



Great Glen Newsletter

October 2019

Registered Charity No. 1099411

www.greatglenu3a.co.uk

A warm welcome to our new members:

**Sheila Piper, Carol Kenneth, Roy & Sandra Elsham, Collin Small,
David & Maureen Williams, Lynn Francis, Malcom & Kathy Moss,
Renee Sellen, Lesley Brown, Pamela Spiller, Prudence Gallantree,
Keith & Elaine Batchelor**

Chairman's Chat

Hello everyone

We are recently back much refreshed from an excellent break at the northern end of the Lake District, new territory for us. The rain kept its distance, allowing us to explore spectacular countryside, lakes and local towns while being pampered in a marvellous hotel. Since returning I have contemplated setting up an Ark-building Group!

I am delighted to see a healthy influx of new members – more than in recent years – as a direct result of September's Open Event, and to learn that some existing members have joined additional groups. Many thanks to all those involved in organising, running and hosting a most successful morning. Members who have joined in 2019 are about to receive an invitation from me to a New Members Meeting and I look forward to meeting as many as possible of you there.

Your Committee has started planning the arrangements for our December monthly meeting, when in true U3A style we shall again put on our own seasonal entertainment. We are looking for fresh talent to take part – see later in this newsletter. Don't be backward in coming forward! But, on another note, we are concerned at the recent decline in attendances at monthly meetings, despite having excellent speakers. We want to understand the reasons and what can be done to reverse this. You will be asked to help by giving us your views in the coming weeks.

Numbers expressing interest in a visit to the Houses of Parliament are creeping up towards a level that encourages me to think a trip will be viable. I should still be pleased to have some more names though. Given the prospects of an impending General Election, I think we need that behind us before trying to set a date.

Robert Mansfield chairman/at/greatglenu3a.co.uk 270
8284

Committee News

Calling All Group Leaders: Gift Aid and Group Registers

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

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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. Thank you for your valuable help and cooperation.

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

Our u3a entertainment for Christmas

u3a's are self-help groups and we join to be involved in the development, continuance and enjoyment of the various different groups available to us. Your committee would therefore appreciate your help with two aspects of the Christmas Entertainment.

Firstly, who has hidden talents? Who would be willing to do 'a turn' of around 5 minutes? Who can dance, sing, do card tricks or read a poem or tell an amusing story? Or anything else! If you would be willing to make the entertainment go with a swing we would welcome your contribution - please contact the Chairman – *Robert Mansfield on 0116 270 8284*

And, secondly we will be holding a raffle and are seeking prizes – if you have anything to offer for the raffle prizes please let me know....

[newsletter/ at /greatglenu3a.co.uk](mailto:newsletter@greatglenu3a.co.uk) 2592106

Monthly Meetings

At our meeting on 08 October 2019 we will be hearing of the life of Coco Chanel from Julie Ede

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08 October 2019 *Life of Coco Chanel* Julie Ede

12 November 2019 *Great Ormond Street Hospital*

Marilyn Horner

10 December 2019 *Great Glen u3a Christmas*

entertainment GGu3a

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).

08 October – **Monday Book Group**

12 November – **Carpet Bowls**

10 December – **Croquet Group**

SING A CENTURY – ENTERTAINMENT

FROM ANDY SMITH (*September meeting*)

At our September monthly meeting we were treated to a wonderful selection of songs performed by Andy Smith. Andy, from Rugby and back with us by popular demand, is an accomplished singer and musician who plays electric and acoustic guitars as well as the ukulele. The title of his performance ‘Sing a Century’ was inspired by a branch of the Women’s Institute that recently celebrated its one hundredth anniversary. Andy was requested to perform for them a song from each decade from the 1920s to the present day. He repeated this performance on his visit to us and

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punctuated his singing with interesting and amusing showbiz and personal anecdotes.

He started his performance with 'Norwegian Wood' by the Beatles. This song was mainly written by John Lennon in 1965 and Andy commented that 'if you claim to remember the 1960s, then you weren't actually there!' The 1970s followed with Andy performing 'American Pie' and 'Vincent' by singer-songwriter Don Maclean. A jump back in time to the 1930s was represented by Cole Porter's 'Anything Goes'. The word 'cocaine' had to be removed from this song before it could be included in the 1936 musical film of the same name. Failure to do so would have seen the film banned from being shown in cinemas. For the 1990s Andy performed a lovely acoustic version of 'Wonderwall' by Britpop band Oasis whilst, for the 'noughties (2000 to 2009), he sang Adele's version of 'Make You Feel My Love' a song written by Bob Dylan. Andy returned to the 1970s, his favourite musical decade, with a rendition of 'Sister Josephine' by the irreverent Jake Thackray. Andy described one occasion when he was performing this song in a Roman Catholic Church and the electricity was cut-off by a thunderstorm (or perhaps divine intervention). The 1980s were not a good decade for guitar songs but Andy's versatility was shown by performing 'Ain't No pleasing You' by Chas and Dave. Andy's daughter had expressly forbidden him to play this particular song at her recent wedding.

