



Great Glen Newsletter May 2017

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

A very warm welcome to our new
member Hilary Broadbent

Chairman's Chat

Time's up! My three years as your Chairman have flown by with amazing speed and I shall be standing down at the AGM on 9th May. It has proved a delightful and rewarding experience, both because Great Glen U3A is itself such a worthwhile, welcoming institution and because of the support I have enjoyed during my term of office. I have been particularly grateful for the support of your hardworking Trustees and Group Leaders. Without them and many others willing to volunteer to 'do their bit' there would be no Great Glen U3A. I urge you all to be alive to opportunities to serve and to take on new challenges. For instance, we shall certainly be looking for members willing to help when we showcase our U3A at the village Wheelbarrow Race Event in September: in planning our exhibit, preparing materials, setting up our pitch and interacting with the public. I shall remain a Trustee, but with a different hat, after the AGM – when I look forward to saying some personal thankyou's before handing over to my

successor. I look forward to seeing as many of you there as possible.

Patricia Mansfield chairman@greatglenu3a.co.uk

270 8284

Committee News

An update on the building works at the Methodist Church: the works are expected to continue until 28 July. Other than the space for disabled drivers, the car park will be unavailable for this period as the contractor needs access. Please therefore find alternative parking on the road or at the Village Hall.

Robert Mansfield robertrmansfield@btinternet.com

270 8284

Mystery of the Missing Key

A fob with two keys attached, belonging to me, was borrowed for the Spanish class on Monday 27th March together with the projection equipment. The equipment was returned to me but not the key.

Apparently, I was told, it was left on the cupboard in the classroom. Despite asking and phoning around I have been unable to locate the key. The person that borrowed it has no idea what happened to it! The item is two keys on a ring with a key fob of an elephant made of wire and beads. If anyone picked it up for safety and still has it, would they be so kind as to

return it to me please. My phone is 0116 2593886. I will be pleased to fetch it from you. Many thanks.

Toni Smith

Monthly Meetings

Our meeting on 9th May is the Annual General Meeting. Apart from this being an excellent occasion to find out about what Great Glen U3A and its Trustee Committee have been up to, it is your chance to have your say. In addition to the usual business there will be entertainment by way of films and live music.

9 May *Annual General Meeting*

13 June *Witches and Witchcraft through the Ages*

Sandy Leong

11 July *Mercy Ships*

Alison Briggs

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 – see below.**

Coffee Rota

Coffee, tea and sugar are provided. Please bring milk (2 litres).

9 May – Papercraft

13 June – Quiz

11 July – Spanish

Medical Detection Dogs

(April monthly meeting)

On this lovely spring morning, a lively full house waited expectantly for what proved to be a fascinating presentation by Wendy Coley. Wendy is an enthusiastic fund raiser for Medical Detection Dogs, a little-known charity which has gained the patronage of the Duchess of Cornwall. Wendy explained to us the aims of the charity. The basis of its work is training dogs to use their extraordinary sense of smell to detect changes in an individual's personal aroma triggered by diseases and so to help to save lives. There are two strands to the work of the charity.

Bio Detection Dogs

Like a lot of good ideas, this one started with anecdotal evidence. Stories came back to Dr. Claire Guest, the founder, from people who had been alerted to their own illnesses by the behaviour of their dogs and she decided to investigate further. She carried her own trials with dogs on urine samples provided by her local hospital from patients with bladder cancer. She then

moved on to renal and prostate cancers and had remarkable success with her trained dogs. Two years later the charity was formed but the medical profession was not interested until 2014 when the Duchess of Cornwall became the Patron and in turn secured the involvement of Prince Charles.

Medical Alert Assistance Dogs

Type 1 diabetes was next on the agenda. Trained dogs were able to detect blood sugar level changes before the patients showed obvious symptoms. This work has proved very successful and saved many patients from long and expensive stays in hospital to regulate their sugar levels. The research has led to investigation into management of other chronic diseases.

The short-term aim of the charity is to help save lives but in the long term it is hoped that the research into the workings of the canine sense of smell will lead to the development of electronic equipment and software for instant screening at your GP surgery. Thank you, Wendy, for a very interesting presentation.

Jackie Lambert

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 next Newsletter is noon on **Wednesday 7th June 2017**.

Robert Mansfield robertrmansfield@btinternet.com

270 8284

OUTINGS

Visit to Chatsworth House and Christmas Market

Tickets have been booked for a visit on **Wednesday 29th November 2017**. Chatsworth require payment by the end of June, hence this early notification. As this outing has been arranged in response to requests from several members the list has already started to fill! The cost is £17.50 admission plus £12.50 for the coach, a total of £30.00 per person. I shall be taking bookings and payments at the **May** monthly meeting.

