

Wigston monthly Speaker Meetings

10 December at 1:30 pm

Serendipity and the Liberal Club monthly meeting will amalgamate for a seasonal programme - at the Liberal Club in Wigston

and, in the New Year -

28 January 2026

Speaker: Dr. Mike Pienkowski

****When the Kite builds – why and how we restored Red Kites across Britain.***

****See details on page 10****

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

Doors open 1:30 pm for socialising Refreshments 3:00 pm No charge



Serendipity

On 10 December, Serendipity will amalgamate with the

Liberal Club meeting in Wigston

for a seasonal programme

On 14 January 2026, we shall meet as usual at the Methodist Church Hall, Great Glen

Have you experienced Serendipity yet?

Unexpected activities, short talks on interesting subjects, refreshments – and time to socialise. Doors open 10:15 am.

Our aim is for members to enjoy their time and to look forward to the next event. Let me know if you are likely to be there as an idea of numbers is helpful for refreshment purposes.

Janet Fanko serendipity@ggowu3a.co.uk 0116 462 4679 No charge

NEW!

Jigsaw Puzzles?

A Jigsaw Puzzle exchange takes place at the Serendipity meetings. Donations are encouraged, but you may borrow one without donating. Do return the jigsaw you borrow for others to enjoy.

Contact: Noelene@ggowu3a.co.uk

Notes from the Chair:

THIS CHRISTMAS... PACK YOUR BAGS
FOR THE BRIGHT LIGHTS OF LONDON!

DICK WHITTINGTON

A PANTOMIME ADVENTURE!



Dick Whittington

**Saturday,
20 December
at 1.00 pm**

**An afternoon
Christmas
Pantomime
at the
Little Theatre,
Leicester**

We have booked
20 seats. These
are offered on a
'first come first
served' basis to
GGOWu3a
members only, at
£19 each.

If you would like a
seat, contact

Chair@ggowu3a.co.uk

When the 20 seats have been allocated, a waiting list will be started. Payment may be by bank transfer or cheque to GGOW bank - as per your annual subscription. Await confirmation of your seat(s) before payment, please.

Car parking is directly opposite on Dover Street or at the East Street Multi-Storey carpark. If you need/want a lift, then let me know as we may be arranging shared transport options.

Peter Williams Chairman@ggowu3a.co.uk 0116 281 1812

Chat at the Chestnuts café in Oadby

MORNINGS AT 10:30 am	AFTERNOONS AT 2.30 pm
4 DECEMBER 2025	18 DECEMBER 2025
8 JANUARY 2026	22 JANUARY 2026
5 FEBRUARY 2026	19 FEBRUARY 2026
5 MARCH 2026	19 MARCH 2026

You are welcome to join us on more than one 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

0116 462 4679

ACTIVITIES

See p.7 Learn Something New – Handbells!

ART GROUPS x 2 Art

First and third Thursdays at 2:00 pm
Great Glen Methodist Church, LE8 9EF

**4 December 2025 will be our last meeting in 2025
We restart 15 January 2026**

Contact: *Rachael Snashall*

art@ggowu3a.co.uk

Art Appreciation

Third Monday in the month, 10:00 am - 12 noon
Great Glen Methodist Church Hall

**There is no meeting in December; we resume 19 January 2026
New Year, new experience?**

This is an easy group at which to enjoy a new experience. Attend one of our meetings! We are friendly, not at all 'highbrow' and you are welcome to visit without further obligation. You may surprise yourself with how much you enjoy the experience. Visitors and the 'just curious' are welcome.

