



## Great Glen Newsletter

March 2016

Registered Charity No. 1099411



[www.greatglenu3a.co.uk](http://www.greatglenu3a.co.uk)

A very warm welcome to our new members: Susan Poole, Raymond Stokes, and David and Sue Tilley

### Chairman's Chat

I was interested to read the article in the February edition of Third Age Matters entitled "Have you ever thought like this?" The article challenges U3A local Committees to reflect upon whether they are doing as much as they should to meet the needs of disabled members. We have just discussed this in our own Committee. At our monthly meetings we ask all our speakers to use the microphone to help those with hearing difficulties. We also produce a large print version of the U3A Great Glen monthly newsletter. My question now to all disabled members is this: *are you prevented from attending and enjoying meetings and groups and taking part by reason of a disability?* Please contact me directly if so, and let me have any suggestions you may have about how we might make things better.

Speaking of Third Age Matters, I have to advise all members that you should NOT inform the magazine of changes of address. The correct action is to let Liz Adams, our Membership Officer, know. Liz will then ensure you continue to receive your copy.

A reminder to Group Leaders that the Group Leaders' Meeting takes place at 12.30 p.m. on Friday 22 April in the Methodist Hall. Invitations were sent out several weeks ago. I have received a fair number of replies, but I need to have a definite response from the remaining Group Leaders please as soon as possible.

As previously announced our AGM will take place on Tuesday 10 May – coffee at 10.00 a.m. in readiness for a prompt start 10.30. Business will be followed by a showing by Toni Smith of a selection of films. Please make sure you have the date in your diaries.

*Patricia Mansfield* [chairman@greatglenu3a.co.uk](mailto:chairman@greatglenu3a.co.uk)  
270 8284

### **From your Committee ...**

**A courteous reminder to everyone that it is once again time to renew subscriptions ... and remember this – the Committee knows where you live!**

*(Editor)*

## Forthcoming Monthly Meetings

8 March 2016 *In the Footsteps of Marco Polo*

Neville Maggs

12 April 2016 *Excursion 4*

Sandra Moore

10 May 2016 *AGM and Films*

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.*

**8 March 2016** – Art Group

**12 April** – Book Group

**10 May** – Bowling Group

### Sadistic Safari – Michael Leonard

#### *February Monthly Meeting*

Michael and Rosemary went on safari to South Africa which turned out to be not quite what they had expected. In 1994 the blacks took over from the whites so their first hotel was north of Johannesburg as visiting the city required a guide and armed guards. The party included an American lady whom Michael described as having ‘verbal diarrhoea’ who spent the

whole safari asking where the elephants were. Their driver was called Robert, a very tall man and about 30 stone. Because it was raining very hard and very warm outside the windows steamed up, so Nancy, the American lady with a very loud voice, wanted to know where the air conditioning was! At one stage of the journey Robert asked the English to put their hands up and then said they should be ashamed of themselves. They were passing by a site where during the Boer war 26,000 white women and children and 13,000 blacks were killed. They heard that cyclone Holland was passing over them so they were unable to stop at any tourist sites. Unable to see anything through the steamed up windows, they approached the Drakensburg mountains, where the battle of Blood River took place, and then Spion Cop, where the English received a thrashing. Arriving at the Sabi River hotel they were attacked by huge insects whilst going to their outside bedroom. Fortunately there were none inside the room. The next day they travelled to the Kruger National Park in a temperature of 30°. They sat in a fenced in gated area where they bought sandwiches and crisps from the cafeteria for lunch. Whilst eating their lunch lots of monkeys came down from the trees and stole their food. Going back to the cafeteria to replenish their lunch they were met by the grins on the faces of the staff. The only 'big game' they saw that day were a Gecko lizard and a Monitor lizard 6ft. long.

At the next hotel they were met by ladies who took their very heavy suitcases and carried them on their heads to the bedrooms. In the twin rooms were thousands of insects, especially at one end near the toilet. That was the first night in years that Rosemary managed not to need the loo! After the evening meal it was lights out at 9 o'clock and everywhere was jet black. Unable to find the way to their room they inadvertently wandered into the jungle. Fortunately they were directed back by a ranger. Good news, as leopards were on the camp.

The next day they went on safari with guides in jeeps to find animals. They saw tortoises, a scaly anteater, centipedes and millepedes. The hotel that night had no bugs but Michael noticed a large lizard above Rosemary's bed. He got her hair lacquer and sprayed it as it scampered away, hopefully stiff, into the eaves. He hoped it would not fall down in the night! The silver service evening meal included crocodile, pheasant, duck, guinea fowl, wild boar, impala and giraffe. Unfortunately the dessert table was swarming with ants. The manager announced that a herd of elephants was walking by, trunks and tails linked. Nancy was delighted to see her favourite animals. The next day they were in Swaziland where the people were very poor and lived in ramshackle huts. Children were dressed in leaves and were poked to dance for money. 400,000 people suffered from Aids whilst the king, with his 200 wives, lived in splendour.

