



Great Glen Newsletter

March 2020

Registered Charity No. 1099411

www.greatglenu3a.co.uk

A warm welcome to our new members:

Terry Lightfoot, Margaret Collick, Richard Brocklehurst, and Jane Holroyd

Chair's Chat

Hello everyone

I have much to be thankful for. Aging fences, mature trees and deformed rose arches have withstood the onslaught of recent storms and my drains, though full at times, have coped with the worst. The lawn remains a-squelch but is trying to recover from the damage caused by dog and rain. I have cut back the most urgent of the gross and collapsing overgrowth of the rose bushes. All may yet be well.

I was pleased to learn at our last Committee meeting that membership now stands at just over 400 (a new high). Renewals for next year are looking promising, and I hope we are going to see plenty more soon. (Remember that if you have not renewed by the end of March your membership will be deemed to have lapsed.)

It is also very pleasing that we now have close to a full coachload booked for the visit to the House of Commons as guests of Neil O'Brien, MP, on 11 May. We could still squeeze in a few more, though. Anyone interested should contact me.

We are all bombarded with advice about coronavirus. I hope this will not affect any of our members or our activities. However I have been asked to pass on to you the latest advice from the Third Age Trust, as follows:

**** If a member has returned from one of the areas identified by the government and has any of the symptoms identified on the [government website](#) they should not hold interest groups in their own homes, or attend interest groups or attend monthly meetings until they have followed the NHS advice provided after calling 111.**

****If a member has contracted coronavirus, please let the Chairman know immediately, so that he can inform the Trust.**

****The members of interest groups that any member with coronavirus has attended should all call 111 to ask for advice.**

****The monthly meeting should be cancelled for that month (and possibly longer) until the spread of the virus has been assessed.**

Let's try to keep safe without panicking! I look forward to seeing a good attendance at our monthly meeting on Tuesday 10 March, when we should have a diverting presentation about the delights of Rutland.

Robert Mansfield

chairman/at/greatglenu3a.co.uk

270 8284

Committee News

MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS FOR YEAR ENDING 31 March 2021

If you have not received an email, or letter, reminding you of this, please give me a call on 0116 462 4679. If I am not there to take your call, leave a message and I will get back to you.

Janet Fanko membership/at/greatglenu3a.co.uk 4624679

VE - DAY 75TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

We hope to showcase our U3A by providing a display of flowers both real and made of paper at the Little Stretton Flower Festival on 16 & 17 May which will celebrate the 75 year Anniversary of VE -Day

Do you have memories of the end of the Second World War? In order to contribute to an interesting display I am hoping that people will think hard and come up with a memory of VE -Day or of that time.

If you can, please send me a **1 sentence memory** with your name attached which Beryl Connolly and I can incorporate in a display, perhaps on little flags or labels. To give you inspiration mine will be

'I remember hanging a large Union Jack out of the bedroom window and being taken with all the other children in a double decker bus to a party.'

Thank you so much,

Stella Orbell stellamo/at/hotmail.co.uk

2592095

or post through the letter box at 2 Stackley Rd, Great Glen.

WANTED
A TRUSTEE/SECRETARY FOR THE GREAT GLEN
U3A COMMITTEE

Duties would include:

Attendance at the monthly committee meetings on the first Tuesday of the month and AGM

Taking notes at the meeting and producing minutes on a computer

Bringing any correspondence to the attention of the committee and dealing with any responses required

If you could be interested in taking on this role, for a full job description, or would like further information and a chat about the role please contact:

Robert Mansfield

chairman/at/greatglenu3a.co.uk 270 8284

Calling All Group Leaders:

Registers, Gift Aid and End of Tax Year 2019/2020

As we approach the end of the 2019/2020 Tax Year, could you please ensure that all your registers, completed up to the end of March 2020, are submitted to the Treasurer Roger Edwards, 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 as quickly as we can 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

0116 259 2616

Disability and Welfare Officer

We advised you last month that Lynn Francis has taken up this role. If you need to discuss anything with her please contact her by e-mail

welfare/at/greatglenu3a.co.uk or 0116 2592685

A REMINDER FOR GROUP LEADER'S

The Group Leader's annual meeting is being held on Friday 24 April 2020 from 11am to 1pm. This is your opportunity to meet with your Committee who will be bringing you up to date with information from the Third Age Trust, and for you to raise any queries or problems you may have encountered in the past year.

