

*** Wigston monthly Speaker Meetings ***

Wednesday, 28 May 2025

Speaker: **Karen Gimson**

The history of the National Gardens Scheme

*Karen is a volunteer speaker for the
National Gardens Scheme, Leicestershire and Rutland
and*

Wednesday, 25 June 2025

Speaker: **Roger Browne**

The Great American Songbook

Roger is a professional raconteur, writer, director and pianist

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

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

*** Serendipity ***

**Our Great Glen monthly meeting
Methodist Church Hall LE8 9EF
is now known as *Serendipity***

A time of socialising, refreshments and fun

Wednesday, 14 May 2025

10.30 am – 12 noon

(Doors open 10:15 am)

Do plan on joining us for this new u3a experience, Serendipity, on the second Wednesday of each month. Doors open 10:15 for a 10:30 start.

Days and times may be varied later.

We have a variety of items, including short talks, trivia, refreshments (including cake!) and time to socialise.

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

As I write this, Spring seems definitely in the air. A few welcome showers have eased the incipient drought in my garden and patio fruit trees, magnolias and other spring flowering plants are in bloom. Sadly, the pesky weeds are also on the rampage!

Our meeting for new members was duly held on 23 April at the Wigston Liberal Club. It was a great pleasure to meet those who attended and to learn something of their interests and backgrounds, also to welcome into membership quite a number who had come to 'have a look at' us. Janet Fanko, our Membership Secretary, was certainly kept busy enrolling them.

Serendipity, the new series of social meetings on the morning of the second Wednesdays each month in Great Glen Methodist Church, got off to a promising start, thanks to careful planning by Janet. It was a most enjoyable social event, and of course we gained from observation and feedback some pointers for how to make future meetings even better. I look forward to seeing *Serendipity* as an established part of our regular calendar of meetings.

Best wishes

Robert Mansfield

chairman@GGOWu3a.co.uk

0116 270 8284

**Chat at the Chestnuts café in Oadby
– see page 9 for the revised 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

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 subject suggested for May is **Spring Flowers** – in any medium – or work on something of your own choice.

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.

Note the venue above, on 19 May 2025

We may not be able to accept new members while we meet at the Golf Club but do contact me with your interest - we may have options! Do Da Vinci, Picasso, Raphael, Marat appeal?

See our programme on the website: www.ggowu3a.co.uk

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

Our book in May is *The List of Suspicious Things* by Jennie Godfrey – a ‘well crafted novel with characters galore’ per one reviewer. Contact: 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

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

See our booklist at www.ggowu3a.co.uk

Contact: June Juett

books@ggowu3a.co.uk

BOOKS! At the meetings at the Liberal Club, the last Wednesday in the month, at the back of the room, you will find donations of paperback books – 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. If you have an interest in this activity, we are pleased to report that we can now accept a few new members.

Contact: 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 - 4:00 pm**English Country Dancing (ECD) Burton Overy Village Hall, LE8 9EW****The group will meet 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

Our dances are new, old, easy - and some a little harder - and we have music to suit everyone. 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**Note our new venue, Elliot Hall, South Wigston
14 Albion Street, South Wigston, Leicester, LE18 4SA**

The Beginners line dancing group continues to thrive. 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.

Contact: *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 21 May.** 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 9GFWe 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. Come and meet the many regular members for good food and light conversation!Contact: *Trevor Johnson*meetandeat@ggowu3a.co.uk

- pre order no later than Friday before

Pub Lunches

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

We shall meet on **14 May**, 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, 11 May**. 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, 12 May at 2:00 pm £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 14 May. 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 Hall
Our next meetings are on 8 and 22 May



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
Garden

Second Monday in the month, at 10:00 am

Our next meeting will be on 12 May. Members will be advised of the venue.

Lillian Greengrass

0116 221 9737

Garden Visits

Second Friday in the month, 2:00 – 3:30 pm, venues vary

The **9 May** visit is to the **Attenborough Arboretum, Carisbrooke Road, Knighton**. Street parking (downhill), some inside the entrance. **Do not park uphill by bollards**. A tour is offered, but if not preferred, stay in sight/shout of the group leader, please, and check out at the end. This is a short loop walk, easier than the Botanic Garden, but decomposed granite pathways are easily damaged by rain. Take care. Seating available at intervals, some near the entrance. Group members are asked to keep a card on their persons, stating whom to contact and how to do so, in case of an incident or accident. ICE = in case of emergency. Group leader has cards. If you are not a regular member of this group, you are welcome, but please contact me first.

