

Speaker Meetings at the Wigston Liberal Club

82 Bull Head St, Wigston LE18 1PA

**Doors open to all members at 1:30 pm for socialising
Refreshments 3:00 pm**

**Wednesday,
26 August 2026**

Graham Keal
roving reporter...

*Terry Wogan's
hair weave
...and other stories*

**Wednesday,
30 September 2026**

Steve Evans

Volunteer & Secretary
of the *Friends of the
Great Central Main Line*, on
the reunification of the two
parts of the Great Central
Railway

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

We shall not be meeting in August

Join us next at our 9 September meeting

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

There is a £1 charge for consumable items used during a meeting.

Chat at the Chestnuts café in Oadby 2026

**Mornings
10:30 am**

**6 AUGUST
3 SEPTEMBER
1 OCTOBER**

**Afternoons
2:30 pm**

**20 AUGUST
17 SEPTEMBER
15 OCTOBER**

**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 Vice-Chair:

As many of our members know, our Chair, Peter Williams, recently underwent major surgery. I am pleased to report that he is making a strong recovery and hopes to be fit to resume his duties soon. I know you will join me in wishing him a safe return to his usual energetic lifestyle.

Many of us found the recent heatwave trying, and I hope we have all come through it unscathed. I think it prompts us all to think seriously about how we are going to cope with the predicted warmer future.

Recently formed groups include the start of an **AI group**, for members wanting to know more, but having little or no experience. Its focus is on shared exploration; it is not a taught course. See page 5 / *Focus On*.

Play Reading is now established with a regular source of play scripts and would welcome more readers. See page 9. Debating has been renamed the **Discussion Group** to reflect a change in style. Details on page 4.

Robert Mansfield vicechair@ggowu3a.co.uk **0116 270 8284**

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**
We shall take a break during August and resume 3 September.
Contact: *Rachael Snashall* art@ggowu3a.co.uk

Art Appreciation **Third Monday in month, 10:00 am - 12 noon**
 Great Glen Methodist Church Hall, LE8 9EF
 There will not be a meeting in August
AA - try a new experience; we resume on **Monday, 21 September!**
Recent explorations included the architecture of Leicester City, and a look at one famous painting - through the ages. Our subject matter is broad based in the humanities: sculpture, wood carving, architecture, oil and water colours, blown glass, stained glass, pottery, china, from artists worldwide. Broad spectrum to intense detail. Pastoral scenes to war. Murals to miniatures.
Enjoy learning to look with us!
Contact: *June Juett* aa@ggowu3a.co.uk £2

BOOK GROUPS x 2 **Fourth Thursday 10:00 am**
Book Group - Thursday **G. Glen Methodist Church Hall, LE8 9EF**
27/08/26 **Me Before You** Jojo Moyes
24/09/26 **An American Wife** Curtis Sittenfeld
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

17 August *The Glassmaker* Tracy Chevalier

21 September *The Bookbinder of Jerico* Pip Williams

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 can play bridge but do not know the duplicate system, we will explain it to you. We are a friendly group playing Duplicate Bridge on Wednesday 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 **Thursdays, 1:30-3:30 pm**

Pavilion at The Bowman of Glen Archery Club
Newton Lane, LE8 9AB, near the roundabout

The first meetings at this new venue have been a great success. 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

Tuesday croquet will **close for July and August and restart 8 September**. Croquet is fun and not strenuous. New members are welcome. **We have a vacancy**, so call to express your interest – or to visit us in September. *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 be taking a break during the summer months.**

Dancing will resume in September; date to be announced.

ECD is social dancing, conducted mostly at a walking pace.

Peter Meacock ecd@ggowu3a.co.uk [0116 279 3600](tel:01162793600)**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 Tuesday mornings 10:30-12 noon, Elliot Hall,
Beginners 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 join us!

Maggie Ward linedancingwigston@ggowu3a.co.uk**Discussion Group Gt. Glen Methodist Church, Ruth Warner room
Discussion (formerly Debating) fourth Friday at 10.15 a.m.**

The Group has opted for a much less formal approach, hence the change of name. We pick one or more topics in advance, make sure in advance we have something to contribute, and at our meetings enjoy sharing views, ideas and questions. If you have an interest in this new group, please contact: Robert Mansfield vicechair@ggowu3a.co.uk

**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:

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 :

Proposed NEW GROUP **AI in our everyday lives**

Do you find Artificial Intelligence (AI) Interesting? Worrying? Puzzling? Exciting? ... why don't we learn something about it that might be useful in our daily lives? This group will be aimed at collectively finding out how AI might help in our activities, e.g. planning a journey or holiday, finding recipes, suggesting films or TV programs or sourcing jokes for a party.

It could be any topic that involves gathering and summarising information. All suggestions will be welcomed. This would be a voyage of discovery for us and is **for members wanting to know more about the topic but having little or no experience**. It is not a taught course on AI; I will be learning along with group members.

A pilot meeting will be held on **Tuesday 8 September at Great Glen Methodist Church from 3:30 to 5pm**. Meetings would take place on the **second Tuesday of each month at the same venue and time**. Members would need their own portable device – ideally tablet or laptop for readability, but smartphones would be suitable.

