

## **Two speaker meetings for GGOWu3a**

**Wednesday 12 February**

**Speaker: Mike Burton**

***The River Trent – England's Heart***

**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 26 February**

**Speaker: Sue Ablett**

***Antarctica***

**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**

It's good to see GGOW u3a returning to full swing after the Christmas / New Year lull. It's pleasing that some new ventures are testing the waters, and I wish them well. As I write, I have just attended the inaugural session of what will be known as 'Chat at Chestnuts', a very pleasant informal social gathering over coffee (and cake, if desired) enjoyed by all who came. There is room for more to join the next session, which will take place on **Thursday 20 February at 10.00 a.m. at Chestnuts coffee shop on The Parade, Oadby.** Please let Janet Fanko [membership@ggowu3a.co.uk](mailto:membership@ggowu3a.co.uk) know in advance if you would like to come. My thanks to her for setting this in motion and to Tony at Chestnuts for hosting us.

I think most members will know by now that the Committee has decided with some regret to replace the monthly speaker meetings at Great Glen with less formal social meetings. Falling attendances and inability to replace our Speaker Finder were the main reasons. Elizabeth Cooke is developing the new format, which is likely to contain elements of the Tea, Talk and Trivia sessions we have previously run.

The impending loss of the Fox Pond Pub as a venue has come as an unwelcome surprise. The Group Leaders affected are working with Committee members to find suitable alternatives.

Finally, my thanks to those who have responded to my notice of our Special General Meeting on 29 January. So far there has, I am pleased to say, been 100% support for the new constitution and I look forward to seeing it adopted shortly.

**Robert Mansfield**

**chairman@GGOWu3a.co.uk**

**0116 270 8284**

## RENEWALS

### AN IMPORTANT REMINDER:

During the third week in February, I shall be sending out renewal reminders via email, or post, for the year 1 April 2025 to 31 March 2026.

**PLEASE DO NOT TRY TO RENEW YOUR SUBSCRIPTION BEFORE YOU RECEIVE YOUR REMINDER TO ENSURE THAT YOU PAY THE CORRECT AMOUNT.**

Thank you,

Janet Fanko membership@ggowu3a.co.uk or telephone 0116 462 4679

#### 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

#### 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

12 February 2025

Films

12 March 2025

Linedancing

## 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  
The theme for February is *snow/winter* in any medium

Rachael Snashall

[art@ggowu3a.co.uk](mailto: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 **17 February**, at the Fox Pond Pub

Our programme includes **Charles Rennie Mackintosh**

– artist, architect, icon at the turn of the century and images from **The Book of Hours**, various artists.

**After the February meeting, we shall no longer be meeting at the Fox Pond Pub**, but we shall be continuing our activities at another venue to be advised. In addition, there is an Ausden Clarke coach trip, open to the public, approx £23, on **26 March to Trentham Gardens - a large area of creative and artistic plantings and design elements.**

If this appeals, please make your own reservations, including a preferred pick-up location, at <https://clicktrips.co.uk/trip/trentham25/> or call Ausden Clarke at **0116 262 9492**

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

**BOOK GROUPS x 2**  
**Book Group - Thursday**

**Fourth Thursday in the month at 10:00 am**  
**Great Glen Methodist Church Hall, LE8 9EF**

27 February 2025 our book is **Whisky from Small Glasses** by **Denzil Meyrick** – crime fiction  
27 March 2025 our book is **Shrines of Gaiety**, by the highly acclaimed writer, **Kate Atkinson**.  
*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 17 February is: ***A Man Called Ove*** by Frederik Backman.

(A member recommends that we do not see the film based on this book,  
before reading the book!)

See our booklist on the website: [www.ggow.u3asite.uk](http://www.ggow.u3asite.uk) New members are welcome, please  
contact: *June Juett* books@ggowu3a.co.uk (07484 602348)

**CARD GAMES x 2**

**Wednesdays at 1:45 pm**

**Duplicate Bridge (Social)**

**Great Glen Methodist Church Hall, LE8 9EF**

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**

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**

Limited free parking at the Village Hall. Refreshments provided. New members are most welcome  
in our friendly group. No previous experience needed.