See our programme at www.ggowu3a.co.uk or contact:

June Juett

AA@ggowu3a.co.uk

(07484 602348) £2 charge

BOOK GROUPS x 2

Fourth Thursday at 10:00 am

Book Group - Thursday

GG Methodist Church Hall, LE8 9EF

December 2025: There is no meeting in December

**Two books in January 2026: *Web of Lies* by Sally Rigby and
Intermezzo by Sally Rooney**

Contact:

Elizabeth Cooke

books2@ggowu3a.co.uk

Book Group - Monday

Third Monday at 2:00 pm – approx. 3:30 pm
Great Glen Methodist Church Hall, LE8 9EF

**Our December meeting will be an off-site social event.
We resume monthly meetings on 19 January 2026 with:**

***Absolutely and Forever*, author Rose Tremain**

Our congenial group has a rare vacancy – do feel comfortable trying us out in the New Year! Next year's booklist is on the website: www.ggowu3a.co.uk

Contact: *June Juett* books@ggowu3a.co.uk

CARD GAMES x 2 **Wednesdays, Great Glen Methodist Church Hall**
Duplicate Bridge (Social) We shall not be meeting close to Christmas
and the New Year, (Wednesdays, 24 & 31 December)

We wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New year!

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.3

Contact: *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, contact me to arrange for you to attend a
meeting. **New members are welcome.**

Contact: *Terry Evans* mbridge@ggowu3a.co.uk

Carpet Bowls **Thursdays, 1:30-3:30 pm Village Hall, Great Glen, LE8 9GG**
Limited free parking at the Village Hall. Refreshments provided.

Obviously, we are not meeting

Thursdays, 25 December 2025 and 1st January 2026!

Consider joining our long established, friendly group in the New Year!

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, and **we have a vacancy.**
Call for further information and/or to visit this friendly group.

Contact: *Joan Bateson* 0116 259 3191

Tuesday Croquet **Great Glen Methodist Church**
Hall LE8 9EF 1:30 – 3 pm

We meet 9 December, take a break, and restart on 13 January 2026

Try something different for the New Year!

Croquet is fun and not strenuous. New members welcome.

We have a vacancy, so call to express your interest – or to visit.

Contact: *Geraldine Siddons* 0116 241 3947

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

After our 16 December meeting, we break until we resume 13 January.

ECD is social dancing, conducted mostly at a walking pace in formations.
Dancers weave patterns and interact with each other as the dance progresses.

None of the dances are complicated, and all are great fun! The moves will be
taught for each dance before setting it to music; the only requirement is to 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 last class before Christmas will be our social and party on **Thursday 18 December**; we resume on **Thursday 8 January**. We all need a challenge, especially one that is enjoyable! Our dances are new, old, easy - and some a little harder. If you are returning to line dancing after a break or hoping to learn, you will be welcome in our mixed ability group.

Maggie Ward linedancing@ggowu3a.co.uk

**Line Dancing
Beginners**

**Tuesday mornings 10:30-12 noon, Elliot Hall,
4 Albion Street, Sth. Wigston, Leicester, LE18 4SA**

Our last class before Christmas will be our social and party on **Tuesday, 16 December**. We resume on **Tuesday, 6 January 2026**. We are learning lots of steps and easy dances, having fun with both physical and mental exercise, then relaxing over a cuppa. If you would like to try line dancing, come and give it a go!

Maggie Ward linedancingwigston@ggowu3a.co.uk

Books! At the Liberal Club monthly meetings, at the back of the room, you will find donations of paperback books - and from which you may help yourself! *Paperback donations are welcome but not required to borrow a book. *Ron & Margaret Gee* ***Only Paperback book donations please**

EATING OUT x 4 Lunch Club We meet the penultimate Wednesday, every month, at 12:30 pm at **Two Steeples, Bell Street, Wigston**
Our next meeting is on Wednesday 21 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 Speaker meetings or: *Kath Bailey* lunchclub@ggowu3a.co.uk 07974 523079

Meet & Eat Third Tuesday, **Italian Greyhound, Great Glen, LE8 9GF**

We usually meet at *The Italian Greyhound* in Great Glen. Lunch is pre-ordered from the menu with a choice of two courses at £15 or the three course menu that is now £20 (plus discretionary tip) including coffee. Contact:

Trevor Johnson meetandeat@ggowu3a.co.uk - pre order by the Friday before

Pub Lunches Second Wednesday in the month, venues vary

Call for information: *Margaret Hudson* 0116 271 5064

Sunday Lunches

**Second Sunday, 1:00 pm
Glen Gorse Golf Club, LE2 4RF**

Please let me know whether you will, or will not, be coming, by telephone 0116 279 1509, no later than the Friday before the lunch. This is a popular group, and we need to confirm numbers attending. Looking forward to seeing you. *Call for further details: Judith Measom* 0116 279 1509

Film Group **Second Monday, 2:00 pm** **Great Glen Methodist Church**
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 **£2.50**

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

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 07974 523079

Tabletop games **Second & Fourth Thursdays 2:00 pm**
Great Glen Methodist Church Hall

We have a variety of board games – number and word ones.
Canasta remains a favourite.

