



Great Glen Newsletter

May 2016

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



A very warm welcome to our new members: Hilda Johnson, Mary Smith and John Sturgess

Chairman's Chat

If you have any interest in sport, what a marvellous time to be living in Leicestershire! The obvious aside, Leicester's Mark Selby won the World Snooker Championship for the second time and the Leicester Tigers, after a mixed season, have achieved a play-off place. But pride of place – for me at least – goes to Leicester City Football Club, who have confounded their doubters and the pundits by winning the Premier League title for the first time in their 132 year history with two games still to play. At the start of the season the odds were 5,000 to 1 against the Foxes. The forecasts were that the team would be relegated and that Claudio Ranieri would be the first manager in the Premiership to be sacked. All this sporting success has really put Leicester on the map worldwide. Wherever you may go on holiday, when you say you are from Leicester no-one is likely to look blank, as we are now world news. Next season we can look forward to playing some of the best teams in Europe. Who would

have dreamt at the start of the season that the likes of Real Madrid and Barcelona would soon be gracing the King Power stadium?

As previously announced our AGM will take place on Tuesday 10th May – coffee at 10.00 a.m. in readiness for a prompt start 10.30. After completion of the formal business Toni Smith will show a selection of films. Please make sure you have the date in your diaries.

Patricia Mansfield chairman@greatglenu3a.co.uk
270 8284

Annual Group Leaders' Meeting

Group Leaders had their annual informal meeting with Committee members on 22 April 2016 at the Methodist Hall. The topics discussed were finance and funding, the website, support for disabled members and matters raised by Group Leaders.

Group Leaders were advised that we are running at a small deficit. To reduce the shortfall some changes to the funding of groups are required. Funding for equipment will continue but funds for consumables should be met by each group. (So, for example, U3A Great Glen would pay for a table for the Table Tennis Group but not the balls.) Most groups have worked on this basis for a long time. However a few groups have

received other support, which will cease later this year. The Group Leaders concerned will discuss this with members and, if extra money is needed, work out how best to collect it.

The Committee considers that the current level of £1 per session for voluntary donations should remain unchanged for now. However groups are permitted to set a higher level, for instance where they need to pay for additional resources or speakers. (Garden Visits already operate this scheme.) The extra contribution must not however discourage attendance.

Contributions should, in the interests of simplicity, be set at a level that remains constant for a reasonable period – say at least three months for a group meeting every week. (The contribution for Swimming should cover the group's costs, and will need to be set in the light of costs and attendances over several years.

When the annual increased lifeguard charge starts in September a higher sessional contribution may be necessary.)

In the light of prompting from articles in the last two editions of *Third Age Matters*, Group Leaders have been asked to discuss with any members with a disability what support they would like to seek, to enable them to continue their enjoyment of the group. Do make your needs known and suggest what would help you. We are also interested in the needs of those

who have stopped attending a group because of a disability. The Committee may not be able to solve every difficulty but we should like the opportunity to see what might be done.

Topics raised by the Group Leaders were considered by the Committee at its meeting on 2nd May. Some of these need further consideration. However the Committee has confirmed that the provision of milk (and biscuits, where applicable) is a matter for Group Leaders to sort out with their groups. The Committee also concluded that under current arrangements it is not possible to make receiving (and subscribing the very modest annual amount for) *Third Age Matters* optional without creating significant extra administrative work. The Committee also believes that the magazine should help members to have a better understanding of U3A and all that it offers.

Forthcoming Monthly Meetings

10 May 2016 *AGM and Films*

14 June 2016 *Fascination of the English Language*

David Siddons

12 July 2016 *Elizabeth Countess of Shrewsbury*

Julie Ede

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.