A light lunch will be served.

We look forward to seeing you all there.

And now a final last chance
to claim as yours, or give the Astronomy Group's
telescope a home
before it is offered for sale!

Please contact John Johnson by e-mail at
john.b.johnson/at/icloud.com or by telephone on 0116 2122469

Monthly Meetings

COMING SOON

**At our meeting on 10 March 2020
we will be having a talk by Richard Adams
"Rutland – Multum in Parvo"**

Richard Adams knows Rutland better than most, having served as Chief Officer for 23 years and produced the Rutland calendar since 2000. A gifted photographer with a passion for our former smallest county and its wildlife, he will entrance us with his own wonderfully illustrated and orchestrated presentation.

Let's have the turnout this deserves!

Speaker Secretary

Doors open at 10.00 a.m. for coffee and tea.

10 March	2020	<i>Rutland – Multum in Parvo</i>	Richard Adams
14 April	2020	<i>Another Icarus</i>	Roy Smart
12 May	2020	<i>AGM followed by entertainment</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, event / speaker 10.30 a.m. **Coffee rota –** *Coffee, tea and sugar are provided. Please bring milk (2 litres).*

10 March	–	Family History
14 April	–	The French Groups
12 May	–	Garden Visits

Mark Walsh – The Ukulele Sensation
(February Meeting)

The plentiful and coruscating talents of Mark Walsh delighted the audience at our February monthly

meeting. He is a traditional music hall variety performer and one of the best ukulele players in the World today. Mark treated us to a collection of anecdotes and performances taken from his twenty plus years in the music and light entertainment industry. He has been a regular solo guest performer on BBC Radio Two's 'Friday Night is Music Night', has appeared in shows with Danny La Rue, Dame June Whitfield and Ken Dodd, and, followed in the footsteps of the legendary Leonard Sachs by acting as Master of Ceremonies at recent continuing performances of 'The Good Old Days' at the City Varieties Music Hall, Leeds (where the 'The Good Old Days' was recorded and broadcasted by the BBC between 1953 and 1983).

Mark was born in London and started his career as a comedian and actor who could play the ukulele and the piano. His professional career 'took off' in 1999 when he was spotted by Danny La Rue and who subsequently became his manager and great friend. Mark joined Danny La Rue's touring variety show where he also met Barry Cryer who wrote comedy sketches for these spectacles. Mark's first performance was at the Pavilion Theatre in Bournemouth where he performed 'My Old Man Said Follow the Van' which Danny claimed was the most sung song in the World and always generated audience participation. At our meeting with us, Mark performed this song on his Banjolele and sure enough he soon had Great Glen U3A singing along with him. The Banjolele has the body of a

banjo and the neck of a ukulele and was developed for music hall performers because it produced greater volume than the traditional ukulele. To demonstrate this Mark brilliantly played an instrumental called 'Lady of Spain'. In addition to the tours, Mark performed with Danny La Rue in numerous pantomime seasons. When Danny La Rue passed away in 2009, Mark and Barry Cryer put together a tribute show which Mark also appeared in at the World Famous London Palladium.

Mark also spoke fondly of Dame June Whitfield and Ken Dodd. He was a regular performer with both these great artists on their respective tours of the UK. He recalled how Ken Dodd's shows typically overran by at least 45 minutes. Mark's worst experience was an occasion when the matinee performance finished just ten minutes before the theatre doors were due to re-open for the evening performance! Mark also became great friends with Dame June Whitfield during their time touring together. They would often explore the towns where they were performing and on one occasion Mark was mistaken by a fan of Dame June's to be her grandson. Thereafter, Mark always received Christmas and Birthday cards from June signed 'Nan'.

