



Great Glen Newsletter

October 2017

Registered Charity No. 1099411

www.greatglenu3a.co.uk

A very warm welcome to our new members: Beryl Bonfield, Janet Harris, Maxine Johnson, Bill and Kate Maxted, Brenda Rawnsley, Shirley Robinson, Helen Walter and Pauline Wood.

Chairman's Chat

Hello everyone. As you may know, our U3A club was founded by Mary Lawson, who was an active member of the Methodist church and it was she who established the long running relationship we still have in making use of the hall and Ruth Warner room for our group meetings. On 23rd September I was able to represent Great Glen U3A at the Chapel re-dedication service following the completion of the work that has been ongoing during the summer. The improvements in appearance and seating comfort are considerable on the ground floor and you no longer need rock-climbing skills to reach the upper floor. I'm sure the changes will be very much appreciated by the congregation which includes some of our members. Looking at it quite parochially, it is very reassuring for our U3A that

there is sufficient confidence in the future of the church to merit such an investment. I would like to think that this means that we can also look forward to having a home for our groups for quite some time. Looking at what's new for us, we have a Learn Something New session on Decoupage on 11th October, and on 19th there is a special session for all members who want to try out Carpet Bowls – see details in this newsletter. Looking forward to January there will be a four week Learn Something New programme of Tai Chi on Tuesday afternoons – again, see below for details.

Now then, might you interested be in helping to run our U3A? At the AGM in May 2018 we shall be losing two long-standing committee members and need active members to replace them. I shall be sending out a separate email on this subject to ask for nominations. You will recognise it by the subject which will be: “GGU3A: Seeking Committee Members”.

And of course, I'm still looking for volunteers for party pieces to kick off the monthly meetings. It can be travel tales, a musical item, a personal story, a favourite poem, or short films or photographs of an outing or event. Please get in touch with me to arrange it. I've been very pleased with the response so far but of course this is a never-ending request, so please have a go.

Peter Russell prussell@russellscott.co.uk 271 0889

Committee News

U3A DIARIES 2018

I have a supply of diaries which I am happy to sell to any member. The cost is £2.50 - an increase of 50p on last year, I am afraid. They are still very good value. Let me know if you are not at the main meeting but would like one.

Stella Orbell stellamo@hotmail.co.uk 259 2095

ATTENTION GROUP LEADERS

Registers and money are due in for Gift Aid at the end of September. Please start a new register for October (even if the last one isn't full). If you haven't already done so, either bank the money for each register or pass to David Brooke or Roger Edwards. Registers can be emailed to me at giftaid@greatglenu3a.co.uk or, if you are in Oadby, dropped into 45 Glen Way, LE2 5YF.

Thank you

Sue Russell giftaid@greatglenu3a.co.uk 271 0889

POUND COINS – FINAL NOTICE

Please note that the old round pound coin will cease to be legal tender on 15th October. Only the new two-colour 12-sided coin can be used from that date. There is NO further 'period of grace' for shops or other payments. You will be able to deposit them in banks and post offices for a while after 15th October.

Monthly Meetings

At our meeting on 10th October Andy Smith will be talking about ‘John, Paul, George and me’. Members and prospective members welcome.

10 October *John, Paul, George and Me* *Andy Smith*
14 November *Leicester Trams* *Malcolm Riddle*
12 December *Christmas Entertainment*
Music & Good Company Group

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).

10 October – **Ukulele Group**
14 November – **Garden Visits Group**
12 December – **Book Group**

The Colourful Characters of Bradgate Park *(September monthly meeting)*

The meeting started with a beautifully understated rendition of ‘My SatNav’ by Aileen Massey, who it

was explained had briefly ‘transgendered’ for her performance.

The main attraction was Peter Tyldesley, Chief Executive of the Bradgate Trust, who gave us a most entertaining and fact (or was it sometimes fiction?) filled account of some of the history of Bradgate Park and those associated with it. Peter ranged effortlessly from evidence of one of the earliest human occupations in England (c.13,000 B.C.) to the present day. The early history continues to unfold with the help of archaeologists from the University of Leicester. Documentary evidence of Bradgate Park goes back to a reference in the *Domesday Book*. We learned how the site had progressed from deer park to the country seat of the wealthy and influential Grey family, who married into the royal family. The family fortunes saw some dramatic rises and falls, including of course the famous decapitation. Bradgate House was one of the first unfortified brick country houses to be built in this country. It was in regular occupation from its construction (around 1500 AD) to about 1750, after which it fell into decline. The estate was sold in the 1920s to Charles Bennion (of British United Shoe Machinery Company fame) and placed in trust by him for the benefit of local people. Colourful characters abounded throughout, though we may have been a tad disappointed to learn that the stories about Old John are embellishments possibly related to the untimely death of a local miller. If there was a bit much to take

in at one sitting I think we were all persuaded that a trip out to the new Visitor Centre, which is really helping to boost visitor numbers, would be an interesting way of following up an excellent talk.