10 May – Bowling Group

14 June – Three Groups: Bridge, Calligraphy and Crochet

12 July – Croquet

Living Memories of Characters in Belgrave Cemetery

April Monthly Meeting

A chilly, grey spring morning and the grave title of the month's talk – see above – just what awaited us? Enter a tall figure swathed from head to toe in unrelieved black, save for a jaunty pink flower nodding on her bonnet. Gliding purposefully in from the back to the sound of a handbell and a rousing hymn came Sandra Moore, our speaker, in the guise of Elizabeth Goodwin, deceased, former Head Teacher of Belgrave Elementary School. Miss Goodwin had died in harness aged fifty-three in the early nineteen twenties. She was the very embodiment – perhaps not quite the right word here – of a spinster schoolmistress, complete with cane and a sharp tongue.

Miss Goodwin, assisted by Nicholas, her assistant 'apprentice' (they are both members of the Friends of Belgrave Cemetery) presented us with thumbnail

sketches of various personalities and their families interred in the cemetery. A pretty mixed bunch they were: Hannah Croft, who campaigned against the demon drink; Roland Grimstone, a former Chief Constable of the County of Leicestershire; Edwin Carr, a chemist who manufactured Carr's Fever Products and left a fortune (but not the formula for his highly profitable patent medicines); Barry Young, who danced with feathers; and Joseph Cave who, while overseeing the digging of his own grave, sang 'Poor Old Joe'. We were invited to sing along and did so with spirit. Then there was Ann Garner who worked until she was one hundred as housekeeper to Lord Mayors and departed this life four years later.

This ghostly gallery was accompanied by some fine views of the cemetery as it is today and by sepia photographs of times past. The most striking of these were of lavish funerals, particularly that of Sally Elliot, whose many 'over the top' floral tributes included a packet of cigarettes. Belgrave Cemetery, one of Leicester's four municipal cemeteries, is tucked away by the Redhill roundabout. It provided us with the topic for an interesting, if unusual, performed talk, and looked certainly sufficiently interesting to warrant a visit.

Margaret Lunson

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 May Newsletter is noon on **Wednesday May 2016.**

VISIT TO CHATSWORTH HOUSE AND GARDENS

A reminder to those going on the trip to Chatsworth – the coach will leave Great Glen Village Hall at 9.00 a.m. on Thursday 26th May 2016. We shall leave Chatsworth at 4.15 p.m. to return to Great Glen. Tickets for entrance to the house and gardens will be given out on the day once we have arrived at Chatsworth.

Pat Tate

259 1001

Learn Something New

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

Family History Beginners *Eric Orbell*

Friday 27th May Methodist Hall

There will be a morning meeting on Friday 27th May at 10.00 a.m. for anyone who would like to start researching their family history. If you would like to come to this one-off class, which will last for about two hours, and you are computer literate then PLEASE let either Peter Russell or myself know of your interest BEFORE the date of the proposed meeting. This will, of course, only take place if enough people are interested and wish to take part. There is no need to bring a lap-top or tablet on the day.

Eric Orbell ericorbell332@btinternet.com 259 2095

New Age Kurling – Come and have a go *Stewart*

Newman **Friday 13th 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.

So turn up on the day and have a go for an hour or so.

Peter Russell prussell@russellscott.co.uk 271 0889

Group News

Crochet

On 17th May we shall continue with our granny squares and learn how to join them together. New members welcomed and provided with any hooks and wool for the afternoon.

Stella Orbell 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 259 3421

English Country Dancing

"Spring has Sprung", and 1st May has come and gone! Local folk dance clubs have recently been celebrating "St George's Day", the "90th birthday of HM the Queen" and "May Day" – so why aren't YOU joining in the fun?

The English Country Dancing Group continues to meet every week on Tuesday afternoons from 2.00 to 4.00 p.m. in the Sports Hall. Most of our dances are performed at walking pace, with occasional skipping, so are not too vigorous. The music we use ranges from

Handel, Purcell, Mozart, Bach, etc, to modern compositions, sometimes even jazz, and often features tunes that will be very familiar to all those who enjoy traditional English folk music. The dances are performed in specific formations of circles, squares and longways sets, and they span English Country, English Court (Playford), American Squares and Contra styles; some date back to the Stuart and Georgian/Regency periods while others were written very recently.

