



Great Glen Newsletter

October 2018

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

A very warm welcome to our new members:
Alice Cook, Janet Connolly, Jacqui Crooks,
Jane Elliot, Deidre Hayward, Keith and Mary
Stacey, John Sullivan, Maureen Upton and
Lynda Williams

Chairman's Chat

Hello everyone.

On 29th September I went along to the Grammar School to the Leicestershire History Exhibition. As you might know, at this event our U3A had a stand which comprised records of all Great Glen soldiers serving in WW1. This has been compiled by our family history group, mainly Toni Smith and Liz Adams, and they were staffing the stand along with Bill Maxted. The display on our stand was first class and one of the best presented stands at the event. Well done.

And on an entirely different aspect of GGU3A, can I say thank you to those members who maintain supplies of tea and coffee at the Methodist Hall, the Village Hall and the Sports Centre. We all turn up to our groups expecting items to be available but like

everything in U3A, it all relies on volunteers to keep things going.

I'm pleased to see that the proposed Writers Group is getting started this month. See the details in this newsletter- there is room for additional members so get along there with your creative talents. And the Learn Something New one-off session on Astronomy is now scheduled - again, see later in this newsletter. If you like musicals then the Singing for Fun session has lots of familiar tunes on the programme at the end of the month.

We are still seeking a Newsletter Editor – please consider what you can do to help run our U3A. Also see the later item regarding the Chairman vacancy. Now keep your eyes and ears open for news about tickets for the December monthly meeting. We're trying a new format this year which we're calling 'Christmas Crackers!' because it's near to Christmas and we're ... oh no ... perhaps not. But above all make the most of your U3A membership and enjoy the company it brings. Best wishes to you all.

Peter Russell chairman@greatglenu3a.co.uk

01572 822198

Committee News

Another Committee Vacancy – Chairman

At the next AGM I shall be standing down as chairman of Great Glen U3A so we are looking for someone to

take on this role. Unlike some of the committee responsibilities this is not an ‘optional’ role. The Charity Commission requires us to have a chairman otherwise we cannot continue to operate so we must appoint someone. If you have experience of running committees or just think it’s something you could do then mention it to any of the current committee and we can discuss it further. I’m sure we must have potential candidates amongst our 370+ members. So if you are interested don’t put it off until another day – get in touch now.

Peter Russell chairman@greatglenu3a.co.uk

01572 822198

‘New’ Members Meeting

If you joined Great Glen U3A after 1 May then you will shortly be receiving an invitation to a meeting for new members. At his meeting you will meet other new members, learn something about the U3A movement nationally and find out about the range of opportunities at our own U3A. Please watch out for the invitation in your email or post.

Peter Russell chairman@greatglenu3a.co.uk

01572 822198

Christmas Crackers – December Monthly Meeting

Your Committee is hard at work compiling a lively programme for the monthly meeting on 11 December 2018. Entitled Christmas Crackers, it is expected to feature a festive farrago of music, carols, recitals,

readings and renditions. Instead of the usual coffee or tea beforehand there will be a light finger buffet at the end. Those attending are asked to come at 09.45 for a 10.00 a.m. start. Admission will be by ticket only, price £2, with the proceeds to the Marie Curie charity. Tickets will be on sale at the November monthly meeting.

Stella Orbell and Rachael Snashall

Calling All Group Leaders: Gift Aid and New Members

The end of September marked the mid-point of the current Gift Aid year and I would like to thank all those Group Leaders who have submitted registers and who are up-to-date. I am particularly keen to hear from the groups which have not yet submitted a register this year and ask that they please do so as soon as possible and by the end of October at the very latest. Could Group Leaders also ensure that new members who have joined their group are included on the current Members List which is available on the U3A notice board in the Methodist Hall. Thank you for your valuable help and cooperation.

Bill Maxted

Monthly Meetings

- 9 October 2018 *The Driving Test!* (factual but humorous!) *Brian Johnson*
13 November 2018 *What Space has done for Us*
Professor Martin
11 December 2018 *Christmas Crackers!* (seasonal entertainment)

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).

- 9 October – **Line Dancing Group**
13 November – **Luncheon Club**
11 December – **Military History Group**

Grandfather William Coltman VC in World War 1
A presentation by his great Grandson Tim Coltman
(September meeting)

What a great way to start the autumn season! The audience was treated to a controlled, informative and

very moving story of the sheer selfless bravery of the man who became by the conclusion of The Great War in November 1918 the most decorated NCO in the British Army.

When William had joined the 6th Battalion of the North Staffordshire Regiment his Christian beliefs were so strong and important to him that not only did he refuse to be put in a position where he would be obliged to kill anyone but he volunteered to act as a stretcher bearer – a position he held throughout hostilities. He declined to be equipped with a stretcher on the grounds that it took two people to carry it and therefore, in carrying out his duties, he might put the life of the second person at risk. Instead, he would – and frequently did – rescue wounded soldiers of all ranks by carrying them on his back or by crawling to drag the casualties back to the British lines whilst under constant enemy fire described in one citation as “intensive”.

