

**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,  
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

**Wednesday,  
28 October 2026  
Phil Drabble**

*Travels with a Tiger –  
Riding the Western Front  
President of Nottingham  
Anglo French Society*

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

**Second Wednesday in the month**

Doors open 10:15 am to all members

**Join us at our 9 September open meeting**

A semi-social event with a variety of activities and items of interest  
Janet Fanko [Serendipity@ggowu3a.co.uk](mailto:Serendipity@ggowu3a.co.uk) 0116 462 4679

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

**SAM MUIR POETRY PRIZE**

Many will remember Sam Muir, one of our members who was a gifted poet and musician. Sam was kind enough to remember GGOW u3a in his will. In his memory there will be an annual poetry competition, the winner receiving a book token from his bequest. Sam wrote from the heart, always seeing the positives in life and delighting in the beauty of our country and the traditions of his homeland.

You are invited to submit a poem written by yourself or a family member, and not previously published, of between 50 and 200 words, building upon a personal experience.

Entries should be sent to [writing@ggowu3a.co.uk](mailto:writing@ggowu3a.co.uk) (or handed in to the Registration Desk at a monthly speaker meeting) before 31 October 2026 and will be judged by a panel appointed by the Committee.

## Notes from the Chair

I'm delighted to announce that Sue Howard has joined us as a Trustee on the Committee and will be taking over the role of Business Secretary, previously managed by Lynda Williams.

Your committee remains busy; we hosted the Leicestershire & Rutland u3a Network meeting, and we shall be present on Saturday 5 September at the Great Glen Wheelbarrow Race & Summer Fete at the Recreational Ground, Bindley's Lane, Great Glen, from 12 midday until 5 pm.

We also confirmed that our u3a remains in good financial shape. In recognition of this, members and prospective members of those groups, meeting in rooms for which the u3a pays the rental, will not be asked for sessional contributions during October 2026.

Groups making their own arrangements to cover the costs of refreshments, craft materials and other consumables should continue to do so.

*Peter Williams, Chairman* [chair@ggowu3a.co.uk](mailto:chair@ggowu3a.co.uk)

### Chat at the Chestnuts café in Oadby 2026

| Mornings<br>10:30 am                                 | Afternoons<br>2:30 pm                                    | You are welcome to join us on more than one of the dates listed<br>Please let me know so that I can give the café an idea of numbers.<br><br><b>Janet Fanko</b> <b>0116 462 4679</b><br><a href="mailto:membership@GGOWu3a.co.uk">membership@GGOWu3a.co.uk</a> |
|------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 3 SEPTEMBER<br>1 OCTOBER<br>5 NOVEMBER<br>3 DECEMBER | 17 SEPTEMBER<br>15 OCTOBER<br>19 NOVEMBER<br>17 DECEMBER |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |

## Activities - in alphabetical order

### **ART x 2**      **First and third Thursdays at 2:00 pm**

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

We meet on **3 September** with the theme of Autumn Colours

*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 9EFT**

**AA** - try a new experience; we resume on **Monday, 21 September!**

Our subject matter is broad based in the humanities: sculpture, architecture, painting, blown glass, pottery, china, etc. from artists worldwide. Pastoral scenes to war. Murals to miniatures. Join us to enjoy 'learning to look'!

*June Juett*      [aa@ggowu3a.co.uk](mailto:aa@ggowu3a.co.uk)

### **BOOKS x 2**      **Fourth Thursday 10:00 am**

**Book Group - Thursday**      **G. Glen Methodist Church Hall, LE8 9EF**

24/09/26      **An American Wife**      Curtis Sittenfeld

*Elizabeth Cooke*      [books2@ggowu3a.co.uk](mailto:books2@ggowu3a.co.uk)

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

21 September **The Bookbinder of Jerico** Pip Williams  
19 October **The Curious Incident of the**  
**Dog in the Night** Mark Haddon  
16 November **The Seven Husbands of Evelyn Hugo**  
Taylor Jenkins Reid

Booklist at [www.ggowu3a.co.uk](http://www.ggowu3a.co.uk) 2027 booklist coming soon....

Jo Dandolo [books@ggowu3a.co.uk](mailto:books@ggowu3a.co.uk)

**CARD GAMES x 2** **Wednesday afternoons at Great Glen**  
**Duplicate Bridge (Social) Methodist Church Hall LE8 9EF**  
**1:45 pm for 2:00 pm prompt start, finishing at approx. 4:45 pm.**

If you can play bridge but do not know the duplicate system, we will explain it to you. We are a friendly group and 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**

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

The meetings at this new venue have been a great success. There is onsite parking. New members would be welcomed. Refreshments are 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 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 resume dancing on Tuesday 1 September. ECD is social dancing in circle, square and line formations, conducted mostly at walking pace. Some dances originated in the 17th century; others are modern. All are fully explained and walked through before setting to music. ECD has been described as 'Fun and Friendship, set to music'!

Peter Meacock

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

**Line Dancing  
Beginners****Tuesday mornings 10:30-12 noon, Elliot Hall,  
4 Albion Street, Sth. Wigston, Leicester, LE18 4SA****There is no class Tuesday 1st September**

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](mailto:linedancingwigston@ggowu3a.co.uk)**Discussion** (formerly *Debating*) **Great Glen Methodist Church,  
Ruth Warner room, fourth Friday, 10:15 am**

Next meeting is **25 September**. The Group has opted for a less formal approach, hence the change of name. We pick one or more topics in advance, ensure 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](mailto:vicechair@ggowu3a.co.uk)

**EATING OUT x 4****The penultimate Wednesday, every month,  
Lunch Club at 12:30 pm, Two Steeples, Bell Street, Wigston  
23 Sept., 21 Oct., 18 Nov., December - to be arranged!**

Search online for the menu – we mostly order from the lunch menu – and come join us! Members pre-order with Lilian or Kath at Speaker meetings with *Kath Bailey* [lunchclub@ggowu3a.co.uk](mailto: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](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      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 :      Proposed NEW GROUP      AI in our everyday lives**

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, we are learning together.