If you are interested in taking part, contact me as soon as possible:
Peter Russell ai@ggowu3a.co.uk text/call/WhatsApp **07759 831604**

Singing, Discussion, Walking Further, and Playreading

have all held meetings. All are still open to new members.

No prior experience of any subject is required or expected.

Explore a new activity!

Contact: *Groups Coordinator* groups@ggowu3a.co.uk

GAMES x 2

Games

Second Wednesday at 2:00 pm **Menphys Hub,**
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 x 2 Second Monday in the month 10:00 am

Garden The meeting on 10 August will be at Cherry Lane
Garden Centre. *Lillian Greengrass* 0116 221 9837

Garden Visits resume! Second Friday in the month, 2:00 pm
14 August, 11 September (weather permitting)

Enjoy the Uni. Botanical Garden during the rest of the year, free.
There is plenty of shade, but in unusually hot weather, check we are meeting.

If so, meet at the Glebe Road entrance, easy parking.

Social walks among mature trees and flora, in congenial company.
Bench seating at intervals. Occasional or regular members all welcome.
Plant displays are much improved under the vision of the new director.

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

Nick Bailey, horticulturalist, has a remit to make the Botanic Garden
commercially viable; expect to pay to visit the garden in 2027.

The **Attenborough Arboretum** will remain free to enter.

June Juett (07484 602348) gardenvisits@ggowu3a.co.uk

HISTORY x 3 Fourth Wednesday in the month, 10:00 am
Family History Great Glen Methodist Church Hall, LE8 9EF
We shall not be meeting in July or August.

We start again 23 September, and 28 October and 25 November.
There will be no meeting in December. In 2027, we continue meeting on the
fourth Wednesday of the month with a 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

3 August A History of Great Glen

7 September A Brief History of Kibworth;
Sight Saver- Sir Harold Ridley of Kibworth
Banged Up - a short film about Alcatraz.

Contact, 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

Please note there are no meetings in August or September.

Contact: Alan Mawby militaryhistory@ggowu3a.co.uk

Knit and Natter **First Thursday at 2:00 pm**

Note Relocation: Two Steeples, 51 Bell Street Wigson LE18 1DZ

This small, friendly group meets on first Thursday each month

New members would be made very welcome.

Not only do we knit (optional) and natter
but would love other crafty people to join us.

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 x 3 **Second & Fourth Mondays 10am -12 noon**
Ukuleles **Great Glen Methodist Church Hall, LE8 9EF**

We shall be taking a month's break throughout August;
we resume Monday 14 September

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

Singing for Fun **Great Glen Methodist Church, LE8 9EF**
Fourth Monday 2.30 to 4.00 pm
We shall meet on 24 August and 28 September.
Singers experience vocal warmups, singing in 'rounds' and a range of musical genres. We now have songbooks that allow us legal access to more recent works; our pink folders are back with the copyright free folk songs. The repertoire is enhanced by the leaders' own resources.
This group attracts a spectrum of singers and is enjoyed by all!
No prior choir experience is needed! It's 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, but vacancies do arise. Please contact me and I will put you on the waiting list. Contact: *Ash Vaja* pickleball@ggowu3a.co.uk

Playreading **Third Friday each month, 10 am,**
Ruth Warner room Great Glen Methodist Church Hall
We meet to read plays from paper scripts, available at each session, or downloaded. We now have a reliable source of paper scripts.
No previous theatrical experience or rehearsal is necessary.
All quite lighthearted! More participants are welcome, but as we meet in the smaller of the rooms at the venue, please contact me if you will be attending or would like further details.
Magi Nipper Tel: **0116 319 2178**

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 contacting:

Chris Hunter **07733 230711** 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 next quiz is Monday, 3 August

We are a friendly group and have room for one or two more!

If you are interested, please contact us for more information.

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, 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.

We shall, as usual, break for the month of August.

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 currently full; however, please email me if you wish to be placed on the waiting list.

Jay Bhikha tabletennisfriday@ggowu3a.co.uk £2

WALKING GROUPS x 4

Third Thursday 10:30 am

Easy Strolling

Various venues, some with parking charges

The next stroll will be on Thursday 20 August

Details will be sent out approximately one week beforehand.

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

Village Strollers *Local History / Heritage venues*

The **August stroll is to Desford** and will be led by Sue Birchenought.
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

We meet for a 2 to 4 mile walk without stiles; venues vary.

In August only, the walk will be on the first Thursday of the month, 6 August due to holidays.

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

Walking Further

This Group meets for a **5 to 6 mile walk** at various locations chosen by the walk leader. **There are no walks planned at present because no one has offered a suggestion, or to lead one.** This group welcomes new members; contact me to be placed on our emailing list.

Elizabeth Cooke groupscoordinator@ggowu3a.co.uk

Writing for Pleasure

**Fourth Tuesday 2:15 pm
Great Glen Methodist Church LE8 9EF**

Each month we aim to write a short piece of prose, usually 500 to 1,000 words, or a poem, up to about 40 lines. We pick a theme, that most members follow. 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.

Please contact me for further details.

Robert Mansfield writing@ggowu3a.co.uk Tel: 0116 270 8284

Notes on our speakers: Steve Evans, September.

The talk covers the progress on the reunification of the two parts of the heritage Great Central Railway, those being between Leicester and Loughborough, and Loughborough and Ruddington, presently separated by a 500-metre gap.

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

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