

Two speaker meetings for GGOWu3a

Wednesday 8 January

Speaker: **Bozena Kuncewicz**

Polish Communities in Britain since WW2

Great Glen Methodist Church Hall LE8 9EF

Doors open at 10:00 am for socialising

The meeting starts at 10:30 am £1 per person

Wednesday 29 January

Speaker: **Stephen Warden**

The Introduction of Paramedics to the NHS

Liberal Club, 82 Bull Head St, Wigston LE18 1PA

Doors open 1:30 pm for socialising

Refreshments at 3:00 pm £1 per person

Chair's Chat

Hello everyone

Let me start by wishing you a happy and, as far as possible, a healthy new year.

You will be pleased to know that GGOW u3a enters 2025 in reasonably good shape. Even after allowing for some possible adverse changes during the year ahead, that looks likely to continue in 2025/2026. Your Committee has been looking at how we can improve members' experience of our u3a. Some purchases of new equipment and some necessary repairs have been identified. And there is a case for a modest reduction in certain charges, including the annual subscription.

I shall be writing to everyone shortly after Christmas, by email or post, to invite you to attend a short Special General Meeting on 29 January 2025 at Wigston Liberal Club, just before the usual monthly speaker meeting – or at least to send your proxy votes in advance, if you are unable to attend. We need to take the steps required by the Charity Commission to adopt our new constitution as soon as possible, rather than waiting until our Annual General Meeting in June, to give the Committee powers to set a new subscription rate in time for the start of 2025/2026.

Maybe the New Year could also be a good time to explore which other of our groups might be of interest to you.

Best wishes

Robert Mansfield

chairman@GGOWu3a.co.uk

0116 270 8284

Tea Rota for Monthly Speaker Meetings at the Liberal Club Wigston LE18 1PA

Two volunteers are needed on the last Wednesday in each month, at the Speaker meeting, to serve tea/coffee and to wash up afterwards. Please sign up on the Tea Rota.

Contact:

Fay: 0116 281 1812

**Advance notice of the Catering Rota for the Monthly Speaker Meetings, second Wednesday in the month
Great Glen Methodist Church LE8 9EF**

Group Leaders: Please arrange with your group to provide three members for the meetings shown in the list below.

The kitchen should be staffed from 9:45 to 10:30 am. It is not necessary to bring milk, but please bring tea towels.

Many thanks,

Elizabeth Cooke groupcoordinator@ggowu3a.co.uk

8 January 2025	Family History
12 February 2025	Films
12 March 2025	Garden Visits

GROUP ACTIVITIES (in alphabetical order)

ART GROUPS x 2 First and third Thursdays in the month at 2:00 pm
Art Great Glen Methodist Church Hall, LE8 9EF, Ruth Warner Room

There is no meeting on 2 January 2025. We restart meetings 16 January 2025.

The theme for January and February is 'snow/winter/ in any medium

Rachael Snashall art@ggowu3a.co.uk

Art Appreciation Third Monday in the month, 10:00 am - 12 noon, Fox Pond Pub, LE2 4RG

We shall meet as usual on 20 January -

looking at the Expressionists - Kandinsky, Munch et al, aka *The Blue Rider (Der Blaue Reiter)* and *the Death of Marat* by Jacques-Louis David, an image from the French Revolution.

Our group makes art accessible to all. We welcome new members - and occasional visitors.

Please check the website for the latest information on our plans.

June Juett AA@ggowu3a.co.uk (07484 602348) £2 per person, tea/coffee included

BOOK GROUPS x 2 Fourth Thursday in the month at 10:00 am
Book Group - Thursday Great Glen Methodist Church Hall, LE8 9EF

We plan to read two books before the meeting on 23 January 2025:

The Winter Solstice by Rosamunde Pilcher (author of the acclaimed *The Shell Seekers*). *The Ops Room Girls* by Vicki Beeby – a highly rated WW2 saga, rich in historical detail, and now also a television film. New members are welcome.

Elizabeth Cooke books2@ggowu3a.co.uk



Book Group - Monday Third Monday in the month at 2:00 pm
Great Glen Methodist Church Hall, LE8 9EF

Our book for 20 January is: *The People on Platform Five* by Clare Pooley, described as 'warm, funny and moving'. New members are welcome, please contact:

June Juett books@ggowu3a.co.uk (07484 602348)

CARD GAMES x 2 Wednesdays at 1:45 pm Great Glen Methodist Church, LE8 9EF
Duplicate Bridge (Social) **Our first meeting in the New Year will be 8 January 2025**

If you enjoy bridge, join us! If you do not know the duplicate system, we will teach you.

