

**\* Wigston monthly Speaker Meetings \***

**Wed 29 October 2025**

Speaker: **Alex Leger**

***Life on the licence fee – challenges and changes at the BBC***

and

**Wed 26 November 2025**

Speaker: **Andrew Brown JP**

***The history of the High Sheriff of Rutland***

**(A Rutland farmer who spent a year wearing tights for the Queen. And a former trustee of the Leicester Comedy Festival!)**

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

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

**Serendipity**

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

**Wednesday, 8 October 10.30 – noon**

Have you experienced our new monthly meeting format yet?

Do plan on attending - surprise yourself with unexpected activities, short talks on interesting subjects, refreshments – and time to socialise.

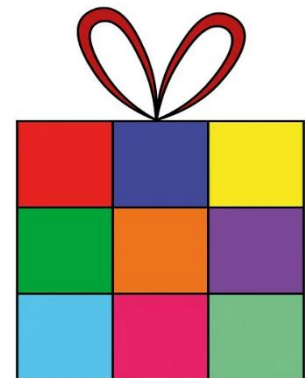
Doors open 10:15 am.

**Future meetings: 12 November meeting will take place as usual.**

**On 10 December, the meeting will amalgamate with the Liberal Club, Wigston, meeting for a seasonal programme.**

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](mailto:serendipity@ggowu3a.co.uk) 0116 462 4679 No charge



## Notes from the Chair:



***Dick Whittington***  
**Saturday, 20 December**  
**at 1.00 pm**

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

We have booked 20 seats. These are offered on a 'first come first served' basis to GGOW u3a members only at £19 each.

If you would like a seat, contact

**[Chair@ggowu3a.co.uk](mailto:Chair@ggowu3a.co.uk)**

When the 20 seats have been allocated, a waiting list will be started. Payment may be either 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](mailto:Chairman@ggowu3a.co.uk) 0116 281 1812

## Chat at the Chestnuts café in Oadby

<b>MORNINGS</b> <b>AT 10 am</b>	<b>AFTERNOONS</b> <b>AT 2.30 pm</b>
2 OCTOBER 6 NOVEMBER	16 OCTOBER 20 NOVEMBER

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](mailto:membership@GGOWu3a.co.uk)

**0116 462 4679**

## ACTIVITIES (in alphabetical order)

### LEARN SOMETHING NEW (LSN)

See **page 8** for two new activities!

Sign up soon, these one-time events will be popular!

**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  
Members will be informed of the theme for October.  
Contact: *Rachael Snashall* [art@ggowu3a.co.uk](mailto:art@ggowu3a.co.uk)

**Art Appreciation** Third Monday in the month, 10:00 am - 12 noon  
Great Glen Methodist Church Hall  
Would you like to know more about art? Visit our low key, friendly group when members enjoy learning about a wide range of art and artists. Visitors and the 'just curious' are always welcome. See our programme at [www.ggowu3a.co.uk](http://www.ggowu3a.co.uk) or contact: *June Juett* [AA@ggowu3a.co.uk](mailto: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  
October is: **Paper Money** by Ken Follet  
November: **Don't let's go to the Dogs Tonight** by Alexander Fuller  
December: **There is no meeting in December**  
January 2026: **Web of Lies** by Sally Rigby  
Contact: *Elizabeth Cooke* [books2@ggowu3a.co.uk](mailto:books2@ggowu3a.co.uk)

**Book Group - Monday** Third Monday at 2:00 pm – approx. 3:30 pm  
Great Glen Methodist Church Hall, LE8 9EF  
October: **Guilty by Definition** by Susie Dent  
November: **The Trial** by Rob Rinder. December meeting is usually social.  
Booklist at [www.ggowu3a.co.uk](http://www.ggowu3a.co.uk) Contact: *June Juett* [books@ggowu3a.co.uk](mailto:books@ggowu3a.co.uk)

**Books!** At the Liberal Club 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 are not required.  
*Ron & Margaret Gee* **\*Only Paperback book donations please**

**CARD GAMES x 2** Wednesdays, Great Glen Methodist Church Hall  
**Duplicate Bridge (Social)** 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.**  
Contact: *Andy Tyler* [duplicatebridge@ggowu3a.co.uk](mailto: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. **We welcome new members.**

Terry Evans

[mbridge@ggowu3a.co.uk](mailto: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. 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, and **we have a vacancy.**  
Call for further information and/or to visit this friendly group.