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This was followed by ‘Raining in My Heart’ by Buddy Holly for the 1950s and ‘As Time Goes By’ for the 1940s. The decades at the start (1920s) and finish (today) of this century of music were represented by songs that are frequently performed by Joe Brown (of the 1960s band Joe Brown and the Bruvvers) one of Andy’s favourite musicians. The current song was one that has recently been written for the ukulele called ‘Tickle My Heart’ and Andy finished his show with a moving performance of ‘I’ll See You in My Dreams’ originally published in 1924.

Such was the quality of the entertainment that we received, requests have already been made to your U3A Committee to book Andy Smith for another monthly meeting next year.

Bill Maxted

GROUP NEWS

Writing for Pleasure

We will have a get together on Tuesday 22 October at 2 p.m. when we shall be delighted to welcome anyone who feels that they would enjoy putting pen to paper. We have no pre-conceptions on the work we may like to produce and I should like to think that we would enjoy any or all of your offerings. Ideas about how to take the group forward and how to attract more people would be most appreciated as we need about 8 people at least to make it really viable. At this first meeting after our extended break I will bring along some fun exercises for us to enjoy and previous

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members are welcome to bring any work they have done for

us to share. We look forward to seeing you,

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

Walking Without Stiles

Unfortunately we had to postpone September's walk due to inclement weather therefore our next walk on Tuesday 22 October 2019 at 10.30am will be starting from the car park at Wistow Rural Centre, Wistow Rd, Kibworth Harcourt, Leicester LE8 0QF. We will be walking 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. Please contact me, Elizabeth Cooke, know if you intend to come so that we know you are coming and we can contact you if the walk has to be cancelled at the last minute due to unforeseen circumstances. If you would like to join the group or want further details please contact...*Elizabeth Cooke*

[walking/ at /greatglenu3a.co.uk](mailto:walking@greatglenu3a.co.uk)
2704524/07957288060

Ukulele Group

The Ukulele Group reconvened in September after a summer break. Alan had to get us quickly up to speed before we performed at Age UK in Wigston on Friday 27 September and we have a couple of other gigs lined up in the coming months. The U3A committee have kindly bought us some microphones so we can make

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even more noise. Several new members have joined us since the Open Day and Alan is training the beginners in a few chords before they join the fray. Our meetings are now in the large church room as we no longer fit into the Ruth Warner room. Our meetings are on the first and third Mondays of each month from 10am until noon (for October 7 & 14)

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

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/at/gmail.com) 259
2186

Table Top Games

It was good to see so many members back after our long summer break.

Our next meetings are on 10 and 24 October at 2:00pm in the Methodist chapel. Please try to arrive a few minutes early so we can sort which games are to be played and begin punctually. If you are unable to attend, a phone call would be appreciated.

Now that outdoor activities are less tempting, new members are very welcome to join us for an afternoon of relaxation/brain exercise and fun...in the dry. See our website for games currently played or bring your own to share with us. No experience is necessary.

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We'll do our best to teach you. Unsure? Come along on the 10 or 24 October and see what we do.

New members please phone beforehand so we know to expect you.....*Helen Edwards*

[ttgames/ at /greatglenu3a.co.uk](mailto:ttgames/greatglenu3a.co.uk) 212 7547

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.

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

259

2803

Swimming

The autumn session is underway on Wednesdays at 1:30pm. There will be no swimming on October 16th. After that it will be your opportunity to get in shape for the festive season!

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

431

9706

Sunday Singles

Our next lunch will be at the Leicestershire Golf Club on 13 October, followed by 03 November, and 08 December for our Christmas Lunch. Gentlemen are welcome to join our usual members.

Judith Measom

279 1509

Singing for fun

Come refresh our memories and exercise your lungs on Wednesday 09 October at 2pm in the Methodist Hall.

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It's 'Pick of the pops' time with songs from 1960s and 70s. So come on 'Downtown' and let's go 'Boombang-a-bang' singing 'Something Stupid' or at least 'Something' and we'll all turn into 'Daydream Believers'!!

