



Great Glen Newsletter

March 2019

Registered Charity No. 1099411

www.greatglenu3a.co.uk

A warm welcome to our new members:
Jenny Haynes and Joanna Tuppen.

Chairman's Chat



Hello everyone

As we approach our year end on 31st March, it's good to report that we shall have reached a record membership this year – 396 at the last count. Of course, at each year end some members leave us but I'm pleased to see that well over half of us have renewed our membership already. There's another walk-in session at the Methodist Hall on Thursday 21st March if you wish to pay in person. Repeating last month's message, can I stress the importance of ticking the box on your renewal form if you wish to receive the Third Age

Matters magazine.

We have a wide range of activities but there's always room for something new, so please bring forward any suggestions you have. I was looking through the national U3A list of subject advisors to see what goes on elsewhere and saw such topics as Architecture, Climate Change, Comedy, Film, Latin, Jazz Appreciation, Maths, Puppetry, Play Reading and Philosophy. It only requires half a dozen members with a common interest to get something going.

As we approach our AGM in May, I'm happy to say that we shall be able to put forward a proposed new committee for the next year for approval by members. We should still like to hear from any secret techie out there who might take over the management of our web site. Please contact me if that is you!

That's all for now. By this time next month our UK world might have changed dramatically but whatever happens make the most of your U3A membership in 2019.

Peter Russell

chairman/at/greatglenu3a.co.uk

01572 822198

Committee News

Membership Renewals

Renewals are in full swing and you should by now have received your renewal letter and form. If you haven't had yours, please contact me (details below) and I'll produce a duplicate for you. Thank you to everyone who has renewed already – we really appreciate your paying so promptly. If you haven't renewed yet, just a couple of reminders ...

Changes to Data Protection rules mean that in order to receive the Third Age Matters Magazine **YOU MUST SELECT THE CHECKBOX ON THE FORM GIVING YOUR PERMISSION TO SHARE YOUR ADDRESS AND RETURN YOUR RENEWAL FORM WITH YOUR PAYMENT.** If we don't have your signed permission, we cannot arrange for you to continue to receive the magazine, which is included in a full subscription.

For email addresses replace /at/ with @

If you are paying by bank transfer, **PLEASE ENSURE THAT WE RECEIVE YOUR RENEWAL FORM.**

There is a post box in the kitchen at the Methodist Church or you can send it to Janet Fanko at 6 Wych Elm Close, Great Glen, LE8 9GY. You can pay in person at the monthly meetings in March or April or at the Methodist Hall 2.00 to 4.00 p.m. on Thursday 21st March. Or you can send or take your renewal form and payment to Janet (see above). Thank you for supporting our U3A.

Sue Russell

[membership /at/ greatglenU3A.co.uk](mailto:membership/at/greatglenU3A.co.uk)

01572 822 198

Arrangements for the Annual General Meeting

We hold our Annual General Meeting (AGM) on 14th May 2019. An important part of the business is to approve the annual report and accounts before these are sent to the Charity Commission, so that we can retain our charitable status. Those who receive the newsletter by email will be sent an electronic version of the Annual Report and Accounts with or shortly after the April edition of the newsletter. A limited number of hard copies will be available in Reception on the day of the AGM to be read before the meeting starts. If you wish to receive a personal hard copy prior to the date of the meeting, you should contact our Treasurer, Roger Edwards (tel. 272 7547).

Robert Mansfield

[newsletter /at/ greatglenu3a.co.uk](mailto:newsletter/at/greatglenu3a.co.uk)

270 8284

Calling All Group Leaders: Registers, Gift Aid and End of Tax Year 2018/2019

As we approach the end of the 2018/2019 Tax Year, could you please ensure that all your registers, completed up to the end of March 2019, are submitted to the Treasurer Roger Edwards, David Brooke or the Gift Aid Secretary (Bill Maxted, 7 Fordview Close, Great Glen LE8 9FG) by the 5th April at the very latest. Your help with this will enable us to make a Gift Aid claim without delay in the new tax year. This is an important source of income for Great Glen U3A.

Thank you for your valuable help and cooperation.

Bill Maxted

[giftaid /at/ greatglenu3a.co.uk](mailto:giftaid/at/greatglenu3a.co.uk)

259 2616

Monthly Meetings

At our meeting on 12th March we shall hear from Terry Spall about Transport Technology.

12 March 2019

Transport Technology

Terry Spall

9 April 2019

Stormy Stories and Tragic Tales

Fools Gold

14 May 2019

Annual General Meeting – and other delights!

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).

12 March – **Sunday Singles**

9 April – **Swimming Group**

14 May – **Quiz Group**

Save the Children (February meeting)



Josephine Burgess gave us a fascinating account of the origins and work of *Save the Children*. Her talk began with the life of the redoubtable Eglantyne Jebb, one of the two founding sisters of the charity, and author of *The Rights of the Child* adopted by the League of Nations when her influence was at its peak. We learned much about the achievements and innovations of *Save the Children* in supporting children in the face of war and natural disasters, and gained insights into the scope and geographic reach of current low-cost programmes and projects – including some in centres of deprivation in the United Kingdom – to tackle peacetime hardship, discrimination and abuse. Much of what we heard was indeed deeply shocking.

