



## Great Glen Newsletter March 2019

Registered Charity No. 1099411

[www.greatglenu3a.co.uk](http://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 31<sup>st</sup> 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 21<sup>st</sup> 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](mailto:chairman@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

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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.

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 21<sup>st</sup> 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@greatglenU3A.co.uk)  
01572 822 198

### **Arrangements for the Annual General Meeting**

We hold our Annual General Meeting (AGM) on 14<sup>th</sup> 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@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 5<sup>th</sup> 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@greatglenu3a.co.uk) 259 2616

## **Monthly Meetings**

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 7<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> 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](mailto:art@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](mailto:astronomy@greatglenu3a.co.uk)  
212 2469

### **Book Group (Mondays)**

The next meeting of the Monday Book Group will be on 18<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:books@greatglenu3a.co.uk) 271  
6281

### **Book Group (Thursdays)**

Our next meeting is on Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:patriciamansfield@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](mailto:carpetbowls@greatglenu3a.co.uk)

259 2152

### **English Country Dancing**

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 9<sup>th</sup> March, some will be attending the 32<sup>nd</sup> 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@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@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@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 15<sup>th</sup> 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.

*Linda Hobart* [gardenvisits /at/ geatglenu3a.co.uk](mailto:gardenvisits@geatglenu3a.co.uk)

319 8095

## **History**

The next History group meeting is on Monday 1<sup>st</sup> 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

## **Military History**

Our next meeting will be on Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> May at 10.00 a.m. in the Methodist Church Hall.

*Eric Orbell* [militaryhistory /at/ greatglenu3a.co.uk](mailto:militaryhistory@greatglenu3a.co.uk)

259 2095

## **Mini Bridge**

Attendance has been very high over the last few weeks. This means that we have more hands to play which takes more time. As a trial, Minibridge is starting

earlier 9.45 a.m. rather than the 10.00 a.m. start which has been usual. We are asking that members arrive from 9.35 to 9.40 so that we can have a prompt start. Although we have a good attendance for the group, new members are always welcome.

*Terry Evans* [minibridge /at/ greatglenu3a.co.uk](mailto:minibridge@greatglenu3a.co.uk)

259 2102

### **Needles and Pins**

We looking for some new members, male and female. Why not come along bringing unfinished work or something new? We are a small friendly group that meets on the second Monday of each month.

*Beryl Connolly* [needles /at/ greatglenu3a.co.uk](mailto:needles@greatglenu3a.co.uk)

07423 311013

### **New Age Kurling**

No ice and no frantic brushing! Our stones run on castors on a wooden floor. Why not come along and try your hand at this activity? It's very easy to play and it provides gentle exercise and lots of fun. This month's sessions are on 8<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> March at the Sports Centre (next to the Village Hall) at 10.00 a.m.

*Peter Russell* [kurling /at/ greatglenu3a.co.uk](mailto:kurling@greatglenu3a.co.uk)

01572 822198

### **Papercraft**

The next meeting will take place on 18<sup>th</sup> March when we shall be making an unusual shaped card for any occasion.

*Stella Orbell* [papercraft /at/ greatglenu3a.co.uk](mailto:papercraft@greatglenu3a.co.uk) 259 2095

## **Pub Lunches**

All those wanting details of forthcoming pub lunches should contact ...

*Margaret Hudson* 271 5064

## **Quiz Group**

The next meeting will be on Monday 25<sup>th</sup> March when David Green will be our question master.

*Rachael Snashall* [quiz /at/ greatglenu3a.co.uk](mailto:quiz@greatglenu3a.co.uk) 259 2830

## **Singing for Fun**

Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> March at 2.00 p.m. in the Methodist Hall

Songs from Shows and Musicals

My Fair Lady, Les Mis, The Music Man and more

Everyone is welcome

*Peter Russell* [chairman /at/ greatglenu3a.co.uk](mailto:chairman@greatglenu3a.co.uk)

01572 822198

## **Sunday Singles**

Lunches for the next few months will continue at the Leicestershire Golf Club. The next dates are: Sundays

10<sup>th</sup> March, 14<sup>th</sup> April and 12<sup>th</sup> 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 10<sup>th</sup> 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@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 14<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> 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@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 26<sup>th</sup> 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* [walking /at/ greatglenu3a.co.uk](mailto:walking/at/greatglenu3a.co.uk)

270 4524 or 07957 288060

### **Writing for Pleasure**

We meet again in the Ruth Warner room on 26<sup>th</sup> 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

## **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  
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*