Everyone is welcome, we're not a choir, you do not need to read must, we just sing for fun!

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

822198

Quiz Group

Our next meeting is on Monday 28 October when Peter Russell will be asking the questions.

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

259 2830

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

Papercraft

We meet again on Monday 21 October when we shall make some Christmas cards. Please bring along any Christmassy papers, dies or embellishments you may

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have. I look forward to seeing you there.

Stella Orbell [papercraft/ at /greatglenu3a.co.uk](mailto:papercraft@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. It's very easy to play and it provides gentle exercise and lots of fun. Everyone is welcome. The next two sessions are at 10 a.m. on October 11 and 25 in the Sports Centre next to the village hall.

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

822198

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@greatglenu3a.co.uk)
07423 311013

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.

Mini bridge is going well with two new members joining us in the last month. We are still open for any new members who wish to play (or learn to play) Mini bridge with a friendly group of people. If anyone would like to join us please contact....

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Terry Evans [evans.t9/ at /pobroadband.co.uk](mailto:evans.t9@pobroadband.co.uk)

259

2102

Military History

Military History meets on the first Wednesday each month at 10.00am in the Methodist Church Hall. On Wednesday 02 October we will start looking at ‘The Indian Mutiny’.

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

Line Dancing

I would like to thank all the line dancers that gave the demonstration on the Open Day. It was shame that so few people came to watch the dancing. However we did get three new members from the less than a dozen that were there. We welcome them, as well as another two who were unable to attend that day. They are still with us and improving all the time, as well as enjoying themselves. We also welcome back another member, who only four months ago had a hip replacement. What an example to us all.

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

Learn Something New - Decorative Fabric Beads

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Wednesday 16 October 2.00-4.00pm

If you have put your name down for this class, there is no need to buy anything, but please bring with you any of the following that you may have:

General purpose scissors, CLEAR fabric glue like Fabri-tac, small pliers (round nose, flat nose or clippers), any beads or other decorations you may like to use. You will also need a small, sealable plastic bag or container to take home your work and any additional supplies. I look forward to seeing you there.

Sue Russell [sue/ at /suerrussell.co.uk](mailto:sue@suerrussell.co.uk) 07976 263 206

Indoor Bowls

We meet at Market Harborough Leisure Centre every Tuesday morning from 10am until 12 starting in October and running until March. We start again for the new season on Tuesday 08 October at 10.00am. 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

History

The next meeting at the Methodist Hall is on Monday 07 October at 2.00pm where the topic will be 'Marie Curie' presented by Patricia Mansfield. Everyone is welcome and we'll be looking for ideas for next year's programme.

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Peter Russell

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

01572 822198

Garden Visits

Our next meeting is on Friday 18 October in the Methodist Church Hall to commence at 2.00 p.m. We are having a talk from a member of The Leicestershire Wildlife Hospital in Kibworth which, I am sure, will be very interesting. Admission will be £3 per person - £1.50 going towards the cost of the room and £1.50 towards the donation to the speaker and to other such events in the future. Please come along, there is no need to let me know. If there are any members who could come along a little earlier (say 1.30) to help me to arrange the chairs I would be very grateful. My two colleagues are very willing but it is not easy to pick up a chair with a walking stick in one hand!

I now have details of our Christmas Lunch on Friday 06 December. We are going back to The Bell at Burton Overy - by public demand - and the price is £16.95 for 2 courses and £19.95 for three courses. I will bring menus along with me to the next meeting and will be taking names (and hopefully choices). I will require payment prior to the day and no later than our meeting on November 15. Thank you.

A CRY FOR HELP! As I mentioned earlier my two colleagues have had health problems recently (thankfully they are getting back to good health) but this has culminated in myself having to organise all meetings over the last few months. This, in itself, is not

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a difficult task but of late I have also been very busy as I am soon to be moving house. If there is anyone out there who would like to give us a helping hand I would be most grateful. Thank you.

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

French for Beginners – Lets Learn Together

This group meets in the morning on the first and third Tuesdays of the month. Our next meeting will be on 15 October. New members will be made very welcome so if you would like to join this group please contact

...

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

French Conversation

We are now in session *après les vacances*.

Sadly there were few inquiries from would be francophones at the open day. Could the reason be that we are not pseudo lunch club? Or could it be Brexit?

Our next meeting will be on Wednesday 09 October at 10.30 a.m. - if you would like to learn French in convivial company please come and join us - for information please contact...

Jim Picken [djpicken95/ at /gmail.com](mailto:djpicken95@gmail.com) 259 2035

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 in the Ruth

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Warner room at the Methodist Church. New members will be very welcome.