We are a friendly group playing Duplicate Bridge on **Wednesdays at 1:45 pm for 2:00 pm prompt start, finishing at approximately 4:45 pm.** We welcome new members.

Andy Tyler duplicatebridge@ggowu3a.co.uk

Minibridge Every Tuesday morning, 9:45 am for 10:00 am start
Great Glen Methodist Church Hall, LE8 9EF
We shall not be meeting on New Year's Eve! We restart Tuesday 7 January 2025
Anyone wishing to join our friendly group will be welcome, previous experience is not necessary.
If you would like to try Minibridge please contact me in advance, so that I can give you more
details. We are sure you will enjoy playing!
Terry Evans mbridge@ggowu3a.co.uk

Carpet Bowls Every Thursday, 1:30 – 3:30 pm Village Hall, Great Glen, LE8 9GG
We shall NOT be playing on Thursday 2 January 2025 but resume on 9 January. Limited
free parking at the Village Hall. Refreshments provided. New members are most welcome in our
friendly group. No previous experience needed. Do contact me if you wish to attend a meeting.
Peter Stanley 0116 259 2152 **£3.00 per session**

Classic Cars First Wednesday in the month **except**
we shall next meet on Wednesday 8 January,
at 2 pm at the Fox Pond Pub. For more information, contact bob@resmith.co.uk
Bob Smith classiccars@ggowu3a.co.uk

Croquet x 2 Every Thursday 10:00 – 11:30 am.
Croquet (Thursday) Great Glen Methodist Church Hall LE8 9EF
This is a small group activity with an occasional vacancy. Call for further information.
Joan Bateson 0116 259 3191

Croquet (Tuesday) Tuesday Croquet group 1:30 – 3 pm
Great Glen Methodist Church Hall LE8 9EF
We can now welcome new members - and we are happy to teach new players. Contact:
Geraldine Siddons 0116 241 3947

Dancing x 2 Tuesdays, 2:00-4:00 pm at Burton Overy Village Hall, LE8 9EW
English Country Dancing (ECD) **Our first meeting in 2025 is Tuesday, 7 January 2025**
ECD is social dancing, conducted mostly at walking pace in circle, square or long-set
formations. Dancers weave patterns as they interact. No previous experience is needed. The
dances are explained and walked through before setting them to music. Singles welcome. Wear
light-weight flat shoes or sandals and loose clothing. Be prepared to join in and laugh!
Peter Meacock ecd@ggowu3a.co.uk 0116 279 3600

Dancing Thursday mornings, 10:30 am – 12.30 pm Burton Overy Village Hall, LE8 9EW
Line Dancing **Our first meeting in the New Year will be Thursday, 9 January 2025**
We have music to suit everyone! Our dances are new, old, easy - and some a little harder. We
all need a challenge, especially one that is enjoyable! If you are returning to linedance or hoping
to learn, you will be welcome in our mixed ability group.
Jackie Jordan and Maggie Ward linedancing@ggowu3a.co.uk

EATING OUT x 4 We usually meet the penultimate Wednesday, every month,
Lunch Club at 12:30 pm at *Two Steeples*, Bell Street, Wigston, LE18 1AD
Our next lunch meeting is on 22 January
Search online for the menu – we mostly order from the lunch menu – and come join us! We are
about 20 members **who pre-order with Lilian or Kath at General meetings or at:**
Kath Bailey lunchclub@ggowu3a.co.uk

Meet & Eat Third Tuesday in the month, at the *Italian Greyhound*, Great Glen, LE8 9GF

We usually meet at *The Italian Greyhound* in Great Glen. **Our January meeting will be the third Tuesday, 21 January.** Lunch is pre-ordered from a menu with a choice of two courses at £15 or three courses at £19 (plus discretionary tip) both including coffee. If you wish to join us, contact:

Trevor Johnson meetandeat@ggowu3a.co.uk - pre order no later than Friday 18 January

Pub Lunches After the u3a monthly speaker meeting in Great Glen,
the 2nd Wednesday in the month. Venues vary

We shall meet after the Great Glen speaker meeting, as usual, to enjoy a lunch together.
Margaret Hudson 0116 271 5064

Sunday Lunches Second Sunday in the month 1:00 pm *Glen Gorse Golf Club*, LE2 4RF

The next lunch is **Sunday, 12 January.** Please let me know whether you will, or will not, be coming, by telephone 0116 279 1509, no later than the Friday preceding the lunch. This is a popular group, and we need to confirm numbers attending. Looking forward to seeing you.

