

## Speaker Meetings at the Wigston Liberal Club

**82 Bull Head St, Wigston LE18 1PA**

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

**Wednesday,  
29 April 2026**

Speaker:  
**Bharat Patel**

*You couldn't make it up -  
the odd life of a TV reporter*

**Wednesday,  
27 May 2026**

Speaker:  
**Alan Rogers, MBE**

*A Policeman's lot*

*See page 10 for details about our speakers' topics*

**Serendipity** Methodist Church Hall, Great Glen LE8 9EF  
Second Wednesday in the month  
**On 8 April, the GGOWu3a Art group will be exhibiting  
a selection from their work**

Doors open 10:15 am to all members of our  
Great Glen, Oadby and Wigston u3a.  
Refreshments and time to socialise

In April, there will be a True/False trivia quiz and a craft activity.

In May, we shall learn, from one of our members, about her interesting,  
unusual – and talented - life journey!

In June, we shall learn a classic origami fold, a Crane,  
using elegant paper – provided.

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

**MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS:** This is a reminder that subscription  
renewals are due. If you have any queries or if you do not wish to renew  
this year, please contact me. Many thanks to all who have already  
renewed. Your prompt payment is appreciated.

**Janet Fanko**

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

**0116 462 4679**

# Chat at the Chestnuts café in Oadby 2026

<b>Mornings 10.30 am</b>	<b>Afternoons 2.30 pm</b>	<b>You are welcome to join us on more than one of the above dates.</b>  Please let me know so that I can give the café an idea of numbers.  <b>Janet Fanko      0116 462 4679</b> <a href="mailto:membership@GGOWu3a.co.uk">membership@GGOWu3a.co.uk</a>
<b>2 APRIL 7 MAY 4 JUNE 2 JULY 6 AUGUST 3 SEPTEMBER</b>	<b>16 APRIL 21 MAY 18 JUNE 16 JULY 20 AUGUST 17 SEPTEMBER</b>	

## Notes from the Chair:

I am pleased to report on the progress of the proposed new groups.

**Singing group, See pages 8 and 11!**

### Playreading Group:

This group is being developed, with a preliminary meeting on 20 March. Members interested in this group, but not yet involved should contact:

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

Other groups in the process of forming include:

**Debating** is holding an exploratory first meeting. See page 5.

**Walking** This group is planning to walk further than other groups.

**BSL** (British Sign Language). Continues to be investigated.

If you have an interest in any of these groups, or have an idea, or are willing to help with any of these groups, please *contact*:

[Groups Coordinator, at groups@ggowu3a.co.uk](mailto:groups@ggowu3a.co.uk)

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

## For your calendars:

**3 & 6 April, 4 & 25 May 2026 are UK Bank Holidays**

## **ACTIVITIES** - in alphabetical order by activity

**ART GROUPS x 2**      **First and third Thursdays at 2:00 pm**  
**Art**      **Great Glen Methodist Church, LE8 9EF**

The Art theme for April will be communicated to members.

**We shall be displaying a selection of our art at the Serendipity meeting, 8 April.**

Rachael Snashall      [art@ggowu3a.co.uk](mailto:art@ggowu3a.co.uk)

**Art Appreciation**      **Third Monday in month, 10:00 am - 12 noon**  
**Great Glen Methodist Church Hall, LE8 9EF**

**AA** is an easy-going group at which to enjoy a new experience. Attend one of our friendly meetings! We are not at all 'highbrow' and you are welcome to just visit. You may surprise yourself with how much you enjoy looking at all forms of visual art. We welcome new members and occasional visitors. Ian Bowler      [AA@ggowu3a.co.uk](mailto:AA@ggowu3a.co.uk)      (07935704056)      £2/person

**BOOK GROUPS x 2**      **Fourth Thursday 10:00 am**  
**Book Group - Thursday**      **Great Glen Methodist Church Hall, LE8 9EF**

23 April	<b><i>A Spot of Bother</i></b>	Mark Haddon
28 May	<b><i>The Glassmaker</i></b>	Tracy Chevalier
25 June	<b><i>Still Life</i></b>	Sarah Winman
Contact:	Elizabeth Cooke	<a href="mailto:books2@ggowu3a.co.uk">books2@ggowu3a.co.uk</a>

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

April:	<b><i>The Tenant of Wildfell Hall</i></b>	Anne Bronte
May:	<b><i>The Women</i></b>	Kristen Hannah
June:	<b><i>I am, I am, I am</i></b>	Maggie O'Farrell
Booklist on website:	<a href="http://www.ggowu3a.co.uk">www.ggowu3a.co.uk</a>	June Juett <a href="mailto:books@ggowu3a.co.uk">books@ggowu3a.co.uk</a>

**CARD GAMES x 2**      **Wednesday afternoons at Great Glen**  
**Duplicate Bridge (Social)**      **Methodist Church Hall LE8 9EF**

If you do not know the duplicate system, we will explain it to you. We are a friendly group playing Duplicate Bridge on Wednesdays afternoons at 1:45 pm for 2:00 pm prompt start, finishing at approx. 4:45 pm.

