

**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,
27 May 2026**

Speaker:
Alan Rogers, MBE

A Policeman's lot

Wednesday, 24 June 2026

The meeting starts with our
**Great Glen, Oadby and Wigston u3a
Annual General Meeting**

followed by:

Speaker: **Mike Burton**
Albert the Great (Prince Albert)

Serendipity

Methodist Church Hall, Great Glen LE8 9EF

Second Wednesday in the month

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

Refreshments - and time to socialise!

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

In June, we shall learn a classic origami fold.

Elegant paper provided.

The demonstrator has amused adults and quieted children with this
fold - ideal on trains, coaches, boats, and planes.

Let me know if you are likely to join us
as an idea of numbers is helpful for refreshment purposes.

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

Chat at the Chestnuts café in Oadby 2026

**Mornings
10.30 am**

7 MAY

4 JUNE

2 JULY

6 AUGUST

3 SEPTEMBER

**Afternoons
2.30 pm**

21 MAY

18 JUNE

16 JULY

20 AUGUST

17 SEPTEMBER

**You are welcome to join us on
more than one of the dates
listed.**

Please let me know so that I can
give the café an idea of numbers.

Janet Fanko 0116 462 4679
membership@GGOWu3a.co.uk

Notes from the Chair:

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

At its first meeting, our **Singing for Fun** group established itself as a favourite with members! With our thanks to **Jenny Hawley, Catriona Scott – and all the enthusiastic singers.** See p.8

Debating has held well attended first meetings. See p.4.

Playreading Group:

The Play Reading Group held a successful first reading in April. More readers would be welcome. See page 9 for details.

Groups still in the process of forming include:

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 an idea, or are willing to help with any of these groups, please contact:

Groups Coordinator, at groups@ggowu3a.co.uk

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

For your calendars: 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 May will be communicated to members.

Rachael Snashall 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 visitors. *Ian Bowler* AA@ggowu3a.co.uk (07935704056) £2/person

BOOK GROUPS x 2

Fourth Thursday 10:00 am

Book Group - Thursday

G. Glen Methodist Church Hall, LE8 9EF

28 May

The Glassmaker

Tracy Chevalier

25 June

Still Life

Sarah Winman

Contact:

Elizabeth Cooke

books2@ggowu3a.co.uk

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

May: *The Women* Kristen Hannah
June: *I am, I am, I am* Maggie O'Farrell
July *A Terrible Kindness* Jo Browning Rowe

Booklist on the website: www.ggowu3a.co.uk

June Juett books@ggowu3a.co.uk

**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

**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

Carpet Bowls New Venue! Thursdays, 1:30-3:30 pm New Venue

On 7 May, we move to the Pavilion at The Bowman of Glen Archery Club (Newton Lane, LE8 9AB, near the roundabout)

to allow for construction work at the Village Hall.

Most equipment can be stored in the Pavilion.

Parking on site. **New members are welcome.** Refreshments provided.

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 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.

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 a walking pace. Dancers weave patterns and interact with each other as the dance progresses. None of the dances are complicated, and all are great fun! The moves will be taught for each dance before setting it to music.

The only requirement is to be prepared to join in - and laugh!

Peter Meacock ecd@ggowu3a.co.uk 0116 279 3600

Line Dancing**Thursdays, 10:30 am – 12.30 pm
Burton Overy Village Hall, LE8 9EW**

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.

Maggie Ward linedancing@ggowu3a.co.uk

**Line Dancing
Beginners****Tuesday mornings 10:30-12 noon, Elliot Hall,
4 Albion Street, Sth. Wigston, Leicester, LE18 4SA****There will not be a class on 26 May**

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 join us!

Maggie Ward linedancingwigston@ggowu3a.co.uk

Debating**Great Glen Methodist Church Hall, Ruth Warner room.****The May subject has not yet been decided.**

Contact the group leader for information.

The first meetings were interesting and stimulating. We are all new to this and we have some learning to do together. If you have an interest in this new group, please contact:

groups@ggowu3a.co.uk or Michael Rodber 07802 380 252

Books! At the Liberal Club monthly meetings, at the back of the room, there are donated paperback books - and from which you may help yourself! *Paperback donations are welcome but are not required to borrow a book.

Our thanks to Ron & Margaret Gee, who provide this significant contribution to our activities.

***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 07974 523079

Meet & Eat Third Tuesday, *Italian Greyhound, G. 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 - 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

If you have not attended before, please contact me first.

Peter Russell films@ggowu3a.co.uk 07759 831604 **£2.50**

Focus On : NEW GROUPS

Singing, Debating, and Playreading

have all held well attended early meetings. All are still open to new members, and no prior experience is required or expected.

Venues and arrangements for a **Walking** group that walks a little further than the current groups and **British Sign Language** group 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

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

We meet in the free library area at **The Hub** which has table games available. Members bring their own favourites too.

Hot drinks are available. This is a popular group, so please contact:

Kath Bailey games@ggowu3a.co.uk 07974 523079

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

We have a variety of board games – number and word ones. Canasta remains a favourite. If you have an interest in joining this group, please contact me first with questions or for a taster session.

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

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

Our May meeting is to be confirmed

Contact: *Lillian Greengrass* 0116 221 9837

Garden Visits – temporarily dormant. Ideas for free personal visits:

Newton Harcourt has a tiny, charming churchyard garden.

Local parks surprise us with displays e.g. Welland Park, Market Harborough, beds near tennis courts. Knighton Park offers a sensory garden, small flower beds, larger shrub displays, parking.

The Uni. Botanical Garden offers free entry through 2026. Visit!