Judith Measom 0116 279 1509 – no later than the Friday before

Film Group Second Monday in the month, 2:00 pm. Great Glen Methodist Church LE8 9EF



Monday, 13 January at 2pm £2.50

Please see the website for information
on the current film: www.ggowu3a.co.uk

If you have not attended before, please contact me first.

Peter Russell films@ggowu3a.co.uk 07759 831604

GAMES x 2 Second Wednesday in the month, at 2:00 pm at The Menphys Hub
Games Bassett Street, South Wigston, Leicester, LE18 4PE

Our next meeting is on 8 January We meet in the free library area at **The Hub** which has table games available. Members bring their own favourites too. *Line-up 4, Phase 10, Scrabble, UNO, and Whist*, are all popular. Hot drinks are available. This is a popular group, so please contact:

Kath Bailey games@ggowu3a.co.uk for information on available space.

Tabletop games Second and Fourth Thursdays, 2:00 pm Great Glen Methodist Church



We next meet on 23 January. Canasta remains a favourite, but we have a variety of board games – number and word ones. Please contact me with questions or for a taster session.

Helen Edwards ttgames@ggowu3a.co.uk 0116 212 7547

GARDEN GROUPS X 2 Second Friday in the month, 2:00 – 4:00 pm, various venues
Garden Visits

On **10 January 2025**, we meet for a 'garden social' at the **Fox Pond Inn** with a non-narrated slide show of a California native garden. The charge is **£2 per person** as the Fox Pond provides a self-served hot beverage. **Please let me know if you plan to attend!**

June Juett gardenvisits@ggowu3a.co.uk (07484 602348)

Garden Second Monday in the month, at 10:00 am

We are taking a break in January. Our next meeting will be on **10 February 2025.**
Group members will be informed of the venue nearer the time.

Lillian Greengrass 0116 221 9737

HISTORY x 3
Family History

Fourth Wednesday in the month, 10:00 am
Great Glen Methodist Church

We resume our normal meeting schedule from 22 January.

We shall have four (or more!) short talks from our members.

New members are welcome; please contact me if you would like to try a session with us.

Dennis Cook

familyhistory@ggowu3a.co.uk

07711 386958

History Group

First Monday in the month 2:00 pm
Great Glen Methodist Church Hall, LE8 9EF

The next meeting is 6 January 2025

Please contact me if you have not attended before.

Peter Russell

history@ggowu3a.co.uk 07759 831604

Military History

First Wednesday in the month, 10.00 am for 10.30 am.
Great Glen Methodist Church Hall LE8 9EF

We are not meeting in January.

On **5 February** we shall look at the Battle for Monte Cassino, the protracted and bloody battle for a key strategic stronghold in Italy, in 1944.



Alan Mawby

militaryhistory@ggowu3a.co.uk

Knit and Natter

First Thursday in the month at 2:00 pm at the
Menphys Hub, Bassett Street, South Wigston LE18 4PE

There will be no meeting on 2 January as it is the day after New Year's Day.

In the friendly (free) library area at the Hub, we have access to the café.

There is room for around a dozen busy bees so do join us. Contact:

Kath Bailey

KnitandNatter@ggowu3a.co.uk

07974 523079

KURLING - New Age Kurling

First and Third Wednesdays at the
Liberal Club, Kelmars Avenue, Wigston, 1:30 pm until 3:00 pm

Our first session after Christmas will be 15 January

New Age Kurling. Players roll 'stones' close to a target on a hard floor indoors. The nearest stone wins = 1 point. Stones can be pushed by a 1.2m pole for those who cannot stoop, but who can move arms and shoulders. The distance between pusher and target is typically 5 to 10m. Pairs play in two teams, with 2 stones each. (4 Red stones & 4 Blue stones), over 6 or 8 ends. Highest score wins. **If you have an interest in this activity, please contact:**

