



Great Glen Newsletter

November 2017

Registered Charity No. 1099411

www.greatglenu3a.co.uk

A very warm welcome to our new members: Shirley Baxendale, Eunice Burford, Alison Chaplin, Graham and Janet Fanko, and Graham and Wendie Smith.

Chairman's Chat

Hello everyone.

Well the dark nights are upon us, the fireworks have lit up the sky and that means we're on our way to Christmas. So get your tickets for our December monthly meeting and enjoy the entertainment. And make a note of the Singing-for-Fun session on 20th December for some carols and popular seasonal songs. This year, proceeds from our all-ticket December meeting are going to REMAP. If you were present, you might recall the talk we had on this remarkable charity which makes use of volunteer engineers and craftsmen to produce custom-made equipment to help disabled people live more independent lives.

I'm very pleased to report the setting up of a new indoor Carpet Bowls Group in our U3A, which has come about with the co-operation of the remaining few members of the Great Glen Carpet Bowls Club. This

gets going on 16th November as a weekly group and it would be good if all of you who expressed an interest can get along to a session. See the announcement later in this newsletter.

Our Ukulele Group has come on wonderfully since it began a year ago and later this month is venturing out for its first public performance. I'm sure we all wish them well and hope they really enjoy themselves.

As I mentioned last month there are going to be opportunities to join the committee and help in the running of our U3A. If you are interested then you can come along to a committee meeting and see what goes on. Enthusiasm and good email are the main requirements. You can contact any committee member about this.

Finally, I would like to thank very much those members who have volunteered their party pieces at the start of our last few monthly meetings. I think it really helps to get each meeting off to a good start and I'm hopeful that we can keep this going well into 2018. Do have a go.

Peter Russell chairman@greatglenu3a.co.uk 271 0889

Committee News

Group Leaders - Room Bookings during Christmas Period

You all doubtless have this under control but please make sure that cancellations are notified to Jenny

Ritchie or Lesley Sanderson, as appropriate, and in both cases to Roger Edwards.

Monthly Meetings

14 November *Leicester Trams* *Malcolm Riddle*

12 December *Christmas Entertainment*

Music & Good Company Group

10 January 2017 *Queen of the Air – The Life of ‘Amy Johnson’* *Roy Smart*

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).

14 November – **Garden Visits Group**

12 December – **Book Group**

10 January – **French Conversation Group**

John, Paul, George and me

(October monthly meeting)

Andy Smith was all set up on the stage with guitars etc for the morning, which consisted of him singing songs by the Beatles interspersed with entertaining and amusing stories from his lifelong love affair with the Group. We all enjoyed a trip down memory lane, I am sure – many of us singing along to well-remembered songs and even guessing the names of the songs from a very short musical introduction. It certainly took me back to the start of Beatlemania, watching them performing on a Saturday evening live on television on one of the pop music shows (when all the music was live) while getting ready for a night out; my mum and dad watching and wondering what all the fuss was about, although I must admit for me there were many other bands equally as good or better than the Beatles: the Stones, the Animals etc, not forgetting jazz of course.

Andy started off with Norwegian Wood and ended with a number he himself wrote for his future wife when he lived in Rugby and she was in Manchester – it was a lovely song and a great ending to this trip down memory lane. Well researched, skilfully constructed and professionally presented.

Ros Aldwinkle

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 6th December 2017**.

Robert Mansfield robertrmansfield@btinternet.com

270 8284

OUTINGS

Chatsworth House and Christmas Market: Wednesday 29th November 2017

This is to remind those going to the Chatsworth House Christmas Event that the coach will depart from Great Glen Village Hall at 9.00 a.m. promptly on the date above. Thank you

Pat Tate

259 1001

Kilworth House Open Air Theatre: June 2018

The outing to Kilworth House Open Air Theatre is to a matinée performance of Guys and Dolls and tickets have now been booked for Saturday 2nd June 2018. The Coach will leave from outside the Great Glen Village Hall at 1.00 p.m. The cost per person is £40.50 which includes the price of the coach. (Please note that the theatre tickets have increased by 10%.)

Bookings with payment will be taken at the November and December U3A monthly meetings as the theatre requires payment in January. If you have any queries please contact:

Linda Hobart lindahobart@outlook.com 319 8095

GROUP NEWS

Art Group

The Art Group will be continuing with a water theme on 16th November. 7th December will be our last meeting in 2017 when we shall be completing any unfinished work. January's theme will be Winter.

