

*** Wigston monthly Speaker Meetings ***

Wednesday, 30 April

Speaker: **Sue Drage**

Recycling with a difference

and

Wednesday, 28 May

Speaker: **Karen Gimson**

The history of the National Gardens Scheme

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

Doors open 1:30 pm for socialising Refreshments at 3:00 pm £1 per person

*** Serendipity ***

**Starting in April, our Great Glen monthly meeting, held at
Great Glen Methodist Church Hall, LE8 9EF
will become Serendipity**

A time of socialising, refreshments and fun

The first meeting is Wednesday, 9 April 2025

10.30 am – 12 noon

Do plan on joining us for a new u3a experience, Serendipity, to be held the second Wednesday of each month at 10:30 am.

Days and times may be varied later. We have new things to look forward to including, memories, short talks, trivia, refreshments (including cake!) and plenty of chat.

Our main aim is for members to enjoy their time and to look forward to the next event. Please let me know if you are likely to be there. It would be helpful to have an idea of numbers for refreshment purposes. £1 per person

Janet Fanko serendipity@ggowu3a.co.uk 0116 462 4679

Chair's Chat

Hello everyone

Your Committee was very pleased to welcome Noelene Sapiro as a co-opted member at our March meeting. She had sat in as an observer for the two previous sessions and will stand for election at the next Annual General Meeting (AGM), to be held at the Wigston Liberal Club just before the regular speaker meeting on 25 June. You will be receiving official notification of the AGM with the relevant papers nearer the time.

A meeting for new members will be held on the morning of 23 April at the Wigston Liberal Club. Invitations are being sent to those who have joined recently, but if anyone has previously missed out and would like to attend, please contact: Janet Fanko membership@ggowu3a.co.uk

As from 9 April 'Serendipity' replaces the speaker meetings on the morning of the second Wednesdays in Great Glen Methodist Church. These will be social sessions with some light music, a chance to chat, cake and tea or coffee, and some entertaining activities. The format will evolve in the light of participants' preferences.

'Chat at Chestnuts' coffee shop on the Parade, Oadby, continues to attract an increasing number. The sessions on the third Thursday mornings are being supplemented with ones on the first Thursday afternoons. It is helpful, but not essential, to let Janet Fanko know in advance if you are planning to attend.

Best wishes

Robert Mansfield

chairman@GGOWu3a.co.uk

0116 270 8284

**The Foxpond Pub will be closed from April until further notice.
Please note the changes to some venues.**

**Check with Group Leaders for group schedules in April,
as Easter may disrupt some meeting dates.**

**Chat at the Chestnuts café in Oadby
– see page 9 for new meeting dates!**

Tea Rota for Monthly Speaker Meetings

Liberal Club Wigston LE18 1PA

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

Contact: Fay: 0116 281 1812

Note: Clocks change Sun, 30 March 2025

Good Friday is 18 April; Easter Monday is 21 April

Learn Something New – see page 7!

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 subjects for our Spring meetings have yet to be decided. Members will be advised.
Rachael Snashall art@ggowu3a.co.uk

Art Appreciation

Third Monday in the month, 10:00 am - 12 noon

Glen Gorse Golf Club, Glen Road, Oadby, LE2 4RF with easy parking.

There is no meeting in April as the date coincides with Easter Monday

Note the change of venue above, on 19 May 2025

Thank you to the members of our AA group, also members of the Golf Club, who arranged this venue for us. We are not able to accept new members while we meet at the Golf Club but do contact me with your interest. We may have options.

June Juett AA@ggowu3a.co.uk (07484 602348) £2 beverage charge

BOOK GROUPS x 2

Fourth Thursday in the month at 10:00 am

Book Group - Thursday Great Glen Methodist Church Hall, LE8 9EF

24 April 2025 our book is *Milkman* by Anna Burns – winner of the Man Booker Prize etc.

Elizabeth Cooke books2@ggowu3a.co.uk

Book Group - Monday

Third Monday in the month at 2:00 pm – approx. 3.30 pm

Great Glen Methodist Church Hall, LE8 9EF

We shall not be meeting in April as the date coincides with Easter Monday.

Our book for May is **Individual personal choice**. Tell us why the book you choose appeals!

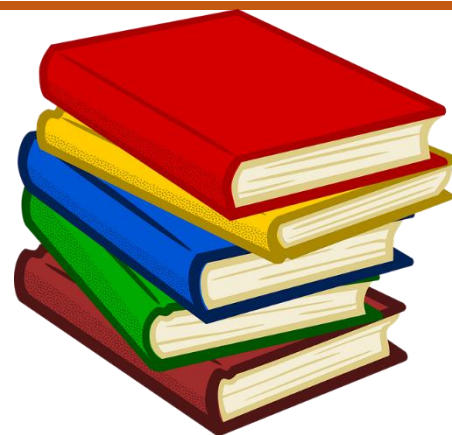
See our booklist at www.ggow.u3asite.uk Contact: *June Juett* books@ggowu3a.co.uk

BOOKS!

