

Speaker Meetings at the Wigston Liberal Club

82 Bull Head St, Wigston LE18 1PA

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

**Wednesday,
28 October 2026
Phil Drabble**

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

**Wednesday,
25 November 2026
Peter Barratt**

*The History and Art
of Punch and Judy*

Serendipity Methodist Church Hall, Great Glen LE8 9EF

Second Wednesday in the month - 14 October

Doors open 10:15am to all members

Join us at our open meeting

A semi-social event with a variety of activities and items of interest

Janet Fanko 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 (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...

Many group meetings will be free in October 2026.

I am pleased to report that our ggow 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.

This means that if you meet at The Bowmen of Great Glen Archery Centre, Elliott Hall, Great Glen Methodist Church, Menphys Hub, Roger Bettles Sports Centre, Burton Ovary Village Hall, Wigston Liberal Club or Wigston United Reformed Church these meetings will be free in October 2026. *Group leaders should still complete an attendance register.*

You will still be expected to pay for consumables and printing, etc. as before. Groups making their own arrangements to cover the costs of refreshments, craft materials and other consumables should continue to do so.

And a reminder that your submissions to the Sam Muir poetry competition are due before the end of October.

Peter Williams, Chairman chair@ggowu3a.co.uk

Chat at the Chestnuts café in Oadby 2026

Mornings 10:30am	Afternoons 2:30pm	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
1 OCTOBER	15 OCTOBER	
5 NOVEMBER	19 NOVEMBER	
3 DECEMBER	17 DECEMBER	

Activities - in alphabetical order

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

Members will be advised of the theme for the next meeting.

Rachael Snashall art@ggowu3a.co.uk

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

AA - try a new experience; we next meet on Monday, 19 October. 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'!

Ian Bowler aa@ggowu3a.co.uk

BOOKS x 2 **Fourth Thursday 10:00am**
Book Group - Thursday **G. Glen Methodist Church Hall, LE8 9EF**

22/10/2026	<i>American Wife</i>	Curtis Sittenfeld
	<i>Confessions with Blue Horses</i>	Sophie Hardach
26/11/2026	<i>One of Us</i>	Elizabeth Day

Elizabeth Cooke books2@ggowu3a.co.uk

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

19 October	<i>The Curious Incident of the</i>	
	<i>Dog in the Night</i>	Mark Haddon
16 November	<i>The Seven Husbands of Evelyn Hugo</i>	
		Taylor Jenkins Reid

Booklist at www.ggowu3a.co.uk **2027** booklist coming soon....

Jo Dandolo books@ggowu3a.co.uk

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

1:45pm for a 2:00pm prompt start, finishing at approx. 4:45pm.

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

Minibridge **Every Tuesday morning, 9:45am for a 10:00am 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 to 3:30pm**
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 Free in October!

Croquet x 2 **Every Thursday 10:00 to 11:30am**
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. Try us out free in October!

Joan Bateson 0116 259 3191

Tuesday Croquet Every Tuesday 1:30 to 3pm
Great Glen Methodist Church Hall LE8 9EF

Croquet is fun and not strenuous. New members are welcome.
We have a vacancy, so try us out in October, free.
Geraldine Siddons 0116 241 3947

****Learn Something New** – a Christmas Craft Afternoon**

Monday 30 November at 2.00pm Great Glen Methodist Church

Come for a relaxed afternoon of Christmas crafting and learn to make your own felt decorations to take home. Choose from a variety of festive designs including stars, trees, hearts, Santa, snowmen, stockings, bells and angels; decorate them with stitching, buttons, beads and ribbons. No experience necessary - all materials provided; a total meeting cost of £5. For more information / to book, contact: Sue Russell LSN@ggowu3a.co.uk

****Everyone welcome — beginners especially! 07976 263206**

Dancing x 2 Tuesdays, 2:00pm to 4:00pm
English Country Dancing (ECD) Burton Overy Village Hall, LE8 9EW

The group has resumed dancing. ECD is social dancing in circle, square and line formations, conducted mostly at walking pace. All are fully explained and walked through before setting to music. ECD is 'Fun and Friendship, set to music'! Peter Meacock ecd@ggowu3a.co.uk 0116 279 3600

Line Dancing Tuesday mornings 10:30 to 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! Free in October! Note the new contact: Beverly Freer linedancingwigston@ggowu3a.co.uk

Line Dancing Thursdays 10:30 to 12 noon from 1 October
Burton Overy Village Hall, LE8 9EW

Line dancing continues from 1 October when the meeting is free of charge. Note the time adjustment and the new contact:
Nutan Vaja dancing@ggowu3a.co.uk

Discussion (formerly Debating) Great Glen Methodist Church,
Ruth Warner room, fourth Friday, 10:15am

Next meeting is 23 October. 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

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

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 07974 523079

Meet & Eat Third Tuesday, Italian Greyhound, G. Glen, LE8 9GF

We meet monthly to enjoy a delicious lunch with friendly regular, occasional, and new members. New singles and couples are always welcome. Lunch is pre ordered by email from a special menu prepared for us, a choice of two courses at £20 or three-courses at £25 (plus discretionary tip).

