



## Great Glen Newsletter

**November 2019**

Registered Charity No. 1099411

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

**A warm welcome to our new members:**

**Carol Bryan, Barbara O'Neill, Judy Channon, Jean Billington, John Redmond, Robert Warwick, and Glenda Pike**

### Chair's Chat



Hello everyone

The fireworks seem to be happening over an ever longer period this year, as those of different traditions enjoy their celebrations. Mercifully we now have a dog who is pretty much unfazed by most of it, and actually enjoys being taken for a walk while the skies flash and crash above her.

We had an excellent response rate to our recent survey. Many thanks to those who took a few minutes to complete this and to those who helped to bring this about. Your Committee now has some evidence to chew on. As someone put it 'You can't please everyone all the time', but we shall try to take action where possible. Not much we can do though about the condition of the Village Hall (before its redevelopment) and the parking! More on this after we have seen what can be done. In the meantime we should like to see more of you at monthly meetings anyway!

There has been a pretty modest response to the appeal for fresh talent to do a short spot (five minutes-ish) in the Christmas Entertainment on 10 December. It's not too late to contact me on this. Remember U3A is a Self-Help organisation! As usual admission to this event will be by ticket only, on sale at the November monthly meeting or by telephoning Stella Orbell (259 2095). Tickets are restricted to members and carers only. We are going to repeat the Christmas buffet. The ticket price is £2, all proceeds to the Alzheimer's Society. There will also be a raffle, for which offers of prizes will be gratefully received.

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You will be interested to know that there will be a National U3A Day next year on 03 June. We intend to build on this by holding at least part of our Open Day on that day. We have also decided, as have many other U3As, to engage in a Joint Learning Project. There is considerable freedom about what this might entail, but the focus is going to be on localities and their history and development. I am delighted that Toni Smith has agreed to work up, in consultation with leaders of the Groups that might most readily be involved, a brief specific to Great Glen and thereafter to lead efforts to produce an output to be part of our next Open Day. Group Leaders interested in taking part are welcome to contact Toni. Projects across Leicestershire and Rutland and related media contacts will be coordinated by our Network Coordinator, Cynthia Baker.

The projected visit to the Houses of Parliament is on hold until after impending General Election, but I am optimistic that it will happen in 2020.

*Robert Mansfield*                      [chairman/at/greatglenu3a.co.uk](mailto:chairman/at/greatglenu3a.co.uk)                      270  
8284

## Committee News

### Network Webmaster - urgently needed

The current site is hosted by U3Asites and as such it does not incur hosting costs and is intended to be usable by almost anyone as webmaster.

However, our Network has its own domain name and hence could host its own site. This would mean a cost of about £45 per year (with the right host), and does require at least some knowledge.

If you are interested or would like further information please contact the Network Coordinator, Cynthia Baker, on [landr.networkassist/at/gmail.com](mailto:landr.networkassist/at/gmail.com)

### Astronomy Group

The astronomy group, a new venture, has now unfortunately closed due to lack of support. Please can the person who loaned the telescope accept our thanks and please contact John Johnson to arrange its return on 07527520504 or using the details below.

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

## Monthly Meetings

**At our meeting on 12 November 2019 we will be hearing about the work of the Great Ormond Street Hospital from Marilyn Horner**

12 November 2019     *Great Ormond Street Hospital*     Marilyn Horner  
10 December 2019     *Great Glen u3a Christmas entertainment*     GGu3a  
14 January 2020     *Leicestershire Wildlife Hospital*

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).*

12 November – **Carpet Bowls**  
10 December – **Croquet Group**  
14 January – **English Country Dancing**

### **LIFE OF COCO CHANEL FROM JULIE EDE (October meeting)**

#### **GABRIELLE (COCO) CHANEL**

**1883 - 1971**

Yet another lively, interesting and extremely professional speaker, this time keeping us enthralled on the subject of the enigmatic life of Coco Chanel.

Coco Chanel cultivated an image of herself that bore no relationship to her humble upbringing. She was born in an orphanage run by nuns and the records of her time there were mysteriously destroyed. It was there that she learned to sew and she found employment as a seamstress. She began to design and make her own hats and was soon making hats for actresses and other celebrities. She then designed clothes to suit women who wanted to be light, quick and have freedom of movement and soon became known for her dresses with white collars and cuffs.