Rachael Snashall rsnashall@hotmail.com 259 2830

Book Group

Book Group will not be meeting on the third Monday in December. Instead we shall be meeting for lunch at the Yews on Monday 11th December, the time to be confirmed.

Liz Adams lizadams271@gmail.com 271 6281

NEW GROUP Carpet Bowls

This group launches on Thursday 16th November and will meet weekly at 2.00 p.m. in the **Village Hall**.

Around this time of the year there are some weeks when the hall is not available because of other events, so there will be no session on 23rd November. But if

you are interested in joining this new group please come along and try things out.

Peter Russell prussell@russellscott.co.uk 271 0889

English Country Dancing

Since the group resumed its dancing in September we have tried over 40 different dances, ranging in dates from the 16th to the 21st centuries! At the end of October we celebrated Halloween with an afternoon of suitably titled dances - *Black (Yellow) Cat Jig*, *Pumpkin Pie*, *The Geud Man O' Ballangigh*, *The Witches Reel*, *Devil's Dream*, and *The Devil Amongst the Tailors*; the last, as reported in Thomas Hardy's passage "Absent mindedness in the choir!

At the beginning of November, following the History Group's meeting "In the footsteps of Jane Austen" we shall hold an afternoon of dances that were popular during Jane Austen's lifetime and that she may have danced herself - so, literally "in the steps of Jane Austen"! These will include a selection of country dances - *The Comical Fellow*, *The Hop Pickers' Feast*, *Wakefield Hunt*, *Mr Beveridge's Maggott and Shrewsbury Lasses*. Although it is clear from her books and her letters to her sister Cassandra that Jane Austen very much enjoyed dancing, she actually only names one dance, *La Boulangerie*, in her writings; if the group have sufficient energy, we shall try that too! During October we had a maximum ever attendance of 21, which was great fun - and we still can accommodate a few more if anybody else would like to

join us. Twenty-four regular dancers would be an ideal number allowing us to do 3- and 4-couple dances as well as Circles, Squares and Longways sets, with nobody left out! Why not come and join us on Tuesday afternoons for a session of good fun that gently exercises both body and mind, and gives a lift to well-being? We guarantee you will make new friends, laugh a lot and leave with a smile on your face. There is a whole world of enjoyment out there.

The Group will continue its weekly meetings until Tuesday 19th December, when we shall hold a Christmas Party afternoon. Then we shall resume on 9th January 2018.

Peter Meacock petermeacock112@btinternet.com

279 2600

Evening Duplicate Bridge

This year we are planning to hold our CHARITY night for MOSAIC on Tuesday 12th December in Great Glen Library, meeting at 7.00 p.m. for a prompt start at 7.15 p.m. This event will be open to non-members of the U3A as well as all our regular members. Duplicate pairs with a short break for coffee/tea and biscuits. The cost is £5 per player to include the raffle. Names to me please before the day.

John Lawson

259 3421

Family History

We will be meeting as usual at 9.30 a.m. on Wednesday 13th December, but there will be no meeting on 27th December. After that there will be meetings on 10th and 24th January as usual.

Eric Orbell ericorbell332@btinternet.com 259 2095

French Conversation

The Group meets each Wednesday morning at 10.30 a.m. We now have one further vacancy. If you are interested in furthering your mastery of French, please let me know.

Jim Picken djpicken95@gmail.com 259 2007

Garden Visits

Our next meeting is on Friday 17th November, when we shall be visiting Cotesbach Garden Farm, Cotesbach, Rugby Road, Lutterworth LE17 4HS. There are so many attractive, quirky and fun items here, both inside and out, that it has to be seen to be believed! There is no admission charge, just pay for your tea and cakes in the café and for all the purchases you have been tempted to make! If you would like to come along please contact Ros Aldwinckle (271 7338) and inform her whether you will be going straight to the venue or if you need a lift. We will meet in the Great Glen car park at 2.00 p.m. to give lifts to those in need.

Linda Hobart lindahobart@outlook.com 319 8095

History

The next session is on Monday 4th December at 2:00 p.m. in the Methodist Hall. We shall have our annual history quiz.

