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Great Glen Newsletter

September 2016

Registered Charity No. 1099411

A very warm welcome to our new members: Keith and Lesley Bettoney, Andy and Jackie Haigh, Ann James, Pam Laurenti-Duncombe and Anita Ribot

Chairman's Chat

Our recent Open Day was well attended and I have received many favourable comments from people who enjoyed it. Photographs taken at the event feature in this newsletter. I am very conscious though of the huge amount of work involved in showcasing what we do and my thanks to everyone who worked hard on the day.

New members will shortly receive an invitation to the New Members' Meeting to be held on Friday 28 October at 10.00 a.m. The meeting will enable you to meet other new members, Group Leaders and your Committee, to learn more about U3A and how you can play a fuller part and to share your ideas with us – for example about new activities. I hope to see a good attendance.

Patricia Mansfield chairman@greatglenu3a.co.uk

270 8284

Monthly Meeting – 13 September 2016

The topic for the next monthly meeting is ‘The Last Naval Hero’, David Beatty who rose from a humble cadet to become First Sea Lord, statesman and renowned hero of the Great War. He moved to Brooksby Hall in 1906; when he retired from the navy he chose the title Baron Beatty of the North Sea and Brooksby. Members warmly welcome for coffee at 10.00 a.m. before a 10.30 start.

Committee News

Group Registers

Sue Russell has now taken over from Sally Wassell the processing of registers for Gift Aid.

On behalf of the Great Glen U3A can we thank Sally Wassell for the excellent work she has done in looking after Gift Aid which is a major source of funds to our U3A. Those Group Leaders who submit registers by email, would you please be sure you are addressing them to giftaid@greatglen.co.uk as using this address will ensure they get to Sue. Paper registers can be passed to David Brooke or to Roger or Sue if that is more convenient, as Sally is no longer receiving them. Sue Russell’s address is 45 Glen Way, Oadby, LE2 5YF if you wish to drop them in.

Another Successful Open Day

Great Glen U3A again did itself proud at the Open Day on 16th August. The purpose, as ever, was to attract new members and encourage existing members to spread their wings. Without new blood our U3A will wither and decay (for various reasons we lose about 10% of members every year). The displays in the Village Hall attracted lively interest, as did the exhibitions of table tennis, dancing and New Age Curling in the Youth Centre. Most importantly we did recruit some new members!

Congratulations and thanks are due to all those who took part, provided the refreshments and organised the event – not forgetting Liz Adams, Stella Orbell and Toni Smith, to whom I am indebted for most of the photographs in this edition. *Editor*

Forthcoming Monthly Meetings

- | | | |
|-------------------|--|------------|
| 13 September 2016 | <i>The last Naval Hero</i> (see above) | Roy Smart |
| 11 October 2016 | <i>Wines of Italy</i> | Sue Lobb |
| 8 November 2016 | <i>Life on the Canals</i> | Mary Matts |

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

Coffee, tea and sugar are provided. Please bring milk.

13 September – Flower Arranging

11 October – French

8 November – Garden Visits

Update on the Adam Sisters

(The trail has gone cold ...)

The latest news of the twins is that several ladies knew of them but contact was lost and hence no married names have been found. Any children would have been able to help with a DNA test. From Cameroon my friend Bill has found that his supposed father was later married in Leeds in 1957 and had two daughters, Francoise & Marylene, one of which said they would go ahead with a DNA test, only the next day declining to do so. I think that will be the end of the saga.

Thank you to all the people who tried to help. If any one would like to hear more please contact me.

John Lawson jlawson123@btinternet.com. 2593421

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 5th October 2016**.

Robert Mansfield robertrmansfield@btinternet.com

270 8284

Learn Something New

TRY THE UKULELE

Wednesday 21st September 2.00 PM Methodist Hall

An opportunity to have a go on a very simple instrument and see if it takes your fancy. We are lucky to have a member Ann Smith who has a collection of ukuleles that she has offered to let us use for this session. And the session will be led by Alan Mawby, who has only recently started to play the uke himself. So come along and try a few chords and learn a little about the ukulele which has become extremely popular in the last few years.