**Tuesday 8 September, Great Glen Methodist Church 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](mailto:ai@ggowu3a.co.uk)

**or text/call/WhatsApp      07759 831604**

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

9 September, 14 October, 11 November, 9 December

We meet in the free library area at **The Hub** which has a variety of table games available. Members bring their own favourites too so there is always variety and good company. Hot drinks are available to purchase. Join us for a session or two, enjoy our company and the games. There is no obligation to join the group. Try us and find out if we might suit you!

*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**

Our next meetings are **September 10 and 24**. 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

**GARDENS x 2    Second Monday in the month 10:00 am**

**Garden**    The venue for **14 September** is Palmers Garden Centre. On **12 October** we shall meet at Wistow Garden Centre.

Contact: *Lillian Greengrass* 0116 221 9837

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

**11 September, 9 October, 13 November, 11 December**

**Enjoy the free Uni. Botanical Garden in the last months of 2026**

Meet at the Glebe Road entrance, easy parking. Social walks in congenial company among mature trees and flora, and to visit the new World Food Garden. Occasional or regular members all welcome. The Uni. Botanical Garden will charge an entry fee starting 1 Jan. 2027.

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

*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**

**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](mailto: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**

Please note there is **no meeting in September**.

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

**Knit and Natter**

**First Thursday, 2:00 pm Menphys Hub,  
Basset Street, South Wigston LE18 4PE**

**3 September, 1 October, 5 November, 3 December**

This friendly group meets for craftwork and companionship. Knitting is optional! We would enjoy meeting a new member or two, crafty or otherwise. If you need materials for your craft or a new craft or project, we can obtain them for you. Try visiting us, there is no obligation to join, and see how much you enjoy our crafts and company.

Kath Bailey [KnitandNatter@ggowu3a.co.uk](mailto: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](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 x 3 Second & Fourth Mondays 10am -12 noon**

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

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](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 the church or at Peace Park. We now have a vacancy so new members are welcome. To express an interest in this group, please contact:

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

**Singing for Fun    Great Glen Methodist Church, LE8 9EF**  
**Fourth Monday 2.30 to 4.00 pm**  
**28 September, 26 October, and 23 November**

Singers experience vocal warmups, singing in 'rounds' and a range of musical genres. We have commercial songbooks with words and music and folders with traditional songs. The repertoire is enhanced by the leader's own resources and by Jenny Hawley at the piano. The group includes a spectrum of singers and music - and is enjoyed by all!

No prior choir experience is needed! **This is Singing for Fun!**

*Catriona Scott/Jenny Hawley*    [singing@ggowu3a.co.uk](mailto:singing@ggowu3a.co.uk)

**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, but vacancies do arise. Please contact me and I will put you on the waiting list. Contact: Ash Vaja    [pickleball@ggowu3a.co.uk](mailto:pickleball@ggowu3a.co.uk)

**Playreading    Third Friday each month, 10 am**  
**Ruth Warner room Great Glen Methodist Church Hall**  
**Our next meeting is 18 September at 10am**

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*    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 may change so

Contact: *Chris Hunter*    **07733 230711**    [Psychology@ggowu3a.co.uk](mailto:Psychology@ggowu3a.co.uk)

**QUIZZES X 2**    **Fourth Monday in the month - a Zoom meeting**  
**Zoom Quiz**

Asking the questions on 28 September will be Di Richardson. Anyone wishing to join us should contact Peter Russell or Rachael Snashall who will provide you with the date and 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 next Quiz is on Monday 7 September.**

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](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.    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 next Session after the Summer break is on 7 September.  
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**  
We are currently full; however, please email me if you wish to be placed on the waiting list. *Jay Bhikha*    [tabletennisfriday@ggowu3a.co.uk](mailto:tabletennisfriday@ggowu3a.co.uk)    £2

**WALKING x 4**    **Third Thursday 10:30 am**  
**Easy Strolling**    Various venues, some with parking charges  
**The next Stroll is Thursday 17 September**

Details will be sent out approximately one week beforehand.

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

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

Catherine and Margaret R will lead our next stroll at  
**Great Easton on Wednesday 16 September.**

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**

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

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

### **Writing for Pleasure**

**Fourth Tuesday 2:15 pm**  
**Great Glen Methodist Church LE8 9EF**  
**Our next meeting is 22 September**

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.

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

### **Information on our speakers:**

Phil Drabble: *Travels with a Tiger – Riding the Western Front.*

Inspired by historian Anthony Seldon's book 'The Path of Peace' in which he recounts his solo walk along the length of the Western Front, Phil Drabble decided to do the same journey on his Triumph Tiger motorbike. Tracing this historic route, her ode through Alsace, Lorraine, Champagne, the Somme and Flanders, finishing at the North Sea in Belgium. Phil's talk is a homage to all those people, on all sides, who fought and died on the Western Front, focusing on the fate of two men from his native Nottingham.

Phil Drabble spent all his working life in education, both as a secondary school teacher and as an educational adviser and is now an independent public speaker. Phil is also the president of Nottingham Anglo – French Society.

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

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