Peter Russell prussell@russellscott.co.uk 271 0889

History of Art

On Wednesday 15th November Joanna Green will be doing a presentation on Piet Mondrian, a Dutch painter regarded as one of the greatest painters of the twentieth century. The meeting will be held in the Methodist Hall commencing at 10 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

The next meeting will be on Wednesday 6th December and we shall also decide on that day about 3rd January as this may be too close to New Year's Day to get a good enough attendance.

Eric Orbell ericorbell332@btinternet.com 259 2095

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 will be on 24th November and the final session for this year is on 8th December. 10.00 a.m. at the Sports Centre (next to the Village Hall).

Peter Russell prussell@russellscott.co.uk 271 0889

Papercraft

Our last meeting of the year will take place on 20th November when we shall make some more Christmas cards using stamps, heat embossing and die cutting. Please bring some felt tip pens if you have some but don't buy anything specially as you can always share. There is no more room for new people at the moment.

Stella Orbell stellamo@hotmail.co.uk 259 2095

Quiz Group

Marian Morley will be the quizzier on 27th November. There will be no meeting in December as the fourth Monday falls on Christmas Day. The next meeting is therefore on 22nd January when Stella and/or Eric Orbell will be posing the questions.

Rachael Snashall rsnashall@hotmail.com 259 2830

Singing for Fun

The next session will be on Wednesday 20th December at 2:00 p.m. in the Methodist Hall. We shall be doing Christmas Songs! All Welcome

Peter Russell prussell@russellscott.co.uk 271 0889

Sunday Singles Lunch

Sunday Singles are going to be using a fixed venue for the remainder of the year. We are meeting at the Leicestershire Golf Club on the second Sunday of each month.

Judith Measom

279 1509

Swimming

Attendance has been disappointing in October, averaging only 19. However I am going to see if I can get any interest from other local U3As which will help the numbers.

David Brooke dnewtonbrooke@gmail.com 259 2520

Table Tennis

We shall continue playing up to and including 11th December and then break for three weeks restarting on 8th January 2018.

Janet Freestone alan.freestone@mypostoffice.co.uk

259 2803

Table Top Games

Our next meeting is on 23rd November. The final meeting this year is on 14th December. We shall resume our normal pattern of meeting on the second

and fourth Thursday afternoons of the month at the Methodist church on 11th January 2018. Newcomers always welcome.

Helen Edwards rwhmedwards@gmail.com 212 7547

Ukulele Group

We meet on the first and third Mondays of the month in the Ruth Warner room at 10.00 a.m. Please contact the leader of the Group, if interested in joining.

Alan Mawby alanmawby@btinternet.com 2592599

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

A Message from our Neighbours ...

THE CHURCH AT THE CROSS

(Great Glen Methodist Church)

Minister : Rev Fran Rhys

To everyone at Great Glen U3A

12 October 2017

Dear friends

On behalf of the Methodist Church, I wish to thank your Chairman, Peter, for his kind comments in the

October Newsletter about the refurbishment of our historic listed chapel and to thank you all for your patience during the summer months when the car park was not available. The result of our efforts has been widely admired. If you have not yet had the opportunity to see what has been done, please do have a look when you are next on the premises. This achievement has only proved possible through the sacrificial giving of our own congregation (many of whom are on limited incomes) to the tune of £25,000. I'm sure you will agree that this is a magnificent effort for a small congregation. An equally munificent bequest from one of our members, the late Sybil Tomlin, and generous grants from the wider Methodist Church and various other charitable bodies have meant that all this has been achieved without our having to ask for any support from bodies who use the premises, such as U3A, even for fundraising events. We hope that the chapel might now provide an attractive venue for appropriate U3A activities, continuing our long, happy and mutually beneficial relationship.

With all good wishes,

Gordon Webb (Building Project Co-ordinator)

webbs@heavenlyoffice.co.uk 259 3005

Lest We Forget ...

IN FLANDERS FIELDS

In Flanders fields the poppies blow
Between the crosses, row on row,
That mark our place; and in the sky
The larks, still bravely singing, fly
Scarce heard amid the guns below.

We are the Dead. Short days ago
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,
Loved and were loved, and now we lie
In Flanders fields.

Take up our quarrel with the foe:
To you from failing hands we throw
The torch; be yours to hold it high.
If ye break faith with us who die
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow
In Flanders fields.

*Lieutenant Colonel John McCrae, MD,
Canadian Army (1872-1918)*