



Great Glen Newsletter

October 2020

Registered Charity No. 1099411

www.greatglenu3a.co.uk

Chair's Chat

Hello everyone

As the evenings start to draw in apace I am pleasantly surprised by the continuing leafy greenness of my garden. I know we had Storm Ellen, but there seems to have been little of the customary seasonal leaf falls that I associate with equinoctial gales. And the roses and hanging baskets, Patricia's pride and joy, continue to delight us.

We saw a small increase in attendance at our September monthly meeting to hear about the extraordinary life of Philip Caine. I think everyone enjoyed seeing familiar faces, even if via broadband, once again. I hope to see further progress this month when Michael Astrop joins us by *Zoom* for his talk on *Inn Signs*. Not only should this be a fascinating topic, but he is also providing a quiz as well, which I shall be sending out in advance of the meeting to those on my list of invitees. If you are not yet on the list, please let me know so that I can add your name.

Whilst on the subject of *Zoom* meetings, I have noted that a few people who wished to attend have missed out in recent months. Occasionally this was because they had had the courtesy to click 'Accept' on receipt of my invitation. Best not to do this, as it can cause the

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link to the meeting to be lost! Anyone who experiences difficulty gaining access should email Peter Russell [webmaster/ at /greatglenu3a.co.uk](mailto:webmaster@greatglenu3a.co.uk) for help.

Behind the scenes your Committee has been keeping up to speed with the increasing mountain of Covid-19 advice and maintaining contact with our landlords about the prospects of resuming normal activity when the time comes. Clearly with restrictions like ‘the Rule of Six’, we are quite a way off being able to do this yet, but we are determined to be ready when the time comes.

We have also been reviewing the latest advice about how to protect your personal data, as required under the General Data Protection Regulations. Heady stuff, you may suppose! We are updating the relevant policies and there will, as a result, be some small changes in the ways that we communicate in future. We are indebted to the unstinting efforts of our Secretary, Elaine Batchelor, on this front. More on this in future newsletters.

Finally, I never cease to be impressed by the good spirits, ingenuity, and enthusiasm of the members with whom I have contact, and who despite all the restrictions keep demonstrating the ethos of Learn, Laugh, Live. These qualities should serve us well through the coming colder months.

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

Committee News

Get into Zoom for Group Meetings

It's great to see familiar faces even if you can't meet in person.

The Zoom app is available for all PCs, laptops and tablets and it lets you join or hold virtual meetings with other members who you can see and hear.

Installation of Zoom is usually quite straightforward. If you would like help in setting it up on your device, then Sue and I are happy to help on a one-to-one basis over the phone.

Zoom Meeting Hosts...We now have two Zoom Pro licences which means that the enforced break after 40 minutes is not necessary. Contact me if you wish to use the Pro licence for your session.

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

Monthly Meetings

**ZOOM MONTHLY MEETING NO. 3
ON 06 OCTOBER 2020 AT 10.30 a.m.**

'Origins and Oddities of English Inn Signs'

Few people realise that two thousand years of history is hanging over their heads, and that the humble pub sign can hold the key to a town's past. Pubs were rarely named by accident but were inspired by religion, royalty, heroes and

occasionally scandal.

This highly visual talk, with a quiz, explains how inns signs originate and traces their development from the Romans to the present day.

It promises to be an interesting talk from which we will learn something new.

**AND FOR NEXT MONTH ON 10 NOVEMBER
2020**

Tony Noble will be giving us a talk on

‘HMY Britannia

Tony Noble was born in Whitehaven, Cumbria and joined the Navy at fourteen and a half as a boy entrant at HMS Ganges.

Ended in doing 17 years in the Navy, serving on four different ships and with several shore postings that included NATO Flag Officers Staff and Naval Communications Contacts.

He also served two tours on Britannia.

Do join us on Tuesday 10 November at 10.30a.m.

GROUP NEWS

The front page of our website has a link to a list of all activities currently running on zoom, email or in other ways. Go to www.greatglenu3a.co.uk

Our groups keeping in touch through e-mail and/or telephone are:

- **Monday Book Group** who are continuing to read agreed books, and submit reviews to the Group Leader who circulates them to the members of the group
- **Tabletop Games** who have a weekly quiz and keep in touch by telephone
- **Mini Bridge** who have a daily quiz

Our groups keeping in touch through Zoom are:

- **History, Family History, French for Beginners, New Age Kurling, Thursday Book Group, Ukuleles, Writing for Pleasure, and Zoom Quiz**

And **Walking without Stiles** hopes to start walking again soon

LEARN SOMETHING NEW

Sing yourself happy!

Tuesday 13th October 10.30am

Singing is a great way to lift your spirits in difficult times. Here is a chance to sing your heart out, even if you can't sing in tune!

Choirs don't work well on Zoom because of the variation in sound delay, but this is different. We have a play list of easy to sing, familiar songs, with the

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words displayed on the screen. You join the zoom meeting and you can see and speak to your fellow U3A singers. When we play the track, everyone is muted. You can **hear** the soundtrack, you can see the **words**, you can **see** others singing but they **can't hear** you! So go for it! Sing along and raise the roof! What could be better?

