raise the money which cannot come out of our funds, we shall be holding a simple raffle at both of our main meetings in July and August. We hope you will remember to bring an extra £1 or £2 in order to

take part in these so that we can present the fête organisers with a reasonable donation for LOROS.
Stella Orbell stellamo@hotmail.co.uk 259 2095

Important Notice for Gift Aiders

Great Glen U3A claims gift aid on your gifts. If you have to fill in a tax self-assessment form you will need to know how much we claimed. Details can be obtained from the Treasurer.

HMRC has changed the text on the gift aid declaration form as a prompt that you need to keep the gift aid secretary up-to-date with your circumstances. This is especially important if you are no longer paying tax.

Sue Russell

Monthly Meetings

11 July *Mercy Ships* *Alison Briggs*

8 August *Anthony Nolan Trust – Hollies Legacy*

Kathy Carter

12 September *The Truth behind Les Misérables*

David Price

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).

13 June – Quiz Group

11 July – Learn Spanish Together

Annual General Meeting

We were greeted by gentle strumming from our increasingly proficient Ukulele Group. A well-attended AGM saw Patricia Mansfield hand over the chairmanship to Peter Russell. Patricia now becomes Vice-Chair and Speaker Finder. Liz Adams has retired as Membership Secretary, to be replaced by Sue Russell. Rachael Snashall took on a new Welcoming role. There was recognition and thanks for members who had stood down from significant roles as Committee Members or Group Leaders: Liz Adams, Janet Hobson, Jeanne Pickard, Chris Taylor, Sally Wassell and Patricia Mansfield. Our Treasurer, Roger Edwards, explained that although we again produced a small deficit last year, our finances remained stable. The annual subscription remained unchanged for 2017/2018.

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 5th July 2017**.

Robert Mansfield robertrmansfield@btinternet.com

270 8284

A Day Excursion with the History Group - Organised by Elizabeth Cooke

Our destination was the fen city of Ely. What a delight was in store for the group. We first enjoyed a guided tour of Oliver Cromwell's family home situated right in the centre of the city.

The son of a country gentleman, Oliver Cromwell was born on 25th April 1599 at Huntingdon. After his marriage in London in 1620 he and his family lived first in Huntingdon and then at St Ives. In 1636 Oliver, moved his wife Elizabeth and their nine children to Ely to the house where he grew up. (It is now the home of the Ely tourist information centre.) The House, which was originally built in the 13th century, has incorporated many changes over its history and now houses the museum. The Parlour recreates the scene of Mrs Cromwell working at her embroidery while rocking the baby in a cradle in this peaceful and dimly candlelit room as the clock ticks and the smoke rises

from the fire. The kitchen is dominated by a huge fireplace and has a peaceful view of St Mary's church from the window from which Oliver Cromwell would have once stood and watched the residents of Ely going about their daily business. Upstairs in the study, the figure of Cromwell can be seen writing at his desk as he reflects on his responsibilities as Lord Protector. Take the door to the next room and you find yourself at the deathbed scene of Cromwell in the bedroom, said now to be haunted by the man himself!

After eating a picnic in the grounds of the cathedral, a walk to the quayside was a treat. Boats were moored, inviting people to take a trip on the river, and walking back through the parks was a pleasant interlude. On then, for a guided tour of the Cathedral. It wasn't endless talks about many tombs, but of the building itself. We learned when and how it was built, and how it had been altered through the ages to be as it is today. Of course, Oliver Cromwell came into the scene when he considered the church to be too much like the Catholic churches, and removed inner screens, so bringing the congregation together!

Why not join the History Group? You don't know where it might take you! Thank you, Elizabeth, for an enjoyable day.

Toni Smith

OUTINGS

Kilworth House Saturday 10th June 2017: A reminder to online readers that the coach leaves the Village Hall car park at 1.00 p.m.

‘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** and a coach has been booked. The total cost is £34.50 per person. I shall be ‘selling’ places at the **September** monthly meeting, when names and payments will be taken.

Pat Tate

259 1001

GROUP NEWS

Art Group

15th June will be the last meeting until 7th September as we are taking a Summer Break.