Born in a village near Burton-on-Trent on 17th November 1891 William Coltman was only 5ft. 4 ins. Tall. He survived the hostilities without any wounds and died on 29th June 1974. He remained the same unassuming character as he had been whilst serving in the Army, never discussing any of his exploits or the award of the conspicuous decorations which culminated in his being awarded the Victoria Cross on 3/4th October 1918 – one of the last to be awarded

before the Armistice. It was presented to him personally by King George V at Buckingham Palace. Tim Coltman's talk was illustrated by vivid photographs and montages as well as a brief video recreating a typical artillery bombardment showing the conditions in the trenches in the Battle of the Somme in 1916. We were left gasping at the deprivations endured by the troops but with a much greater appreciation of the depth of the conviction of this humble soldier whose fervent belief not only continued for the rest of his life but directed him on at least two occasions totally to ignore Orders intended for his personal safety and that of colleagues. This disobedience resulted in the award of one of his Military Medals (instead of his being court-martialled instantly and then, on conviction, shot. This fate would normally have been the consequence of such action on his part.)

The fabulous collection of medals, kept by William in a bedroom drawer at home, is now held by the Mercia Regiment in a bank vault in view of its priceless value. A Victoria Cross is simply inscribed "For Valour" and is rarely awarded. The recipients' actions have to have been conducted under enemy fire and are generally described as being without thought for personal safety. There can surely have been few more deserved than that awarded to Lance-Corporal Coltman.

The talk concluded with an explanation of the story of the Unknown Soldier who is interred in Westminster

Abbey. At the burial of this soldier in 1921 William Coltman was one of the surviving holders of the Victoria Cross in attendance, a man who placed and valued his belief in the Cross of Calvary above that of the award of his medals.

Neil de Voil

History Day at the Leicester Grammar School

Toni Smith, Liz Adams and Bill Maxted had a very enjoyable and successful day at the History Day held at the Leicester Grammar School on Saturday 29th September. The display was all about 155 soldiers that were involved in WW1 that had a connection to Great Glen. This included all the men recorded on the war memorials in Glen as well as those on the Roll of Honour in St Cuthbert's church.

The display was well received and many people from the area took details away with them about our U3A. Over 600 people came through the doors on the day.

Toni Smith

LEARN SOMETHING NEW

Beginners' Astronomy

**We have a date: Monday 12th November 2.00 p.m.
in the Methodist Hall**

We now have a good response for this topic and so have arranged a date for this Learn Something New

Session – see above. There will be a video, **Patrick Moore's Guide to Astronomy**, followed by a short talk. Our guest speaker is Bob Forest who is the leader of the Market Harborough U3A Astronomy Group. If you would you like to come to this taster session to find out more about the skies above us and have not already put your name down, we still have space. Sign up at Monthly Meeting or contact me to put your name on the list.

Please note that, if following on from this session members decide they would like to form a group, it will not necessarily meet on a Monday afternoon. It could meet whenever an appropriate room is available and as decided by the group.

Sue Russell lsn@greatglenu3a.co.uk 01572 822 198

Bead Bracelet - ~~Wednesday 24th October 2-4pm~~

Unfortunately this session has now been cancelled.

Christmas Crafts

We are keen to have a Christmas Craft offering of some sort, if at all possible. If you are interested in crafts and have a small project you could share with other members, I would be delighted to hear from you, so we can discuss it further. Help and support to organise and run the session is available. We just need an idea and a demonstrator. If you can help, please get in touch.

Sue Russell lsn@greatglenu3a.co.uk 01572 822 198

**NEW WRITING GROUP
START DATE TUESDAY 23RD OCTOBER
2.00 P.M.**



This is your opportunity to join a completely new group and to help to decide on the way it should go and what it should be called.

We meet in the Ruth Warner Room for the first time on the above date and we should love to see you there. Please bring along some rough paper, a writing implement and your imagination. Everyone is welcome and all ideas will be considered so that we can start off with a suitable flourish. Most people who signed up seem to be able to manage the fourth Tuesday afternoon of the month so we are starting with that. The second meeting will be on 27th November.

No need for experience. I hope to see you there.

Stella Orbell

2592095

GROUP NEWS

Art Group

The theme for 4th and 18th October is Autumn. A reminder that we meet in the Ruth Warner room of the Methodist Hall at 2.00 p.m.

Rachael Snashall art@greatglenu3a.co.uk 259 2830

Book Group (Thursdays)

We had a very good first meeting. Our next meeting will be held on Thursday 25th October at 10.00 a.m. in the Ruth Warner room at the Methodist Church. Please contact me if you are interested in joining this group. A warm welcome awaits you.

