



Great Glen Newsletter

March 2018

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

A very warm welcome to our new members:
Christine Gale, Trevor and Wendy Johnson,
Christine Lucas and Gary Woodford

Chairman's Chat



Hello everyone

As many of you know, work has begun on the repairs to the Methodist hall and by the time of our March monthly meeting they should be finished. I'm pleased to say that we are able to resume normal group meetings from Monday 12th March.

It's a fairly common occurrence nowadays to hear on the radio or read in the press about the need for retired people to keep mentally and physically active but lamenting the lack of facilities for this. Sometimes I'm inclined to shout back "what about U3A!" Obviously, U3A is not the only organisation available, but I think we are unique in that each U3A organises itself for the benefit and capabilities of its own members and is run entirely by its members through its group leaders and committee and other volunteers. Of course this does mean that our U3A is dependent on all of us to supply ideas, to participate in groups and to get involved in organising everything that goes on. Just attending a group helps keep it going for everyone's benefit. Almost all of our groups are open to receive additional members, so do try something new this month.

We are now well into our membership renewals period. Everyone should have received renewal forms. If you have not received yours then please contact the membership secretary or myself. If you'd like to have a go at the introductory slot at the monthly meeting then I would be pleased to hear from you. I thought that last month's contribution about beekeeping by John Hadland was very interesting. Maybe you have a hobby that you could talk about for a few minutes. It might inspire others to join in. Before you know it, you might have a new group.

This time next month, we shall be into spring. Let us all look forward to getting out and about a bit more. A happy Easter to you all.

Peter Russell

chairman@greatglenu3a.co.uk

271 0889

Committee News

New Members Meeting

If you joined Great Glen U3A after October 2017 then you will shortly receive an invitation to attend a special meeting for new members. This is a meeting where you can learn a little about how U3A works nationally and also about all of the groups that you can join at Great Glen U3A.

The meeting will be held towards the end of April – the date will be confirmed in your invitation. Please come along if you can. As well as the information about U3A it is a good opportunity to get to know a few more members and to eat cake.

Peter Russell

prussell@russellscott.co.uk

271 0889

April 1st is approaching!

Please remember that from April 1st group charges will **increase to £1.50 per meeting**. If you are a group leader you **MUST** start a new register from that date. Please bank or hand in any collected funds **before the end of March** so that they are recorded in the correct tax year. Please also ensure that all your registers up to the end of March have been submitted to the Treasurer or Gift Aid Secretary. Your help with this will enable us to make a Gift Aid claim as soon as possible in the new tax year. Thank you.

Have you renewed your subscription?

So far almost half of you have – thank you! If you have still to renew you can pay in cash at the March monthly meeting or pop in to the Methodist Hall on Thursday 22nd March between 2.00 and 4.00 p.m. or Tuesday 27th March 10.00 to 12.00 noon. **Please bring your signed renewal form with you.**

Could you do a bank transfer? Yes, you can do this by visiting your bank, using telephone banking or on the internet. Your letter explains the details. Whichever method you choose please return your signed renewal form to us. There is a ‘post box’ at the Methodist Hall for renewal forms if you have paid by bank transfer, or you can hand it in as above.

Finally, can I say ‘Thank you’ to those people who have made additional donations to cover administrative costs. We certainly did not expect anyone to do that but appreciate your generosity in supporting our U3A. Thank you.

Sue Russell Membership Secretary

sue@suerussell.co.uk

271 0889

Monthly Meetings

Our meeting on 13th March features a talk by Barbara Mayer on Big Cats Photography.

13 March 2018

The Big Cats Photography

Barbara Mayer

10 April 2018

The Art of Chair Bodging

Peter Wood

8 May 2018

AGM followed by Entertainment

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).

13 March – **English Country Dancing Group**

10 April – **Duplicate Bridge Group**

8 May – **Family History Group**

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 submissions for the next Newsletter is noon on **Wednesday 4th April 2018**.

Robert Mansfield robertmansfield@btinternet.com 270 8284

The King in the Car Park and his Re-interment

(February Meeting)

John Hadland continued the recent tradition of members providing a 'warm up' by treating us to a fascinating exploration of the construction and inner workings of one of his beehives, designed not only to facilitate the orderly working of the society within but also to keep out marauding parasites.



Next, we enjoyed a lively and well-illustrated presentation from Roy Mitchell who aimed to 'set the record straight' about King Richard III. I had dared to wonder beforehand if we might have had a surfeit of His Majesty, but this diverting and informative talk provided a rich blend of fresh insights and anecdote. We reviewed the astonishing instincts and good fortune of the excavators in the car park and the DNA research that proved the king's identity before moving on to the tussle between York and Leicester over his remains. The presentation concluded with the intricate planning and the enactment of the final procession through Leicestershire and the ceremonies of the lying-in-state and the interment. A delightful concoction of solemnity and humour!

Robert Mansfield

OUTINGS

Visit to Felley Priory

A GENTLE REMINDER. For those of you who are coming to Felley Priory on Friday April 20th and have not yet paid I would be grateful to receive your payment at this meeting of £20 per person in cash please. Many thanks. The coach will leave promptly at 10.00 a.m. If you have any difficulty getting your payment to me please telephone me.

Linda Hobart

lindahobart@outlook.com

319 8095

GROUP NEWS

Art Group

The next meeting will be 15th March as the Church Hall is about to reopen.

Rachael Snashall

rsnashall@hotmail.com

259 2830

Carpet Bowls

We meet every Thursday afternoon from 2.00 to 4.00 p.m. in the Village Hall. New members most welcome.

Peter Stanley Peterandphyllis.stanley@btinternet.com 259 2152

Croquet

Thursday 10.00 until 11.30 a.m. Two spaces are available in this group.