If there is sufficient interest then we may be able to persuade Ann to let us borrow the instruments for a few more sessions until you are ready to buy your own. Numbers for this session have to be limited, so I'm suggesting a donation of £2 for the session instead of

the usual £1. Please use the sign-up sheet at the monthly meeting or contact me by phone or email to register your interest.

Peter Russell prussell@russellscott.co.uk 71 0889

HANDBELL RINGING

Thursday 27th October 7.00 – 9.00 PM Methodist Hall

Here's a real chance to make noise! We have been lucky enough to find a couple of members of New Parks Handbell Ringers who are willing to come along and show us their own skills and also allow members to have a go on their set of 20 handbells. I'm sure this will be a really fun evening (note the times).

I believe that the ringers are looking for new members for their group, so if you find it's something that grabs you then maybe you'd have an opportunity to take it further.

Come along just to watch, or have a go yourself.

Please use the sign-up sheet at the monthly meeting or contact me by phone or email to register your interest.

Peter Russell prussell@russellscott.co.uk 271 0889

SINGING FOR FUN

No date confirmed yet but probably November

If you'd like to have a go at singing simple folk tunes, rounds, madrigals, Beatles songs in a group then here's your chance. We're still sorting out the details but if you think this is something for you then please use the sign-up sheet at the monthly meeting or contact me by phone or email to register your interest.

Peter Russell prussell@russellscott.co.uk 271 0889

MAKE A CHRISTMAS WREATH

Thursday 20th October 2.00 – 4.00 PM Methodist Hall

If you were at the open day you might have seen what you can do with some old music scores and some decoration. So come along and watch Sally make the wreath and then have a go yourself. All materials are provided. There's some gluing so don't wear your Sunday best. Please use the sign-up sheet at the monthly meeting or contact me by phone or email to register your interest. The suggested donation for this session is £2.

Sue Russell sue@suerussell.co.uk 271 0889

CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS

Monday 14th November 2.00 – 4.00 PM Methodist Hall

Also on display at the open day you might have seen the Christmas decoration, all made using easily found

materials. Sue will be demonstrating and helping. So come along have a go yourself. All materials are provided. Please use the sign-up sheet at the monthly meeting or contact me by phone or email to register your interest. The suggested donation for this session is £2.

Sue Russell sue@suerussell.co.uk 271 0889

ABSOLUTE BEGINNERS – LEARN A LANGUAGE To Start Early 2017

We're looking to see if there is enough interest in forming a 'learn together' session for any or all of the three 'holiday' languages – French, Spanish and Italian. We would be using on-line language courses such as those from the BBC – watching, listening and practising with each other. If you think you would be interested then please use the sign-up sheet at the monthly meeting or contact me by phone or email to register your interest.

Sue Russell sue@suerussell.co.uk 271 0889

Group News

Art Group

Our next meeting is on 15th September, when we shall continue with charcoal drawings. I shall again provide the paper and charcoal. The subject for the meetings on 6th and 20th October is Autumn.

Rachel Snashall rsnashall@hotmail.com 259 2830

Crochet

New crocheters welcome on 20th September at 2.00 p.m. in the Ruth Warner room. I shall bring suggestions for those who need to start a new project.

Stella Orbell stellamo@hotmail.com 259 2095

Croquet

Indoor croquet has now returned to its usual pattern of sessions on Tuesday afternoons and Thursday mornings.

John Lawson jlawson123@btinternet.com 259 3421

Duplicate Bridge (Evenings)

We are back to our usual times: Tuesdays 7.00 p.m. (for a prompt start at 7.15 p.m.) till 10.00 p.m.-ish.

There is no play on the third Tuesday of the month.

Pairs will be made welcome, singles may be put on a waiting list. Anyone interested should contact ...

John Lawson jlawson123@btinternet.com 259 3421

English Country Dancing

After a break during July and August the English Country Dancing Group resumed its regular Tuesday afternoon meetings in the Youth Centre/Sports Hall on September 6th. However we have changed our times to start at 1.30 p.m. and finish at 3.30 p.m.

