



Great Glen Newsletter

September 2020

Registered Charity No. 1099411

www.greatglenu3a.co.uk

Chair's Chat

Hello everyone

Astonishingly, I find myself once again writing to you under continuing lockdown, though maybe there are now signs that Leicester is at long last moving towards the bottom of the critical list, just as Oadby and Wigston show signs of recidivism. I applaud the (presumably – what other explanation can there be?) law abiding and virtuous denizens of Great Glen and other leafy villages within our catchment area and envy their liberties to enjoy free movement and a modicum of social interaction. On other fronts all is reasonably well here, as I hope it is with you, though Storm Ellen wrecked an ageing wooden rose arch, whose replacement will be tricky.

Those who attended our monthly meeting by *Zoom* last month will know it was a great success. Fool's Gold (Steve and Carol) had done a marvellous job of adapting their performance for the internet, and we all had a wonderful interactive time, ending with everyone singing along to old musical hall and Vera Lynn hit songs. This month we have Philip Caine, author of the Jack Castle books. Philip has led a life of extraordinary adventure. I hope to see a good attendance, again by *Zoom*, next Tuesday (08 September at 10.30 a.m.) to enjoy his presentation.

Those on my list of invitees will receive an invitation over the weekend. Anyone else who would like to be there, just contact me.

We had quite a range of differing garden photographs. Many thanks to all those who entered the competition. Congratulations are due to Stella Orbell, who was judged the winner by the Committee. The judging process was squeaky clean, with no conferring and shortlists sent by each member to John Johnson for collation. My thanks to John for organising this.

This month there is a new challenge, this time from the Writing for Pleasure Group, who have, with some input from friends and relations, compiled a very readable and interesting book of memories of what it was like growing up before, during and in the aftermath of World War II. No, they are not looking for more words, but artwork for the cover of the book which is being readied for publication. See the Group's entry later in this newsletter. It would be excellent if we can source this from our own talents.

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

Committee News

A message from Rachael Snashall

I would like to thank U3A members for the very kind messages of sympathy and the beautiful flowers I have received following the death of my dear husband Tim. They were a great comfort to me at a very sad time.

Rachael Snashall

Get into Zoom for Group Meetings

It is great to see familiar faces even if you cannot 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.

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. 2 ON 08 SEPTEMBER 2020 AT 10.30 a.m.

The author Philip Caine will be talking about his life and The Jack Castle Books.

Having spent many years working as Manager, Operator, Director within the Facilities Management and Contract Catering Industry in the Oil and Gas Industry/Military/Construction Industry all over the world he started writing in his spare time and is now a full time self-employed author.

Philip is a very entertaining speaker – do join us to hear what he has to say.

AND FOR NEXT MONTH ON 06 OCTOBER 2020

Michael Astrop will be giving us a talk on
'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.

Do join us on Tuesday 06 October at 10.30a.m.

Summer Garden Photograph Competition

And
the
Winner
is...



WITH FIRST PLACE
STELLA ORBELL

WITH A CLOSE SECOND,
GRAHAM KILBOURNE



AND THIRD PLACE GOES TO
RACHAEL SNASHALL

Thank you to everyone who sent in their
photographs

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
- **Thursday Book Group** now meeting by Zoom but continuing to write reviews to include those who are not able to join by Zoom
- **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, Ukuleles, Writing for Pleasure, and Zoom Quiz**
- And **Walking without Stiles** hopes to start walking again soon

LEARN SOMETHING NEW

**Zentangle - Thursday 24th September 10.30am
on Zoom with Sue Russell**

The Zentangle method is an easy-to-learn, relaxing, and fun way to create beautiful images by drawing structured patterns called tangles. Anyone can do it - you do not need any artistic skill. To get started all you need is a black pen and a piece of plain white paper. This zoom session will show you how to create some simple tangles and combine them to make your first piece of Zentangle art.

Why not give it a try? To take part email [lsn/ at /greatglenu3a.co.uk](mailto:lsn@greatglenu3a.co.uk). I will send out a meeting link that you can click to join. If you have not used zoom before but have access to the internet with a tablet (iPad or Android), or laptop, let me know and I will help you get set up.