Beryl Connolly

07423 311 013

Family History

Meetings are held in the Methodist Church Hall and we will re-start on Wednesday 09 October at 9.30 a.m. If you would like to join us but have little or no experience of the subject then we now have a member who is willing to run a short course on the subject so you can start from scratch. All you need is enthusiasm and to be computer literate. Beginners are, of course, also welcome to join us. Please contact....

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

259 2095

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. Now that the darker nights are drawing in it would be a good time to come along to the Duplicate Bridge sessions on Tuesday evenings, join our social group and meet new friends. 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.

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

07879 234046

English Country Dancing

Firstly congratulations and "thank you" to all members of the group who came along for the Open Day demonstration on 03 September. The group had not met and practiced since June but still executed two demonstration dances, *Jamaica* and *Turning by Threes* very well in front of a large and appreciative audience. The former is a dance from the *Playford* era first published in 1651, with a tune that will be familiar to anybody who watched the BBC comedy series *Upstart Crow* about a struggling but ambitious young playwright called William Shakespeare! The second is a modern composition for a circle of three couples, written by the American mathematician Gary Roodman and set to a lovely waltz tune in a way that beautifully proves the claim by the great choreographer George Balanchine that "Dancing is Music Made Visible". Very pleasingly we were able to persuade most of our Open Day audience to join in for final a communal circle dance *Circle Waltz* danced to the Irish air *Rose of the County Down*. Thank you all, and we hope you enjoyed yourselves.

Since then, the group has resumed its regular weekly meetings, and on September 17 we enjoyed dancing again to live music from the Beaker Folk band of Kibworth U3A. We shall be continuing our Tuesday afternoon sessions trying out many more familiar and new dances, and over the next couple of months there are several social dances, costume balls, ceilidhs and

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barn dances at various local folk dance clubs and venues that group members will be very welcome to attend.

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/ at /greatglenu3a.co.uk](mailto:ecd@greatglenu3a.co.uk) 279 3600

Croquet

The Open Day was a good change with more of our activities being on view which I enjoyed as I went round the various venues.

Our group has all the advantages of a year round space in which to play which gives us warm and dry conditions, a place to sit and watch, have tea\coffee at any time (and toilets if required!). No steps to climb and little physical energy required but plenty of fun.

There are three separate Croquet Groups:

Group A Thursday morning 10.00 a.m. till 11.30 a.m. (now full)

Group B Thursday morning 11.30 a.m. till 1.00 p.m. (has vacancies)

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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@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/](mailto:carpetbowls@greatglenu3a.co.uk) [at](mailto:carpetbowls@greatglenu3a.co.uk)
[/greatglenu3a.co.uk](mailto:carpetbowls@greatglenu3a.co.uk) 259 2152

Book Group (Mondays)

The next meeting of the Monday Book Group will be on 21 October at 2 pm in the Ruth Warner Room. We will be discussing "English Passengers" by Matthew Kneale. Our book for November is "The Hound of the Baskervilles" by Arthur Conan Doyle.

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

Book Group (Thursdays)

We enjoyed a lively discussion of our September book 'This is going to hurt: The Secret Diaries of a Junior Doctor' by Adam Kay. On 24 October we will be considering 'Inglorious Empire' by Shashi Tharoor and on 28 November 'Children's Act' by Ian McEwan. New members will be made very welcome - anyone interested should contact ...

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

270 8284

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.

John Johnson [groupcoordinator/ at](mailto:groupcoordinator@greatglenu3a.co.uk)
[/greatglenu3a.co.uk](mailto:groupcoordinator@greatglenu3a.co.uk)

212 2469

Art Group

We meet on the first and third Thursday of each month. We meet again on 17 October in the Ruth Warner room at 2 o'clock. We will continue the theme of Autumn through October.

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

259 2830

And finally..

For inspiration – a contribution circa 2003 from the late Mary Lawson, one of the founders of the Great Glen U3A, in ‘writing for pleasure’

The Reluctant Knight

Sir Lancelot Pendragon

Was a knight who didn't fight.

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He always saw his horse well fed
And kept his armour bright.
His lady was most beautiful
Her cakes were a delight.
The people loved Sir Lancelot
And tried with all their might
To make him bold and brave and strong
Like any other Knight

One day the castle got on fire,
His foes set it alight.
The people cried “Sir Lancelot
You can’t ignore our plight”
Straight way he rode into the flames
(The fire was at its height)
With water from the castle moat
“I’ll see that you are alright”
The flames went out, the people cheered
And he rode out of sight!