Joan Bateson

0116 259 3191

**Tuesday Croquet**

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

**We may have vacancies, so call to express your interest - or curiosity!** Contact: Geraldine Siddons 0116 241 3947

**Dancing x 3**

Tuesdays, 2 - 4:00 pm

**English Country Dancing (ECD)** Burton Overy Village Hall, LE8 9EW

ECD is social dancing, conducted mostly at walking pace in square, circle and long-set formations. Dancers weave patterns to interact with each other as the dance progresses. None of the dances are too complicated, and all are great fun! No previous experience is needed as 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](mailto:ecd@ggowu3a.co.uk) 0116 279 3600

**Line Dancing**

Thursdays, 10:30 am – 12.30 pm

Burton Overy Village Hall, LE8 9EW

We all need a challenge, especially one that is enjoyable! Our dances are new, old, easy - and some a little harder. Whave music to suit everyone. 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](mailto:linedancing@ggowu3a.co.uk)

**Line Dancing  
Beginners**

Tuesday mornings 10:30-12 noon

Elliot Hall, South Wigston

14 Albion Street, South Wigston, Leicester, LE18 4SA

The Beginners line dancing group continues to thrive. 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](mailto:linedancingwigston@ggowu3a.co.uk)

**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 22 October**

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 at: Kath Bailey [lunchclub@ggowu3a.co.uk](mailto:lunchclub@ggowu3a.co.uk)

**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 a menu with a choice of two courses at £15 or three courses at £19 (plus discretionary tip) including coffee. Contact:

Trevor Johnson [meetandeat@ggowu3a.co.uk](mailto:meetandeat@ggowu3a.co.uk) - pre order by the Friday before

**Pub Lunches** After the Serendipity meeting in Great Glen  
Second Wednesday in the month, venues vary

Contact: Margaret Hudson 0116 271 5064

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

The next lunch is **Sunday, 12 October**. 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.

Judith Measom 0116 279 1509 – no later than the Friday before

**Film Group** Second Monday, 2:00 pm Great Glen Methodist Church  
**Monday, 13 October at 2:00 pm £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 at 2:00 pm Menphys Hub,  
Bassett Street, South Wigston, Leicester, LE18 4PE

**Our next meeting is on Wednesday 8 October**. 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](mailto:games@ggowu3a.co.uk) for information.

**Tabletop games** Second and Fourth Thursdays 2:00 pm  
Great Glen Methodist Church Hall, **Thursdays, 9 and 23 October**

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 0116 212 7547 [ttgames@ggowu3a.co.uk](mailto:ttgames@ggowu3a.co.uk)

**GARDEN GROUPS X 2** Second Monday in the month at 10:00 am  
**Garden**

Our October meeting is at **Cherry Lane Garden Centre, Countesthorpe.**  
*Lillian Greengrass* 0116 221 9837

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

The Uni. Botanic Garden, Glebe Road, will be undergoing a slow, major upgrade over the next few years. **On 10 October** we shall look for the small changes already visible. Occasional visitors welcome. Easy walking, seating available. *June Juett* [gardenvisits@ggowu3a.co.uk](mailto: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

We resume meeting on **Wednesday, 22 October** - new members welcome.  
*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  
**Next meeting Monday, 6 October.**

We continue our series of talks on *Leicestershire Greats* to include:  
*Alice Hawkins; Sue Townsend; Agnes Fielding Johnson; Mary Scott.*

**On 3 November** *Lucy Worsley Investigates; Bloody Mary*

Please contact me if you have not attended before.

*Janet Fanko* [history@ggowu3a.co.uk](mailto:history@ggowu3a.co.uk) 0116 462 4679

**Military History** First Wednesday, 10.00 am for 10.30 am start  
Great Glen Methodist Church Hall LE8 9EF  
**We resume meetings on 1 October**

With **Arctic Convoys**, the difficult and dangerous journeys to send arms and materials to support Russia during WWII.

*Alan Mawby* [militaryhistory@ggowu3a.co.uk](mailto:militaryhistory@ggowu3a.co.uk)

**Knit and Natter is changing...** First Thursday in the month at the  
**Menphys Centre, Bassett Street, LE18 4PE**

Parking in front, at the back,  
or at a nearby OWBC carpark

**If you have an urge to be creative, but don't know how to start – this is an easy opportunity to join a friendly, relaxed group, and learn with us if necessary.**

Not only do we knit (optional) while we 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 for neonates, or crochet knitted blankets? Could you sew knitted squares together? That person is urgently required! Materials are available (cross-stitch base, threads, wool, pins etc).