I look forward to seeing you.

Sue Russell [lsn/ at /greatglenu3a.co.uk](mailto:lsn@greatglenu3a.co.uk) 07976 263206

Introduction to Solving Cryptic Crosswords

Sadly, we have to think about the approaching Autumn and less opportunity to be outside so maybe passing the time with crosswords is an option.

On this short course we shall be looking at how to approach solving cryptic clues. There will be three sessions on consecutive Thursday afternoons in October each lasting about an hour.

In the first session we shall look at the different types of crosswords and how cryptic crosswords differ from others. We shall then start to look at the different types of clues that we meet in such crosswords and how to have a go at solving them and continue this in subsequent sessions. There will be loads of examples to look at and solve. **This course is aimed at beginners** and the puzzled and the standard we are looking at is The Times **Quick** Cryptic Crossword which is much easier than the main Times Crossword.

It will be delivered via Zoom so if you are not yet a Zoomer we can help get you set up on your pc, laptop or tablet. Dates for the sessions are Thursdays, 01, 08, 15 October from 2:30-3:30 p.m. As the sessions require some preparation, I need to hear from you as soon as possible and by 11 September at the latest if you would like to join in.

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

Some special information from groups

Would I lie to you?

Wednesday 23rd September 7.30pm until 9pm.

This is a true/lie guessing game based on the idea of the TV show with Rob Brydon, Lee Mack and David Mitchell, adapted for zoom. 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 do try it.

How do I join?

Email me. If you have played before, you will already have a claim. If not, think up 2 claims and send them to me. They can be both true, both lies, or one of each. Do not tell me if they are true or not but do keep a copy so that you can read them out on the night. It is best to keep it short and wait for the questions to elaborate.

What happens on the night?

I will send out zoom meeting invitations on the day in plenty of time, 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. If you are a couple, you will play individually, so both send in claims and have a voting card each.

I have not 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 have not used zoom before, and if 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.

More Questions? Just let me know.

Sue Russell [sue/ at /suerussell.co.uk](mailto:sue@suerrussell.co.uk) 07976 263206

Quiz Group

The next Zoom quiz is on Monday 28 September, 2:30. 50 questions, some simple, others not quite so but a pleasant way to pass an afternoon. 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) 01572 822198

New Age Kurling

We are holding short Zoom meetings for group members on our scheduled days, second and fourth Fridays with chat and any mindless games we can manage on Zoom.

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

Writing for Pleasure

The Group has now finished its Book of Memories and invites input from any member who could design the cover(s) – see below.

Cover Design Challenge

Designs are invited for the cover of a Book of Memories compiled by members of the Writing for Pleasure Group of Great Glen U3A and their friends to preserve the experiences of those from ‘ordinary families’ growing up during the period before, during and of the gradual recovery after World War II. The title is “Our Memories – Their History”. The book is edited by Robert Mansfield. Most of these memories, whether focused upon particular events and experiences or spanning periods of five to ten years, are sharply drawn despite the passing of the years.

The book will be published in smallish format (perhaps about 6” x 8”), with soft covers (probably some form of plasticised card), front and back. Design(s), including the words of the title, should evoke the period

from a youthful perspective. Entries for front and/or back covers will be assessed from the standpoints of how well they capture the essence of the content and intrigue prospective readers, and of practicality and possibly cost. The successful entrant(s) will receive a free copy of the book when published.

Those interested in submitting designs should contact Robert Mansfield at once.

We are currently creating a mystery story, taking it in turns to write the next chapter, and will soon be turning our pens to writing something entertaining for Christmas. We are currently corresponding mainly by email and meeting once a month by Zoom, next meeting Tuesday 22 September at 2.15 p.m. We should be pleased to welcome new members, who should contact me first.

Robert Mansfield [writingforpleasure/ at /greatglen.co.uk](mailto:writingforpleasure@greatglen.co.uk) 0116 270 8284

History Group

Meetings are being held on the first Monday, using Zoom. On 07 September meeting we are looking at writers/painters/musicians of the second half of the 19th century. The following meeting is on 05 October.