If you would like to see the month's menu with no obligation to join, contact: *Trevor Johnson* meetandeat@ggowu3a.co.uk

Pub Lunches Second Wednesday in the month, venues vary

Call for information: *Margaret Hudson* 0116 271 5064

**Sunday Lunches Second Sunday, 1:00pm
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, 2:00pm 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 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, 13 October, Great Glen Methodist Church 3:30 to 5pm.

Members will need to bring their own portable device – ideally tablet or laptop for readability, but smartphones would be suitable.

Interested? Contact me as soon as possible:

Peter Russell ai@ggowu3a.co.uk text/call/WhatsApp 07759 831604

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

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 07974 523079

**Tabletop games Second & Fourth Thursdays 2:00pm
Ruth Warner Room, 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

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

Garden On 12 October we shall meet at Wistow Garden Centre. Our 9 November meeting will be at Cherry Lane and on 14 December, we shall meet at Palmers Garden Centre.

Contact: *Lillian Greengrass* 0116 221 9837

Garden Visits Second Friday in month, meet 2:00pm Glebe Rd.

9 October, 13 November, and on 11 December - *A Winter Walk*

Enjoy **free entry** at the Uni. Botanical Garden in the last months of 2026. *From 1 January 2027, entrance area will change and fee will be £6 per person.*

First Sunday and Monday in the month will remain free!

Until then, meet at the Glebe Road entrance area lower end of the hill, easy parking. Social walks in congenial company among mature trees and flora; visit the new World Food Garden. Occasional or regular members all welcome. *June Juett* (07484 602348) gardenvisits@ggowu3a.co.uk

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

Our next meetings are 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 07711 386958

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

05/10/2026 Brief Histories of Evington, Mountsorrel, Wigston, Oadby.
02/11/2026 Architecture - the History of the Arch.
The Scilly Isles film

07/12/2026 Christmas Quiz

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 10:30am start
Great Glen Methodist Church Hall LE8 9EF

We resume on Wednesday 7 October at 10:00 am for coffee, the presentation starts at 10:30 am. The subject is the Battle of El Alamein, which marked the turning point in the war in the Middle East, when in October 1942 allied troops began to push back Axis forces out of Egypt.

Contact: *Alan Mawby* militaryhistory@ggowu3a.co.uk

Knit and Natter First Thursday in the month, 2:00pm at

Note the change to **Memphys, Basset Street LE12 4PE**

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 07974 523079

KURLING - New Age Kurling First & third Wednesdays
1:30pm to 3:00pm

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 to 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

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. To express an interest, please contact:

Alison Termie handbells@ggowu3a.co.uk 07813 705427

Singing for Fun Great Glen Methodist Church, LE8 9EF
Fourth Monday 2.30 to 4.00pm

26 October, and 23 November

We enjoy a range of musical genres. We have commercial songbooks and folders with traditional songs. The experience is enhanced by the leader's 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

Photography Third Wednesday, 2:30pm, 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 10:00am
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, 10am
Ruth Warner room Great Glen Methodist Church Hall

Our next meeting is 16 October 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 a small room, 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 10:00am to 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...

Please contact: Chris Hunter 07733 230711 or
Val Bowler 07803270456 Psychology@ggowu3a.co.uk

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

26 October as usual, then all u3a members are invited to a
free Zoom Quiz meeting on **23 November** at 2.15 for a 2.30 start.

If you have Zoom, the joining passwords are 915 4532 2884. 478026.
The person asking the questions will be Toni Smith. We would enjoy seeing some new faces, so if you like quizzing, then please join us on 23 November. Contact Peter Russell or Rachael Snashall for more details.

Peter Russell/Rachael Snashall zoomquiz@ggowu3a.co.uk

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

Quizzes: Mondays, 5 October, 2 November, and 7 December.

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

TABLE TENNIS X 2 Mondays, 11:00 to 12:30pm 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 12:30pm
Roger Bettles University Sports Centre, Manor Road, LE2 2LL

We have a couple of spaces! If these have been filled, you can choose to be placed on the waiting list. *Jay Bhikha* tabletennisfriday@ggowu3a.co.uk £2

WALKING x 4 Third Thursday 10:30am
Easy Strolling Various venues, some with parking charges

The next Strolls are **Thursdays, 15 October and 19 November.**

Details are sent approximately a week before. We shall not be strolling in December.

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

Village Strollers Local History / Heritage venues

Our final stroll of 2026 will be to Uppingham. We shall plan next year's programme in early November. We will be needing pairs to plan the eight walks, mainly involving visiting villages we visited several years ago. 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. 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 there are changes related to walking conditions and weather.

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 2:15pm 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.

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

Information on our November speaker:

Peter Barratt *aka professor Diamond*:

The hand carved wooden puppets and booth are custom made to a traditional design by master puppeteer Bryan Clarke, a Punch and Judy man himself for over 60 years. The cast includes Mr Punch, Judy, baby Punch, crocodile, Toby the dog, Joey the Clown, policeman, monkey and of course, the sausages! Professor Diamond has enjoyed Punch and Judy throughout his life. He is a member of the Punch and Judy Fellowship, has public liability insurance, is an Equity member, and is DBS cleared.

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

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