At the recent Open Day, sixteen members of the group demonstrated two dances. The first, a four-couple longways set dance in waltz time, was *Bonny Cuckoo*. This was written in 1988 to the beautiful tune "*Sithbeag sithmore*" composed by the famous Irish Harpist Turlough O'Carolan around 1700. The second was the much more lively four-couple square formation dance *Radetzky Quadrille* to the popular 1848 *Radetzky March* by Johann Strauss. To finish we managed to persuade some brave members of the audience to join us in a circle dance to the tune *Fair Quaker of Deal* from Henry Playford's "English Dancing Master, Edition 1" of 1651. Everybody seemed to enjoy themselves and mastered the dance very well.

As we move into the last quarter of the year we enter the season of "Playford Balls" when dancers dress in period costume to perform 16th and 17th century dances from Playford's "The English Dancing Master" collection. This year there are local balls in Leicester and Rushden and a Grand Ball at the Cavendish Institute, Edensor, on the Chatsworth estate! The group will practise some of the dances in case anybody decides to attend.

We are always pleased to welcome new members to our weekly meetings for an afternoon of fun and gentle exercise in good company. As demonstrated at the Open day, most of our dances are conducted at walking pace with occasional skipping, so are not too vigorous.

The dances are performed in specific formations of circles, squares and longways sets, and they span English Country, English Court (Playford), and American Square and Contra styles. Some dances date back to the Stuart and Georgian/Regency periods, or even earlier, while others were written very recently. The music we use ranges from classical (Handel, Purcell, Mozart, Bach, Strauss all wrote dance tunes!) to modern compositions, sometimes even jazz; for the older country dances many of tunes will be very familiar to anybody who enjoys traditional English folk music.

No previous experience is needed as all the dances are fully explained, the moves are walked through before setting them to music and the dances are called throughout. Also, no special clothing needed - just light-weight shoes or sandals and comfortable clothing suitable for gentle dancing. Nor do you need to come with a partner; singles of both sexes are welcomed, and we often change partners during the dances so that everybody is involved. The only requirement is to be prepared to join in, and enjoy yourself. Come and join us!

Peter Meacock petermeacock112@btinternet.com

279 3600

Family History

The Family History Group will meet again after the break on Wednesday 14th September at 9.30 a.m. in the

Methodist Church Hall. If you are computer literate and would like to join us please give me a ring first.
Eric Orbell ericorbell332@btinternet.com 259 2095

Garden Visits Group

Our next meeting is on Friday 16th September, when we are visiting the gardens of Blatherwycke Hall just the other side of Corby. The Hall was demolished in 1948 and the 4 acres of these tiered, walled gardens were neglected. In April 2011 the new owner of the land decided to restore it to its former glory and it was in the hands of a very experienced and enthusiastic head gardener (and some volunteers) that a transformation started to take place. We decided after our visit last year we would have to return to view the progress. We shall be meeting in the Village Hall car park at 1.30 p.m. for those who require a lift. The price is £4.50 including tea and cake afterwards. The post code is PE8 6YW. (We should be most grateful if you could bring the correct money!) If you would like to come please contact Gill Hadland (259 2170 or gill@hadland.wanadoo.co.uk).

Just a reminder that our 21st October meeting has been changed. Owing to Glebe Gardens having been sold, and not honouring our arrangement with the previous owner, we have decided instead to have a meeting in the Methodist Church Hall at 2.00 p.m. Gill has very kindly stepped in and will give a talk with slides on "Peru: People, Plants and Places." A donation of £1 p.p. will be collected to help to defray the costs of the

hire of the hall and tea and biscuits half way through. Should you wish to attend please contact Margaret Wright (243 2550 or margaretwright241@gmail.com).
Linda Hobart lindahobart@outlook.com 319 8095

History Group

Many thanks to Toni for her session on the History of Medicine. Not too gruesome! Next month's meeting is on Monday 3rd October in the Methodist Hall at 2:00 p.m. We shall be hearing about the Mineral Wealth of Leicestershire and its History. Everyone welcome.
Peter Russell prussell@russellscott.co.uk 271 0889

Indoor Croquet

All groups are back to the usual times: Tuesday weekly, 1.30 till 3.00 p.m.; Thursday weekly, first group 10.00 till 11.30 a.m., second group 11.30 a.m. till 1.00 p.m. All groups are full at present.
John Lawson jlawson123@btinternet.com 259 3421

Line Dancing

Well done to the line dancing group for their performance on Open Day. What a pity that so few people stayed after the country dancing, to watch us dance. We did four dances to various styles of music, finishing with an invitation Waltz, in which four people joined. Unfortunately two of them were too young to join U3A and one who was interested was

unable to make a Thursday afternoon. So no new members gained from the open day, such a shame! The group is now in full swing after the summer break, with a new time of 1.30 to 3.30 p.m. on Thursdays in the Sports Hall. New members are always welcome, and no experience is needed. All you need is a comfy pair of shoes and a sense of humour, because you will laugh a lot.