## Julie Ede



“I don’t do fashion – I am fashion”



Gabrielle chose the name “Coco” herself and the idea for it is thought to have come from a song entitled “Have you seen my little dog Coco.” Coco married twice and her second husband was Ernest Beaux, a perfumer. He made a perfume especially for Coco and at his fifth attempt he came up with Chanel No. 5. He said that there was nothing more important than the sense of smell. When Marilyn Monroe was asked what she wore in bed she said “only Chanel No. 5”

During the Second World War, Coco spent time at the Ritz with Germans and took German papers to the English in Spain. After the war, she decided that she did not like the Dior New Look, so in 1954 she launched her new collection, which was loved by America, of women in business suits. These were loved and worn by, amongst others, Katharine Hepburn and Jackie Kennedy. Aristotle Onassis chose her design for uniforms for his airline staff.

Gabrielle (Coco) Chanel died in her sleep on 10 January 1971, age 87.

*Janet Fanko*

## GROUP NEWS

**Groups Learning and having fun!**

### Art Group

We meet on the first and third Thursday of each month. The subject for 07 and 21 November is Faces in any medium. Our last meeting for this year will be on 05 December.

*Rachael Snashall*

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

259 2830

### Writing for Pleasure

Do join us for a fun afternoon on Tuesday 26 November at 2 p.m. in the Ruth Warner Room. Christmas nibbles on offer together with your creative offerings. We look



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forward to seeing you,

*Stella Orbell*

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

259 2095

### **French for Beginners – Lets Learn Together**

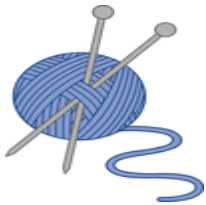
Our meetings are on the first and third Tuesdays of the month, starting at 10.00 a.m. until 12.00 noon in the Ruth Warner room at the Methodist Church. New members welcome to come and check us out so if you would like to take a look, or even to join this group please contact ...

*Jan Johnson*

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

212 2469

### **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

### **History**

The next meeting at the Methodist Hall is on Monday 02 December starting at 2pm

We'll be first to celebrate with our History Group Christmas quiz, with prizes of immeasurable value. Everyone is welcome.

There will be a meeting on 06 January 2020, with a DVD yet to be chosen.

*Peter Russell*

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

01572 822198

### **Family History**

Meetings are held in the Methodist Church Hall and we will meet as usual on Wednesday 11 December at 9.30am but will not meet on Wednesday 25 December as the Church will be otherwise occupied. If you would like to join us you will most welcome. Please contact....

*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

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the first Wednesday afternoon each month in the Ruth Warner room at the Methodist Church. New members will be very welcome.

*Beryl Connolly*

07423 311 013

### **Papercraft**

Our last meeting this year will take place on Monday 18 November when we shall finish off our last Christmas cards and share some Christmas nibbles. I do hope to see you all there.

*Stella Orbell* [papercraft/ at /greatglenu3a.co.uk](mailto:papercraft@greatglenu3a.co.uk)

259 2095

### **Military History**

Military History meets on the first Wednesday each month at 10.00am in the Methodist Church Hall. Our next meeting will be on Wednesday 4 December at 10.00 in the Methodist Church Hall when we shall hopefully finish our look at the Indian Mutiny.

*Eric Orbell* [militaryhistory/ at /greatglenu3a.co.uk](mailto:militaryhistory@greatglenu3a.co.uk)

259 2095

### **French Conversation**

We are having a short change in our routine, due to the illness of our leading linguist, Joan Stephens. We wish her a speedy recovery. While this emergency lasts we will not be meeting in the Methodist Room, but rather less formally in one of our homes. When we can see more clearly into the future, all members of the group will be informed and the information circulated in the Newsletter

*Jim Picken*

[djpicken95/ at /gmail.com](mailto:djpicken95@gmail.com)

259 2035

### **Groups that Exercise and have fun!**

#### **New Age Kurling**

The next two sessions are at 10 a.m. on Friday 08 & 22 November in the Sports Centre next to the village hall. There is just one December meeting on Friday 13.

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

*Peter Russell*

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

01572 822198



## Walking Without Stiles



A picture of our October walk – we found some sun!

Our next walk will be on Tuesday 26 November 2019 at 10.30 am and will be starting from Wych Elm Close (outside number 6) Great Glen. Graham Fanko will be leading the walk in a figure of eight centred on Dolly's café where we can get various drinks, snacks and meals.

If you would like to join the group or want further details please contact...

Elizabeth Cooke [walking/ at /greatglenu3a.co.uk](mailto:walking/at/greatglenu3a.co.uk)2704524 or 07957 288060

## Indoor Bowls

We meet at Market Harborough Leisure Centre every Tuesday morning from 10am until 12 from October until March. We are a small friendly group who have been meeting for several years but we would like some new members so the group keeps going. Experience is not required. Looking forward to seeing members old and new. If interested please contact...