Peter Williams

Kurling@ggowu3a.co.uk

LANGUAGES x 2

Private venue

Latin A small, friendly group meets in a member's home to read and/or translate from textbooks. For availability and further details, please contact:

Jennifer Bell

0116 288 0234

French

Private venue

There is conversation and reading in this friendly group meeting in a member's home. For details, please contact:

Jennifer Bell

0116 288 0234

Learn Something New - Pickleball



We will be starting the taster sessions for **Pickleball** on Wednesday 15th January, 11-12 noon, for 4 weeks. Currently there are no more spaces available, but, if interested, we can add your name to the waiting list. Contact:
Sue Russell LSN@ggowu3a.co.uk 07976 263206

Learn Something New - Beginners Line Dancing



Starting Tuesday 14th January, 10.30- noon for 6 weeks
The Menphys Hub, Bassett St, South Wigston, Wigston LE18 4PE
Cost: £3 per session

Line dancing is a great way to have fun while exercising both your mind and body, but it can be challenging to join an existing class. With that in mind we are offering a short course that assumes no previous knowledge or experience. Starting at the very beginning, you will learn the basic steps and discover the pleasure of dancing in a group. **To sign up:**

Contact Sue Russell LSN@ggowu3a.co.uk 07976 263206

New **Also see page 8**

CHAT AT THE CHESTNUTS CAFÉ FOR GGOW u3a MEMBERS

MUSIC x 2 **First & Third Fridays 10:00am – 12:30 pm**
Music and good company **Great Glen Methodist Church Hall**

On **3 and 17 January** we shall be listening to a variety of genres. Bring a CD to share or come to listen. Do you have a family member who might benefit from music, tea and biscuits, bringing back a few memories? The group welcomes all who share a love of music.

Contact: *John Gough* music@ggowu3a.co.uk 0116 259 2430



Ukuleles **Second and Fourth Mondays 10:00 am-12 noon**
Great Glen Methodist Church Hall, LE8 9EF

We are meeting on **13 and 27 January**. We are a friendly group who love to play music together on ukeleles. We have spare instruments if you want to give us a try. We are still open for one or two more. Contact: *Julie Franks* ukes@ggowu3a.co.uk

Photography **Third Wednesday in the month, 2:30 pm Fox Pond Inn, LE2 4RG**
or as otherwise arranged. The next meeting is **Wednesday, 15 January**. We are a friendly group; new members are welcome. Both cameras and phones are used. If this appeals, why not sit in on a meeting and you can then choose to join the group if you wish. If you are attending for the first time, please contact me first to confirm the meeting arrangements.

Peter Russell photography@ggowu3a.co.uk 07759 831604

Psychology **First Wednesday in the month, 10:00 am-12 noon, Fox Pond Inn.**
Our January meeting date falls on New Year's Day, so we next meet on 5 February.

In February, our topic of discussion will be **The Psychology of Motivation**. If you have an interest in joining this group, please contact me and I shall add your name to the waiting list:

Ash Vaja Psychology@ggowu3a.co.uk

QUIZ GROUPS X 2
Quiz (Zoom)

Fourth Monday in the month
A Zoom Meeting



If you would like to join our **27 January meeting**, please contact Rachael Snashall, or Peter Russell, who will give you the details.

Peter Russell/Rachael Snashall zoomquiz@ggowu3a.co.uk

Quizzers

First Monday in the month, 10:30 am
(except Bank Holidays when it will be the second Monday in the month)

Menphys Hub, Bassett Street, South Wigston (free car park at rear)

Our next meeting is on 6 January. If you are interested in joining us, please contact:

Ron and Margaret Gee quizzingforfun@ggowu3a.co.uk 0116 288 0536

TABLE TENNIS X 2

Mondays, 11:00 am to 12:30 pm

Table Tennis - Monday

Roger Bettles University Sports Centre, Manor Road, LE2 2LL

We recommence playing on Monday 6 January 2025. We are a mixed ability group still welcoming a few new members. Contact:

Janet Freestone tabletennis@ggowu3a.co.uk

Table Tennis - Friday

Fridays 11:00 am to 1:00 pm

Roger Bettles University Sports Centre, Manor Road, LE2 2LL

We next meet on Friday 3 January. Friday Table Tennis group has currently reached capacity; we can accept the name of anyone interested in waiting for a vacancy.