Mark concluded his time with us by recollecting how he had always wanted to be a maker of violins and classical guitars. He has recently fulfilled this ambition by making 73 replicas of pre-Second World War Banjoleles made by Abbot, the most famous

manufacturer of these instruments. Mark's replicas have been sold worldwide but he forgot to keep one for himself! He has recently purchased one for a price that he was not prepared to disclose!

Our thanks to Mark for giving us such a fantastic presentation and also to Patricia for securing him as one of our Monthly Meeting speakers.

Bill Maxted

GROUP NEWS

Groups Learning and having fun!

Art Group

This group meets on the first and third Thursdays each month in the Ruth Warner room at the Methodist Church at 2.00pm

The theme for 19 March and 02 April is Spring. We would welcome any new people who like to draw or paint.

Rachael Snashall

art/at/greatglenu3a.co.uk

259 2830

Writing for Pleasure

This group meets on the fourth Tuesday of the month at the Ruth Warner room at the Methodist Church at 2.00pm

After a small hiatus over the past two months, the Group is resuming its regular meetings

Do you remember what daily life was like for you in the 40s, 50s even, dare it be said, the 30s? The Writing for Pleasure Group is making a collection of such memories and is looking for inputs from others who may be interested in sharing their stories. Come to our

next meeting on Tuesday 24 March – you will be most welcome.

Robert Mansfield chairman/at/greatglenu3a.co.uk 270 8284

French for Beginners – Lets Learn Together

This group meets on the first and third Tuesdays of the month in the Ruth Warner room at the Methodist Church at 10am.

New members will be made very welcome. If you are interested in joining this group please contact...

Jan Johnson frenchbeginners/at/greatglenu3a.co.uk 212 2469

Needles and Pins

This group meets on the second Monday of each month at 2.00pm

We are looking for some new members, male and female. Why not come along bringing unfinished work or something new? We are a small friendly group.

Beryl Connolly needles/at/greatglenu3a.co.uk 07423 311013

History

This group meets on the first Monday of each month at the Methodist Church at 2.00pm.

The next meeting is on Monday 06 April. Various members will be talking about ‘first woman to....’

Everyone is welcome.

Peter Russell history/at/greatglenu3a.co.uk

01572 822198

Family History

This group meets on the second and fourth Wednesdays each month at the Methodist Church at 09.30am

The next two meetings will be on Wednesdays 11 March & 25 March. Both meetings will be at 10.00am in the Methodist Church Hall

If you would like to join us you will most welcome. Please contact....

Eric Orbell familyhistory/at/greatglenu3a.co.uk 259 2095

Flower Arranging

This group meets on first Wednesday of the month in the Ruth Warner room at the Methodist Church at 2.00pm

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 - new members will be very welcome.

Beryl Connolly 07423 311 013

Papercraft

This group meets on the third Monday of the month at the Methodist Church at 2.00pm

Our next session will take place on Monday 16 March at 2 p.m. when we shall tackle Easter cards using iris folding. As we have had to purchase the ready cut cards and strips could you please bring an extra pound as a contribution to the cost. Also you will need small scissors and sellotape. If possible I hope to come.

Stella Orbell papercraft/at/greatglenu3a.co.uk 259 2095

Military History

This group meets on the first Wednesday of each month at the Methodist Church at 10am

Our next meeting will be on Wednesday 01 April when we will continue our look at the career of the Duke of Marlborough. No pre-knowledge is required. New members welcome.

Eric Orbell militaryhistory/at/greatglenu3a.co.uk 259 2095

French Conversation

This group meets every Wednesday in the Ruth Warner room at the Methodist Church at 10.30

The conversation (mostly in French) is wide ranging. We would welcome new members who appreciate coffee, biscuits, company and erudition.

Jim Picken frenchconversation/at/greatglenu3a.co.uk 259 2035

Groups that Exercise and have fun!

New Age Kurling

This group meets on the second and fourth Fridays of each month at the Sports Centre at 10.00am

The next two sessions are on 13 March and 27 March.