**We welcome new members.** 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**

**New members are welcome.** If you would like to try Minibridge, 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, Gt.Glen LE8 9GG**

Limited free parking at the **Village Hall**. Refreshments provided.

**Advance notice:** *In early May, we shall lose our current venue to allow for construction work at the Village Hall. The plan is to move to the **Pavilion at Bowman of Great Glen (Newton Ln, LE8 9AB) from 1st May.** Your u3a Committee is in the process of obtaining this interesting new venue for this long-running group, but this venue is not yet confirmed. Most equipment can be stored in the Pavilion. Parking on site. **New members are welcome.** 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**

**Every Tuesday 1:30 – 3 pm**

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

Croquet is fun and not strenuous. New members are 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**

**We shall NOT be meeting on Tuesday, April 7 as it is Easter week.**

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!*

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**

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

**Line Dancing  
Beginners**

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

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!

Contact: Maggie Ward [linedancingwigston@ggowu3a.co.uk](mailto:linedancingwigston@ggowu3a.co.uk)

### **Debating Venue to be advised**

This group is forming, with a first exploratory meeting on **27 March**.

If you have an interest in this activity, contact:

[groups@ggowu3a.co.uk](mailto:groups@ggowu3a.co.uk) or *Michael Rodber* 07802 380 252

**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 are not required to borrow a book. *Books!* are managed by *Ron & Margaret Gee*

**\*Only Paperback book donations please**

**EATING OUT x 4** The penultimate Wednesday, every month,  
**Lunch Club** at 12:30 pm at **Two Steeples, Bell Street, Wigston**

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 contact:

*Kath Bailey* [lunchclub@ggowu3a.co.uk](mailto: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 £20 or the three-course menu that is now £25, (plus discretionary tip).

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

**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 attending, 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.

Call for 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](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 **£2.50**

## ***FOCUS ON: NEW GROUPS***

### **Debating, Playreading, Walking and BSL (British Sign Language).**

Venues and other arrangements for these new groups are being investigated by your u3a committee and interested members; register your interest and mention any ideas you have.

Perhaps you are willing to help set up a new activity?

Contact: *Groups Coordinator*, at [groups@ggowu3a.co.uk](mailto:groups@ggowu3a.co.uk)

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

### **GARDEN GROUP      Second Monday in the month 10:00 am**

**Garden**      Our April meeting is to be confirmed.

Contact: *Lillian Greengrass*    0116 221 9837

*Garden Visits* This group will have formally disbanded after the March 2026 walk at the Arboretum. It may continue to suggest opportunities for personal visits to local gardens e.g. the **croci exhibit at the Botanic Garden** may still be blooming at the end of March.

A recent visit showed the paisley pattern. viewed best from the Beaumont House patio area – park close to this free venue to limit walking.

*June Juett*    [gardenvisits@ggowu3a.co.uk](mailto:gardenvisits@ggowu3a.co.uk) (07484 602348)

*See page 11 for day trips to visit gardens by commercial coach.*

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

We shall meet on 22 April, 27 May and 24 June.

Then we expect to have a summer break in July and August.

New members are welcome.

Contact: *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**

**There is no meeting in April related to the Easter Bank Holiday.**

**4 May Children of the Mayflower and the Pilgrim Fathers**

Further topics, date to be decided, include the playlet:  
*Margaret and Mary, Sisters of the King.*

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

Janet Fanko [history@ggowu3a.co.uk](mailto: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**

Coffee 10:00, presentation 10:30 am.

**On Wednesday 1 April our subject is *Operation Catapult*.**

Following the fall of France in June 1940, there was concern that the French Fleet would fall into German hands. This led to a controversial Royal Navy attack and the sinking of several warships and loss of life.

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

**Knit and Natter**

**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 knit or crochet mini hats, or blankets?

All materials are available, if we don't have it, we'll obtain it!

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, 4 Blue stones). They roll the stones at a numbered target on the floor; scores are noted. Each team plays every other team, team with highest overall score wins. 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** Conversation and reading on Friday afternoons.

**Beginners' French** Monday mornings. New members are welcome.

Jennifer Bell 0116 288 0234

**Music x3**

**Second & Fourth Mondays 10am -12 noon**

**Ukuleles**

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

We are a welcoming 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)

**Handbells**      **2nd & 4th Fridays 10.00-12.00 noon,**  
**United Reformed Church Hall, 43 Long Street, Wigston LE18 2AJ**

Free parking behind church or at Peace Park.