Josephine brought to life the work of a professional, global organisation providing a wide range of support to disadvantaged children, where appropriate, in effective integration with other charities. The Charity has since written to thank us for the contributions received at the end of her talk.

Robert Mansfield

GROUP NEWS

Art Group

The theme for 7th and 21st March is Spring, in any medium. We meet as usual in The Ruth Warner Room at the Methodist Church at 2 o'clock.

Rachael Snashall

art/at/greatglenu3a.co.uk

259 2830

Astronomy Group

The Group meets on the first Monday of the month at 2.00 p.m. We need more members and a Group Leader (possible job share?) for this group to keep going.

John Johnson

astronomy/at/greatglenu3a.co.uk

212 2469

Book Group (Mondays)

The next meeting of the Monday Book Group will be on 18th March, when we shall be discussing "The Trouble with Goats and Sheep" by Joanna Cannon. Our April book is "Eleanor Oliphant is Completely Fine" by Gail Honeyman.

Liz Adams

books/at/greatglenu3a.co.uk

271 6281

Book Group (Thursdays)

Our next meeting is on Thursday 28th March at 10.00 a.m. in the Ruth Warner Room. We have a vacancy – please contact me for further details.

Patricia Mansfield

patriciamansfield/at/btinternet.com

270 8284

Bowling

We are looking for new players to join our Group. We play at the indoor bowls centre at Market Harborough Leisure centre every Tuesday from 10.00 a.m. to 12.00 noon during the winter months.

Ann Spray

281 0324

Carpet Bowls

We meet every Thursday afternoon in the Village Hall from 2.00 to 4.00 p.m. No previous experience necessary. New members will be made very welcome.

Peter Stanley

carpetbowls/at/greatglenu3a.co.uk

259 2152

English Country Dancing



Costumed dancers at the 2018 Playford Tea-dance in Higham-Ferrers Bede House

As this edition of the Newsletter is published, some ECD group members will be preparing for two public dances put on by local folk-dance clubs. On Saturday 9th March, some will be attending the 32nd Annual Dinner-Dance organised by the local Burton Overy folk dance club. This year the dance Caller is the nationally-renowned *Ivan Aitken* supported by the band *Kelly's Eye* from Northamptonshire/Bedfordshire; both Caller and band are well-known for their varied repertoire of lively dances so a good night is anticipated.

Then, for those with energy remaining, on the following day members can attend a "Playford"-style Tea Dance at the Bede House in Higham-Ferrers, Northants – the hospital for 12 elderly (over 50 years!) men, founded by Archbishop (Canterbury) Henry Cichele ca.1422 alongside his College. This dance will feature music from the talented duo *Childgrove*, with refined social dances of the Playford era (1650 to 1728) led by the Northants Callers John Green and George Hearnden. It will also be attended by members of other ECD groups from Northamptonshire U3As, and dancers are invited to dress in period costume to give an authentic feel to proceedings (see photo).

Later in the year, perhaps during May, we are planning another afternoon of dancing to live music from the Kibworth U3A folk group, Beaker Folk, who are earnestly practising their jigs and reels! The ECD group meets weekly on Tuesday afternoons 1.30 to 3.30 p.m. in the Sports Hall, and can still accommodate a few more new members if others would like to join us in these activities. 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. It's fun, and good exercise for both body and brain. Come, join us and give it a try.

For further details contact:

Peter Meacock

[ecd /at/ greatglenu3a.co.uk](mailto:ecd/at/greatglenu3a.co.uk)

279 3600

Evening Duplicate Bridge

This is a very friendly social group who meet at 7.00 for a 7.15 p.m. start. Meetings are held at the Great Glen Methodist Hall, except for the third Tuesday in each month when we meet at the Great Glen Community Library. Our numbers, I am pleased to say, have increased to five or six tables. We should love to meet new members to enlarge our group even more. You will be made most welcome.

Andy Tyler

[eveningbridge /at/ greatglenu3a.co.uk](mailto:eveningbridge/at/greatglenu3a.co.uk)

07879 234046

Family History

We shall meet as usual at 9.30 a.m. in the Methodist Church Hall on the second and fourth Wednesdays of the month. Newcomers welcome.

Eric Orbell

[familyhistory /at/ greatglenu3a.co.uk](mailto:familyhistory/at/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

Garden Visits

Our next meeting is on Friday 15th March in the Methodist Church Hall to commence at 2.00 p.m. Toni Smith is bringing one of her DVDs showing gardens, some which we have visited. The charge is £3 (£1.50 of which will go towards a speaker we are having later in the year). As usual tea and biscuits will be served at 'half time'. I should be very grateful for an extra pair of hands to assist me setting out the chairs and laying out the cups and saucers. My colleagues are not able to help on this occasion. I shall be arriving at the Hall at 1.30 and if you can help please contact me in advance. Many thanks.



