



## **APRIL 2026 NEWSLETTER**

**Top Stories in this Newsletter.....**

**BOOK REVIEWS**

**INTEREST GROUP  
NEWS**

**EGM - 21 APRIL 2026**

**SPEAKERS' CORNER**

**OUTINGS & EVENTS**

**Your Newsletter is brought to you Monthly by  
Stephanie Benjamin at [newsletter@busheyu3a.org](mailto:newsletter@busheyu3a.org)**



## **From the Chair**

**Dear Members,**

**On 24<sup>th</sup> March, Susan Galan and I went to the u3a SW Herts Cluster Group meeting which was hosted by the Sarratt u3a at their Sarratt Village Hall. This is a 6-monthly meeting where Committee members from some 10 SW Herts U3a's meet to discuss various things. The agenda included Recruitment, Constitutions, Membership Cards and more. We contributed positive bits about our plastic membership cards, use of GoCardless for subscription payments, and more. The meeting lasted 2 hours with lots of interesting discussions - also nice teas, coffees and cakes were provided!**

**When we headed back to Bushey after the meeting, Susan and I agreed that the meeting was very constructive, reflecting on lots of positive things that all those U3A's do. Susan and I also agreed that our Bushey U3A is definitely "up there" too! So, well done to all the Committee members, Group Leaders and all other volunteers including our Meet & Greet team and those serving teas and coffees at the Met! Thanks also to all our members – we couldn't do it without you. Well done everyone!**

**Andrew Gunton, Chair**

# SPEAKERS' CORNER

## THIS MONTH'S MEETING

21st APRIL 2026 AT 10.00am prompt

Metropolitan Bushey, Aldenham Road,  
Bushey WD23 2TR

## Bushey & District U3A EGM

Followed by

Robert Wilton – Bad Boys and Gutsy Girls  
early British travellers in the Balkans

Robert Wilton was Private Secretary to the UK Secretary of State for Defence, advisor to the Prime Minister of Kosovo in the period before the country's independence and head of an international human rights mission in Albania. He has lived and worked in the Balkans for most of the past 15 years. Robert also writes on history, culture and international intervention in the Balkans

### A FRIENDLY REMINDER!

Please remember to bring your Membership Card to gain scanned entry to the Meeting. The last scanned entry will be at 9.55am to allow the Meeting to start uninterrupted at 10.00am

Also note that Replacement Membership Cards are charged at £5.00

### SUGGESTION

Take a screen shot of your Membership Card on your phone and save it in your "phone "wallet" this can be scanned at the Registration desk!

## ***DATES FOR THE DIARY***

***Unfortunately Our Speaker  
Andrew Baker  
who was to speak on “Liverpool”  
From Crisis to Renewal - A City’s turbulent past  
and its resurgence — has had to cancel and we will  
rebook him for another time!***

***So we have booked***

**19th May 2026**

**Granville Taylor**

**Reveley Lodge**

**“Managing an asset rich, cash poor organisation”**

**After a career in the telecommunications industry, Granville retired in 2013. He became a Trustee of Reveley Lodge Trust shortly after retirement and the following year became its Chairman. When he was younger he was a member of Bushey and Oxhey Round Table which for many years ran the Bushey Carnival and Christmas float. In many ways he thought this was ideal training for running Reveley.**

**Granville will be accompanied by Lesley Powell,  
Head Gardener at Reveley Lodge**

**This should be a really interesting talk with lots of background information, filling any gaps in our knowledge of local history.**



## **INTEREST GROUPS**

### **The Wanderers' Walk in March**

On a cold and windy day, we met at North Greenwich station for our walk along The Line, a public art trail that links the Olympic Park with the O2, following waterways and the Greenwich Meridian. After walking around the Greenwich Peninsula, taking in the first artworks including two statues by Damien Hirst and an installation by Anthony Gormley, we boarded the London Cable Car over to Royal Victoria Dock, reaching a height of 300 ft, with magnificent views along the Thames. Negotiating roadworks, we picked up The Line to the Lower River Lea, lunching at Cody Dock, an industrial heritage site that has been transformed into an area of creative industries and communal gardens (and a really good café). Our route along the river took us past other artworks, including a double helix of 25 supermarket trolleys commemorating the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the discovery of DNA, montages of paintings by Madge Gill, a local self-taught artist, as well as a poignant sculpture of clasping hands commemorating the deaths of four workers who were killed by noxious air when opening a well in 1901. We passed Three Mills, one of the oldest existing industrial sites in London and the world's last surviving tidal mill, now home to film and TV studios and a school. We eventually came to the Olympic Park, the Olympic Stadium, now West Ham football club's home, the Aquatics Centre and the ArcelorMittal Orbit, the tallest and longest tunnel slide, created by Anish Kapoor. The last artwork is Please Take a Seat, a modern interpretation of a Victorian park bench, with 'Hello' in every language engraved on the wood. (You can see all the artworks on [www.the-line.org](http://www.the-line.org).) After the tranquillity of our 5.5 mile walk, we arrived at the hustle and bustle of Stratford for our journey home.



