

*** Wigston monthly Speaker Meetings ***

Wednesday, 25 June 2025

Speaker: **Roger Browne**

The Great American Songbook

Roger is a professional raconteur, writer, director and pianist

and

Wednesday, 30 July 2025

Speaker: **Bobbie (Roberta) Darbyshire**

A beginning, a muddle and an end: where do novelists get their ideas?

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

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



*** Serendipity ***

**Great Glen monthly meeting
Methodist Church Hall LE8 9EF**

Varied activities, socialising,
refreshments and fun

Wednesday, 11 June 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

I write this shortly after discharge from Glenfield Hospital, to which I was admitted with pneumonia the week before. The treatment I received was excellent, though I realise it is going to take a little time to complete my recovery.

I was delighted to learn recently that our membership now exceeds 500, an excellent increase since the amalgamation. My thanks to all who have helped to achieve this, and a warm welcome to recent joiners.

The Committee was pleased to coopt another member, Cherry Thacker, as Trustee at our meeting on 6 May. It has been good to see volunteers stepping up this year, in the spirit of our ethos of service and self-help. Cherry will of course be offering herself for election in the normal way, at our next AGM, as will Noelene Sapiro, our other coopted member. The AGM will, as previously announced, take place on Wednesday 25 June at 1.45 p.m. at the Wigston Liberal Club, immediately prior to the Speaker Meeting. I hope we shall see another good attendance. Everybody is however again being offered the opportunity to vote by proxy, either by email or by post. Papers should be in your hands in early June, so if you are unable to attend, please be sure to register your vote in this way.

As I write this, Spring seems 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.

Our meeting for new members was 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 kept busy enrolling them.

Best wishes

Robert Mansfield

chairman@GGOWu3a.co.uk

0116 270 8284

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

**Are you looking for a way to occasionally contribute
to u3a activities?**

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

Two volunteers are needed on the last Wednesday of each month to serve tea/coffee and to wash up afterwards.

Contact: Fay: 0116 281 1812 - to sign up on the tea rota

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 June has yet to be decided. We shall be taking a break during July and August, but we will get back together again on **18 September**.

Rachael Snashall art@ggowu3a.co.uk

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

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

***Note the change of venue above, on 16 June 2025**

We have options for venue, so please note the location of the next meeting. Do Raphael or Goya appeal? Do you wish you knew more about art? Visit our friendly group when members enjoy learning together. See our programme on the website: www.ggowu3a.co.uk or contact:

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 June is *Three Hours* by Rosamund Lipton

Our book in July is *Lessons* by Ian McEwan

Our book in August is *The Underground Railway* by Colson Whitehead

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 June, *The Girl Behind the Wall* by Mandy Robotham – is historical fiction set behind the Berlin Wall. A book to love - or to disappoint some readers? You decide!

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



BOOKS! At the Liberal Club meetings, the last Wednesday in the month, you will find donations of paperback books at the back of the room – and from which you may help yourself!

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

Books! are managed by Ron & Margaret Gee

***Only Paperback book donations, please!**

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.

If you are returning to linedance after a break or hoping to learn, you will be welcome in our mixed ability group. We all need a challenge, especially one that is enjoyable!

Contact: Jackie Jordan and Maggie Ward

linedancing@ggowu3a.co.uk

**Line Dancing****Beginners**

Tuesday mornings 10:30-12 noon

***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 18 June. 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. Lunch is pre-ordered from a menu with a choice of two courses at £15 or three courses at £19 (plus discretionary tip) including coffee.

Come and meet our 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 **Wednesday, 11 June**, 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, 8 June** 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, 9 June 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 11 June. 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 12 and 26 June

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 **9 June**, when we shall be meeting at Wistow.

Lillian Greengrass 0116 221 9837

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

Due to vacations, we shall not be meeting in June. Our July visit is likely to be at a member's garden. Members will be contacted with the details of this visit.

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 25 June 2025. There will be no meetings in July or August.**

We resume meeting on 24 September. 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 next meeting on **Wednesday 4 June** will examine the strategic bombing campaigns operated by the German, British and American air forces during the second world war, including the military effectiveness of the operations and the impact on civilian morale.

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.

Janet and Graham Fanko were the winners on 7 May!Peter Williams Kurling@ggowu3a.co.uk**MUSIC x 2****First & Third Fridays 10:00am – 12:30 pm****Music and good company** **Great Glen Methodist Church Hall**

On **6 and 20 June**, we shall listen to a variety of genres. Bring a CD to share or come to listen. A family member might benefit from tea and biscuits, with music bringing back a few memories?

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 9 and 23 June

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 players.

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 vacancies do arise, so let us know of your interest. Contact:

Ash Vaja pickleball@ggowu3a.co.uk



Psychology

First Wednesday 10:00 am-12 noon

On 4 June 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 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



QUIZ GROUPS X 2

Quiz (Zoom)

Fourth Monday in the month – a Zoom meeting

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

Anyone wishing to join us should contact Peter Russell or Rachael Snashall who will give you 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 2 June

This group is close to capacity but do contact us with your interest – we may have options!

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

Varied activities, socialising, refreshments and fun 10:30-12 noon.

Wednesday 11 June, 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 June
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 19 June

Details will be sent to members approximately one week before the stroll. This group is close to capacity but do contact us with your interest – we may have options!

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

Photo: During our May walk at Welford Road cemetery, we saw the tomb of Thomas Cook. On 5 July 1841 he organized a day trip from Leicester to Loughborough for ~485 people at one shilling per person, including tea and buns. For this, he chartered a train from the Midland Counties Railway; this trip is considered the start of the travel industry.



Village Strollers

Local History / Heritage venues

Our next stroll is 10 June to Hallaton. The North Kibworth stroll is 'to be confirmed'.

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 next walk will be Thursday, 12 June

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, 24 June

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 latest dates

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
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:

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.
and

Wednesday, 30 July 2025, the speaker is

Bobbie (Roberta) Darbyshire

A beginning, a muddle & an end: Where do novelists get their ideas?

In an entertaining, informative talk, Bobbie Darbyshire will explain how the complex world of character, location, plot and subplot arrives in a writer's in a writer's mind. Here is a typical comment: "Your talk was great, covering so much ground, and I loved the quotes from so many authors. I'm getting lots of positive feedback, including 'that was the best talk I've heard since I joined u3a!'" Winner of the 2008 fiction prize at the National Academy of Writing and the New Delta Review Creative Non-fiction Prize 2010, Bobbie is author of five novels, including "The Posthumous Adventures of Harry Whittaker" and "The Third Bus". She has worked as barmaid, mushroom picker, film extra, maths coach, cabinet minister's private secretary, care assistant and volunteer adult-literacy teacher, as well as in social research and government policy. Bobbie lives in London and hosts a writers' group.

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.**