At the members' meetings at the Liberal Club, the last Wednesday in the month, you will find donations 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! by Ron & Margaret Gee



CARD GAMES x 2

Wednesdays at 1:45

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

If you would like to try Minibridge, please contact me to arrange for you to attend a meeting.
If it still appeals, we can add your name to our short waiting list.

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. We are not accepting any new members now, but if you have an interest in this activity, we are starting a Waiting List.

Peter Stanley 0116 259 2152 £2 per session

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 3 Tuesdays, 2:00-4:00 pm
English Country Dancing (ECD)
Burton Overy Village Hall, LE8 9EW

There will be no meeting of the Group on April 22 (Easter break). The group will then continue until June 24 when we shall stop for the summer, resuming in September - date to be announced.

ECD is social dancing, conducted mostly at walking pace in circle, square or long-set formations. Dancers weave patterns as they interact with each other. 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.

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

Line Dancing Tuesday mornings 10:30-12 noon
Beginners Menphys hub, Bassett St., South Wigston LE18 4PE
We are not meeting in Easter week, 22 April

The Beginners line dancing at the Menphys hub in South Wigston has got off to a great start. We have about 20 members with new ones joining us regularly. We are now a permanent group learning lots of steps and easy dances, having fun with both physical and mental exercise and then relaxing over a cuppa afterwards. If you would like to try line dancing, come and give it a go! We look forward to seeing you. Maggie Ward linedancingwigston@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

Our next lunch meeting is on 23 April: 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 Lillian 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. 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. Contact:

Trevor Johnson meetandeat@ggowu3a.co.uk - pre order no later than the Friday before

Pub Lunches

After the *Serendipity* meeting in Great Glen
the 2nd Wednesday in the month. Venues vary

We shall meet on **9 April**, after the *Serendipity* meeting, 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, 13 April**. 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, 14 April 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
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 9 April. We meet in the free library area at **The Hub** which has table games available. Members bring their own favourites too. Hot drinks are available. This is a popular group, so please contact:

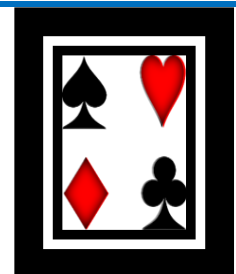
Kath Bailey games@ggowu3a.co.uk for information.

Tabletop games

Second and Fourth Thursdays, 2:00 pm
Great Glen Methodist Church
Our next meetings are 10 and 24 April

Canasta remains a favourite, but we have a variety of board games – number and word ones. Contact me with questions or for a taster session.

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



**GARDEN GROUPS X 2
Garden**

Second Monday in the month, at 10:00 am

Our next meeting will be on **14 April**. Members will be advised of the venue.

Lillian Greengrass 0116 221 9737

Garden Visits **Second Friday in the month, 2:00 – 3:30 pm, various venues**

Our next meeting is **11 April** at the **Uni. of Leicester Botanic Garden in Oadby**. Easy parking on Glebe Road; meet at the entrance – lower end of the hill. A member is an accredited tour guide; light narration offered, optional, but please stay in sight of the group leader and be aware of changing pathway conditions, depending on weather. We shall circumnavigate the Garden clockwise to include the often-overlooked Pinetum. Steps, no handrail, or a longer walk to exit.

The **9 May** visit is to the **Attenborough Arboretum, Carisbrooke Road, Knighton**. Street parking (downhill) is good, some inside the entrance. **Do not park uphill by entrance – buses cannot pass the bollards**. A narrated tour is offered of this interesting site, but if not preferred, stay in sight of the group leader. This is a shorter/easier loop walk than that above, but the decomposed granite pathways are usually damaged in rainy weather and time is needed for the exceptional groundsman to repair them. Seating available at intervals, some near the entrance.

Members of this group are asked to keep a card on their persons, stating who to contact and how to do so, in case of an incident or accident. The group leader has blank cards for you to use.

June Juett

gardenvisits@ggowu3a.co.uk

(07484 602348)

HISTORY x 3
Family History

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

Our next meeting is 23 April 2025 New members are welcome.

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

Please contact me if you have not attended before.

Janet Fanko

history@ggowu3a.co.uk

0116 462 4679

Military History

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

The meeting on **2 April** is a presentation on **Southampton and the Preparations for D-Day**. Bill Maxted grew up in Southampton and has extensive first-hand knowledge of one of the major embarkation ports for the invasion of Europe. *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.

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.

Pairs play in two teams, with 2 stones each. (4 Red stones & 4 Blue stones), over 6 or 8 ends. Highest score wins.

The winners of the weekly 'cup' for highest score are pictured
- Brian Sheffield & Alison Birchenough.

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 details, please contact: *Jennifer Bell* 0116 288 0234

French 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 – Slow Stitching - Try the Japanese Art of Sashiko

Slow stitching is the art of making needlework items by hand, enjoying the calming effect of stitching and the satisfaction of making something unique to you. We have two projects, using different techniques for you to try.