Pat Tate

259 1001

‘Scrooge’ at Curve Theatre

The Curve’s Christmas production this year is ‘Scrooge’. Tickets have been reserved for the matinée on **Wednesday 13th December 2017** and a coach has been booked. The total cost is £34.50 per person. I shall be ‘selling’ places at the **September** monthly meeting, when names and payments will be taken.

Pat Tate

259 1001

GROUP NEWS

Art Group

The next three meetings will be on 18th May, 1st June and 15th June. Bring along your usual materials.

Rachael Snashall rsnashall@hotmail.com 259 2830

Book Group

The next meeting will be on Monday 15 May when we shall be discussing “Bleeding Heart Square” by Andrew Taylor.

Liz Adams liza27@btinternet.com 271 6821

English Country Dancing

May Day has come and Morris dancers around the country have been out dancing at dawn to welcome in the summer - "*Sumer is icomen' in, lhude sing cuccu!*" The English Country Dancing Group is also moving into summer mood with dances such as *Bonny Cuckoo*, *The Mayflower* and the classic *Upon a Summer's Day*, which dates back to at least 1651. On 17th May, Group members who wish to attend the local Burton Overy Dancers folk dance club will also have the chance to do some Maypole Dancing - great fun and not just for children!

As many people will be away on holidays during the summer months, the Group plans to keep dancing until 27th June and then take a break for July and August. We shall resume regular weekly dancing on Tuesday 5th September. Even so, we shall be pleased to welcome any other U3A members who would like to come along to the last few sessions of this year.

Peter Meacock petermeacock112@btinternet.com
279 2600

Evening Bridge

No meetings on 9th and 16th May. There will be an extra meeting in July.

John Lawson jlawson123@btinternet.com 259 3421

Family History

We will continue to meet regularly until the fourth Wednesday in June, when we shall stop for me to have a rest!!

Eric Orbell ericorbell332@btinternet.com 259 2095

French Conversation

Plus ça change! Our Group Leader, Jeanne Pickard, has found it necessary to give up her leadership at last. Jeanne has held this Group (in fact two groups for much of the time) together since the start of the Great Glen U3A. Her cheerful personality has made learning and/or improving our French language a pleasure, and the continuity of the Group has been evidence of this. The Group wishes to place on record our gratitude for all her work.

The Group will continue to meet on Wednesday mornings with Jenny Hawley as our tutor, and other members carrying out the less intellectual duties. Because of the nature of a conversation group we have to limit our numbers to 12, but there is at present one vacancy and we intend to operate a waiting list for

anyone interested in joining. Please contact me if you are interested.

Jim Picken djpicken95@gmail.com 259 2035

Garden Visits

Our next meeting is a visit to The Plant Man, Park Hill, Braybrooke LE16 8LP. Here you will find a vast variety of plants and shrubs at very reasonable prices. Whether you are considering bedding plants or perennials, or prefer to wander round and look, you are sure to come home with "a little something!!" If you would like to come along, and did not put your name down at our last garden visit, please contact Margaret Wright, 0116 243 2550, and inform her. Afterwards we shall be going to The Greenhouse at The Langton Garden Centre for refreshments. We shall be meeting at 2.00 p.m. in the Great Glen Village Hall car park to give lifts to those who need one.

Linda Hobart lindahobart@outlook.com 319 8095

History

The next meeting, on Monday 5th June, will be an outing to Ely Cathedral and Oliver Cromwell's House. The coach departs from the Village Hall at 8.40 a.m. The 3rd July meeting will be back in the Methodist Hall.

Peter Russell prussell@russellscott.co.uk 271 0889

History of Art

The next meeting will be on Wednesday 17th May, commencing at 10.00 a.m. in the Methodist Church Hall, when we will be taken on a visit to the Tate Gallery to look at the work of John Constable. All members are welcome.

David Brooke dnbrooke@fsmail.net 259 2520

(Indoor) Croquet

Tuesdays: No meetings on 9th and 16th May.

Thursdays: No meetings on 11th and 18th May.

John Lawson jlawson123@btinternet.com 259 3421

Learn French Together NEW

A new French group for complete beginners. An initial meeting for all interested members has been arranged for Tuesday 16th May at 10.00 a.m. in the Ruth Warner Room. At present we envisage the group meeting on first and third Tuesdays. If this is something of interest to you, please do let me know by email or phone.