No previous experience is needed as all the dances are fully explained and walked through before setting them to music, and then called throughout. You do not need to come with a partner; singles of both sexes are welcomed. Just wear light-weight shoes and comfortable clothing suitable for gentle dancing and, most importantly, be prepared to laugh a lot!

The group will continue dancing through May and June but will probably not meet during the summer for part of July and August. Further details will be announced in the June Newsletter.

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

Peter Meacock petermeacock112@btinternet.com

279 3600

Family History

The Family History Group will meet on the 11th and 25th May at 9.30am in the Methodist Church Hall. If you are interested in joining please see the details of

the Beginners Class above under 'Learn Something New'.

Eric Orbell ericorbell332@btinternet.com 259 2095

Garden Visits Group

Our next meeting is on Friday 20th May when we are visiting The Plant Man at Braybrooke. This is a very popular destination for many of our members (post code LE16 8LP). Afterwards we shall be going to The Greenhouse, within The Langton Garden Centre, for tea and cakes (post code LE16 7FD). If you would like to come and have not notified us, please contact Pat Tate on 259 1001 (after six o'clock). We shall be meeting in the Village Hall car park at 2.00 p.m. for those who need a lift, but if you are going straight there please inform Pat. Many thanks.

N.B. Just to let you know that thanks to Pat Tate's tenacity both the visits to Barnsdale Gardens and to Chatsworth House are now going ahead as all seats on the buses have now been filled. Well done to Pat.

Linda Hobart lindahobart@outlook.com. 319 8095

History Group

We shall meet next on **Monday 6th June 2016** at 2:00 p.m. we shall be continuing our plans for researching local topics, and also viewing another DVD, this time about Oliver Cromwell. Those of you who are participating in the local topics please come along with your ideas. New members always welcome.

Also, please see the announcement below about the private visit to Hallaton Museum, Church and Village on 4th July which will replace the regular History Group meeting.

Private Visit to Hallaton Museum 4th July 2016

Hallaton Museum is running an exhibition called 'Tales of the Unexpected' at weekends from the end of April until the beginning of October; this is open to the public. We shall be making a private visit just for Great Glen U3A members on Monday 4th July, which will include guided tours of the museum exhibition, the church next door and a village walk.

The theme of the exhibition is: "The fascinating and unusual stories of Hallaton men and women in different theatres of war". There are posters on the notice board at the Methodist Hall where you can see more detail.

We would make our own way to the exhibition. The museum is asking for a voluntary donation of £5 per person for a private party which would be payable to me in advance. There are still a couple of places available if you are interested. I shall contact those of you who have signed up for this in the next couple of weeks.

Peter Russell prussell@russellscott.co.uk 271 0889

History of Art

On 18th May we have our visit to the Leicester Art Gallery on New Walk. All members of the Group will be contacted well in advance of the visit to confirm the arrangements.

David Brooke 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 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 259 3421

Line Dancing

Attendance continues to be good, with up to 17 dancers lining up for their weekly dose of laughter and gentle exercise. The dancers are a lively lot who are all game for a laugh, and there are plenty of those. We all make mistakes, myself included, but it really does not matter, it is all part of the fun.

FACT - MEN DO LINE DANCE!!!

We have one gentleman who comes when his other commitments allow, so where are the rest of Great Glen U3A's men? I challenge you all to give it a try,

and have a laugh with some gentle exercise thrown in.
See you on Thursday at 2.00 p.m.

Jackie Jordan jkj1506@btinternet.com 259 9199

Luncheon Club

We are now in a position to welcome new members.

We meet at The Bell Inn, Burton Overy, on the fourth Tuesday of the month. We alternate each month between -- "starter & main" and "main & dessert".

The food is of excellent quality and well presented. Come and give us a try to see if you would like to join us. We look forward to seeing you soon.