Please contact me if you wish to attend a meeting.

*Peter Stanley*

**0116 259 2152**

**£3.00 per session**

**Classic Cars**

The Classic Car group held its last meeting on 8 January. We have used up all  
our contacts for speakers and visits to places of interest. We decided to disband.

**Croquet x 2**

**Croquet (Thursday)**

**Every Thursday 10:00 – 11:30 am.**

**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)**

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

**Line Dancing**

Thursdays, 10:30 am – 12.30 pm Burton Overy Village Hall, LE8 9EW

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 after a break or hoping to learn, you will be welcome in our mixed ability group.

See also under **Learn Something New – Beginning Line Dance classes**  
**Starting Tuesday 14th January, 10.30 - noon for 6 weeks. The Menphys Hub, Bassett St, South Wigston, Wigston LE18 4PE. Cost: £3 per session**

Jackie Jordan and Maggie Ward linedancing@ggowu3a.co.uk

**EATING OUT x 4  
Lunch Club**

We usually meet the penultimate Wednesday, every month,  
at 12:30 pm at *Two Steeples*, Bell Street, Wigston, LE18 1AD

Our next lunch meeting is on 19 February

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 February meeting will be the third Tuesday, 18 February.** 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 the Friday before**

**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, 9 February.**

**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, 10 February at 2pm £2.50**

Please see the website for information  
on the current film: [www.ggowu3a.co.uk](http://www.ggowu3a.co.uk)

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

*Peter Russell* [films@ggowu3a.co.uk](mailto:films@ggowu3a.co.uk) 07759 831604

**GAMES x 2**  
**Games**

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

**Our next meeting is on 12 February.** 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](mailto:games@ggowu3a.co.uk) for information on available space.



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

**Our February meetings are 13 and 27 February.**

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](mailto: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 **14 February 2025**, we plan to visit the Croci in flower at the Botanical Garden. If they are not yet in bloom, members will be advised that the meeting is cancelled – however – The Botanical Garden is offering **February Croci events Sundays, 16 & 23, 10 – 4 pm, unusually with beverages and cake available to purchase in Beaumont House.**

**There will not be a regular meeting in March, but on Wednesday, 26 March**, Ausden Clarke is offering a coach trip to **Trentham Gardens** with many areas of award-winning planting schemes, a lake, shops, cafes etc. Multiple pick-up points in Oadby, Wigston, etc. Some of us already have reservations, approx. **£32 including admission to Trentham.**

This trip is open to the public, make your own reservations, including a preferred pick-up location, at <https://clicktrips.co.uk/trip/trentham25/> where full details are available.

If you need help with this, call Ausden Clarke at **0116 262 9492** or contact:

*June Juett*

[gardenvisits@ggowu3a.co.uk](mailto:gardenvisits@ggowu3a.co.uk)

(07484 602348)

**Garden**

Second Monday in the month, at 10:00 am

Our next meeting will be on **10 February 2025** to **Palmers Garden Centre in Enderby.**

*Lillian Greengrass*

0116 221 9737

**HISTORY x 3**  
**Family History**

Fourth Wednesday in the month, 10:00 am  
Great Glen Methodist Church Hall, LE8 9EF

**Our next meeting is 26 February 2025**

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

*Dennis Cook*

[familyhistory@ggowu3a.co.uk](mailto:familyhistory@ggowu3a.co.uk)

07711 386958

### History Group

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

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**

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**

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,  
82 Bull Head St, Wigston LE18 1PA 1:30 pm until 3:00 pm**

**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 started 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. There are a few places left or just turn up on the day for a taster session. To sign up:

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

**New** Also see page 9

**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 **7 and 21 February**, 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 10 and 24 February.** 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, 19 February**. 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**

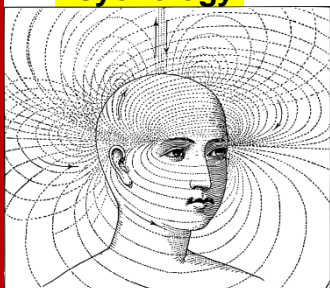
First Wednesday in the month, 10:00 am-12 noon, Fox Pond Inn.  
**We shall meet on 5 February.**

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 **24 February meeting**, please contact Rachael Snashall, or Peter Russell, who will give you the details.