Peter Russell prussell@russellscott.co.uk 271 0889

Learn Spanish Together NEW

A new Spanish group for beginners has just started, meeting on the second and fourth Mondays of the month. We have two Spanish speakers to help support the Group. If you are interested, please come along - it

is for complete beginners and you will be very welcome.

Val Barba valbarba@talktalk.net 271 6505

Luncheon Club

There is a waiting list for anyone who may be interested in joining. We meet at the Bell, Burton Overy, on the fourth Tuesday of the month, 12 o'clock for 12.30 p.m. We alternate each month between starter plus main and main plus dessert courses. The food is of excellent quality and well presented. You will find me at the monthly meeting, on the left as you enter the Village Hall, with the menu for the next lunch. If you cannot attend the meeting, and live in the village, I will put a menu through your door. I have sample menus for you to look at. Do let me know if you are interested in joining us.

Joyce Davies mervjoycedavies@btinternet.com

259 3436

Military History

Now that we have fought the First World War it is time to start something else. I would like to examine the English Civil War – something I know very little about but hope to change that. Next meeting 7th June, which will be the last before our summer recess.

Eric Orbell ericorbell332@btinternet.com 259 2095

Mini Bridge

No meeting on Tuesday 9th May, but remember the AGM that morning.

John Lawson jlawson123@btinternet.com 259 3421

New Age Kurling

The next 3 sessions are on 12th and 26th May and then 9th June at 10.00 a.m. at the Sports Centre.

Peter Russell prussell@russellscott.co.uk 271 0889

Papercraft

Our next meetings will take place on 15th May, and 19th June. Please note the dates as this information will not be repeated. Should there be a need to cancel I will inform you individually. All meetings start at 2.00 p.m.

Stella Orbell stellamo@hotmail.co.uk 259 2095

Quiz Group

The next meeting is on Monday 22nd May, with questions set by Gill Burton. Rachael Snashall will be in charge on Monday 26th June. We are having a summer break in July and August. So we return on 25th September, when David Green will be the question master.

Rachael Snashall rsnashall@hotmail.com 259 2830

Singing for Fun

A reminder that the next session for this year is

provisionally scheduled for Wednesday 12th July at 2:00 p.m. at the Methodist Hall. Come along and have a jolly good time!

Peter Russell prussell@russellscott.co.uk 271 0889

Sunday Singles Lunch

We meet on the second Sunday of the month, single ladies and gentlemen, at 1.00 p.m. The next venues are: **14th May** – The Bell, East Langton, **11th June** – Queens Head, Saddington, **9th July** – Leicestershire Golf Club; **13th August** – The Bell East Langton.

Judith Measom 279 1509

Swimming

Please note there will be no swimming on 24th and 31st May.

David Brooke dnbrooke@fsmail.net 259 2520

Almost all groups are currently able to accommodate new members. Please contact the Group Leader (see your U3A programme card or the website for details) if you are interested.

START SOMETHING NEW?

Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs)

If you interested in studying on your own or in a group but using course material prepared by experts in their field, then have a look at MOOCs. These are short

online courses which run for specific periods but allow you flexibility in when you study. They are available across a wide range of topics and many of them offer free enrolment. Listed below is just a sample of courses that start in June with a company called FutureLearn, which acts as a coordinating body for UK and other universities who have produced the courses. Look at <https://www.futurelearn.com/> for more information. And just a reminder that we have broadband at the Methodist Hall so these courses can be enjoyed as a Great Glen U3A interest group.

Antiquities Trafficking and Art Crime

Delve into the seedy underbelly of the art world, looking at smuggling, theft, fakes, and fraud, with this free online course.

5 Jun 3 weeks 4 hours p.w.

Basic First Aid: How to Be An Everyday Hero

Get an introduction to basic first aid, including how to help someone who is choking, with this first aid course

5 Jun 2 weeks 1 hour p.w.

Wellington and the Battle of Waterloo

Find out about the Battle of Waterloo and explore the Duke of Wellington's archive with this free online course.

5 Jun 3 weeks 4 hours p.w.

Behind the Scenes at the 21st Century Museum

Get an introduction to museum studies with this free online course. Learn about the people and ideas that shape museums today

12 Jun 6 weeks 2 hours p.w.

The Business of Film

Explore the intriguing world of film production and find out about the complexities of development, distribution and finance.

12 Jun 6 weeks 3 hours p.w.

Come Rain or Shine: Understanding the Weather

Understand and explore the physical processes behind the weather

19 Jun 3 weeks 3 hours p.w.

Law for Non-Lawyers: Introduction to Law

Understand the common law system used worldwide, and your legal rights and responsibilities, with this free online law course.

19 Jun 4 weeks 3 hours p.w.