Patricia Mansfield patriciamansfield@btinternet.com
270 8284

Carpet Bowls

Why not try your hand at Carpet Bowls? We meet every Thursday afternoon from 2.00 to 4.00 p.m. in the Village Hall. No experience necessary. We are a friendly group and you will be made most welcome.

Peter Stanley carpetbowls@greatglenu3a.co.uk
259 2152

English Country Dancing

"Come All Ye!"

The new season of English Country Dancing Group meetings got off to a good start at the beginning of September with 18 members attending, although numbers have been rather reduced since because of late

holidays. However, we look forward to building up again over the next few weeks. Despite this the group made a significant development in its dancing accomplishments by successfully mastering the very well known (in ECD circles at least!) *Parson's Farewell*. This dance was first recorded in 1650 by John Playford in volume 1 of his famous *English Dancing Master* series, to a tune written earlier by the German composer Michael Praetorius (1571-1621) as *La Bouree* in his *Terpsichore* collection published in 1612. The dance is best known for its amusing "nodding" sequence and the increasing complexity of the moves through the three different figures. Other dances we have tried include *Jamaica*, again from Playford's *EDM vol 1* of 1651, which uses the tune featuring as the opening music for the current BBC2 TV production "Upstart Crow", a comedy about the up-and-coming playwright William Shakespeare! Over the next few weeks we shall try other dances from the same era, as well as some from the Regency period and modern creations. To date we have always used recorded music for our dancing, but two of the newer ECD group members, Michael and Lorna Rodber, run a Kibworth U3A folk music group which is now expanding its repertoire into dancing music. We hope that eventually the two U3A groups may be able to get together so that we can enjoy an afternoon of dancing to live music!

Elsewhere in local folkdance clubs the country dancing season is restarting and there have already been weekend dancers-dances, ceilidhs and barn-dances, that ECD Group members have been invited to attend, with several more scheduled over the next few months including "Playford" Balls where dancers are invited to wear period costume!

We are always pleased to welcome new members to join us in this fun and sociable activity. All the dances are fully explained and "walked" before setting them to music, so why not come and join us on Tuesday afternoons for a session of good fun that 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 new world of enjoyment out there for those wishing to try it. Come and join us!

Peter Meacock ecd@greatglenu3a.co.uk 279 2600

Evening Bridge

Do you enjoy bridge? Why not join us?

We are a friendly (non-League) social bridge group playing Duplicate Bridge every Tuesday evening in the **Great Glen Methodist church hall** (except the third week of the month when we meet at the **Great Glen Community Library**. We would love to meet new members to enlarge our group. You will be made most welcome.

Andy Tyler eveningbridge@greatglenu3a.co.uk
259 2264, or *John Burnham* 264 0077

Family History

The Group continues to meet on the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month at 9.30 a.m. in the Methodist Church Hall. All are welcome. It is possible just to come along to individual sessions as each is a separate entity.

Eric Orbell familyhistory@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

French Conversation

I am pleased to say that, after a short rethink, this group will restart its meetings on Wednesday 14th October. This and subsequent meetings will start at 10.30 a.m. in the Ruth Warner room at the Methodist Hall.

Jim Picken frenchconversation@greatglenu3a.co.uk

259 2035

Garden Visits

Newstead Abbey Visit – Final Reminder

The coach will leave PROMPTLY at 10.00 a.m. on 19th October from outside Great Glen Village Hall.

Gates Garden Centre Visit

On 16th November we shall be visiting Gates Garden Centre at Cold Overton (post code LE15 7QB). We will be leaving the Great Glen car park at 2.00 p.m. and if you would like to come please let Ros Aldwinckle (tel. 271 7338) know whether you are going straight there or if you need a lift from the car park. I remember from a visit two or three years ago that they produce some very large cakes to have with tea and you may also pick up some early Christmas presents too!

Christmas Lunch

Our Christmas lunch is on 7th December so if you would like to attend please let me know as soon as possible. The venue has to be confirmed but names are needed in the first instance. (Those who attend our garden visits will be given precedence.)

Linda Hobart gardenvisits@geatglenu3a.co.uk

319 8095

History

After the somewhat gruesome tales of Henry II and III we shall have something less bloodthirsty (I presume) at next month's meeting on 5th November. Stella will be talking about the 17th Century Countrywoman. Everyone is welcome.

Peter Russell history@greatglenu3a.co.uk

01572 822198

History of Art

Unfortunately Stella's DVD on Australia is not suitable as the basis for a presentation. Instead the presentation will be on Baroque Art, taken direct from the internet.

This is a first. The meeting will be held in the Methodist Hall 17th October commencing at 10.00 a.m. All members are welcome.