If you have an interest in joining this group, please contact
me first with questions or for a taster session.

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



GARDEN GROUPS X 2 **Second Monday in the month at 10:00 am**
Garden **Our December meeting will be at Cherry Lane Garden Centre**

Contact: *Lillian Greengrass* 0116 221 9837

Garden Visits **Second Friday in the month, 2:00–3:30 pm**
Our 12 December meeting is a new plan for inclement weather -
a garden and seasonally themed social at the Great Glen Village Hall,
Lily Parrington room (the smaller room). Use the side door to enter.

All members are welcome but contact me if you are not a 'regular'
member of this group. **£2** includes refreshments

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

HISTORY x 3 **Fourth Wednesday in the month, 10:00 am**
Family History **Great Glen Methodist Church Hall, LE8 9EF**

There is no meeting in December

New members welcome. For information on our January meeting:

Contact: *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

Monday 1 December will be a social quiz

Contact me if you have not attended before - or for information.

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

Military History First Wednesday, 10:00 am, 10:30 am start
Great Glen Methodist Church Hall LE8 9EF

Wednesday, 3 December, Coffee 10:00, presentation 10:30 am
No meeting in January 2026. December topic is **Why Did World War One End?** We will look at the front-line situation, late 1918, and at the broader picture that led up to the Armistice. *Alan Mawby* militaryhistory@ggowu3a.co.uk

Knit and Natter is changing First Thursday at Menphys Centre,
Bassett Street, LE18 4PE Parking at rear. Not only do we knit (optional) and natter but would love other crafty people to join us. Perhaps cross-stitch Christmas trees (or other designs) for greeting cards, knit or crochet mini hats, or crochet knitted blankets? All materials available, if we don't have it, we'll obtain it! *Kath Bailey* KnitandNatter@ggowu3a.co.uk 07974 523079

KURLING - New Age Kurling First and third Wednesdays Liberal Club
82 Bull Head St, Wigston LE18 1PA 1:30 pm until 3:00 pm

Players play in Teams of Two with 2 stones per player, against another team. (4 Red stones and 4 Blue stones). They roll the stones at a numbered target on the floor; scores are noted. Each team plays every other team; the team with highest overall score wins. *Peter Williams* Kurling@ggowu3a.co.uk

LANGUAGES x 2 Private Wigston venue, various days and times

Latin A small, friendly group meets in a member's Wigston home on Tuesday afternoons to read and/or translate from textbooks.

French We have conversation and reading in a member's Wigston home on Friday afternoons. **Beginners' French** Monday mornings. New members welcome. *Jennifer Bell* **0116 288 0234**

Learn Something New! - Another Handbells group!

The last sessions were fun, so a group for up to 15 bellringers is starting. No need to read music, beginners welcome.

From **Friday 9 January**, we shall meet **2nd & 4th Friday mornings 10.00-12.00 noon** at United Reformed Church Hall, 43 Long Street, Wigston LE18 2AJ.

Free parking behind church or Peace Park. **To book: Alison Termie** handbells@ggowu3a.co.uk
Please sign up early as places are limited. 0116 291 8106

Sue Russell LSNHandbells@GGOWu3a.co.uk 07976 26320



**Music
Ukuleles**

**Second & Fourth Mondays 10am -12 noon
Great Glen Methodist Church Hall, LE8 9EF**

We are a welcoming group that has room for a few new members.

New Year activity? We have spare instruments, give it a try!

Contact: Julie Franks ukes@ggowu3a.co.uk

Photography

Third Wednesday, 2:30 pm, venues vary

We are a friendly group; new members are welcome.

