

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

**Wednesday, 24 September 2025**

Speaker: **Derek Blunt**

***To the Manor born***

**- a look at Northamptonshire's big houses**

**- and their owners**

and

**Wed 29th October 2025**

Speaker: **Alex Leger**

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

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**

**LE8 9EF**

the second Wednesday of the month.

Varied activities, socialising, refreshments and fun

**Wednesday, 10 September 2025**

**10.30 am – 12 noon**

**Have you thought about experiencing this new group? Do plan on checking it out - it might surprise you with it's varied and unexpected activities, short talks on interesting subjects, refreshments – and time to socialise.**

**Doors open 10:15 am for a 10:30 am start.**

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.

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

No charge



## Notes from the Chair

Welcome to the September issue of the Newsletter. I am delighted to let you know that your u3a Committee has booked seats at

**'Dick Whittington'  
on Saturday, 20 December at 1.00 pm  
A Christmas Pantomime  
at the Little Theatre, Leicester**

We currently have 20 seats booked so we are offering these at a 'first come first served' basis to GGOW u3a members only. The price is £19.00 per seat. If you would like a seat, then contact me via email at [Chair@ggowu3a.co.uk](mailto:Chair@ggowu3a.co.uk). Once the 20 seats have been allocated, I will start a waiting list and it may be possible to obtain extra seats if we act promptly. 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.

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

Many thanks,

**Peter Williams** [Chairman@ggowu3a.co.uk](mailto:Chairman@ggowu3a.co.uk) 0116 281 1812

## Chat at the Chestnuts café in Oadby

<b>MORNINGS AT 10 am</b>	<b>AFTERNOONS AT 2.30 pm</b>
4 SEPTEMBER	18 SEPTEMBER
2 OCTOBER	16 OCTOBER
6 NOVEMBER	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**

## Are you looking for a flexible way to contribute to u3a activities?

**One option is to sign up on the  
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)

### LEARN SOMETHING NEW (LSN)

See page 8 for three 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

The Art Group will begin again on **18 September**. If members have pastels, the theme is *Birds - in Pastels*.

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  
**We resume on 15 September**

Would you like to know more about art? Visit our friendly group when members enjoy learning from a wide range of art and artists. Occasional visitors and the curious are welcome. September programme includes Salvador Dali and Naif art.

See our programme on the website: [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

Our book in September is **King Power by Richard III**

King Richard III tells the most remarkable sporting story of all time!

Our book in October is: **Paper Money by Ken Follet**

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

September: **You are Here** by David Nichols

October: **Guilty by Definition** by Susie Dent

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, 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, 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. *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** **group 1:30 – 3 pm**  
**Great Glen Methodist Church Hall LE8**

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**  
**We resume dancing on 16 September!**

It's time to stretch out those muscles and put on your thinking caps again, as the ECD group resumes dancing. 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. Some of the dances originated in the 17th century, or before, while others were devised very recently; none 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!

Anybody interested in joining the group should contact -

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**

If you are returning to line dancing 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! Our dances are new, old, easy - and some a little harder - and we have music to suit everyone.

Contact: *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 September meeting is on**  
**Wednesday 17 September.**

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 shall resume meeting in September.**

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, 7 September. 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, 8 September 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**    **Second Wednesday at 2:00 pm Menphys Hub,**  
**Games**    **Bassett Street, South Wigston, Leicester, LE18 4PE**

**Our next meeting is on 10 September.** 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**  
**Methodist Church Hall, 11 and 25 September**

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**

Our **September meeting will be at Wistow Garden Centre** and our October meeting at Cherry Lane, Countesthorpe

*Lillian Greengrass* 0116 221 9837

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

**Our 12 September visit is to the Attenborough Arboretum**, Carisbrooke Road, Knighton. Easy parking and firm pathways. Guided tour is optional!

**The Uni. Botanic Garden, Glebe Road, will be undergoing a slow, but major upgrade over the next few years. On 10 October** we shall look for the changes. Bring a beverage and leave at your leisure if preferred.

Occasional visitors welcome. Easy walking, seating available at both venues.

*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 **24 September** - new members will be 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 is Monday 1 September**

We start our series of talks on *Leicestershire Greats* in September.

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 shall resume our meetings in October**

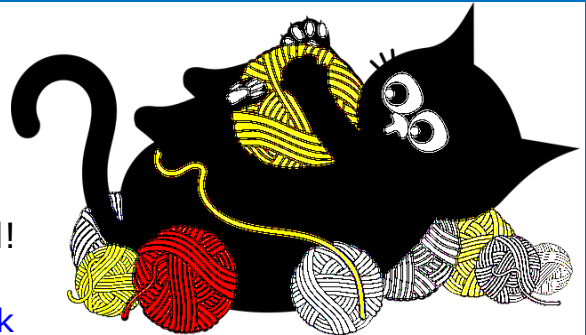
Alan Mawby [militaryhistory@ggowu3a.co.uk](mailto:militaryhistory@ggowu3a.co.uk)

**Knit and Natter** First Thursday at 2:00 pm  
Menphys Hub, Bassett Street  
South Wigston LE18 4PE

We have access to the Café from the friendly (free!) library at the Hub. There is room for more in this friendly group. Knitting is optional!