*Peter Russell/Rachael Snashall*      [zoomquiz@ggowu3a.co.uk](mailto: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 Monday, 3 February.** This friendly group has room for one or two more Quizzers, if you are interested, please contact:

*Ron and Margaret Gee*      [quizzingforfun@ggowu3a.co.uk](mailto:quizzingforfun@ggowu3a.co.uk)      0116 288 0536

**TABLE TENNIS X 2**

**Table Tennis - Monday**

**Mondays, 11:00 12:30 pm**

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

We meet as usual on Mondays in February. We are a mixed ability group still welcoming a few new members. Contact:

*Janet Freestone*      [tabletennis@ggowu3a.co.uk](mailto:tabletennis@ggowu3a.co.uk)



**Table Tennis - Friday**

**Fridays 11:00 am to 1:00 pm**

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

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](http://www.ggowu3a.co.uk), videographer Ash Vaja.

Contact *Jay Bhikha*      [tabletennisfriday@ggowu3a.co.uk](mailto:tabletennisfriday@ggowu3a.co.uk).

**WALKING GROUPS x 3**  
**Easy Strolling**

**Third Thursday in the month 10:30 am**

**Various venues, some with parking charges**

**The next stroll is 20 February 2025**

Meet at the entrance to the **Botanical Gardens** on Glebe Road, Oadby at 10.30am.  
Coffee afterwards at Zeph's in Oadby.

If you are interested in joining this friendly group please contact us:

*Ron and Margaret Gee*      [easystrolling@ggowu3a.co.uk](mailto: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](mailto:villagestrollers@ggowu3a.co.uk)

### Walking without Stiles

Second Thursday in the month, various venues

**All walks are now the second Thursday morning of the month.**

As we had to cancel January's walk due to bad weather, **our 13 February 2025** walk will be **Brampton Valley Way from Waterloo Farm.**

The next walk will be **13 March**, and the venue has 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

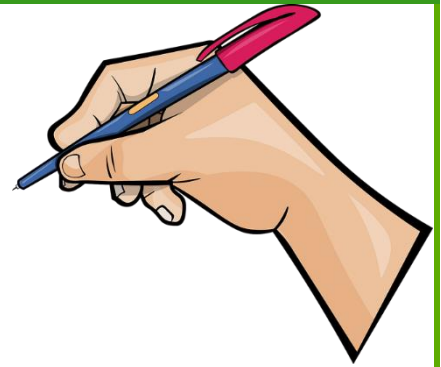
Fourth Tuesday at 2:15 pm

Great Glen Methodist Church Hall LE8 9EF

**The group meets next on Tuesday, 25 February**

At our meetings we share what we have written, enjoy chatting about related matters and plan next steps. We are a 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!  
**Our next meeting is on Thursday 20 February, at 10:00 am.** 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.

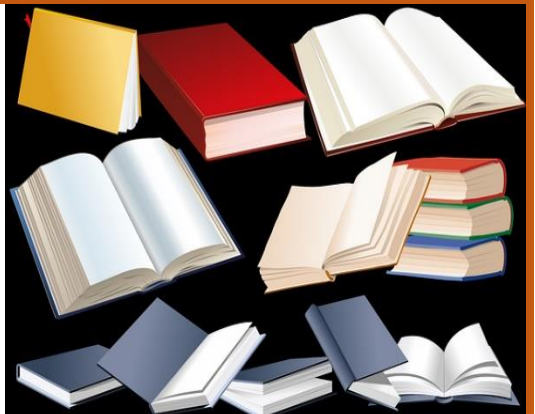
Janet Fanko    membership@GGOWu3a.co.uk    or telephone    0116 462 4679

### **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](http://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](mailto: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](mailto:baileyk8@hotmail.com)

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**A reminder as we experience cold weather:**

**[oadby-wigston.gov.uk/pages/find\\_a\\_warm\\_hub](http://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.**

In Wigston, **The Menphys Centre** has a fair-priced cafe/snack bar. **They are happy to host those seeking warmth and/or companionship.**

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### **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](mailto:newsletter@ggowu3a.co.uk)