The party returned to South Africa to be told that their hotel for the night had burnt down. Instead they were taken to accommodation at the Pinder game reserve where there were wild animals and poisonous snakes. They went on a night safari where they saw a rabbit and the giant sticky web of the golden orb spider. After a champagne breakfast they set off back through the jungle where they saw a rhino who had just given birth. People in the jeep who did not duck down quickly enough were covered in the sticky web of the golden orb spider.

The next stop was Zululand in 40° heat. The people were very welcoming and offered a meal. Michael said the only thing he recognized was the table!

On to Durban ready to fly home. In the harbour they saw where Dockside Doris offered her services and advertised her day-time and night-time charges.

As Michael said, the rain, bugs, awful accommodation and lack of animals were not what they expected.

*Joyce Davies*

### **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 April Newsletter is noon on **Wednesday 6 April 2016.**

*Robert Mansfield*                      270 8284

## OUTINGS

### **Summer Visit to Chatsworth House and Gardens**

**Thursday 26 May 2016**

The coach will leave Great Glen Village Hall 09.00, departing from Chatsworth for the return journey at 16.15. Once you have arrived you are free to spend the day as you wish. The trip costs £28 per head, to cover the coach and entrance to the House and gardens. Bookings and money will be taken at the March monthly meeting by Lyn Woodford.

### **Visit to Barnsdale, Oakham, with the Garden Group**

**Wednesday 15 June 2015**

ALL U3A MEMBERS WELCOME. The coach will depart from the Great Glen Village Hall at 12.00 noon. There is plenty to enjoy, including very pleasant tea rooms and a shop. The Coach will leave Barnsdale at 4.45 p.m. for the return journey. The cost of the coach and entrance to Barnsdale is £14.50 per head. Bookings and money will be taken at the April monthly meeting.

Any queries about these events, please ring ...

*Pat Tate*

259 1001

## Learn Something New

All these are single two-hour sessions unless otherwise stated.

### **How to Start your Family Tree** *Eric Orbell*

**Wednesday 30 March 10:00** Methodist Hall

This session will give members an opportunity to learn how to **make a start** in researching and creating their own family tree. Once you have got going, you might wish to join the regular Family History group. Eric will explain the basics and what you can expect to achieve. To continue with your own research you will need to have access to a computer at home or a library but you will not need it at this session.

### **New Age Kurling - Come and have a go** *Stewart Newman* **Friday 13<sup>th</sup> May Sports Centre**

New age Kurling is a recently invented sport based on ice-curling but played on a normal flat indoor surface using rubber curling stones which have castors.

It can be played by almost anyone and provides opportunity for gentle exercise as well as plenty of fun.

If you are on the internet you can see a youtube demo at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0kimoxxRppk>

We are grateful to Stewart for providing equipment from Hinckley U3A for this session.



To join these sessions sign up at the March monthly meeting, or contact me by phone or email.

*Peter Russell* [prussell@russellscott.co.uk](mailto:prussell@russellscott.co.uk) 271 0889

We are also looking at repeating the **Dementia Friends** session which was held at the beginning of February. No date has been arranged yet.

The session **What to do with your IPAD** run by Jeanette Small went very well and we shall arrange a follow-up session, probably focussing on two or three specific topics.

So keep your eyes peeled for further announcements about these and other new sessions.

*Peter Russell* [prussell@russellscott.co.uk](mailto:prussell@russellscott.co.uk) 271 0889

## Group News

### **Art Group**

The subject for March 17th is Watercolour painting using minimum colours. For the April 7th and 21st meetings the subject is "Copying your favourite Artist". We meet every first and third Thursday of the month in the Ruth Warner room at 2.00 p.m.

*Rachael Snashall* [rsnashall@hotmail.com](mailto:rsnashall@hotmail.com) 259 2830

## **Crochet**

On 15<sup>th</sup> March we shall begin by making an egg cosy for your Easter breakfast egg. All welcome.

I can provide hook and wool if you wish to have a go. Just come along at 2.00 p.m. to the Ruth Warner Room.

*Stella Orbell*      [stellamo@hotmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:jlawson123@btinternet.com)      259 3421

## **English Country Dancing**

The Group continues to meet weekly on Tuesday afternoons 2.00 to 4.00 p.m. in the Sports Hall, and is always pleased to welcome new members. No previous experience is needed as all the dances are explained and walked through before setting them to music. You do not need to come with a partner; singles of both sexes are welcomed. Just wear lightweight shoes and comfortable clothing suitable for gentle dancing, and be prepared to laugh a lot!

The dances we do were written from 1650 to 2015, and span English Country, English Court (Playford), American Squares and Contra styles of dances.

On 13th March some of us will be dressing in our "Miss Elizabeth Bennett and Mr Darcy" finery in order to attend a Playford costume ball (Georgian/Regency period) in the Higham-Ferrers Bede House, Northamptonshire - an appropriate setting for dances from the 17th century!

Come and join us on Tuesdays for an afternoon of fun and gentle exercise in good company!

*Peter Meacock* [petermeacock112@btinternet.com](mailto:petermeacock112@btinternet.com)

279 3600

## **Family History**

The Group meets on the second and fourth Wednesdays at 9.30 a.m. in the Methodist Hall. We usually have a presentation on a subject relating to Family History or a discussion. If you would like to know more then please come to the meeting on Wednesday 30th March when I will be taking a 'Learn Something New' group on how to start researching your Family History.