No ice and no frantic brushing! Our stones run on castors on a wooden floor. Why not come along and try your hand. It's very easy to play and it provides gentle exercise and lots of fun. Everyone is welcome

Peter Russell kurling/at/greatglenu3a.co.uk

01572 822198

Walking Without Stiles

This group meets on the fourth Tuesday every month, weather permitting, at venues in and around Great Glen

The next walk will be on Tuesday 24 March at Bradgate Park meeting at the main gate in Newtown Linford car park (there is a charge for parking). We plan to walk through the park and visit the café where there are drinks, snacks and cakes to buy.

The paths may be muddy in places so please wear suitable footwear. For more information please contact me by email, phone or mobile phone.

If you have any queries about the walk or if you would like to join the group please contact...

Elizabeth Cooke walking/at/greatglenu3a.co.uk
2704524 or 07957 288060

Indoor Bowls

This group meets at the Market Harborough Leisure Centre every Tuesday from October until March at 10.00am

We are a small friendly group who have been meeting for several years but we would like some new members so the group keeps going. Experience is not required. We look forward to seeing members old and new. If interested please contact...

Ann Spray

281 0324

Croquet

This group meets on every Tuesday at 1.30pm. and every Thursday at 10.00am and 11.30am at the Methodist Church Hall.

There are three separate Croquet Groups:

Group A Thursday morning 10.00 a.m. till 11.30 a.m. Tony Baxter

Group B Thursday morning 11.30 a.m. till 1.00 p.m. Len Sumpter

Group C Tuesday afternoon 1.30 p.m. till 3.15 p.m. Brian Purkiss

if you are interested in joining contact the organiser for the session you would like to join at.....

croquet/at/greatglenu3a.co.uk

Carpet Bowls

This group meets every Thursday afternoon at the Village Hall at 2.00pm

Unfortunately due to another event there will not be any bowls on THURSDAY 12 March. Hope to see everyone the following week i.e. Thursday 19 March.

Peter Stanley carpetbowls/at/greatglenu3a.co.uk 259 2152

Table Tennis

This group meets every Monday at the Youth and Sports Centre at 10.30am

We are full at present but there is a short waiting list – please let me know if you would like to put your name on the waiting list.

Janet Freestone tabletennis/at/greatglenu3a.co.uk 259 2803

Swimming

This group meets every Wednesday at the Leicester Grammar School during term time.



The only swimming sessions in March will be on the 18 and 25. After Easter, the first session is on the 22 April.

All welcome.

Frank Wilcock swimming/at/greatglenu3a.co.uk 431 9706

Line Dancing

This group meets every Thursday at the Sports Centre at 1.30pm

New members are always welcome, and line dancing is very easy to pick up. Yes, you will make mistakes, we all do, but you will have lots of laughs in the process. Line dancing is meant to be fun, not a competition, 'Strictly' it ain't!!!

I look forward to seeing you all on Thursday 12 March.

Jackie Jordan linedancing/at/greatglenu3a.co.uk 259
9199

English Country Dancing

This group meets every Tuesday afternoon at 1.30pm at the Sports Hall.

Attendance numbers are usually in the low to mid twenties which allows us to try a range of dances in different formations. This is not like ballroom dancing where you dance as a couple with just your partner. In social dancing you dance in various sized-groups (sets) of people, in varying formations (circles, long sets,

short sets, squares), and you may (or not!) stay with the same partner, but you will certainly interact with others as you progress through the dance. The dances we do range from simple barn/ceilidh dances to more complex courtly dances of the Stuart, Georgian /Regency and modern eras (e.g. as in "Jane Austen" costume dramas!). We also sometimes do modern American Square and Contra dances which are a bit more zesty and great fun! We usually manage 6 or 7 different dances each afternoon and we always try to include as many people as possible each time. 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 welcome.

Dancing with the group offers an introduction to this fun and sociable activity so that members can attend folk dance clubs both locally and further afield, and dance festivals. English Country dancing is popular all over the UK and in many other countries, especially the USA and Australia!