If we don't have it, we'll obtain it! Come, check us out without obligation!

Contact: *Kath Bailey* [KnitandNatter@ggowu3a.co.uk](mailto: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, the scores are noted. Each team plays every other team, the team with highest overall score wins.

Contact: Peter Williams [Kurling@ggowu3a.co.uk](mailto: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 at this friendly meeting in a member's Wigston home on Friday afternoons.

There is also **Beginners' French** on Monday mornings.  
New members are welcome.

Jennifer Bell 0116 288 0234

**MUSIC x 2** First & Third Fridays 10:00am – 12:30 pm  
**Music and good company** Great Glen Methodist Church

**We are taking an extended break from meeting**

If you are interested in a variety of music with tea and biscuits, let us know and we may then contact you if and when the group restarts.

John Gough [music@ggowu3a.co.uk](mailto:music@ggowu3a.co.uk) 0116 259 24302

**Ukuleles** Second & Fourth Mondays 10:00 -12 noon  
Great Glen Methodist Church Hall, LE8 9EF

We are a welcoming friendly group that has room for a few new members.  
We have spare instruments, give it a try!

Contact: Julie Franks [ukes@ggowu3a.co.uk](mailto:ukes@ggowu3a.co.uk)

**Photography** Third Wednesday, 2:30 pm, venues vary

We are a friendly group; new members are welcome. **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](mailto:photography@ggowu3a.co.uk) 07759 831604

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

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 from time to time so if are interested, please contact me and I will put you on the waiting list.

Contact: Ash Vaja [pickleball@ggowu3a.co.uk](mailto:pickleball@ggowu3a.co.uk)

## Psychology

First Wednesday 10:00 am-12 noon



PSYCHOLOGY

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](mailto:Psychology@ggowu3a.co.uk)

07733 230711

## Learn Something New:

**NEW: Hints on Getting Started with Cryptic Crosswords. Monday 20th October 2- 4.30pm, Great Glen Methodist Church**

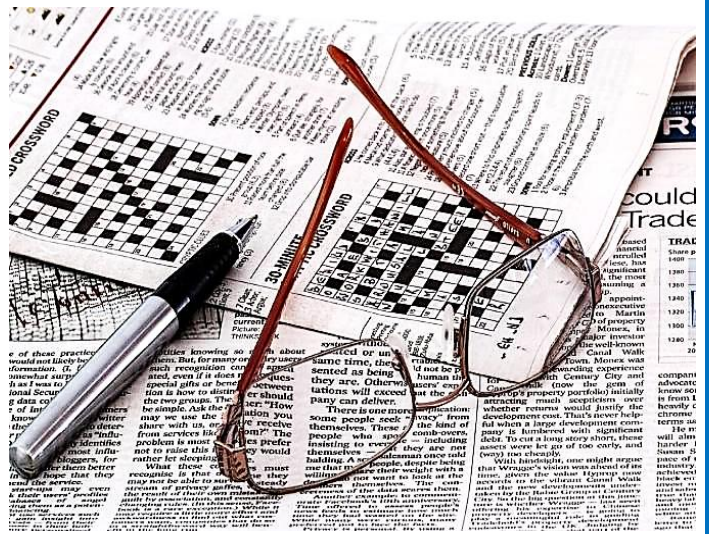
Do you enjoy doing 'regular' crosswords but have no idea how to solve a cryptic crossword? Learn about the different types of clues and how to recognise them. You will also pick up some tips on how to get started.

The examples used will come from the Times Quick Cryptic Crossword - one of the easier places to start. You don't need to bring anything, but you may want to take notes to refer to after the session.

Cake will be provided as brain food, along with tea/coffee.

Please contact:

[LSNCrosswords@GGOWu3a.co.uk](mailto:LSNCrosswords@GGOWu3a.co.uk) - as a few places are still available



## Coming in November – Playing Handbells



We are lucky to be able to offer you this opportunity to try your hand at playing handbells.

You don't need to be able to read music or have any musical experience – you just need to be able to count. We will be using Belleplates, as shown here.