To express an interest in this group, please contact:

*Alison Termie*      [handbells@ggowu3a.co.uk](mailto:handbells@ggowu3a.co.uk)      07813 705427

**NEW Singing**      **Great Glen Methodist Church, LE8 9EF 2:30 – 4pm**

**We enjoyed our first meeting!**

**Our next meeting will be on 27 April**



We experienced vocal warmups, a selection of music genres, singing in 'rounds,' and even the use of maracas.

A hugely enjoyable afternoon, with thanks to our competent leaders, Catriona Scott with Jenny Hawley at the piano.

This is **Singing for Fun**, no prior choir experience needed!

Express your interest at: [singing@ggowu3a.co.uk](mailto:singing@ggowu3a.co.uk)      £2 per person

**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](mailto:photography@ggowu3a.co.uk)      07759 831604

**Pickleball**      **Every Wednesday, 9 am to 10:00 am**

**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 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](mailto:pickleball@ggowu3a.co.uk)



**PSYCHOLOGY**

*Chris Hunter*

**Psychology** Glen Gorse Golf Club, LE2 4RF

**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 express an interest in our group, *please call first* **07733 230711**.

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

**QUIZ GROUPS X 2**

**Quiz (Zoom)**

**Fourth Monday in the month**

**- a Zoom meeting**

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](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)**

The monthly quizzes take place as follows, 13 April (Bank Holiday previous week), 11 May (Bank Holiday previous week) and 1 June.

*Ron & Margaret Gee* [quizzingforfun@ggowu3a.co.uk](mailto:quizzingforfun@ggowu3a.co.uk) 0116 288 0536

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

**Tea Rota for Monthly Speaker Meetings at the Liberal Club**

Two volunteers are needed at our Speaker Meetings, 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, LE2 2LL**

Our mixed ability group is full at present, but enquiries are still welcome.

*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**

**Please note there will not be a session on Good Friday, 3 April**

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](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 will be 16 April, 21 May, and 18 June.**

Details will be sent to members

approximately one week before the stroll.

*Ron & Margaret Gee* [easystrolling@ggowu3a.co.uk](mailto:easystrolling@ggowu3a.co.uk) 0116 2880536

## **Village Strollers Local History / Heritage venues**

**The Stroll at Croft in April is full.** The May stroll is to Husbands Bosworth; bookings will be taken in April. The July Treasure Hunt will be open to all members. If you wish to be added to the mailing list, please contact *Roger Edwards* [villagestrollers@ggowu3a.co.uk](mailto:villagestrollers@ggowu3a.co.uk)

## **Walking without Stiles Second Thursday morning, venues vary**

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.  
*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**

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

## **Information on our Speakers in April and May**

**Bharat Patel** was one of the first Asian reporters on British media. He arrived in Leicester with just a few words of English. A teacher told him that Indians always speak with their teeth clenched, whereas the English speak with their mouths open. This helped him get a job at the BBC at a time when accents of any sort – Indian, Brummie or Geordie - were frowned upon. He covered many major events. He's also interviewed a parrot who spoke five languages, and met Brian the Budgie whose story will be explained, but ends in Corfu Town! His family exchanged a comfortable lifestyle in a warm climate for a tiny terraced house with an outside toilet. A series of bizarre and comic incidents followed, the subject of an audiobook, *Indian Takeaway*, BBC Sounds. Proceeds from the book go to **Hope Against Cancer**, a charity, finding cures for cancers through the funded research.

**Alan Rogers** is a retired police officer from Warwickshire Police, served for 33yrs. His talk is *A Policeman's Lot*, based upon humorous anecdotes from his time in the police, and his career, including working in India with the BBC.



**Third Age Trust UK offers interest groups online**

<https://www.u3a.org.uk> **Browse the website!**

**u3a Interest Groups Online** offers online learning.

Search groups by interest, subject matter, or by day of meeting. Some meetings are lectures or virtual visits to places of interest. A range of subject matter, including a new link with a holiday company is available.  
£12 per year.

**Garden Visits:** \* <https://clicktrips.co.uk/all-day-trips/#>

0116 262 9492

**Trips - it's usual to find u3a members onboard!**

13 June 2026 to **Kew**, £41 – includes admission. Longer journey.

**Sandringham Flower Show** in July! (Expensive)

In September, **Trenttham**, pay additional to access garden - you have five hours there!

Click on pictures for details. Pick-up areas Oadby and Wigston (South coach).

(\*This company is mentioned as it offers pick up points most convenient for GGOW u3a members. It's a local company used by *Friends of the Uni. of Leicester Botanic Garden* (FULBG). Some trips are **available to non-members**.

Easy pick up and/or /parking on Glebe Road.

Other coach companies run trips to gardens, with a variety of pick-up points.

Search: *Leicester day trips by coach*.



The newly formed GGOWu3a Singing group

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

**Hyperlinks may not function in all applications.**

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