Jackie Jordan jkj1506@btinternet.com 259 9199

Luncheon Club

We would like to invite new members to our lunches.

We meet at the Bell, Burton Overy, on the fourth Tuesday of the month, 12 o'clock for 12.30 p.m. We alternate each month between starter and main and main and dessert. The food is of excellent quality and well presented. You will find me at the monthly meeting, on the left as you enter the Village Hall, with the menu for the next lunch. If you cannot attend the meeting, and live in the village, I will put a menu through your door. I have sample menus for you to look at. Come and give us a try to see if you would like to join us. We look forward to seeing you soon.

Joyce Davies mervjoycedavies@btinternet.com

259 3436

Military History

We will re-commence hostilities after our summer break on the first Wednesday of each month at 10.00

a.m. in the Methodist Church Hall. Everyone with an interest in the subject is welcome.

Eric Orbell ericorbell332@btinternet.com 259 2095

Mini Bridge

We are back to our usual times – Tuesday weekly 9.45 a.m. (for a prompt start at 10.00 a.m.) till 12.15 p.m. Singles or pairs are welcome, but please ring Terry (259 2102) or me before your first visit.

John Lawson jlawson123@btinternet.com 259 3421

New-Age Kurling

The first meeting of this group is on Friday 23rd September 10.00 – 12:00 noon at the Sports Centre (next to the Village Hall). As well as playing some games, we shall also be discussing how the group is going to run in future. Many thanks to Tony Baxter for making some ‘pushers’ for the group.

Everyone welcome, but if you have not done so already please let me know you are coming.

Peter Russell prussell@russellscott.co.uk 271 0889

Papercraft

We shall meet on 19th September to start on some Christmas projects. Let me know if you cannot come.

Stella Orbell stellamo@hotmail.com 259 2095

Quiz Group

We meet on 26th September in the main hall of the Methodist Church at 2.00 p.m. Rachael is asking the questions. New members will be very welcome.

Rachel Snashall rsnashall@hotmail.com 259 2830

Sunday Singles Lunch

We meet on the second Sunday of the month, single ladies and gentlemen, at 1.00 p.m. **We can now accommodate a few more members and gentlemen would be particularly welcome!** The next venues are: **11th September** – Leicestershire Golf Club, **9th October** – The Bell, East Langton, **13th November** – The Golden Shield, Fleckney, **11th December** – The Leicestershire Golf Club.

Judith Measom

279 1509

Swimming

We start again on Wednesday 14th September commencing at 1.30 p.m. This will be a good opportunity to show off your suntans. I am trusting that we shall have a good turnout. New swimmers will be welcome.

David Brooke dnbrooke@fsmail.net 259 2520

Table Tennis

After our usual break for the month of August we restart on Monday 5th September at 10.30 a.m.

Janet Freestone alan.freestone@mypostoffice.co.uk

259 2803

Table Top Games

We continue our twice monthly sessions on 8th and 22nd September at 2.00 p.m. at the Methodist Church. Please try to arrive by 1.55 to help us sort out who plays what and with whom!

Newcomers are always welcome to join us for a sociable afternoon exercising those little grey cells.

Gillian Farrar 270 8375 Helen Edwards 212 7547

A celebration of 1,000 U3As

To mark reaching the milestone of 1,000 U3As, a special event is being held on the 22nd November at Friends House, London.

Eric Midwinter (founder of the U3A movement) and Baroness Frances d'Souza (Speaker of the House of Lords) will be addressing the hall. Tickets cost just £5, and are available now via Eventbrite.

To book, just click the button below or visit u3a1000.eventbrite.co.uk.

We will be sending some flyers and posters in the next general mailing to help you advertise this to your members.

Book tickets