*Eric Orbell* [ericorbell332@btinternet.com](mailto:ericorbell332@btinternet.com) 259 2095

## **Garden Group**

Our next meeting is on Friday 18th March when we are going to Gates Garden Centre - post code LE15 7QB. Not only are they well known for their huge horticultural areas but also have superb areas inside

selling cards, gifts, foodstuffs etc. and a cafeteria to purchase refreshments. If you are not already on the list please contact Margaret Wright on 243 2550 (but not between 5th and 12th March as she is away). Should you require any information during this time please contact me (details below). Many thanks. Please also look out for Pat Tate's insertion regarding our trip to Barnsdale in June!!

*Linda Hobart* [lindahobart@outlook.com](mailto:lindahobart@outlook.com)

(New No.) 319 8095

## **History Group**

We shall meet again on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> March 2016 at 2.00 p.m. when Robert and Patricia Mansfield will be looking at 'British Man-Made Waterways'. Then on 4<sup>th</sup> April, we shall be viewing and discussing a DVD on a subject to be selected at the March meeting.

New members always welcome.

*Peter Russell* [prussell@russellscott.co.uk](mailto:prussell@russellscott.co.uk) 271 0889

## **History of Art**

The next meeting will be on Wednesday 16th March when we shall be looking at the paintings of Rembrandt. The meeting will be held in the Methodist Hall as usual and will commence at 10.00 a.m. All members are welcome.

*David Brooke* [dnbrooke@fsmail.net](mailto:dnbrooke@fsmail.net) 259 2520

## **Indoor (Winter) Bowls**

Indoor bowls will stop after Easter for the summer and will begin again in October.

*Ann Spray* [spray194@btinternet.com](mailto: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* [jlawson123@btinternet.com](mailto:jlawson123@btinternet.com) 259 3421

## **Line Dancing**

Gentle exercise, good music, great fun and not a Stetson or a pair of cowboy boots in sight.

We dance to a variety of music, from country to blues, jazz, rock and pop, something to please everyone. We are all beginners, so why not come along and give it a try. Every Thursday in the Sports Hall, 2.00 p.m. to 4.00 p.m.

*Jackie Jordan* [jkj1506@btinternet.com](mailto:jkj1506@btinternet.com) 259 9199

## **Military History**

The Group meets on the first Wednesday of each month at 10.00 a.m. in the Methodist Hall. We are currently looking at aspects of the First World War. Come along and see if this is for you.

*Eric Orbell* [ericorbell332@btinternet.com](mailto:ericorbell332@btinternet.com) 2592095

## **Mini Bridge**

We are back to our usual times – Tuesday weekly 9.45 a.m. (for a prompt start at 10.00 a.m.) till 12.15.

Singles or pairs are welcome but please ring Terry 259 2102 or me before your first visit.

*John Lawson*   [jlawson123@btinternet.com](mailto:jlawson123@btinternet.com)   259 3421

## **Papercraft**

Easter baskets and matching cards are on the menu on the 21st March. Please let me know if you are unable to come.

*Stella Orbell*   [stellamo@hotmail.com](mailto:stellamo@hotmail.com)   259 2095

## **Quiz Group**

There will not be a meeting on 28th March as this is Easter Monday. Our next meeting will be on 25th April, when Peter Russell has kindly offered to be in charge and Andrew Palmer is setting the questions.

*Rachael Snashall*   [rsnashall@hotmail.com](mailto:rsnashall@hotmail.com)   259 2830

## **Sunday Singles Lunch**

We meet on the second Sunday of the month, single ladies and gentlemen equally very welcome – we could do with a few more men just now! The next venues are: **13 March** – Scraptoft Golf Club; **10 April** – The Golden Shield, Fleckney.

*Judith Measom*

279 1509

## Swimming

There will be no swimming owing to the Easter holiday on 30th March, 6th and 13th April i.e. for **three** weeks. I trust no one turned up on 24th February when the School had a Gala. I made those who swam in the previous two weeks aware of the situation and it was also stated in the Newsletter.

*David Brooke*    [dnbrooke@fsmail.net](mailto:dnbrooke@fsmail.net)                      259 2520

## Table Top Games

Our next meetings are on 10<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> March.

Newcomers are always welcome.

*Gillian Farrar* 270 8375                      *Helen Edwards* 212 7547

## Village Strollers

Linda Hobart has advised the Committee that she has to stand down from the leadership of this group following her house move, so there is now a vacancy for a Group Leader. Linda is most willing to help a new leader to get established. **Is there a volunteer out there?** Anyone who might be interested is invited in the first instance to contact the Chairman ...

*Patricia Mansfield*    [chairman@greatglenu3a.co.uk](mailto:chairman@greatglenu3a.co.uk)  
270 8284

## Tailpiece

And God promised men that good and obedient wives would be found in all corners of the world.

Then He made the earth round...and laughed and laughed and laughed...

www.thesun.com pictures at [THEMETAPICTURE.COM](http://THEMETAPICTURE.COM)