Contact: *Kath Bailey*

07974 523079 [KnitandNatter@ggowu3a.co.uk](mailto:KnitandNatter@ggowu3a.co.uk)



**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 the highest overall score wins. *Peter Williams* [Kurling@ggowu3a.co.uk](mailto:Kurling@ggowu3a.co.uk)



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

**We resume meeting on 5 September.**

**Bring a CD to share or just come to listen!**

Most of us could benefit from tea and biscuits with music! New members welcome! *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 resume our friendly group meetings in September.** 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



**Dick Whittington, Lord Mayor of London Town**

**'Dick Whittington'**  
**Saturday, 20 December 1.00 pm**  
**a Christmas Pantomime**  
**at the Little Theatre, Leicester**  
**See Chair's Chat, page 2 for tickets**

## LEARN SOMETHING NEW

Looking for new things to try in the autumn? Here are some options.

### NEW: Learn to Crochet a Granny Square

Monday 29th September, 2- 4.30pm, Great Glen Methodist Church Hall

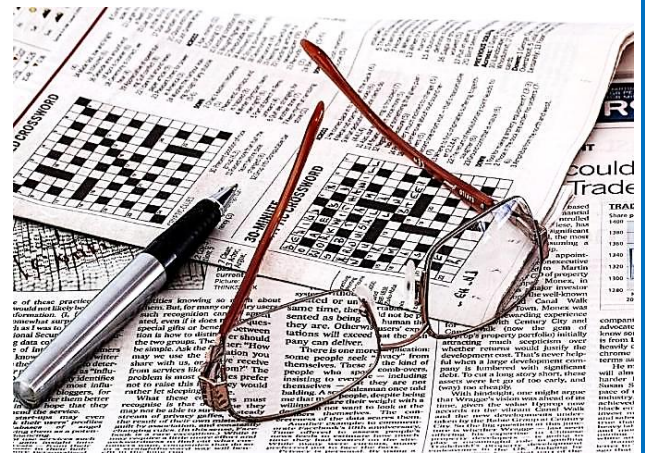


This session is almost full, but please do contact me if you are interested and we may arrange an additional session if there is the demand. A granny square blanket is a traditional way of using oddments of wool. It uses just two different stitches, so it is easy to make. Once you have mastered the basic square, you can use them to make a blanket, or perhaps a bag, cushion cover, waistcoat, or something else... you decide. You will need to bring a 4mm or 4.5mm crochet hook and some oddments of double knitting wool. This session is £3, which includes tea/coffee. [LSNCrochet@GGOWu3a.co.uk](mailto:LSNCrochet@GGOWu3a.co.uk)

### NEW: Hints on Getting Started with Cryptic Crosswords

Monday 20th October 2- 4.30pm, Great Glen Methodist Church Hall

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 very 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 so please do sign up early if you would like to join in.

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

**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**

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

**QUIZ GROUPS X 2**  
**Quiz (Zoom)**

**Fourth Monday in the month**  
**Our next meeting is on 22 September**

when the question person is Toni Smith.

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)**  
**Monday 1 September**

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****Table Tennis - Monday**

**Mondays, 11:00 to 12:30 pm**

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

Our mixed ability group will meet as usual in September.

We are able to take a few new members.

Contact: *Janet Freestone* [tabletennis@ggowu3a.co.uk](mailto:tabletennis@ggowu3a.co.uk)

**Table Tennis - Friday**

**Fridays 11:00 am to 1:00 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)

**WALKING GROUPS x 3**

**Third Thursday 10:30 am**

**Easy Strolling**

**Various venues, some with parking charges**

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](mailto:easystrolling@ggowu3a.co.uk) 0116 2880536

**Village Strollers**

**Local History / Heritage venues**

**The September strolls** are to Melton Mowbray, date to be decided, and the repeat to Foxton is on Wednesday, 24 September

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)

**Walking without Stiles**

**Second Thursday, various venues**

**The September walk will take place on Thursday, 11 September**

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 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**

**The group will meet on Tuesday, 23 September**

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



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

**Derek Blunt** is our September speaker. He states:

I was born in Northampton and have lived and worked here all my life. Northamptonshire is in my blood because I can trace my family back to the early 1500's all living and working in and around Northampton. What started as a sketch of a lovely church on one of my walks grew and grew and I was persuaded to put pen to paper. I have now written eight books about the county – all limited edition and all sold out.

In order to raise money for charity I give illustrated talks to all types of groups around the county sharing with them my love of my home county. I do not charge for my talks or for expenses, but voluntary donations are welcomed for two very worthwhile charities, our local Air Ambulance and the Churches Conservation Trust who now have their HQ in Northampton. I have already raised almost £25,000.

**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. The presenters were John Noakes, Peter Purves and Lesley Judd. 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 like John Noakes climbing Nelson's Column secured his position as a producer for 36 years. Others caused a stir like LuLu the baby elephant who ran amok and created probably the funniest moment in Blue Peter history.



## Visit our u3a website

[www.ggowu3a.co.uk](http://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](mailto: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](mailto:baileyk8@hotmail.com)

Your comments and suggestions on our newsletter are welcome at:

[newsletter@ggowu3a.co.uk](mailto:newsletter@ggowu3a.co.uk)

### **Technical Notes**

When converting a Microsoft Word version of the newsletter to a .pdf version - for better accessibility

- **hyperlinks are created automatically -**  
**but they may not link to all email providers!**

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