These are some of the songs we can sing

Buddy Holly - Oh Boy Elvis - Love Me Tender

Paul Anka – Diana ABBA – Mamma Mia

The Carpenters – Yesterday Once More

The Beatles – Let It Be

After the singing, the meeting will remain open for you to stop and chat, if you wish.

The Zoom link will be sent out shortly before the meeting to everyone who has given us an email address, so if you receive the newsletter on email you will be included. No need to register but do put the date in your diary now! At the time of the meeting just click the link to join.

We all need a bit of fun in our life right now, so why not join in? See you there.

Sue Russell

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

Some special information from groups

Would I lie to you?

Wednesday 28th October 7.30pm until 9pm.

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This is a true/lie guessing game. You vote on whether the person making a claim is telling the truth or not. It is a fun evening that makes a change from watching television, so why not try it?

What happens on the night?

I'll send out zoom invitations to everyone who has played before so you are ready to join at 7.30pm.

You will also need to make a voting card with TRUE on one side and LIE on the other.

I haven't played before, can I still play?

Yes, just email me to let me know. If you would like to see how it works you can join in the fun and vote, without making a claim yourself.

If you haven't used zoom before, as long as you have broadband and a tablet (iPad or Android) or a laptop that has a camera, you can play. If you give me your phone number I will call and help you get set up in advance.

Sue Russell

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

Quiz Group

The next Zoom quiz is on Monday 26 October, 2:30. 50 questions, some simple, others not quite so but a pleasant way to pass an afternoon with lots of GGU3A members. If you have not joined in before please come along and have a go. Let me know in advance so that I can include you in e Zoom invitations.

Peter Russell

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

Thursday Book Group

We are continuing to meet by Zoom with the next meeting on 22 October where we will be discussing “The Woman who kept everything” by Jane Gilley. At the following meeting in November we will be reviewing “The Salt Path” by Rayner Winn.

I look forward to seeing as many as possible at our meeting on Thursday 22 October at 10.00 a.m. We should be pleased to add a few more members. Anyone interested in joining, please contact me.

Patricia Mansfield

[books2/ at /greatglenu3a.co.uk](mailto:books2@greatglenu3a.co.uk)

Writing for Pleasure

The Group corresponds mainly by email and meets once a month by Zoom, next meeting Tuesday 27 October at 2.15 p.m. We are currently writing some pieces for Christmas and responding to various ‘themed challenges’. We should be pleased to welcome new members, who should contact me first.

Robert Mansfield

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

New Age Kurling – Open to Everyone

We are holding short Zoom meetings for any GGU3A members on our scheduled days, 2nd and 4th Friday mornings at 11.00 to chat and play any games we can manage on Zoom – ‘Countdown letters’ is our current favourite. If you’re not otherwise engaged please

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come along - let me know and I'll include you in the meeting invitations.

Peter Russell

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

History Group

Meetings are being held on the first Monday 2.30pm, using Zoom. In the 05 October meeting we are looking at more writers/painters/musicians of the second half of the 19th century. The following meeting is on 02 November. Everyone is welcome, but if you are new to the group, please let me know that you want join in so that I can include you in the Zoom invitation.

Peter Russell

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

Monday Book Group

We are still using email to circulate our reviews every month.

Our book for October is "Remarkable Creatures" by Tracey Chevalier. Our November book is "Lady in Waiting" by Anne Glenconner.

We will start to compile our Reading List for 2021 very soon. I have already received a few suggestions.

Liz Adams

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

Family History

Our Zoom meetings will continue at 10.00am on the second & fourth Wednesdays of each month. Anyone who wishes to join us is quite welcome. If you are not

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a member already please contact me first so that you get your Zoom invitation.

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

Table-Top Games

Thanks to the diligence and hard work of our Group Leader we are keeping our brains in working order with weekly challenges – these are usually in the form of quizzes using pictures, testing general knowledge, and solving cryptic clues. And sometimes extra challenges! Don't worry you don't have to submit your answers to be checked – you do it yourself the next week when answers are given. An occasional thank you to Helen would not go amiss or letting her know which challenges you like best.

If you would like to receive future challenges, and this is open to all U3A members, contact

Helen Edwards [ttgames/ at /greatglenu3a.co.uk](mailto:ttgames@greatglenu3a.co.uk)

And finally....

**With thanks to Margaret Darlaston and
Countesthorpe U3A**

Some thoughts on COVID and lockdown

Let me get this straight – there is no cure for a virus that can be **KILLED** by sanitizer and hand soap!

The spread of Covid-19 is based on two facts (1) how dense the population is, and (2) how dense the population is

So, you're telling me that my chance of surviving all this is directly linked to the common sense of others?

When this virus thing is over, I still want some people to stay away from me!

Another Saturday night in the house – and I realise that the trash goes out more than I do

Remember all those times when you wished the weekend would last forever? Well – wish granted. Happy now??

I never thought I would see the day when I would put on a mask, walk into a bank, and ask for money – and get away with it

Is it too early to put up the Christmas Tree? I have run out of things to do

And to raise a smile –

What do you get if you cross a homing pigeon with a woodpecker?

A bird who knocks on the door when he comes home