Thursday 11.30 a.m. until 1.00 p.m. This group is full.

Tuesday 1.30 p.m. until 3.00 p.m. This group is also full

All groups play on the carpet in the Chapel in very comfortable conditions. We have outdoor kit as well so if any one wishes to set up an outdoor group please let me know.

John Lawson jlawson123@btinternet.com 259 3421

English Country Dancing

English country dances chronicle all manner of everyday life events. During the recent cold weather some of the older dances, in particular *Drive the Cold Winter Away* (English Dancing Master 1st edition, Henry Playford, 1651) and *In the Fields of Frost and Snow* (English Dancing Master, John Playford, 1713), have seemed very appropriate! Both tunes have associated folk songs. The latter lists the complaints of a young swain who has to rise early despite the cold weather in order to tend the animals on his father's farm, and with its descriptive animal noises ("Cows go B oo!") is a forerunner of the popular children's song *Old MacDonald had a Farm!*



U3A ECD Group members enjoying a Burns Night dance at Burton Overy

Just as this edition of the Newsletter reaches your homes, some ECD group members will be attending two public dances put on by local folk-dance clubs. On March 10, we are looking forward to the Burton Overy club's Annual Dance with music played by the renowned London-based dance band "Momentum" (No connection with Jeremy Corbyn!) and dances called by the nationally-known Caller, Frances Richardson, from Lichfield. Then, the following day members can dress in 17/18th century finery for a "Playford"-style costume Tea Dance that is being organised by the Rushden club in the historic Bede House at Higham Ferrers. That will feature the refined dances of the Georgian/Regency period to music played by the band "Childgrove" and will also be attended by members of other English Country Dance groups from Northamptonshire U3As.

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 members if others would like to join us. 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!

Peter Meacock petermeacock112@btinternet.com 279 2600

Evening Bridge

Tuesday evenings at 7.00 p.m. for a prompt start at 7.15 p.m every Tuesday in the Chapel Hall (except for third Tuesday of the month when we play at the Library). We finish about 10 o'clock.

You will need a partner. Please ring me for further details

John Lawson jlawson123@btinternet.com 259 3421

Family History

Our meetings scheduled for Wednesday 14th March and 28th March should take place as planned.

Eric Orbell ericorbell332@btinternet.com 259 2095

Garden Visits

Our next meeting is on Friday 16th March when we are visiting Palmers Garden Centre, but this time in Ullesthorpe (post code LE17 5DR). It is similar to the one at Narborough with lots of plants, gifts and greeting cards to purchase and a tea shop (though this is a little smaller than that at Narborough). We shall be meeting in the Village Hall car park at 2.00 p.m. to give lifts to those in need. If you would like to come please contact Pat Tate (259 1001) and let her know if you would like a lift or are going straight to Ullesthorpe.

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Linda Hobart lindahobart@outlook.com 319 8095

History

We're a bit unlucky with the way the public holidays fall this year. There is no meeting on Monday 2nd April as it is Easter Monday. The next session is on Monday 30th April at 2.00 p.m. in the Methodist Hall. This is an alteration from normal and replaces Monday 7th May, which is also a bank holiday.

Peter Russell prussell@russellscott.co.uk 271 0889

History of Art

Our next meeting is on 21st March when we will be looking at the paintings of Mary Fedden. Mary's work is described as modernism, a word we have not come across before. The meeting will be held in the Methodist Hall as usual, commencing at 10 .00 am. All members are welcome.

David Brooke dnewtonbrooke@gmail.com 259 2520

Learn French Together

The French group for 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

Military History

Our next meeting on 4th April should go ahead as planned, when we shall continue fighting the English Civil Wars.

Eric Orbell ericorbell332@btinternet.com 259 2095

Mini Bridge

Mini-Bridge is returning to the Chapel Hall on Tuesdays at 9.45 for a prompt start at 10.00 a.m. A partner is not needed but bring along anyone who is interested. Please ring

Terry Evans 2592102 or *John Lawson* 2593421

New Age Kurling

If you've not tried it then come and have a go – it provides gentle exercise and lots of fun. The next sessions are on Friday 9th March and Friday 23rd March at 10.00 a.m. at the Sports Centre.

Peter Russell

prussell@russellscott.co.uk

271 0889

Papercraft

Papercraft will go ahead on 19th March when we shall be making Easter cards.

Stella Orbell

stellamo@hotmail.co.uk

259 2095

Quiz Group

The next meeting will be on 26th March at 2.00 p.m. in the Methodist Hall. Asking the questions will be Mick Burton.

Rachael Snashall

rsnashall@hotmail.com

259 2830

Sunday Singles Lunch

The next meetings arranged are as follows: 11th March Leicestershire Golf Club; 8th April Leicestershire Golf Club.

Judith Measom

279 1509

Swimming

The Easter break is not far off. There will be no swimming on 28th March, 4th and 11th April. Attendance on 28th February was disappointing: only 16. The changing rooms were very warm and the water was warmer than usual.

David Brooke

dnewtonbrooke@gmail.com

259 2520

Table Top Games

On Thursday 8th March we will meet in the back room at Great Glen Village Hall, from 2.00 to 4.00 p.m. This is accessed by entering the side door of the building and then turning left. The Carpet Bowls group will be using the main hall at the same time. I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible then.

Helen Edwards

212 7547

Eileen Appleby

259 2513

Ukulele Group

Dates for meetings of the Ukulele Group are for this month 19th and 26th March, then 9th April, after which the normal pattern of first and third Mondays will be resumed. This is to avoid the hall repairs and Easter Monday.

Kate Smith

kate@kateandbobsmith.co.uk

259 2599

Please contact the Group Leader (see your U3A programme card or the website for details) if you are interested in joining any Group.

Tailpiece