They are lighter than traditional handbells but are

played in the same way. This is a light-hearted class. There will be three fortnightly sessions as follows: **Fridays, 7 and 21 November and 5 December; Time: 10am to 12 noon Wigston Magna United Reformed Church, 43 Long St, Wigston LE18 2AJ**

Cost: £3 per session, including cake!

Places will be limited; please sign up early if you would like to join us.

Contact : Sue Russell [LSNHandbells@GGOWu3a.co.uk](mailto:LSNHandbells@GGOWu3a.co.uk) 07976 26320

**QUIZ GROUPS X 2****Fourth Monday in the month****Quiz (Zoom)****Our next meeting is on 27 October**

when the question person is Peter Russell.

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](mailto:zoomquiz@ggowu3a.co.uk)**Quizzers****First Monday in the month, 10:30 am****Menphys Hub, Bassett Street, South Wigston (free car park at rear)****Mondays, 6 October, 3 November and 1 December****There will not be a Quiz meeting in January 2026**The group is close to capacity but contact us if interested – we may have options! *Ron & Margaret Gee* [quizzingforfun@ggowu3a.co.uk](mailto:quizzingforfun@ggowu3a.co.uk) 0116 288 0536**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 as usual in October.

We are able to welcome a few new members.

*Janet Freestone*[tabletennis@ggowu3a.co.uk](mailto: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 have reached capacity, however if you are interested in joining us, names are being placed on the waiting list; please contact:

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

£2 per session

**WALKING GROUPS x 3****Third Thursday 10:30 am****Easy Strolling****Various venues, some with parking charges****Our next strolls are 16 October and 20 November.****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 do get in touch with us if you are interested.

*Ron and Margaret Gee* [easystrolling@ggowu3a.co.uk](mailto:easystrolling@ggowu3a.co.uk) 0116 2880536**Village Strollers****Local History / Heritage venues**The October stroll to Melton will be led by Sue Birchenough, Janet Reinhardt and Christine Hunter. They have offered two dates, **Wednesday, 8 October and Friday, 17 October.** One will be selected if there is insufficient interest.

The walk will take approx. an hour and a half and is around 1 mile. It is quite flat and highlights include Peppermint Billy; Painting the town red; Henry VIII marriage to Anne of Cleves; Ye Olde Pork Pie Shoppe.

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)



**Village Strollers at Foxton - a heritage village since the Saxons**

**Walking without Stiles** Second Thursday, various venues  
**There will not be a walk in October, due to holidays;**  
**the next walk will be 13 November**

Contact me to be placed on our e-mailing 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.

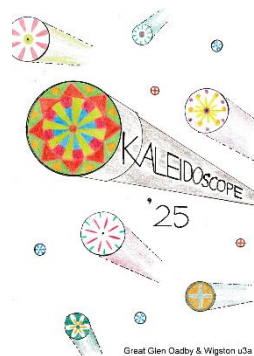
Elizabeth Cooke [walking@ggowu3a.co.uk](mailto:walking@ggowu3a.co.uk) 07957 288060

**Writing for Pleasure** Fourth Tuesday 2:15 pm  
**Great Glen Methodist Church LE8 9EF Tuesday, 28 October**

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.

Robert Mansfield [writing@ggowu3a.co.uk](mailto:writing@ggowu3a.co.uk) 0116 270 8284

**A CHRISTMAS DELIGHT!**  
 Hot off the press, 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 Group  
 Just £5



Copies available at  
*Serendipity*  
 and  
 Wigston Speaker Meetings  
 or contact  
[writing@ggowu3a.co.uk](mailto:writing@ggowu3a.co.uk)  
 Hurry while stocks last!

## Jigsaw Puzzles?

A Jigsaw Puzzle exchange is being started at the Serendipity Meetings, second Wednesday. See page 1 for details. The exchange will be functioning from the October meeting. As we start this, please bring an adult difficulty jigsaw to exchange. Contact: [Noelene@ggowu3a.co.uk](mailto:Noelene@ggowu3a.co.uk)

## Members have requested more information about our future speakers:

**Alex Leger**, is our October speaker on ***Life on the Licence Fee*** - challenges and change at the BBC. Luck played its part when Alex joined the Blue Peter programme in 1975. He describes pivotal events in broadcasting and memorable encounters with an erupting volcano, gorillas in Uganda and a life-threatening storm at sea. These and other events secured his position as a producer for 36 years.