Robert Mansfield

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 8th November 2017.**

Robert Mansfield

robertrmansfield@btinternet.com 270 8284

OUTINGS

Winterbourne House and Gardens: Friday 20th October 2017

The coach will leave Great Glen Village Hall at 9.15 a.m. prompt. Please note that Winterbourne requires visitors to wear sensible shoes as some of the paths are uneven and/or gravelled. The coach will depart Winterbourne for the return journey at 3.30 p.m.

**Chatsworth House and Christmas Market:
Wednesday 29th November 2017**

The coach will leave Great Glen Village Hall at 9.00 a.m. prompt and arrive around 11.00 a.m. We are on timed tickets and our slot for the House is at 1.30 p.m. The coach will depart Chatsworth at 4.00 p.m. for the return journey.

**‘Scrooge’ at Curve Theatre: Wednesday 13th
December 2017**

The coach will leave from the Village Hall at 1.15 p.m. The performance starts at 2.30 p.m. Tickets will be issued on the day.

Pat Tate

259 1001

Kilworth House Open Air Theatre: June 2018

I should like to organise an outing to Kilworth House Open Air Theatre for a matinée next June (possibly 2nd or 9th) when they will be producing *Guys and Dolls*. As we need to pay for the tickets before the end of January 2018 I shall begin to take names and payment at the next U3A meeting on 10th October. The cost will be an all-in price for coach travel and ticket of £34 per person. It is essential that I receive all monies by the meeting on 9th January 2018 (but preferably before, please). Any queries please contact

me between 5.00 p.m. and 7.00 p.m. or leave a message and I will return your call.

Linda Hobart lindahobart@outlook.com 319 8095

LEARN SOMETHING NEW

Découpage

The class is next Wednesday 11th October, at 2.00 p.m. in the Methodist Hall. The class is full, but if you have put your name down please read on...

Warning! Working with glue - don't wear your best clothes! Sally will provide everything you need but if you have any of the following, please bring with you:

- Ruler
- Pencil/pen
- Scissors for cutting paper
- Craft Mat to work on

I look forward to seeing you there.

Sue Russell sue@suerussell.co.uk 271 0889

Tai Chi

Here is a New Year Resolution for you: **“Try Tai Chi to help improve my health and wellbeing.”**

What is it?

“An ancient Chinese system of slowly flowing movements and shifts of balance”. It has its origins in the martial arts but has developed into an exercise

routine that really can help many different types of people. It is one of those activities that is fairly easy to begin but takes a lifetime to master – you are seeking to improve the quality of your performance of the form every time you practise. One of our members, Rosie Nightingale, is a qualified Tai Chi instructor and she has generously offered to run the sessions for us.

When is it?

We will run a short course of 4 sessions in January, each lasting one hour from 4 to 5pm. Starting on Tuesday 9th January the dates are 9th, 16th, 23rd and 30th January. Places will be limited to allow for individual attention so sign up now and put the dates in your diary. If Tai Chi is oversubscribed preference will be given to those able to commit to all 4 sessions.

Sign up at the monthly meeting or contact me.

Sue Russell sue@suerussell.co.uk 271 0889

Indoor Carpet Bowls

To help with our discussions of the future for the Bowls Club, we are holding a trial session for U3A members on **Thursday 19th October** at 2:00 at the **Village Hall**. Some current bowls club members will be there to provide guidance and to show you how it's done. If you are interested in joining a new group please come along and try things out.

Peter Russell prussell@russellscott.co.uk 271 0889

GROUP NEWS

Art Group

The next two meetings are on 5th and 19th October when we shall be concentrating on Autumn leaves, berries and fruit, in any medium.

Rachael Snashall rsnashall@hotmail.com 259 2830

English Country Dancing

Many of you will have been away on holiday in other countries over the summer, and you may well have watched demonstrations of their national folk dancing, but how many of you are aware of the rich and varied range of English folk dances? Mention English Country Dancing to many people and they automatically imagine the white handkerchiefs, and bells of Morris dancing. But there is so much more, and most of it is social dancing where you meet and interact with other people – it ranges from the more vigorous Barn Dances and Ceilidhs, to refined and elegant Regency-style costume balls. Some of the dances can be traced back to Tudor times – imagine performing dances that people have been doing for 600 years! Many other dances, often very elegant and graceful, originated in the Regency period; yet more are based upon English dances that went out to the colonies, notably America, and have come back to us in slightly changed forms – particularly the "American Square" dances. And the tradition of writing new

dances continues to this day with talented individuals on both sides of the Atlantic producing enjoyable, if sometimes perplexing, creations! By coming along to the English Country Dancing Group you can join in with this enjoyable and fun social activity!