Uni. Botanical Garden will charge an entry fee from 1 Jan. 2027

Nick Bailey, renowned horticulturalist, has a remit to make the garden commercially viable. Areas of new designs are already visible. Beautiful borders soon, start of a *World Food garden*, wildflowers later.

The Attenborough Arboretum, with its evolutionary theme, interesting sign boards and easy parking, will remain free.

Share ideas with *June Juett* (07484 602348) gardenvisits@ggowu3a.co.uk

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 27 May and 24 June.**

We expect to take a summer break in July and August.

New members are welcome.

Contact: *Dennis Cook* familyhistory@ggowu3a.co.uk 07711 386958

History Group

**First Monday in the month 2:00 pm
Great Glen Methodist Church Hall, LE8 9EF**

Yes, we chose to meet on May 4, the Bank Holiday

Our next meeting is at 2pm on Monday 4 May 2026
when Mike Bates will be telling us about

The Children of the Mayflower and the Pilgrim Fathers

Our June meeting is 1 June 2026, with a talk on ***Stephen and Matilda***
and a playlet entitled ***The Sisters of Henry VIII***.

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

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

Military History

**First Wednesday, 10:00 am for 10:30 am
Great Glen Methodist Church Hall LE8 9EF**
Coffee 10:00, presentation 10:30 am.

The next meeting on 6th May will be looking at the
Battle of the Somme, the 1916 allied advance that gained little ground
but incurred horrendous casualties.

Contact: *Alan Mawby* 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 07974 523079

KURLING - New Age Kurling

**First & third Wednesdays
1:30 pm until 3:00 pm**

Liberal Club 82 Bull Head St, Wigston LE18 1PA

Players play in Teams of Two with 2 stones per player, against another
team. (4 Red stones, 4 Blue stones). Players 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

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**Ukuleles**

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

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

We have spare instruments, give it a try!

Contact: *Julie Franks* 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

We now have a vacancy! New members are welcome.

To express an interest in this group, please contact:

Alison Termie handbells@ggowu3a.co.uk 07813 705427

NEW Singing for Fun

**Great Glen Methodist Church,
LE8 9EF 2:30 – 4pm
Fourth Monday**

(except a Bank Holiday – so no meeting end of May!)

At the early meetings, we experienced vocal warmups, a selection of music genres, singing in 'rounds,' and even the use of maracas.

Enjoyed by all! No prior choir experience is needed!

This is Singing for Fun!

Catriona Scott/Jenny Hawley at the piano. singing@ggowu3a.co.uk £2

Photography

Third Wednesday, 2:30 pm, venues vary

We are a friendly group; new members are welcome.

Both cameras and phones are used.

If this appeals, attend a meeting and you can then choose to join the group if you wish.

If attending for the first time, please contact me first.

Peter Russell photography@ggowu3a.co.uk 07759 831604

Pickleball

**Every Wednesday, 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

NEW! Playreading **Third Friday each month, 10 am, Ruth Warner room
Great Glen Methodist Church Hall**

We have held our first meeting to iron out technical issues. The Group meets to read plays either from paper scripts, available at each session, or downloaded. It is helpful if members can bring a tablet, Kindle or laptop, but there are devices that can be shared.

No previous theatrical experience or rehearsal is necessary. All quite light-hearted! More participants are welcome, but as we meet in the smaller of the rooms at the venue, please let me know if you will be attending.

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

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 so express your interest by first calling

07733 230711 Chris Hunter Psychology@ggowu3a.co.uk



QUIZ GROUPS X 2 **Fourth Monday in the month**
Quiz (Zoom) - 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

Quizzers **First Monday in the month, 10:30 am, Menphys Hub,
Bassett Street, South Wigston (free car park at rear)**

The monthly quizzes are on
11 May (Bank Holiday previous week) and 1 June.

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

**An easy way to contribute to our u3a activities....
Tea Rota for Monthly Speaker Meetings 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 Roger Bettles
Table Tennis - Monday University Sports Centre, LE2 2LL
Our mixed ability group is full at present, but enquiries are still welcome.
Janet Freestone tabletennis@ggowu3a.co.uk

Table Tennis – Friday Fridays 11:00 am to 12:30 pm
Roger Bettles University Sports Centre, Manor Road, LE2 2LL
We are almost at capacity, although spaces do become available, so please contact me if you have questions or are interested in joining us.
Jay Bhikha tabletennisfriday@ggowu3a.co.uk £2 per session

WALKING GROUPS x 3 Third Thursday 10:30 am
Easy Strolling Various venues, some with parking charges
Our next strolls will be 21 May, and 18 June.
Details will be sent to members
approximately one week before the stroll.
Ron & Margaret Gee easystrolling@ggowu3a.co.uk 0116 2880536

Village Strollers *Local History / Heritage venues*
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

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 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 0116 270 8284

Information on our Speakers. **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.
In June, Mike Burton's subject is Prince Albert, Queen Victoria's consort.



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 is offered, including a new link with a holiday company. £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 – but includes admission. Longer journey.

Sandringham Flower Show in July. (Expensive)

Trentham, September, advertised as a shopping trip, but pay the additional fee to access the garden – you will have five hours there! Pick-up areas in Oadby and Wigston (South coach).

(*This company offers the pickup points most convenient for many GGOW u3a members. It is used by *Friends of the Uni. of Leicester Botanic Garden* (FULBG). Some FULBG day trips are also available to non-members. Easy pick up and/or/parking on Glebe Road.)

Other coach companies run trips to gardens, with varied pick-up points.

Search: *Leicester day trips by coach*.

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

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