**Andrew Brown** is our November speaker. He offers a humorous and informative talk about the history of the ancient role of High Sheriff from the perspective of a Rutland farmer who held the position from 2015 to 2016. He calls this '*a year of wearing tights for the Queen*'.

## The December monthly meeting

will be held on

**Wednesday 10 December**

from 1:30-3:00 pm

at the Liberal Club in Wigston

There will be a programme of seasonal entertainment

Comments on our newsletter are welcome at [newsletter@ggowu3a.co.uk](mailto:newsletter@ggowu3a.co.uk)

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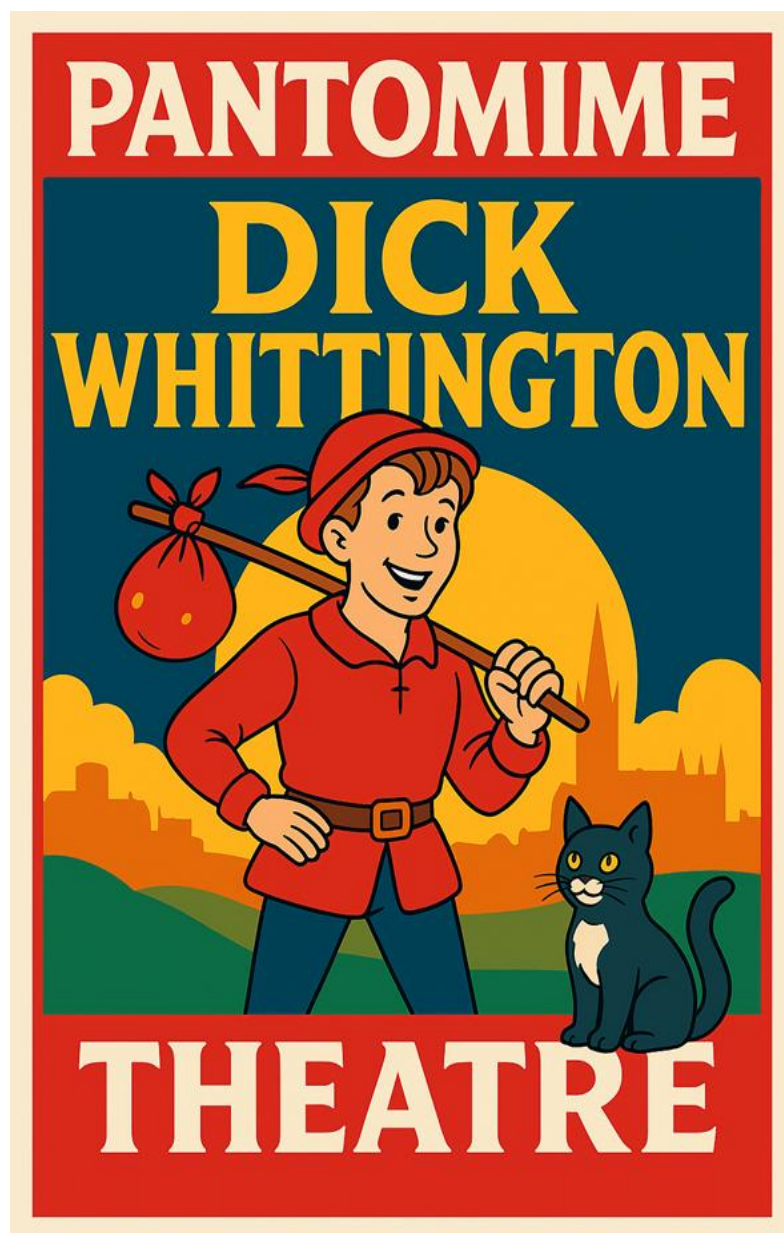
# ***Dick Whittington***

**Saturday,  
20 December  
at 1.00 pm**

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

We have booked 20 seats.  
These are offered on a 'first  
come first served' basis to  
GGOW u3a members only at  
£19 each.

If you would like a seat,  
contact



**[Chair@ggowu3a.co.uk](mailto:Chair@ggowu3a.co.uk)**

When the 20 seats have been allocated, a waiting list will be started.  
Payment may be either 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](mailto:Chairman@ggowu3a.co.uk) 0116 281 1812