David Brooke historyofart@greatglenu3a.co.uk

259 2520

Learn French Together

Would you like to learn French? We are an informal, friendly, self-teaching group of beginners. We meet on the first and third Tuesdays at 10.00 a.m. in the Ruth Warner Room. Please contact me.

Jan Johnson frenchbeginners@greatglenu3a.co.uk

212 2469

Military History

The Group meets on the first Wednesday of each month at 10.00 a.m. in the Methodist Church Hall. At present we are studying the Boer War. Everyone is welcome as we are only just starting.

Eric Orbell militaryhistory@greatglenu3a.co.uk

259 2095

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. We are meeting on Friday 12th October at 10.00 a.m. at the Sports Centre next to Great Glen Village Hall and again on 26th October.

Peter Russell kurling@greatglenu3a.co.uk

01572 822198

Quiz Group

Our next meeting is on Monday 22nd October, when Toni Smith will be asking the questions. Any new members will be made very welcome.

Rachael Snashall quiz@greatglenu3a.co.uk

259 2830

Singing for Fun

The next session will be on Wednesday 31st October
2.00 p.m. in the Methodist Hall

'Musicals' – South Pacific, My Fair Lady, Oliver etc
Everyone is welcome

Peter Russell chairman@greatglenu3a.co.uk

01572 822198

Sunday Singles Lunch

Meetings for the remainder of the year take place at the Leicestershire Golf Club.

Judith Measom

279 1509

Swimming

Please note there will be no swimming on Wednesday 17th October as it will be half term. Delighted with 26th September attendance 25. The lifeguard has apologised for the way the pool was split. He promises to get it right next time.

David Brooke swimming@greatglenu3a.co.uk

259 2520

Table Tennis

After our Summer break we are back in action again, playing weekly on Mondays at 10.30 a.m. in the Youth and Sports Centre. For further details please phone me.

Janet Freestone tabletennis@greatglenu3a.co.uk

259 2803

Table Top Games

Our next meetings are on 11th and 25th October at 1.55 for 2.00 p.m. in the Methodist Hall. Now that the glorious summer is over you are welcome to join us for an afternoon of games and good company. Several of our group are keen canasta players. They attended Peter Russell's "Learn Something New: Canasta" some years ago and have enjoyed it ever since. In true U3A self-help spirit, they are ready to pass on their knowledge, so would be happy for you to come and give it a go. Please phone or email in advance so we know to expect you.

Helen Edwards ttgames@greatglenu3a.co.uk

212 7547, or *Eileen Appleby* 259 251

Ukulele Group

The Ukulele group meets in the Ruth Warner room on the first and third Monday of each month, from 10.00 a.m. until 12 noon. We are busy working on the playlist for our next performance.

Alan Mawby ukes@greatglenu3a.co.uk 259 2599

Walking Without Stiles

The Group walk to Foxton in September was cancelled for lack of support. The next planned walk is being organised by Elizabeth Cooke around and about Market Harborough, this is to take place on Tuesday 23rd October starting at 10.30 a.m. Would everyone interested please contact Elizabeth Cooke or John Johnson as soon as possible.

John Johnson 212 2469 or 07527 520504

Elizabeth Cooke walking@greatglenu3a.co.uk
270 4524 or 07957 288060

Tailpiece: First Come First Served!

Back in the day before we were married I was working in Brentford and living in Ealing and Stella was at College in Streatham so at weekends we used to meet in the West End to experience whatever was happening there.

One Saturday morning we went to see the ‘Changing of the Guard’ at St James’s Palace. In those days there were no railings between the Guard and the public and

you watched the change from the other side of the road opposite the Palace. We were in good time and found a place on the edge of the pavement bang in the middle and waited. Shortly after we were joined by a large party of Brownies. The policeman on duty got them all organised in a row in the gutter in front of us and we all waited listening to a lone piper playing under the arch of the Palace.

Then we heard the fife and drum band approaching and the excitement amongst the Brownies reached fever pitch. Suddenly, out of nowhere a coach full of foreign tourists arrived all complete with cine-cameras. They piled out of the coach and formed a line in the road in front of us and the Brownies. There was a lot of grumbling amongst the assembled multitude which fell on deaf ears.

Our friendly policeman however knew what to do. He called over one of his mounted colleagues who turned his horse so that it was parallel with the pavement and moved to the end of the line of tourists. He put the horse's tail next to the shoulder of the end tourist and slowly the horse began to walk backwards with his hooves only inches from the Brownie's feet. The whole line was pushed aside with much shouting and complaining and as the horse walked along all the tourists were pushed out of the way. As the horse came to the last Brownie he stopped and lo and behold there they all were again at the front of the crowd and

we all got our view back. The tourists had had to go to the back of the crowd.
Aren't our policemen wonderful!

Eric Orbell