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Great Glen Newsletter May 2019

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

A warm welcome to our new members: Chris and Jane Obern, Gillian Rowe, and Peter Davies.

Chairman's Chat



Hello everyone

As I said last month I am now at the end of my stint as chairman and will formally hand over after the AGM.

I believe U3A is a very important organisation for people like us. Aspects of aging are constantly in the news these days, but a consistent message is that keeping active physically and mentally is a key part of an enjoyable retirement. U3As provide many opportunities for continuing self-development and we should take advantage of these as far as we are able.

But all U3As rely on volunteers and at Great Glen we have an excellent set of group leaders who work hard to provide the facilities we enjoy. So many thanks to all of them. And those who are not group leaders but help with the running or administration of groups, thank you too. And behind the scenes, there are helpers of all kinds – taking registers, looking after tea & coffee supplies, transporting equipment, arranging outings, and much more. We can easily take these things for granted but we all should be grateful to those who choose to get involved. Thank you all.

I'm sure that our U3A will continue to develop and change. Groups may come and go as a reflection of the interests of members. Please play your part in making Great Glen U3A a welcoming and enjoyable experience for all our members.

Thank you for having me as your chairman for the last two years.

Best wishes to you all.

Peter Russell

[chairman/at/greatglenu3a.co.uk](mailto:chairman@greatglenu3a.co.uk)

01572 822198

Committee Notices

Calling All Group Leaders: Thank You

I would like to express my thanks to the leaders of all the groups for their help during my first year as Gift Aid Secretary. The timely delivery of registers throughout the year and especially before the end of the last financial year has enabled me to undertake this role with far less difficulty than I expected. Our Gift Aid claim is now in progress. Thank you.

Bill Maxted

[giftaid/at/greatglenu3a.co.uk](mailto:giftaid@greatglenu3a.co.uk)

259 2616

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Monthly Meetings

**The Annual General Meeting for Great Glen's U3A
will take place at our meeting on 14th May
with 'other delights' for entertainment.**

14 May 2019	<i>Annual General Meeting – and other delights!</i>	
11 June 2019	<i>Women in the Great War</i>	<i>David Humberston</i>
09 July 2019	<i>The life of a Wimbledon Umpire</i>	<i>Alan Gray</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 – see below.**

Coffee Rota

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

14 May – **Quiz Group**
11 June – **Table Tennis Group**
09 July – **Table Top Games**

Stormy Stories and Tragic Tales (April meeting)



Robert Mansfield

Steve and Carol Robson delighted the meeting with vibrant renditions of folk songs gleaned from various regions of Britain and Ireland and fascinating, well-researched tales of the history and hard working lives behind the lyrics. A highly accomplished pair of acoustic musicians, they succeeded in gaining a high level of audience participation in some of the better-known songs. A lively question and answer session followed. I understand from sources close to the Committee that Fools Gold have been booked to entertain us again next year.

OUTINGS

History Group Outing to Kenilworth

Our outing is on Monday 3rd June with two places still available if you would like to join us. Please contact me by Friday 17th May to book a place. At Kenilworth we will have a guided tour around the castle and there will be some free time for your own exploration. The cost is £33 (or £24 for English Heritage members), which includes travel, entrance, tour and a cream tea. The coach leaves Great Glen Village Hall at 11.30 a.m. and we leave Kenilworth at 4.30 p.m. to return to Great Glen.

Peter Russell [history/ at /greatglenu3a.co.uk](http://history/at/greatglenu3a.co.uk) 01572 822198

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LOCAL EVENTS

A presentation on Indonesian Culture

2019 is the 70th anniversary of UK-Indonesian diplomatic relations and to mark this occasion this presentation will take place on **Friday 19th July from 2pm to 4pm** at Glenfield Sports Hall, Gynsill Lane, Glenfield. Leicester LE7 7AG. The presenter will be Dian Fera Pratiwi, who is sponsored by the Indonesian Embassy. The event is free of charge but booking is essential.

e-mail: [ken.patton/at/btinternet.com](mailto:ken.patton@btinternet.com) to add your name to the list of attendees – closing date 30th June.

Photographic Exhibition

Two members of Glenfield U3A Photography Group, Andy Langran and Arthur Beyless, are exhibiting around 100 photographs at the Leicester Peoples Photographic Gallery on Belvoir Street, Leicester from Tuesday 7th May to Saturday 18th May. They are seeking support for this exhibition which is free to attend and there is a café on site for refreshments.