Joyce Davies mervjoycedavies@btinternet.com

259 3436

Military History

The Military History Group will be carrying on with its look at the Great War on Wednesday 4th May at 10.00 a.m. in the Methodist Church Hall. All are welcome.

Eric Orbell ericorbell332@btinternet.com 259 2095

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 259 3421

Papercraft

At our next meeting on 16th May we shall be exploring how to use both acrylic and wooden stamps on our

cards. Please bring along any coloured pens or pencils together with your usual items.

Stella Orbell stellamo@hotmail.com 259 2095

Sunday Singles Lunch

We meet on the second Sunday of the month, single ladies and gentlemen equally very welcome! The next venues are: **8 May** – Leicestershire Golf Club, **12 June** – The Grey Goose, Fleckney, **10 July** – The Bell, East Langton, **14 August** – The Queen's Head, Saddington.

Judith Measom

279 1509

Swimming

We had 25 swimmers on 20th April but attendance dropped to 20 on 27th April. Attendance was disappointing before the Easter break. Remember, if we want to keep the facility we must use it.

David Brooke dnbrooke@fsmail.net 259 2520

Table Top Games

This month our sessions are on 14th and 28th May at 2.00 pm in the Methodist Church Hall. Newcomers are always welcome to join us to play a variety of card and board games.

Gillian Farrar 270 8375 *Helen Edwards* 212 7547

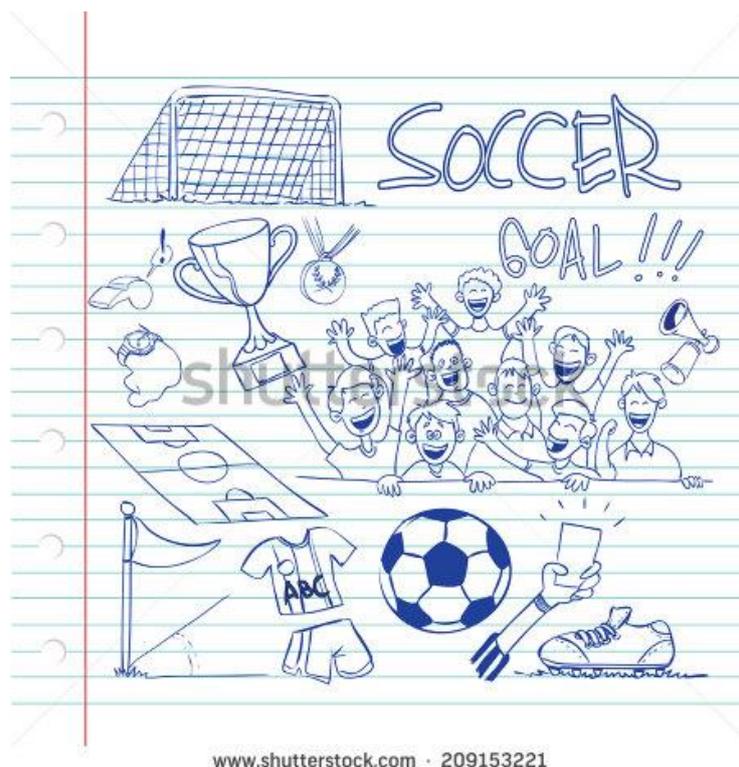
News from the Film Group

Thank you again to all those who have supported the Film Group in the last few months. This has been most

encouraging. On Wednesday 11th May 2016 at Leicester Phoenix we plan to show a more recent film, “Atonement”, which is based on the novel by Ian McEwan. The book is a great read. The film was released in 2007 and lasts 123 minutes. It stars James McAvoy, Keira Knightley and Vanessa Redgrave. It won one Oscar and two British Academy awards. The film begins at 10.30 a.m. and you may turn up and pay on the door – no need to book. Please support this film and bring a friend, or more than one. More details from ...

Malcolm Gray mjgray220@gmail.com 2714402

Tailpiece



... should we give football a bit of rest soon?