



Great Glen Newsletter

September 2017

Registered Charity No. 1099411

www.greatglenu3a.co.uk

A very warm welcome to our new members:
Andrew Brooks, Anthony and Glenys Janes,
Donald Moir, Brenda Squire and Byron Wigley

Chairman's Chat

Hello everyone.

It was a beautiful day on Saturday for the Great Glen Wheelbarrow Race and Fête and I'm pleased to say that we had a good level of interest on our stand. I'm hopeful that we shall see a few new members as a result. Stella and Toni did an excellent job preparing our display which showed the wide range of activities we have. Many thanks to them and of course to all members who provided invaluable help on the day. Later in the newsletter you will see items about a potential new group for Indoor Carpet Bowls – please register your interest as soon as possible - and a reminder on the demise of the old pound coin - please note this and don't get stuck with old coins.

As we get back into full swing in all groups, can I take this opportunity to thank all group leaders for the work they do. Several leaders have done this job for many years and make it look effortless but there are always

things to do behind the scenes. And most groups would like more members, so if you have even half a mind to try something out, get along to the group and give it a go. And of course, I'm still looking for more 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.

Peter Russell prussell@russellscott.co.uk 271 0889

Committee News

WHEELBARROW RACE FETE

Many thanks to all who contributed to the raffles for the LOROS donation. These altogether raised £68 which was given to the organisers of the event. At the time of writing we are still planning our display but you should have seen it by now and I hope you thought we had done you justice (see picture above – *Toni Smith*). I will let you know if we manage to attract any new members.

Stella Orbell stellamo@hotmail.co.uk 259 2095

NEW MEMBERS' EVENTS

If you joined Great Glen U3A during 2017 look out for an invitation in a week or so to a new members' event.

The dates will be Wednesday 25th and Tuesday 31st October from 2.00 to 4.00 p.m. so you may like to keep one of these afternoons free.

CAR PARKING AT THE METHODIST HALL

Car parking is now available again at the Methodist Hall car park, subject to tradesmen having priority should it be required.

POUND COINS – IMPORTANT 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, including those at U3A meetings. You will be able to deposit the old coins at banks and post offices for a while after 15th October.

NEW WHITEBOARD – NOTE FOR GROUPS MEETING AT THE METHODIST CHURCH

In the store-room there is now a magnetic whiteboard and easel, and in the kitchen cupboard there are whiteboard pens, magnetic holders and cleaning items available for all groups. Please clean the board after each use.

Monthly Meetings

- 12 September *Colourful Characters of Bradgate Park*
Peter Tyldesley
- 10 October *John, Paul, George and Me* *Andy Smith*
- 14 November *Leicester Trams* *Malcolm Riddle*

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).

- 12 September – **Table Top Games**
- 10 October – **Ukulele**
- 14 November – **Garden Visits**

Anthony Nolan Trust – Hollies Legacy *(August monthly meeting)*

Thanks in no small measure to Peter Russell and Toni Smith for successfully resolving technical glitches with the speaker's equipment, the meeting started pretty well on time! Our speaker was Kathy Carter, a local lass from Oadby. What on earth was she wearing though? It turned out that the pink frilly knickers on her head were part of the trade mark of Hollies Legacy,

a continuing drive by family members and a growing band of supporters to raise funds and recruit volunteers for the Anthony Nolan Trust. Hollie Clark, Kathy's grand-daughter, had been diagnosed with a rare bone marrow disorder at the age of eight in 2014. Hollie had a stem cell transplant arranged through the agency of the Anthony Nolan Trust, but very sadly later suffered fatal complications. Anthony Nolan died in infancy in 1979 needing a bone marrow transplant, for which a suitable donor could not be found. His death led to the foundation of a trust that now operates worldwide, matching donors with patients in need of stem cell and bone marrow transplants. Hollie's Legacy has since its inception raised over £135K through the tireless efforts of people like Kathy. Already recognised as one of Leicester's heroes, we took her to our hearts. Though the audience was over age for donating tissue, we were urged to visit the Anthony Nolan website and to spread the word. Liz Adams told us about how she had, when younger, been shortlisted as a donor for someone in the USA, and had had a blood sample sent by express delivery – though in the event a closer match was found. The procedure had seemed straightforward and very professionally executed.

Robert Mansfield

Postscript from Kathy

Last year in August I was recruiting for Anthony Nolan at a Northampton Saints Rugby match and

Northampton College on behalf of Leanne who needed a transplant. I heard last night from her mother that a donor had been found and the operation will take place in two weeks. The money I received from you will fund more donors. Perhaps you will pass on the good news to your members.

Regards

Kathy

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 4th October 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

LEARN SOMETHING NEW

Découpage – just 4 places left!