Dancing numbers at the group are generally around 14-18 and we have been very pleased to welcome some new members recently, BUT we still have space for a few more – especially you "fellas"! Twenty-four regular dancers would be an ideal number allowing us to do three- and four-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 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. Come and join us!

Peter Meacock petermeacock112@btinternet.com

279 2600

Family History

Family History will continue at 9.30 a.m. on the second and fourth Wednesdays in the Methodist Church Hall. Everyone is welcome to come along, but please only if you are computer-literate.

Eric Orbell ericorbell332@btinternet.com 259 2095

French Conversation

The group meets each Wednesday morning at 10.30 a.m. We have one vacancy.

Jim Picken djpicken95@gmail.com 259 2007

Garden Visits

This is a further, and final, reminder for those who are visiting Winterbourne House and Gardens on 20th October that the Coach will be leaving from the Village Hall car park in Great Glen promptly at 9.15 a.m. Look forward to seeing you all there.

Linda Hobart lindahobart@outlook.com 319 8095

History

The next session is on Monday 6th November at 2:00 p.m. in the Methodist Hall. The topic will be “In the Steps of Jane Austen”.

Peter Russell prussell@russellscott.co.uk 271 0889

History of Art

We are going "down under" at our next meeting on 18th October when Stella Orbell will be presenting Australian Art. The meeting will commence at 10.00 a.m. in the Methodist Hall. 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

Our theme is the English Civil War and this will continue on Wednesday 1st November at 10.00 a.m. in the Methodist Church Hall. Everyone is welcome to come and hear what problems your forefathers had to put up with.

Eric Orbell ericorbell332@btinternet.com 259 2095

Needles and Pins

We are regrouping again the Ruth Warner Room at the Methodist Church, with some new recruits – and we should certainly welcome more! Come along to see if this might be for you. Next meeting Monday 9th October from 2.00 p.m. to 4.00 p.m.

Judy Wills judwills@btopenworld.com 259 2380

New Age Kurling

I'm pleased to say that we now have a second set of kurling stones and this means more members can play at the same time. 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 Fridays 13th and 27th

October at 10.00 a.m. in the Sports Centre (next to the Village Hall).

Peter Russell prussell@russellscott.co.uk 271 0889

Papercraft

Our next meeting takes place on 16th October when we shall start our Christmas cards. Do bring along any Christmas papers or embellishments you may have. We have currently run out of space for any more new members but I am willing to take the name of anyone who would like to go on a waiting list or just attend when numbers are low.

Stella Orbell stellamo@hotmail.co.uk 259 2095

Quiz Group

Our next meeting will be on Monday 23rd October when the question person will be Liz Adams. New members will be very welcome to join us. We meet in the Methodist Hall at 2.00 p.m.

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. Surprise! 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

There will be no swimming on 18th October as it will be half term. Numbers swimming at 18/19 have been low, possibly owing to holidays. Hopefully the numbers will increase over the coming weeks.

David Brooke dnewtonbrooke@gmail.com

259 2520

Table Top Games

Our next meetings are on 12th and 26th October (1.55 for 2.00 p.m. start) at the Methodist Church. Come and give us a try. Newcomers are always welcome. Please phone beforehand so we know to expect you.

Helen Edwards 212 7547, *Gillian Farrar* 270 8375

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.

GREAT CENTRAL RAILWAY

An Opportunity to Take Part in Local Research

From: Alison Porter

<alison.porter123@btinternet.com>

Subject: Shared Learning Projects - *Leicester*

The Great Central Railway runs between Leicester North and Loughborough. There are plans to build a new heritage museum in Leicester (again they have a round 1 pass from HLF) and plans can be seen here:

<http://www.gcrailway.co.uk/2017/06/great-central-museum-work-progress/>

We are keen to run a series of research projects with local people who might have connections to the railway and also how the railway has shaped the local area. Technology and engineering subjects are also an area the museum will expand on. There might be opportunities to engage with oral history interviews or archive research locally. I do know that local U3A groups have had a ride on the train, which is great, but I was also interested in seeing if there would be interest in a project that might involve a resource or temporary exhibition and more sustained involvement? If you feel these might be of interest to your U3A regional colleagues, I wonder if you could please pass on my details to them?

With many thanks

Alison

Please contact Alison if you might be able to contribute. Editor