GROUP NEWS

Art Group

We meet on the 1st and 3rd Thursday of each month and our theme for May is "Bricks and Stones" which can include buildings and bridges etc.

Rachael Snashall [art/at/greatglenu3a.co.uk](mailto:art@greatglenu3a.co.uk) 259 2830

Astronomy Group

This group meets on the first Monday of the month at 2.00 p.m. and the next meeting will be on the 3 June. New members are needed to ensure this group continues.

Anyone interested in joining this group please contact ...

John Johnson [astronomy/at/greatglenu3a.co.uk](mailto:astronomy@greatglenu3a.co.uk) 212 2469

Book Group (Mondays)

The next meeting of the Monday Book Group will be on 20 May at 2 p.m. We will be discussing "A Place called Winter" by Patrick Gale. Our June book will be "Suite Francaise" by Irene Nemirovsky.

Liz Adams [books/at/greatglenu3a.co.uk](mailto:books@greatglenu3a.co.uk) 271 6281

Book Group (Thursdays)

The Group's next meeting is on Thursday 23rd May in the Ruth Warner room. We will be discussing "The Miniaturist" by Jesse Burton. Our June book will be "TheDuchess" by Amanda Foreman. We have one vacancy – if you enjoy a lively discussion come and join us. Anyone interested should contact ...

Patricia Mansfield [patriciamansfield/at/btinternet.com](mailto:patriciamansfield@btinternet.com) 270 8284

Bowling

Indoor Bowls at Market Harborough will end on 9th April for the summer, recommencing in October. Date will be advised nearer the time.

Ann Spray 281 0324

Carpet Bowls

We meet every Thursday afternoon in the Village Hall from 2.00 to 4.00 p.m. but PLEASE NOTE that

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on Thursday 23rd May there will not be any carpet bowls owing to the fact that there is the possibility of the European Elections on this day and the Hall will not be available for us to use.

New members will be made very welcome - no previous experience is necessary.

Peter Stanley

[carpetbowls/ at /greatglenu3a.co.uk](mailto:carpetbowls/at/greatglenu3a.co.uk)

259 2152

Croquet

I would like to say a very big thank you to the Chapel for the beautiful new carpet in the Hall. It is excellent for playing croquet on without the wind and rain. I understand one dancing group finds it excellent without shoes.

There are three separate Groups:

Group A Thursday morning 10.00am till 11.30am. We have 2 vacancies for this group Beginners or experienced players – all will be made welcome.

Group B Thursday morning 11.30am till 1.00pm. At present there are no vacancies

Group C Tuesday afternoon 1.30pm till 3.15pm. It is possible there will 2 vacancies in this group.

Car Park at the Chapel and free tea or coffee if required.

If you are interested in joining contact.....

John Lawson

[jlawson123/ at /btinternet.com](mailto:jlawson123/at/btinternet.com)

2593421

English Country Dancing



With the arrival of May, and its associated Maypoles and Morris dancers, the English Country Dancing Group moves into summer mode. Our recent dances have marked the passing of Easter (*Easter Thursday* and *Easter Tuesday*, from 1733 and 1695 respectively), and Mayday itself with some jolly country dances including *The Merry, Merry Milkmaids* which was first written down in 1650 and has almost certainly been danced for over 400 years! We have also danced some modern English dances named after spring flowers - *Snowdrops*, *Fritillaria* (Snakes-head Fritillary) and *Pulsatilla* (Pasque flower), with graceful moves that mimic features of the flowers. And to extend our repertoire we have tried some "zesty" American

Contra- dances, such as *Signs of Spring* and *Just Skylarking*, which use ragtime and swing music - all great fun!

The Group will continue to meet each Tuesday through May and June, until July 2nd. After that we shall take a break during July and August and resume our weekly meetings on September 10th; watch out for further details in the June Newsletter. On June 4th we shall be joined by the *Beaker Folk Group*, of Kibworth U3A, who will play for our dancing - live music always gives a lift to dancing! The ECD Group normally has around 16 to 22 people dancing each week, but we could accommodate a few more if there are other U3A members who would like to join us. We meet on Tuesday afternoons 1.30 to 3.30pm in the Sports Hall. No previous experience is needed as all the dances are explained and walked through before setting them to music. No special clothing needed - just light-weight flat shoes or sandals and comfortable clothing suitable for gentle dancing. You do not need to come with a partner as we change partners during the dances so that everybody is involved. The only requirement is to be prepared to join in, enjoy yourself and laugh - a lot!