Ann Spray

281 0324

## Croquet

We meet at the Methodist Church Hall. There are three separate Croquet Groups:

**Group A** Thursday morning 10.00 a.m. till 11.30 a.m.

**Group B** Thursday morning 11.30 a.m. till 1.00 p.m.

**Group C** Tuesday afternoon 1.30 p.m. till 3.15 p.m.

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

John Lawson

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

2593421

## Carpet Bowls

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

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## Table Tennis

On our Open Morning in September we recruited three new members. The group is now full, but anyone interested is welcome to join our waiting list. We will continue to play up to and including the 16. December and then take our Christmas break for the next two weeks. We will be playing again on the first Monday of January 2020.

Janet Freestone [alan.freestone/ at /mypostoffice.co.uk](mailto:alan.freestone@mypostoffice.co.uk) 259 2803

## Swimming



We will be in the Leicester Grammar School's lovely pool every Wednesday this month from 1:30 until 2:30. Give yourself time to park, pay £3, and change beforehand!

Please note that there is NO SWIMMING in December. Sessions start again on 08 January 2020.

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

## Line Dancing

Line dancers meet on Thursday at 1.30pm at the Sports Hall. They say that line dancing does help strengthen muscles, and therefore ease some of the aches and pains that we all suffer at our age.

New dancers are always welcome, so do come along and give line dancing a try.

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

## English Country Dancing

The ECD Group is now fully "Back in the Swing" of our Autumn dancing programme. Attendances have been good with numbers in the high teens/low twenties, and one week we achieved the magical number of 24 dancers; that allows us to do *3-couple, 4-couple, 6-couple, Longways* and *Circle* dances with nobody having to sit out and watch! At the end of October we celebrated Halloween with an afternoon of suitably titled dances - *The Holborn March (1740, marking the journey of the condemned from Newgate Prison and the Tower of London to the Gallows at Tyburn!)*, *The Geud Man O' Ballangigh (1698, about James V &/or VI of Scotland, devout Catholics with a dark side and zealous witch-hunters!)*, *Witches Reel*, and *The Devil's Dream!* To celebrate Bonfire Night on November 5th we shall dance *Candles in the Dark (2006)*, *The Fireworks (1751)* to a tune from Handel's "Music for the Royal Fireworks" suite, and the old English dance *Picking Up Sticks (1650)* - in preparation for the bonfire! Late



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November sees the American Thanksgiving celebrations, when we shall try some zesty American Square and Contra-dances to mark that occasion.

The group will continue to meet each week up to and including December 17 when we shall have our "Christmas Party" afternoon and do dances to seasonal and festive music, and members can come attired in their Xmas hats and jumpers! We shall then break for Christmas and the New Year and resume dancing on January 7.

We could still accommodate a few more members, so why not get in touch if you fancy trying this fun and social activity that gently exercises both body and mind and gives a lift to well-being? There is no need to come with a partner - singles are welcome. All the dances are fully explained and "walked" before setting them to music. You will make new friends, laugh a lot and leave with a smile on your face. Come, let's dance!

*Peter Meacock*      [ecd/ at /greatglenu3a.co.uk](mailto:ecd@greatglenu3a.co.uk)      279 3600

### **Tai Chi**

Tai Chi is continuing to hold meetings but unfortunately we are unable take any new members as we currently do not have a qualified instructor.

*Lynda Woodford*      [uzupa63/ at /gmail.com](mailto:uzupa63@gmail.com)      259 2186

### **Groups that challenge our brains and still have fun!**

#### **Mini Bridge**

Meetings are held every Tuesday at the Methodist Church Hall. We start at 9.45 a.m. (please try to be there at least 5 minutes before) and finish at approximately noon.

We will not be playing Minibridge on the 24 & 31 December. If there are sufficient people interested I will try to arrange alternative dates during the Christmas week. The alternative dates will be suggested towards the end of November. If anyone would like to join us please contact....

*Terry Evans*      [minibridge/ at /greatglenu3a.co.uk](mailto:minibridge@greatglenu3a.co.uk)      259 2102

#### **Quiz Group**

Our last meeting for this year is on Monday 25 November at 2 o'clock in the Methodist Hall. New members welcome.

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

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### **Table Top Games**

Our November meetings, as usual, are on the 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Thursdays of the month (14 & 28 November) at the Methodist chapel. Please try to arrive a few minutes before 2:00 p.m. so we can arrange who would like to play what & with whom. Canasta remains a firm favourite, but we also enjoy Rummikub, & other word & number board games.