Come along to this session (2 hours) on Wednesday 11th October 2.00 to 4.00 p.m. at the Methodist Church Hall and learn the art of découpage. It is a craft technique that will enable you to transform a variety of objects into works of art (or keep your grandchildren entertained for hours)! Sally Wassell will show us how to take a simple bowl and printed paper and make it into a unique piece that we can use to display decorative objects or just admire! If you haven't already put your name down, please sign up at the

monthly meeting or contact me. The cost is £2.50, including all materials.

Sue Russell sue@suerussell.co.uk 271 0889

Indoor Carpet Bowls

A local indoor carpet bowls club has invited Great Glen U3A to consider taking them over. Before we respond to this it would be helpful to have an indication of the level of potential interest from our own members. The club meets at the Village Hall on Thursdays 2.00 p.m. to 4.00 p.m. and the sessional charge would probably be £2. There will be a sheet in the Reception area at our September monthly meeting on which you can register your interest. If you are unable to attend and are interested, please contact without delay

Peter Russell prussell@russellscott.co.uk 271 0889

GROUP NEWS

Art Group

We begin again after the Summer Break on Thursdays 7th and 21st September. Please try to attend if you can.

Rachael Snashall rsnashall@hotmail.com 259 2830

Bowling

Indoor bowls restarts on Tuesday 3rd October, 10.00 a.m. till 12.00 at Market Harborough Leisure Centre.

Ann Spray

2810324

English Country Dancing

It's time to brush up your "Do-si-Dos", and "Set and Turn Singles"!

After a break during July and August the English Country Dancing Group resumed its regular Tuesday afternoon meetings, 1.30 to 3.30 p.m., in the Youth Centre/Sports Hall on 5th September. We still have space for more people so we warmly invite any other members of the U3A who would like to try this fun and social activity to come along.

Country Dancing offers an afternoon of gentle exercise in good company. 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, whilst others were written very recently. The music we use ranges from classical (Handel, Purcell, Mozart, Bach, Strauss all wrote super dance tunes) to modern compositions, sometimes even jazz and swing; for the older country dances many

tunes will be recognisable 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 is 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!

The start of the new dancing year sees a number of Barn Dances and Costume "Playford" Balls at various Folk Dance clubs in the near region, at which members of the group will be very welcome. If we can get copies of the dancing programmes the group will practise some of the dances in case anybody does decide to attend.

Peter Meacock petermeacock112@btinternet.com
279 2600

Evening Bridge

We are very pleased to have the company of members of a local bridge club which has had to close. This is disappointing for them but should ensure that the GGU3A group is viable for the foreseeable future. Any other bridge players who would like to join us will

be made welcome. Pairs are preferred but at present we also have a member who is looking for a partner. Arrive 7.00 p.m. for a prompt start at 7.15 and finish about 10.00 p.m.-ish. Tea or coffee is available and is included in the £1 contribution for the evening.

Prospective members please ring in advance.

John Lawson jlawson123@btinternet.com 2593421

Family History

We shall re-start on Wednesday 27th September at 9.30 a.m. in the Methodist Church Hall. Anyone interested in genealogy is invited to come along to see if they like us and would wish to join. We meet on the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month at 9.30 a.m.

Eric Orbell ericorbell332@btinternet.com 259 2095

French Conversation

The group restarted on 6th September after the Summer break and will continue each Wednesday morning at 10.30 a.m.

Jim Picken djpicken95@gmail.com 259 2007

Garden Visits

Our next meeting is on Friday 15th September when we shall be visiting Oak Tree House, North Road, South Kilworth (post code LE17 6DU). When you reach North Kilworth via the A5199 and B5414 turn right and then left. You will pass the golf club and reach a 40mph road sign after which there are houses on the left-hand side; Oak Tree is the last house. If we all

'park prettily' there should be room on the drive for eight to ten cars, otherwise parking is on the road. This garden is of formal design softened by cottage style planting with a stone circle and sculpture, large herbaceous borders, vegetable plots, pond and a shady area. There are extensive collections in pots including perennial violas, trees chosen for attractive bark, many roses and almost 40 types of clematis. The cost is £5 p.p. to include tea and cakes. We shall meet at the Village Hall car park at 2.00 p.m. to give lifts to those without transport. If you would like to come please let me know as soon as possible as I have to give numbers to the garden owner by Wednesday 13th. Thank you.

REMINDER! For those of you who are going to Winterbourne House and Gardens on 20th October see notice above under Outings. Please be on time!

CHRISTMAS LUNCH. Although we had an excellent meal and service last year at the Coach and Horses we have decided to source another venue for this year. This is purely because our numbers have been gradually rising and we need a venue that can accommodate more than 22. Therefore we are awaiting menus and prices from two public houses and when these are received and we have decided upon a satisfactory price, size of venue etc. we will let you have all the information. If you would like to come to the lunch please let me know. Thank you.