See video at: www.ggowu3a.co.uk, videographer Ash Vaja.

Contact *Jay Bhikha* by email jay.bhikh@gmail.com.

WALKING GROUPS x 3
Easy Strolling

Third Thursday in the month 10:30 am

Various venues, some with parking charges

The next stroll will be on Thursday 16 January.

Further information will be sent to group members nearer the time.

This friendly group now has a waiting list, if you are interested, please contact:

Ron and Margaret Gee easystrolling@ggowu3a.co.uk 0116 2880536

Village Strollers

Local History/Heritage venues

Village Strollers are **taking a long winter break and will re-start in March** with a stroll around Evington. The 2025 programme of monthly strolls will be on the web site.

Details and invitations will be sent out at the end of the month.

If you would like to be on the mailing list, please contact:

Roger Edwards villagestrollers@ggowu3a.co.uk

Walking without Stiles

Third Thursday in the month, various venues

On **Thursday, 16 January** we are likely to be walking Waterloo Farm and the Brampton Valley Way.

On **Thursday, 20 February 2025**, we plan a walk with the venue yet to be decided.

Contact me if you would like to be on our e-mailing list. At the beginning of the week of the walk, specific details of the walk are emailed to those who have let me know they are coming.

We need to know whom to expect. I can then update you if we need to cancel the walk.

Elizabeth Cooke walking@ggowu3a.co.uk 07957 288060

Writing for Pleasure Fourth Tuesday at 2:15 pm
Great Glen Methodist Church Hall LE8 9EF
The Group next meets on Tuesday, 28 January 2025

At our meetings we share what we have written, enjoy chatting about related matters and plan next steps. We are lively group with different interests, styles, and preferences. New members are welcome; please let me know if you would like to experience a taster session.

Robert Mansfield writing@ggowu3a.co.uk 0116 270 8284



NEW CHAT AT THE CHESTNUTS CAFÉ FOR GGOW u3a MEMBERS



Do you sometimes feel that you would just like to sit down with a drink and have a chat with friends away from your own 4 walls?

Tony, at the Chestnut Coffee Shop in Oadby, has kindly offered the “snug” (a cozy area at the rear of the café) for our members to meet with friends and have a jolly good chat. The only cost that you would incur would be for your drink and, if you wish, one of their lovely cakes - and parking, of course, if you arrive by car.

We can cover any subject you wish but I think we should avoid Politics and Religion!

The first meeting is planned for Thursday 16 January, starting at 10:00 am, so if you would like to join us, please let me know as it is a relatively small area, and we may have to limit numbers.

If it is popular, maybe we could plan for an additional day.

Janet Fanko membership@GGOWu3a.co.uk or telephone 0116 462 4679

BOOKS!

At the members' meetings at the Liberal Club, you will find a supply of paperback books at the back of the room – from which you may help yourself!

Book donations are welcome but are not required to take a book.

Books are managed by Ron & Margaret Gee



Our thriving **Great Glen, Oadby and Wigston u3a** welcomes new members and visitors. **Contact a group leader** if you would like to sample a meeting as a visitor.

Visit our website www.ggowu3a.co.uk and explore our many activities

If you have an idea for a new group or activity?

Email: Groupscoordinator@ggowu3a.co.uk

If you have a subject, or an idea, or know of a speaker you recommend for our meetings, please send your information to:

Kath Bailey at baileyk8@hotmail.com



A reminder as we head into cooler weather:

oadby-wigston.gov.uk/pages/find_a_warm_hub

The above website has options in Oadby and Wigston for a warm place to spend time.

Please share the locations with those who may have need of such a facility.

A well-known venue in Wigston is **The Menphys Centre** with a fair-priced cafe/snack bar. They are happy to host those seeking warmth and/or companionship.

See the last page of the newsletter for some pictures from the

Seasonal Sing-along

Technical Note

When converting a Microsoft Word version of the newsletter to a .pdf version, for better accessibility, hyperlinks are automatically created - **but they may not link to all email providers.**

June Juett – editor

newsletter@ggowu3a.co.uk

GGOWu3a Seasonal Sing-along

Expertly planned and
hosted by
Kath Bailey
and Peter Williams
with our thanks

Vocals: Our members