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 28 May 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 **Wednesday, 7 May coincides with the VE Day 80th Celebrations**

The session will be looking at the final few months of the war in Europe,
culminating in the 'Fall of Berlin.'

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.

Knitting is optional! 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

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.

16/4/25 Pam Lewis and Lillian GreenGrass were the winners

Peter Williams

Kurling@ggowu3a.co.uk



LANGUAGES x 2

Private venue / Privata visneto

Latin

A small, friendly group meets in a member's home to read and/or translate from
textbooks. New members are welcome.

Jennifer Bell

0116 288 0234

French

Private venue / Lieu privé

There is conversation and reading in this friendly group meeting in a member's home.
New members are welcome. For details of either language group, please contact:

Jennifer Bell

0116 288 0234



Learn Something New - Cathedral window pincushion

19 May, 2.00 pm Methodist Church Hall, Great Glen

Slow stitching is the art of making needlework items by hand, enjoying the calming effect of stitching. 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. 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. The class, all materials to make the pincushion, tea/coffee and cake are included for £10.

To book your place, email *Sue Russell* at LSN@ggowu3a.co.uk

MUSIC x 2

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

Music and good company Great Glen Methodist Church Hall

On **2 and 16 May**, we shall be listening to a variety of genres. Bring a CD to share or come to listen. Perhaps a family member might benefit from tea and biscuits, with music bringing back a few memories? The group welcomes all who share a love of music.

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 12 May, but not 26 May, the Spring Bank Holiday.

We are a friendly group who love to play music together on ukeles. 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 (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 ashvaja@gmail.com



Psychology

First Wednesday in the month, 10:00 am-12 noon,

On 7 May, the venue will be the Glen Gorse Golf Club, Glen Road, Oadby, LE2 4RF

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

We are currently at full capacity, but if you would like to be placed on the waiting list, please contact: *Chris Hunter* Psychology@ggowu3a.co.uk

QUIZ GROUPS X 2
Quiz (Zoom)

Fourth Monday in the month – a Zoom meeting
There is no meeting in May (Bank Holiday)

On 23 June, the questions will be asked by Rachael Snashall.

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

5 May is a Bank Holiday, so we will meet on the second Monday, 12 May
Menphys Hub, Bassett Street, South Wigston (free car park at rear)

We now have a waiting list for this activity. Contact:

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

*** Serendipity ***

Our Great Glen monthly meeting, at the Methodist Church Hall in Great Glen, is now known as

Serendipity

A time of socialising, refreshments and fun 10:30-12 noon

Wednesday 14 May, doors open 10.15 am

Do plan on joining us!

Janet Fanko serendipity@ggowu3a.co.uk



£1 per person

0116 462 4679

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 May, **but not 26 May, the Spring Bank Holiday.**

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

Our Friday Table Tennis group is now able to welcome a few new members.

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

Contact: Jay Bhikha tabletennisfriday@ggowu3a.co.uk

WALKING GROUPS x 3

Easy Strolling

Third Thursday 10:30 am

Various venues, some with parking charges

The next stroll is Thursday, 15 May

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 next strolls are on Friday, 9 May at Houghton and Friday, 16 May at Hallaton

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 May walk will be Thursday 8 May

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, 27 May

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

***Our dates have changed*****CHAT AT THE CHESTNUTS CAFÉ**

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

AFTERNOONS AT 2.30 pm	MORNINGS AT 10 am
01 MAY	15 MAY
19 JUNE	05 JUNE
17 JULY	03 JULY

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 u3a 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 an 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 28 May, the speaker is **Karen Gimson** with her subject:

The history of the National Gardens Scheme

– NGS history with local highlights

(no further information is available)

On 25 June 2025, the speaker is Roger Browne with his subject:

The Great American Songbook

Roger is a professional raconteur, writer, director and pianist. He has provided piano accompaniment for many national and international legends. His talk focuses on the history, roots, and influences of the lives and fascinating back stories of the composers, lyricists and publishers. Expect anecdotes, incredible facts, and superb piano playing.

Comments, suggestions are welcome: newsletter@ggowu3a.co.uk

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.**