Linda Hobart lindahobart@outlook.com 319 8095

History

The next session is on Monday 2nd October at 2.00 p.m. in the Methodist Hall. The topic is Queen Anne.
Peter Russell prussell@russellscott.co.uk 271 0889

History of Art

At the next meeting on 13th September we shall be having members' presentations on their favourite paintings. We could do with more presentations, so if you are considering making one please let me know as soon as possible. The meeting will take place as usual in the Methodist Hall commencing at 10.00 a.m. All members are welcome.

David Brooke dnewtonbrooke@gmail.com 259 2520

Learn French Together

The new French group for complete 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

Line Dancing

Line Dancing re-started on Thursday 7th September at 1.30 p.m. in the Sports Hall. New members always very welcome. No experience is needed, line dancing is very easy to pick up, and we are all beginners.

Come along and give it a try, gentle exercise to varied music, and lots of laughs as well.

Jackie Jordan jkj1506@btinternet.com 259 9199

Military History

We shall re-start on Wednesday 4th October at 10.00 a.m. in the Methodist Church Hall. This time we shall be concentrating on the British Civil Wars of the 1640s. If this interests you then please come along for a taster on that day. You will be very welcome.

BRITISH CIVIL WARS

In Military History this time we shall be giving talks etc. on the Civil Wars which took place in England, Scotland, Ireland and Wales during the 1640s. We hope to cover the reasons for the Wars, the consequences, the aftermath and the effect on the lives of the ordinary citizen. What did a Musketeer wear? What did he eat? Where did a Cavalryman stable his horse? Was Cromwell a goodie or a baddie? We also hope to talk about the big well-known battles as well as the skirmishes which took place all over the country. Stella will be presenting the first session which will be entitled “The Causes of the Wars”. If this interests you then please come along to the Methodist Church Hall at 10.00 a.m. on Wednesday 4th October.

Eric Orbell ericorbell332@btinternet.com 259 2095

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 8th and 22nd September and 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

The first papercraft meeting following the summer break will take place on 18th September when we shall have a go at 'turn back' cards. Nice and simple to ease us back in before the Christmas rush. Please bring any blank cards with straight edges that you have, plus any double-sided papers and paper flowers.

Stella Orbell stellamo@hotmail.co.uk 259 2095

Quiz Group

The next meeting is on 25th September in the Main Hall of the Methodist Church. New members will be very welcome.

Rachael Snashall rsnashall@hotmail.com 259 2830

Singing for Fun

Wednesday 20th September at 2:00 p.m.

Methodist Hall

ABBA and The Beatles

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 meet on the second Sunday of each month at the Leicestershire Golf Club.

Judith Measom

279 1509

Swimming

I got it wrong last month – swimming starts on Wednesday 13th September. We shall be able to work off the holiday's added pounds and show off our sun tans, sum hopes!! Looking forward to a good turnout.

David Brooke dnewtonbrooke@gmail.com 259 2520

Table Top Games

Our next meetings are on 14th and 28th September (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.

THE GOOD SHIP SUNBEAM SAILS AGAIN

Reminder for Wednesday 4th October: Similar trip to last time but note the different timings. Meet at the Library carpark and leave at 9.30 a.m. for the Hope & Anchor, from where Sunbeam will depart at 10.00 a.m. returning about 12.30 p.m. for a meal (or picnic if you prefer). Leaving again about 1.30 p.m. to travel downstream for ice creams at Sileby Mill and then returning to her mooring in time for us to be back to Great Glen before 4.00 p.m.

Please remember Sunbeam is owned by Mosaic and is fully equipped for any disabled person with a frame or wheelchair. This is not a U3A outing so we welcome any of your friends who would like to take a trip like this but thought they would never be able to ever again.

The donation is £12 which includes morning coffee/tea and afternoon tea/coffee and no washing up to be done! Please contact me as soon as possible, we are limited to 12 passengers

John Lawson jlawson123@btinternet.com 2592341

ALZHEIMER'S SOCIETY'S MEMORY WALK

Memory Walk is Alzheimer's Society's biggest fundraising event, involving a series of sponsored walks which take place in autumn, across England, Wales and Northern Ireland. The event supports some of Alzheimer's Society's vital work, including essential research, and life-changing local services for thousands of families affected by dementia. In 2016, walkers raised over £6.6m – that's enough to fund 76 PhD students for three years to conduct innovative research to ultimately search for a cure.

In Autumn 2017, walks return to over 30 locations, including the Leicester Memory Walk in Abbey Park on Sunday 1st October. Memory Walk is open to all ages and abilities, and four-legged friends too.

Families and friends are encouraged to come together, united against dementia to raise funds.

Essential to the success of the walks are our fantastic volunteers – without volunteers, we can't raise the money needed to beat dementia.

Roles for volunteers are varied: helping us from everything to setting up stalls in the morning, to marshalling the route and helping to take banners down at the end of the day. Volunteers also support with fundraising and handing out medals to the finishing walkers. Let's take on dementia together at a Memory

Walk near you this Autumn. To sign up, visit
www.memorywalk.org.uk/volunteer or call 0300 330
5452.