Both cameras and phones are used. If this appeals, attend a meeting and you can then choose to join the group if you wish. If attending for the first time, please contact me first.

Peter Russell

photography@ggowu3a.co.uk

07759 831604

Pickleball

Every Wednesday, 11 am to noon

Roger Bettles Sports Centre, Manor Road, LE2 2LL

Our **17 December session will take place**, then we shall take a two-week break and resume playing on **7 January 2026**.

We are a friendly mixed ability group who enjoy physical & mental exercise, playing pickleball. All equipment is provided. We are at full capacity at present, but vacancies do arise so if you are interested, please contact me and I will put you on the waiting list.

Contact: Ash Vaja pickleball@ggowu3a.co.uk

Psychology

First Wednesday 10:00 am-12 noon

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

We are currently at full capacity, but situations change and if you would like to let us know of your interest in our group, please contact:

Chris Hunter Psychology@ggowu3a.co.uk

07733 230711



PSYCHOLOGY

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

Anyone wishing to join us should contact Peter Russell or Rachael Snashall who will provide you with the Zoom details.

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

Quizzers

First Monday in the month, 10:30 am

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

Monday 1 December

There will not be a Quiz meeting in January 2026

The group is close to capacity but contact us if you are interested – we may have options!

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

An easy way to contribute to our u3a activities....

Tea Rota for Monthly Speaker Meetings

Two volunteers are needed the last Wednesday afternoon in the month to serve tea/coffee and to wash up afterwards.

To sign up on the rota, contact: **Fay Williams 0116 281 1812**

TABLE TENNIS X 2

Mondays, 11:00 to 12:30 pm

Table Tennis - Monday

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

Our mixed ability group will **meet on the 1, 8 and 15 December**, then take a break and **resume playing on 5 January 2026**

Janet Freestone tabletennis@ggowu3a.co.uk

Table Tennis - Friday

Fridays 11:00 am to 12:30 pm

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

**We shall not be playing on 26 December
Our next session will be on 2 January 2026**

We are almost at capacity, although spaces do become available, so please contact me if you have questions or are interested in joining us.

Jay Bhikha tabletennisfriday@ggowu3a.co.uk £2 per session

WALKING GROUPS x 3

Third Thursday 10:30 am

Easy Strolling

Various venues, some with parking charges

There will not be a meeting in December

Details will be sent to members approximately one week before the stroll. The group is close to capacity but contact us if you are interested as we may have options. Ron and Margaret Gee easystrolling@ggowu3a.co.uk 0116 2880536

Village Strollers

Local History / Heritage venues

Our strolls for 2025 are concluded. Watch for our 2026 strolls or contact me to be placed on the mailing list! Roger Edwards villagestrollers@ggowu3a.co.uk



Village Strollers at Foxton - a heritage village since the Saxons

Walking without Stiles Second Thursday, various venues

Contact me to be placed on our emailing list. At the beginning of the week of the walk, details are emailed to those who have let me know they will be joining us. We need to know whom to expect so that we don't leave without you, or you can be updated if we need to cancel the walk.

Elizabeth Cooke walking@ggowu3a.co.uk 07957 288060

Writing for Pleasure Fourth Tuesday 2:15 pm Great Glen Methodist Church LE8 9EF **In December, we shall**

gather for a pre-Christmas lunch. At our meetings we share what we have written, enjoy chatting and plan next steps. We are a lively group with different interests, styles, and preferences. New members are welcome.

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

A CHRISTMAS DELIGHT!

A great read and a possible stocking-filler comes this year's special selection of short pieces from our own u3a's

Writing for Pleasure

Just £5



Copies available at ***Serendipity*** and **Wigston Speaker Meetings**

or contact

writing@ggowu3a.co.uk

Hurry while stocks last!

Members have requested more information on our

speakers: The reintroduction of Red Kites in the UK was started in the 1980—1990s when Dr. Mike Pienkowski, our January Speaker, was Chairman of the Nature Conservancy Council / RSPB project on the experimental reintroduction of Red Kites.

The RSPB stated this was the 'biggest species success story in UK conservation history'.

Comments on our newsletter are welcome at newsletter@ggowu3a.co.uk

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