On Sunday March 08, ECD group members are invited to attend a "Playford"-style Tea-Dance at the Bede House in Higham-Ferrers, Northants. The Bede House was founded by Archbishop Henry Cichele in ca 1422, alongside his College, as a hospital for 12 elderly men of "over 50 years" age! This dance will feature music from the talented duo "*Childgrove*", to accompany 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 (but not compelled!) to dress in period costume or smart evening wear to give an authentic feel to proceedings (see photo below).

Then, on Saturday March 28 will be the Burton Overy club's *Annual Dance*, when the dance-Caller will be the nationally-known figure, Frances Richardson (Director of the annual Lichfield Folk Festival), supported by the superb band "*Keeping Thyme*"; a fun-filled and lively evening is anticipated!

Peter Meacock

ecd/at/greatglenu3a.co.uk

279 3600

Tai Chi

This group continues to meet but until a new qualified instructor can be found is unable to take new members

Lynda Woodford

taichi/at/greatglenu3a.co.uk

259 2186

Groups that challenge our brains and still have fun!

Mini Bridge

This group meets every week on a Tuesday at 9.40am for a 9.45 start at the Methodist Church.

Apologies to all for the cancellation on the 25 February. I hope no one was too inconvenienced by the last minute cancellation due to the heating boiler breaking down.

We have had a few new members but are still open for anyone who would like to join us and learn how to play

Minibridge. If you can play cards, we can show you how to play and enjoy Minibridge. Please contact....

Terry Evans minibridge/at/greatglenu3a.co.uk

259

2102

Quiz Group

This group meets on the fourth Monday of the month at the Methodist Church at 2.00pm.

Our next meeting is on 23 March when Mick Burton will be asking the questions. If you like quizzing then please come along and join us - new members are always welcome.

Rachael Snashall quiz/at/greatglenu3a.co.uk

259 2830

Table Top Games

This group meets on the second and fourth Thursdays at the Ruth Warner room at the Methodist Church at 1.50pm for a 2.00pm start

Our meetings this month are on 12 & 26 March. We've been pleased to welcome new members recently, but still have room for more! Please phone so we know to expect you if you would like to give us a try...or with any queries. As well as the ever popular canasta, we have a variety of board games, or you are welcome to bring your own to share. No experience is necessary: we will endeavour to teach you.....or you can teach us! Not sure? Come along and give us a try. No obligation to come a second time, but we hope you will!

Helen Edwards ttgames/at/greatglenu3a.co.uk

212 7547

Book Group (Mondays)

This group meets on the third Monday of each month at the Ruth Warner room at the Methodist Church at 2.00pm

Our next meeting will be on 16 March. We will be discussing "Arthur and George" by Julian Barnes. Our book for 20 April is "The Muse" by Jessie Burton.

Liz Adams books/at/greatglenu3a.co.uk 271 6281

Book Group (Thursdays)

This group meets on the fourth Thursday each month at the Ruth Warner Room at the Methodist Church at 10.00am.

We are happy to accept new members – both men and women will be welcome. We shall be discussing 'Educated' by Tara Westover on 26 March and 'Not quite nice' by Celia Imrie on 23 April

Please contact for further information....

Patricia Mansfield books2/at/greatglenu3a.co.uk 270 8284

Evening Duplicate Bridge

This group meets every week on a Tuesday at the Methodist Church Hall, apart from the third Tuesday of the month when it meets at the Great Glen Community Library at 7.00pm for a 7.15pm start

We should love to meet a few more new members in addition to one who has joined us following the Open Day -you will be made most welcome. *Andy Tyler*

eveningbridge/at/greatglenu3a.co.uk

07879 234046

Groups that socialise and have fun!

Sunday Singles

This group meets on the second Sunday each month at the Leicestershire Golf Club

I have been informed by Leicestershire Golf Club that members who have booked for lunch, and who do not turn up, without informing me by the Thursday evening preceding the meal that they are unable to attend, will have to pay the full amount of the meal. The Golf Club will no longer deduct the cost of meals prepared from our bill for those who fail to turn up.