When: **Friday 2 May, 10.00 am**

Where: **Methodist Church Hall, Great Glen**

Sashiko comes from the country stitching style of northern Japan. Originally designed for recycling to strengthen work clothes or make household items, Sashiko combines country style with intricate designs – all made with a simple running stitch. This project to make a coaster is suitable for beginners and experienced stitchers. If you can thread a needle, you can do this!

Cathedral window pin cushion Monday 19 May, 2.00 pm Methodist Church Hall, Great Glen



This is a small, hand-stitched pincushion made from a heritage pattern published in the WI Life magazine using the classic English Cathedral Window design. The class, all materials to make the pincushion, tea/coffee and cake are all included for £10.

Tools that would be useful are a thimble, needle and needle threader and a small pair of scissors. If you have a small iron (quilting or travel iron), that will help reduce the wait for an iron. Please book early to avoid disappointment. To book your place, email me, Sue Russell at

LSN@ggowu3a.co.uk.

Please state in which session you are interested.

MUSIC x 2

First & Third Fridays 10:00am – 12:30 pm

Music and good company

Great Glen Methodist Church Hall

On **4 and 18 April**, 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 14 and 28 April. 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

Venues vary – and the Fox Pond Inn has now closed

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

Pickleball**Wednesdays, 11:00 am to 12 noon****Roger Bettles Sports Centre, Manor Road, LE2 2LL**

We have now started a regular u3a pickleball group. We are at full capacity, but to be placed on the waiting list, please contact:
Ash Vaja ashvaia@gmail.com

**Psychology****First Wednesday in the month, 10:00 am-12 noon,****On 2 April, the venue will change to the Glen Gorse Golf Club, Glen Road, Oadby, LE2 4RF**

We research and discuss topics such as Memory, Addiction and Criminal Psychology.

We have a waiting list, please contact:

Chris Hunter Psychology@ggowu3a.co.uk

QUIZ GROUPS X 2**Fourth Monday in the month – a Zoom meeting****Quiz (Zoom)**

The person asking the questions on **28 April** is Di Richardson.

Anyone wishing to join us can contact 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 Monday, 7 April.**

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

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

NEW!*** Serendipity ***

Starting in April 2025, our Great Glen monthly meeting, at the Methodist Church Hall in Great Glen, will become

Serendipity

A time of socialising, refreshments and fun

The first meeting is at 10.00 am – 12 noon, Wednesday, 9 April 2025

Do plan on joining us!

TABLE TENNIS X 2**Mondays, 11:00 12:30 pm****Table Tennis - Monday**

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

We meet as usual on Mondays in March. In the following month, we shall be meeting on **7, 14 and 28 April**. There is no meeting on Easter Monday. We are a mixed ability group able to welcome 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

Friday Table Tennis group has reached capacity; we can accept the name of anyone interested in waiting for a vacancy.

Contact: *Jay Bhikha* 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 Thursday, 17 April

Details will be sent to members approximately one week before the stroll.
This group now has a waiting list.

Ron and Margaret Gee

easystrolling@ggowu3a.co.uk 0116 2880536

Village Strollers

Local History / Heritage venues

Our stroll on Thursday 17 April will be 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

Second Thursday in the month, various venues

All walks are now the second Thursday morning of the month

The April walk will be Thursday 10 April.

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 in the month at 2:15 pm
Great Glen Methodist Church Hall LE8 9EF
The group meets next on Tuesday, 22 April

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 dates **CHAT AT THE CHESTNUTS CAFÉ**
(GGOW u3a MEMBERS)

Our **Chats at the Chestnuts Café in Oadby** have been a great success, and you now have a choice of morning or afternoon meetings.

Our next afternoon chat is **Thursday 3 April at 2:30 pm**

Our next morning chat is **Thursday 17 April at 10:00 am**

Future dates for your calendars:

Thursday morning meetings: **17/04, 15/05, 5/06, 19/06, 3/07**

Thursday afternoon meetings: **03/04, 01/05, 22/05, 05/06, 19/06, 17/07**

You are welcome to join us on all or some of the above dates; please let me know so that I can give the café an idea of numbers.

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

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

Contact a group leader if you would like
to sample a meeting as a visitor.

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

Some members have requested more information about our future speakers:

On 30 April, the speaker is **Sue Drage** with the subject :
Recycling with a difference.

*My talk is not about telling you what rubbish to put in what bin. It is far more
interesting, amusing and entertaining than that.*

*I am passionate about recycling and up-cycling and bring along a large
display of the things I make from many of the items you throw into your
recycle bin such as supermarket carrier bags, old CD's, food tins, ring pulls,
plastic bottles, magazine & book pages etc, etc. and turn these into handbags,
earrings, purses and necklaces - to name a few.*

On 28 May, the speaker is **Karen Gimson** with the subject:
The history of the National Gardens Scheme
– *NGS history with local highlights*
(no further information is available)

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.

Comments, suggestions - all welcome at: newsletter@ggowu3a.co.uk