It's good fun and healthy exercise for both body and brain. Come, dance with us!

Peter Meacock

[ecd/ at /greatglenu3a.co.uk](mailto:ecd/at/greatglenu3a.co.uk)

279 3600

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Evening Duplicate Bridge

This is a very friendly social group who meet at 7.00 for a 7.15 p.m. start. Meetings are held at the Great Glen Methodist Hall, except for the third Tuesday in each month when we meet at the Great Glen Community Library. We should love to meet new members -you will be made most welcome.

Andy Tyler [eveningbridge/ at /greatglenu3a.co.uk](mailto:eveningbridge/at/greatglenu3a.co.uk) 07879 234046

Family History

Family History – Meetings as usual in May at 9.30am in the Methodist Church Hall on the 2nd & 4th Wednesdays. Newcomers are always welcome.

Eric Orbell [familyhistory/ at /greatglenu3a.co.uk](mailto:familyhistory/at/greatglenu3a.co.uk) 259 2095

Flower Arranging

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 on the first Wednesday afternoon each month. New members will be very welcome.

Beryl Connolly 07423 311 013

Garden Visits

Our next meeting is on Friday 7th May when we will be visiting The Paddocks on Main Street in Hungarton (post code LE7 9JY). This two acre garden, with mature and specimen trees has rhododendrons, azaleas, magnolia and wisteria. There are two lily ponds and a stream and the three lawned areas are surrounded by herbaceous and shrub borders with pergolas adorned by clematis and roses, a hosta collection and two rockeries. Unfortunately Mrs. Martin is no longer able to provide refreshments so I asked at the local public house, The Black Boy, and they agreed to accommodate us. Mrs Martin charges £3 admission to her garden and the pub are charging us £5 for tea and cakes. Therefore I would be very grateful if you could bring the £8 in coins which would make it much easier to dispense as above. If you have not put your name on the list and would like to come please contact Margaret Wright (243 2550) and inform her whether you are going straight to the garden or need a lift. We will be leaving the Great Glen car park at 2.00 p.m. with those who are in need of a lift.

A REMINDER OF A FORTHCOMING VISIT!!

On Friday August 16th we are visiting by coach The Easton Walled Gardens near Grantham. The estate had been owned and managed since 1561 but after the house was demolished in 1951 the 400 year old gardens were abandoned until 2001 when there was a spectacular transformation. There are now flower meadows and drifts of bulbs in a stunning parkland setting, and has also created different habitats for butterflies, bees, birds and mammals. It has also put the heart back into the Village as many of the community have some involvement in the gardens. Please let me know if you would like to come. The cost is approximately £22 which I would like to receive no later than the beginning of July. Many thanks.

Linda Hobart [gardenvisits/ at /greatglenu3a.co.uk](mailto:gardenvisits/at/greatglenu3a.co.uk) 319 8095

History

The next meeting is on Monday 3rd June 2019 when we shall have an outing to Kenilworth (2 places still available- see details in the Outings section above).

The next meeting at the Methodist Hall is on Monday July 1st, 2.00pm. Everyone is welcome.

Peter Russell [history/ at /greatglenu3a.co.uk](mailto:history/at/greatglenu3a.co.uk) 01572 822198

Learn French Together

French for beginners, the next session will be held on the 28 May, instead of the 21 May due to holidays. If you would like to join this group please contact ...

Jan Johnson [frenchbeginners/ at /greatglenu3a.co.uk](mailto:frenchbeginners/at/greatglenu3a.co.uk) 212 2469

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Military History

We next meet on Wednesday 5th June at 10.00am in the Methodist Church Hall when I hope to finish "Fighting the War of 1812". There will be a new topic when we re-start after the summer holidays. Date to be advised.

Eric Orbell [militaryhistory/ at /greatglenu3a.co.uk](mailto:militaryhistory/at/greatglenu3a.co.uk) 259 2095

Needles and Pins

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 that meets on the second Monday of each month.

Beryl Connolly [needles/ at /greatglenu3a.co.uk](mailto:needles/at/greatglenu3a.co.uk) 07423 311013

New Age Kurling

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

This next 3 sessions are on Friday May 10th and 24th and then June 14th at the Sports Centre (next to the village hall) at 10 a.m.