Our next lunches will be at the Leicestershire Golf Club on March 08, followed by and April 12, 10 May and 14 June.

Gentlemen are welcome to join our usual members.

Judith Measom

279 1509

Singing for fun

Come and exercise your lungs on Wednesday 22 April. We shall have another mixed bag of tunes to sing along to. Everyone is welcome, we're not a choir, just singing for fun!

Peter Russell singing/at/greatglenu3a.couk

01572 822198

Pub Lunches

This group meets on the second Tuesday each month visiting local public houses

We continue to meet for lunch each month on the second Tuesday, after the monthly U3A meeting, to enjoy good food and fellowship. We have our favourite venues but try to visit local ‘pubs’ during the winter months and go further afield in the better weather.

New members will be made very welcome and if you would like to join us please contact.....

Margaret Hudson

271 5064

Ukulele Group

This group meets on the first and third Mondays of the month at the Ruth Warner room at the Methodist Church at 10.00am

Alan Mawby ukes/at/greatglenu3a.co.uk 259 2599

Luncheon Club

This group meets on the fourth Tuesday of each month at The Bell, Burton Overy.

Our lunches alternate between a starter and main course and a main course and dessert. At the moment we cannot take any more members. If you are interested in being on a waiting list and would like more information please contact me on the details below.

Joyce Davies luncheonclub/at/greatglenu3a.co.uk

Garden Visits

This group meets on third Friday of each month meeting at the Village Hall Car Park at 2.00pm or if the weather is inclement we meet at the Methodist Church at 2.00pm. Otherwise the timing changes according to the length of time it takes to arrive at our destination. This is always inserted in the monthly Newsletter and is in the diary distributed to the members.

Our next meeting is on Friday 20 March and is a visit to Welland Vale Garden Centre, Glaston Road, Uppingham LE15 9EU. Proceed on the A47 until you reach the roundabout to go into Uppingham but DO NOT turn right into Uppingham. Take the 3rd exit, still A47, and continue on until you see the sign saying Garden Centre to the right. Welland Vale is a short distance down there on the right hand side. There are several huge poly tunnels in which to wander and a large cafe in which to enjoy tea and cakes. They have said they will reserve seats for us so, if you would like to go and haven't put your name on the list, please let me know by Monday 16th March and whether you need a lift or are going straight to the venue. We will be leaving the Great Glen car park at 1.30p.m. where we will pick up those members who do not have transport. Thank you.

Linda Hobart. gardenvisits/at/greatglenu3a.co.uk.

367 0766

And finally....

Memories of an early group formed in our U3A – does anyone remember it? And what was John's surprise?

Rambling Group

At the end of the April General Meeting, I invited anyone interested in a walk on Thursday 25 April to see me. To my astonishment, I was able to suggest to a group of ten that they might like to walk a relatively new footpath along the River Wreake. Agreement was reached that we meet in the Chapel Car Park at 10am.

The day proved fine and two cars with passengers left for the Gate Hangs Well on the old Fosse Way.

The path was dry and shoes were satisfactory although the 'real' walkers sensibly wore boots. Trousers were important as nettles were already growing well. We walked alongside the river, largely under tree foliage and on uneven ground, seeing little in the way of wildlife with the exception of birds and the odd mallard. Having passed under the mainline rail line to London we finally reached Suttons Cut, where the canal joins the main river. At this point we crossed the Wreake on a low

footbridge which the organiser suggested should be demolished. A higher one could replace it so that navigation could start to travel further towards Melton.

Easy walking along the towpath brought us to Meadow Lane where we turned left to begin the return walk to lunch. A short distance over the new yellow bridge crossing the A46, we found a path on the left and a farmer's bridge over the Wreake, which returned us to the riverside walk for a pleasant lunch and chat at the Gate Hangs Well.

How far did we walk? About 5 miles was suggested. In fact a look at the map revealed probably less than 3 miles.

After that it was John's surprise and a cup of tea before returning home at about 3.30pm.