Everyone is welcome, but if you are new to the group, please let me know 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) 01572 822198

Monday Book Group

Our book reviews by email system is still going well. We are already thinking about our reading list for next year and I have already had some suggestions. Our September book is "The Inheritance of Solomon Farthing" by Mary Paulson Ellis. Our book for October is "Remarkable Creatures" by Tracey Chevalier.

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

Thursday Book Group

We are continuing to meet by Zoom. The next book for review is 'The New Mrs Clifton' by Elizabeth Buchan. I look forward to seeing as many as possible at our next meeting, on Thursday 24 September 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) 0116 2708284

Family History

Our Zoom meetings will re-commence on Wednesday 09 September at 10.00am. Following meetings will be on our usual second & fourth Wednesday mornings at

10.00am so we hopefully get used to the time when we can get back to normal.

Eric Orbell [familyhistory/ at /greatglenu3a.co.uk](mailto:familyhistory@greatglenu3a.co.uk) 0116 259 2095

Military History

This is on hold for the foreseeable future.

Eric Orbell [militaryhistory/ at /greatglenu3a.co.uk](mailto:militaryhistory@greatglenu3a.co.uk) 0116 259 2095

Evening Duplicate Bridge

I do hope the Tuesday evening Duplicate bridge group are all well and keeping safe.

I dare say you are finding a way to enjoy your bridge in different ways. As I mentioned in my group e-mail some little time ago, I have been playing (BBO) Bridge Base Online. If anyone would like to make up a four with me on a Tuesday evening, I will run it and you could join me for free.

It does not seem that this Coronavirus is going away very quickly which means we cannot get together for duplicate bridge for a while yet.

I know I miss meeting everyone for a chat and socialising, it seemed a great pity that this has happened as the group was steadily growing.

No doubt the U3A / Government will inform everyone when it is safe to continue, sadly we may have no choice but to wait for a Vaccine.

Well we humans are very resilient and life still goes on despite all this.

I really look forward to seeing you all again soon.

Andy Tyler [eveningbridge/ at /greatglenu3a.co.uk](mailto:eveningbridge@greatglenu3a.co.uk) 07879 234046

Swimming

Swim England produced some "Guidance for Users" in June 2020. The main points are listed here:

- Shower at home both pre and post swimming.
- Arrive wearing swimwear under clothing.
- Bring and use own hand sanitiser.
- Bring own drink
- Sessions may be bookable only.

There is likely to be a separate entrance and exit to the facility, and the pool, and a one-way system within both. Lanes are likely to be double, with "one way" swimming and no overtaking, except at the end of the lane, when heads should not face each other.

Swimmers should maintain as much distance as possible from other participants, and a minimum of 2 metres."

It is good news and bad news. Bad news from the Grammar School, "Currently we are not in the position to hire out our swimming pool during the school day. We will be in touch if and when this changes."

The good news is that the Oadby Parklands Leisure Centre is now open, including the pool. Sessions have to be booked, and paid for, in advance, and social distancing is in force in both the dry and wet areas.

As soon as we know where we can organise a swim we will let the swimmers know.

Frank Wilcock [swimming/ at /greatglenu3a.co.uk](mailto:swimming@greatglenu3a.co.uk) 0116 431 9706

And finally....

A U3A member drove his brand-new BMW to 100 mph, looking in his rear-view mirror, he saw a police car behind him.

He floored it to 140, then 150, ... then 155, ...

Suddenly he thought, "**I'm too old for this nonsense!**"

So, he pulled over to the side of the road and waited for the police car to catch up with him. The officer walked up to him, looked at his watch and said,

"Sir, my shift ends in ten minutes. Today is Friday and I am taking off for the weekend with my family. If you can give me a good reason that I have never heard before, why you were speeding... I'll let you go."

The Man looked very seriously at the policeman, and replied:

"Years ago, my wife ran off with a policeman, I thought you were bringing her back." !!!

The Policeman left saying,

" Have a good day, Sir "...