Peter Russell [kurling/ at /greatglenu3a.co.uk](mailto:kurling/at/greatglenu3a.co.uk) 01572 822198

Papercraft

Our next meeting will take place on May 20th at 2 p.m. when Rachael will be kindly leading the group for me. Please bring along any stamps you have and in particular any acrylic blocks or plastic rockers to fix them on to. Many thanks.

Stella Orbell [papercraft/ at /greatglenu3a.co.uk](mailto:papercraft/at/greatglenu3a.co.uk) 259 2095

Pub Lunches

All those wanting details of forthcoming pub lunches should contact ...

Margaret Hudson 271 5064

Quiz Group

There isn't a meeting in May as the 4th Monday falls on the Bank Holiday. The June meeting is on the 24th when Magi Nippa will be asking the questions.

Rachael Snashall [quiz/ at /greatglenu3a.co.uk](mailto:quiz/at/greatglenu3a.co.uk) 259 2830

Singing for fun

The next session is on Wednesday 3rd July at 2pm in the Methodist Hall.

We shall have a mix of show and film songs and some with a look towards summer - 'Oh What a Beautiful Morning', 'Summer Nights' and 'Diamonds are Forever' are just a few so come along and have a go. Everyone is welcome.

Peter Russell [singing/ at /greatglenu3a.co.uk](mailto:singing/at/greatglenu3a.co.uk) 01572 822198

Sunday Singles

Our next lunch will be at the Leicestershire Golf Club on 12th May. Gentlemen are welcome to join our usual members.

Judith Measom 279 1509

Swimming

Many thanks to the swimmers, Bob Rutland and Alan Smith, and non-swimmers, Chris Smith and Rosemary Wilcock, who served the teas and coffees with me at the April meeting.

Swimming sessions finish on May 22nd for the school summer holidays. They will start again in September on a date yet to be determined. New swimmers of any standard are always welcome.

Frank Wilcock [swimming/ at /greatglenu3a.co.uk](mailto:swimming/at/greatglenu3a.co.uk) 431 9706

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Table Top Games

Our May meetings are on Thursdays 9th & 23rd at the Methodist Chapel. Newcomers are always welcome to join us, but please phone so we know to expect you. No experience or knowledge is necessary. Group members are happy to teach you new games.....or you can bring your own to teach us!

Helen Edwards [ttgames/ at /greatglenu3a.co.uk](mailto:ttgames/at/greatglenu3a.co.uk) 212 7547, or Eileen Appleby 259 251

Ukulele Group

The group will meet on the first and third Mondays each month. The group have only one meeting this month because of the Bank Holiday at the beginning of May. On the 20th we have a rehearsal in the morning and in the afternoon we shall be performing at Devonshire Court retirement home.

Alan Mawby [ukes/ at /greatglenu3a.co.uk](mailto:ukes/at/greatglenu3a.co.uk) 259 2599

Walking Without Stiles

Our next walk will be on Tuesday 28th May 2019 at 10.30am starting from the car park at Wistow Rural Centre, Wistow Rd, Kibworth Harcourt, Leicester LE8 0QF.

We will be walking from here along a route following part of the canal path.

The café should be open before we go and when we get back for various drinks, snacks and meals. If you are interested in this walk contact ...

Elizabeth Cooke [walking/ at /greatglenu3a.co.uk](mailto:walking/at/greatglenu3a.co.uk) 270 4524 or 07957 288060

Writing for Pleasure

The Writing for Pleasure Group is temporarily on hold due to unforeseen circumstances. We hope to re-launch in September. If you would like to join the group then please contact me.

Stella Orbell [writing/ at /greatglenu3a.co.uk](mailto:writing/at/greatglenu3a.co.uk) 259 2095

And finally..

The Merry Month of May

by Thomas Dekker

*O, the month of May, the merry month of May,
So frolic, so gay, and so green, so green, so green!
O, and then did I unto my true love say,
Sweet Peg, thou shalt be my Summer's Queen.*

*Now the nightingale, the pretty nightingale,
The sweetest singer in all the forest quire,
Entreats thee, sweet Peggy, to hear thy true love's tale:
Lo, yonder she sitteth, her breast against a brier.*

*But O, I spy the cuckoo, the cuckoo, the cuckoo;
See where she sitteth; come away, my joy:
Come away, I prithee, I do not like the cuckoo
Should sing where my Peggy and I kiss and toy.*

*O, the month of May, the merry month of May,
So frolic, so gay, and so green, so green, so green;
And then did I unto my true love say,
Sweet Peg, thou shalt be my Summer's Queen.*