Rachael Snashall

rsnashall@hotmail.com

259 2830

English Country Dancing

The English Country Dancing year is coming to an end. Typically, folk dance clubs take a summer break during the warmer weather so people can go off to the many Folk Dance Festivals around the UK and abroad – these include Lichfield, Whitby, Sidmouth,

Broadstairs, or for the more adventurous Pinewoods Folk Dance Camp in Plymouth, Massachusetts, USA! In keeping with this tradition, the U3A ECD Group will continue its Tuesday afternoon meetings, 1.30 to 3.30 p.m. in the Sports Hall, until 27th June. We shall then take a summer break through July and August and resume our regular weekly dancing on Tuesday 5th September at the start of the new dancing season. Details of next term's meetings will be posted in the August Newsletter.

Peter Meacock petermeacock112@btinternet.com

279 2600

Family History

Two meetings in June, on 14th and 28th – then a well-earned rest until September.

Eric Orbell ericorbell332@btinternet.com 259 2095

Garden Visits

Our next meeting is on Friday 16th June, when we shall be visiting Coton Manor Gardens, just inside Northamptonshire (post code NN6 8RQ). At this time of the year the garden boasts irises, lupins, alliums, euphorbia, paeonies, salvias, clematis and early roses and the Wildflower Meadow begins to come into its own. The gift shop sells many items from garden tools to jewellery and handbags and refreshments are available. There is an admission fee (with concessions). We will be meeting at 1.30 p.m. in the

Village Hall car park to give lifts to those needing transport. If you would like to come along please contact Ros on 0116 271 7338 and let her know if you are going straight to the venue or if you require a lift. Thank you.

Linda Hobart lindahobart@outlook.com 319 8095

History

The next meeting is on Monday 3rd July at 2.00 p.m. in the Methodist Hall.

Peter Russell prussell@russellscott.co.uk 271 0889

History of Art

The next meeting is on 21st June when we will be looking at the paintings of Whistler. The meeting will be held in the Methodist Hall as usual, commencing at 10.00 a.m. and finishing at 12.00 noon. 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 stop for the summer break on 29th June. We shall 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

As a considerable number of diners are unable to come to the lunch in June, we have decided to not to meet this month and to 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 on 9th and 23rd June and 14th July at 10.00 a.m. at the Sports Centre.

Peter Russell prussell@russellscott.co.uk 271 0889

Papercraft

19th June will be our last meeting before a summer break. We shall meet again in September.

Stella Orbell stellamo@hotmail.co.uk 259 2095

Quiz Group

The next meeting is on 26th June, when the questions will be set by Rachael. We are taking a break through July and August, so will meet again on 25th September.

Rachael Snashall rsnashall@hotmail.com 259 2830

Singing for Fun

A reminder that the next session for this year is provisionally scheduled for Wednesday 12th July at 2:00 p.m. at the Methodist Hall. Come along and have a jolly good time!

Peter Russell prussell@russellscott.co.uk 271 0889

Sunday Singles Lunch

We meet on the second Sunday of the month, single ladies and gentlemen, at 1.00 p.m. The next venues are: **11th June** – Queens Head, Saddington, **9th July** –

Leicestershire Golf Club; **13th August** – The Bell East
Langton.

Judith Measom

279 1509

Swimming

Regulars should have swum on 7th June. The last swim before the School summer holidays is on 14th June. We start again on 13th September.

David Brooke dnbrooke@fsmail.net 259 2520

Table Top Games

Our sessions will continue throughout the summer following the usual pattern of second and fourth Thursday afternoons of each month at the Methodist Church (1.55 for 2.00p.m. start). Newcomers are always welcome. Please phone beforehand so we know to expect you.

Helen Edwards 212 7547, *Gillian Farrar* 270 8375

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 - Wednesday 12th July 2017

Meet in the Library Car Park at 8.55 for a prompt start at 9.00 a.m. to the Hope & Anchor. *Sunbeam* will

leave at 9.30 a.m. and travel upstream towards Belgrave and the Space Centre. Turning we then return to the H&A for a picnic or Pub Meal. After lunch, if time permits, we aim to reach Sileby Mill lock and take a gentle short walk for ice-creams. Finally we return via two locks to our mooring.

I have paid for the day with Sunbeam so I should be pleased to receive £12 from each passenger.

I am fairly sure we will have a full boat, but please let me know if you and any friends would be interested in this trip or another similar one this season.

John Lawson jlawson123@btinternet.com 259 3421

Are you paying too much for your energy?

LeicesterShire CAB are running a Switch and Save Roadshow to help you find out. The roadshow will be at Great Glen Library on Thursday 29th June 2017 from 9.00 a.m. to 1.00 p.m. Those attending should bring a recent energy bill or a letter about their tariff.