Garden Visitors enjoy the Botanic Gardens at Oadby

Linda Hobart

[gardenvisits /at/ greatglenu3a.co.uk](mailto:gardenvisits@greatglenu3a.co.uk)

319 8095

History

The next History group meeting is on Monday 1st April 2019 at 2.00 p.m. in the Methodist Hall when we shall have a talk on 'The Day that Parliament Burnt Down'. (No - it's not about the current lot!) Everyone is welcome.

Peter Russell

[history /at/ greatglenu3a.co.uk](mailto:history@greatglenu3a.co.uk)

01572 822198

History of Art

Meetings of the Group are on hold until June, as your Group Leader is indisposed. A programme has been prepared, so if someone is prepared to take this on the programme can continue. Anyone interested should contact me.

David Brooke

[historyofart /at/ greatglenu3a.co.uk](mailto:historyofart@greatglenu3a.co.uk)

259 2520

Learn French Together

We meet on the second and fourth Tuesday of the month from 10.00 a.m. until 12.00 noon. All are welcome to this informal French conversation group.

Jan Johnson

[frenchbeginners /at/ greatglenu3a.co.uk](mailto:frenchbeginners@greatglenu3a.co.uk)

212 2469

For email addresses replace /at/ with @

Lunches for the next few months will continue at the Leicestershire Golf Club. The next dates are: Sundays 10th March, 14th April and 12th May. Gentlemen are welcome to join our usual members.

Judith Measom

279 1509

Swimming

The attendance throughout February was good. Pool session times, at the Leicester Grammar School, Great Glen, are from 1.30 p.m. until 2.30 p.m. each Wednesday from now until 10th April. There is then a break for the Easter school holidays. New swimmers of any standard are always welcome.

Frank Wilcock

[swimming /at/ greatglenu3a.co.uk](mailto:swimming/at/greatglenu3a.co.uk)

431 9706

Table Top Games

The group continues to meet on the second and fourth Thursday afternoon each month, so the next dates are 14th and 28th March, at 2.00 p.m. at the Methodist Church. We have a variety of games, or you can bring your own favourites to share. Please phone if you would like to join us for an afternoon of friendship, fun and brain exercise! You would be most welcome.

Helen Edwards [ttgames /at/ greatglenu3a.co.uk](mailto:ttgames/at/greatglenu3a.co.uk) 212 7547, or *Eileen Appleby* 259 251

Ukulele Group

Our meetings continue to be held on the first and third Mondays of the month in the Ruth Warner room at the Methodist Hall, from 10.00 a.m. until noon. Uke3A, as we call our band, will be performing at *AgeUK* in Wigston at the end of March.

Alan Mawby

[ukes /at/ greatglenu3a.co.uk](mailto:ukes/at/greatglenu3a.co.uk)

259 2599

Walking Without Stiles

The next walk will be around Humberstone on 26th March, meet in the Tesco car park at Hamilton at 10.30 a.m. If you are interested in this walk, please contact ...

Elizabeth Cooke
288060

[walking /at/ greatglenu3a.co.uk](mailto:walking/at/greatglenu3a.co.uk)

270 4524 or 07957

Writing for Pleasure

We meet again in the Ruth Warner room on 26th March when we hope to enjoy each other's new approach to the story of Cinderella.

Stella Orbell

[writing /at/ greatglenu3a.co.uk](mailto:writing/at/greatglenu3a.co.uk)

259 2095



A reminder from John Johnson of the recent spring-like February

Tailpiece

Did you go to see the snowdrops at the Newton Harcourt Church this year? If so, did you carry on walking down the lane? What we saw drove me to write the following.

LAMENT

for the lane from Newton Harcourt to Wistow

*How sad to see the devastation down the country lane.
Our favourite walk is lost and gone. Oh, how to quench the pain?
This quiet place gave pleasure deep within our English hearts.
A place to find some solace and become once more a part
Of all that England gives us in its beauty and its peace.
A little corner of the world where there could be release
From cares and struggles, doubts and fears and efforts to conform.*

*The church stands on the corner with its sturdy walls of stone.
The sleeping souls lie wreathed in flowers. But they are not alone
For walkers peep in at the gate and marvel at the scene:
the tiny model church, the snowdrops, bluebells, ferns so green.
They wander on beside the field. The birds take off in fright,
but soon return to feast their fill: always a welcome sight.
Beside the lane the trees stood tall, their heads lost in the clouds.
The leaves stirred constantly, their shadows falling on the flowers*

For email addresses replace /at/ with @

That spread so beautifully below.

Where have they gone, now that a sea of mud blots out their lovely home?

Now men have trampled on their graves, machines torn up the loam?

O you who build upon this plot remember those

who lived within this shady wood, and scampered by the stream.

Where are they now – the squirrels, mice and rabbits, that between them

made an English haven and a spot to dream

of days gone by when all was fresh and green?

So now, dear reader, you must call upon your special memories.

For when it's gone, it's gone, they say and surely that is true.

We hold that place within our minds: a wondrous special view.

Stella Orbell