If you are unsure whether this is the group for you, do come & give us a try. No experience is necessary. True to the U3A ethos we are happy to share our knowledge/expertise, or to learn from you if you bring a game to share. Please phone so we know to expect you...or if you have any queries. Our final meeting of the year is on 12 December.

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

### **Book Group (Mondays)**

The next meeting of the Monday Book Group will be on 18 November at 2 p.m. in the Ruth Warner Room. We will be discussing "The Hound of the Baskervilles" by Arthur Conan Doyle. We will not be meeting in December. Instead we will be meeting for lunch at the Yews on Monday 09 December. Details have still to be finalised.

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

### **Book Group (Thursdays)**



Our next meeting is on Thursday 28 November for The Children's Act by Ian McEwen. We shall have no meeting in December as I am sure we all have things to do on Boxing Day.

We resume in 2020 on 23 January with Becoming Michele Obama by Michele Obama.

New members will be made very welcome - 10.00 a.m. on the fourth Thursday of each month in the Ruth Warner room - anyone interested please contact ...

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

### **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



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month when we meet at the Great Glen Community Library. We should love to meet a few more new members in addition to one who has joined us following the Open Day -you will be made most welcome. **Please note** that the December bridge meeting in the Library will be on the 10 December and not the usual 3rd week of the month

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

### **Groups that socialise and have fun!**

#### **Sunday Singles**

Our next lunch will be at the Leicestershire Golf Club on 08 December for our Christmas Lunch. Gentlemen are welcome to join our usual members.

Judith Measom 279 1509

#### **Singing for fun**

Come and exercise your lungs on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> December at 2pm in the Methodist Hall. It's a bit early in the month but we shall be having carols and other seasonal songs.

Everyone is welcome, we're not a choir, just singing for fun!

Peter Russell singing/ at /greatglenu3a.co.uk 01572 822198

#### **Pub Lunches**

We continue to meet for lunch each month on the second Tuesday, after the monthly U3A meeting, to enjoy good food and fellowship. We have our favourite venues but try to visit local 'pubs' during the winter months and go further afield in the better weather.

New members will be made very welcome and if you would like to join us please contact.....

Margaret Hudson 271 5064

#### **Ukulele Group**

The Ukulele Group meet on the first and third Mondays of the month in the church room from 10am until 12noon. By the time you read this some of us will have played at a Remembrance Day concert for Age UK in Wigston, at Market Harborough Ukulele Group's meeting, and had a tutorial session on strumming patterns.

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

#### **Garden Visits**

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Our next meeting is on Friday 15 November when we will be visiting Thurlaston Garden Centre, Croft Road, Thurlaston LE9 7TB. We feel it is better to be inside now that the weather could be a little inclement. If you would like to join us please contact Joanna Green – telephone 2592429 – and let her know if you require a lift or are going straight to the venue. We will be leaving the Great Glen Car Park at 2.00pm.

Regarding our Christmas Lunch on Friday 06 December at The Bell, Burton Overy – for those of you who have not yet notified me of your choice of food I will be at the monthly meeting on Tuesday 12 November with menus. Please could anyone who has not yet paid let me have your payments then. Thank you.

Linda Hobart.

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

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## and finally..

### Some November facts

- The name of the month of November comes from the Latin “**novem**”, meaning “nine”, because in the Roman calendar November was the ninth month of the year out of a total of ten months. With the adding of January and February at the beginning of the calendar after the Julian calendar reform, November became the eleventh month of the year, as we know it today.
- Throughout history, November was associated in large parts of the world with the beginning of winter and people would spend the month storing food and preparing their homes to survive the cold season. The Anglo-Saxons called November ‘**Blotmonath**’ (“Blood month”) after the blood of slaughtered animals.

- The **zodiac signs for November** are Scorpio – the Scorpion (October 23 – November 21) and Sagittarius – the Archer (November 22 – December 21).
- **Famous people born in November** include Mark Twain, Winston Churchill, L. M. Montgomery, Boris Becker, Charles de Gaulle, Scarlett Johansson, Dale Carnegie, Martin Luther, Demi Moore, Kurt Vonnegut, Leonardo DiCaprio, Carlos Fuentes, John Galliano.
- The **traditional flower of the month of November** is the chrysanthemum. Depending on their colour, chrysanthemums have different meanings: the red ones symbolize love, the white ones stand for innocence, and the yellow ones denote unrequited love.
- **Special days in November** include All Saints' Day (November 1st), All Souls' Day (November 2nd), Thanksgiving (the fourth Thursday in November), Universal Children's Day (November 20th).