**Lunch at Cody Dock**

**More Photos from The Wanderers .....**



**Three Mills Island**

## Five Milers' March Walk

In contrast to the Wanderers' walk this month, we set out under blue skies from Cassiobury Park in Watford. The Park was originally the grounds of Cassiobury House, ancestral home of the Earls of Essex. We walked along the Grand Union Canal, passing a variety of interesting canal boats moored along the banks, to Croxley Common Moor. Registered as a Site of Special Scientific Interest because of the rarity of its plant life, it is also designated as a Local Nature Reserve. On the other side of the Moor is the Moor Park Industrial Centre, where we stopped for coffee (and cake) at car themed Unit VII, centred around a beautifully restored Mercedes with storage racks holding Porsches at the back. Our route back took us along the River Gade, a globally rare chalk river, running parallel to the canal, to Cassiobury Farm & Fishery. The Farm has recently been sold and is currently awaiting the return of its unusual collection of exotic animals and birds. From there, we walked through the nature reserve area of the Park to our starting point, still under blue skies.



Both walking groups welcome new members; The Wanderers walk on the fourth Tuesday of the month and the Five Milers on the fourth Thursday. Please contact Gillian Gurner at [ggurner@aol.com](mailto:ggurner@aol.com) if you would like to join us.



***Have You got Spare Time?***

***Are you looking for something to do?***

***How do you fill your day?***

***Why not join like minded people at one  
of our many Interest Groups?***

**WE HAVE A TOTAL OF 54 INTEREST GROUPS**

**CURRENTLY WE HAVE 26 GROUPS**

**(21 FACE TO FACE IN PERSON AND 5 ZOOM)**

**THAT ARE STILL ACCEPTING MEMBERS**

**You can find a full list of Groups, meeting days and times on  
our website under the Groups page and also on the  
noticeboard at the monthly Metropolitan meetings.**

**OR**

**If you can't find what you're looking for—why not START your  
own?**

**A recent suggestion is a WINE GROUP does that grab anyone's  
fancy? Any connoisseurs out there?**

# OUTINGS GROUP

## Henry Moore: Monumental Nature

A landmark exhibition of Moore's work across Kew Gardens

Kew Gardens

Discover the world of science behind our botanical collections, with over 50,000 living plants to be found across our UNESCO World Heritage site.



## HENRY MOORE MONUMENTAL NATURE AT KEW GARDENS

The largest ever presentation of artworks by Henry Moore one of Britains renowned artists. 30 monumental sculptures are set across Kew's iconic landscapes and world renowned botanical collections, blending in with nature's living form.

90 smaller scale works are available to view at the Shirley Sherwood Gallery of Botanical Art (located by the Temperate House)

**4<sup>th</sup> June 2026**

**Meeting at Stanmore Station 9.30am**

**(Changing at West Hampstead overland to Kew)**

**Entrance: £20.50 (Concessionary Group Rate)**

Lots of beautiful things to see and admire in the gardens and glasshouses of Kew.

**There are still a few tickets left, so grab them while you can!**

Contact Stephanie at [busheyu3a@outlook.com](mailto:busheyu3a@outlook.com) to book your place. Small Group so book early to avoid disappointment!

## EVENTS & OUTINGS



### **A DAY TRIP TO MARGATE**

**Come and enjoy a day at the seaside!**

**Tuesday 4th August 2026**

**£22.50 coach only**

**Visit the Turner contemporary art gallery**

**Explore the independent shops with quirky  
boutiques and antique shops**

**Lots of trendy coffee shops and restaurants**

**Walk along the promenade and smell the sea air**

**Leave Bushey 9am return approx. 6pm**

**Pick up Red Lion Bus Stop**

**Elstree Road bus stop, opposite the Synagogue**

**We will be having a comfort stop.**

**To book contact Marilyn on [marilynskaye@gmail.com](mailto:marilynskaye@gmail.com)**

**Bookings will be on a first come/first serve basis**

## EVENTS & OUTINGS GROUP

**!!!!STOP PRESS!!!!**

***The April visit to the Museum of Brands is fully booked***



***The June Outing to the Denbies Wine Estate  
and***

***The July Outing to the Royal Gunpowder Mills***

***Sold out very quickly and have Waiting Lists in  
case of any cancellations.***

***Remember, if you see it, fancy it then book it!***



## **“Book Lovers” Review from Diane Pratt**

We recently read “Absent in the Spring” by Mary Westmacott, who is actually Agatha Christie, the so-called “Queen of Crime”.

Don't expect a Whodunnit because this short novel definitely isn't that! What we have is a story set just prior to the second world war, based on a rather privileged character by the name of Joan Scudamore, who on returning from a visit to a daughter in Iraq, finds herself stranded in an isolated rest house in a desert setting where she has plenty of time to review her life. She realises some uncomfortable truths about herself and resolves to change on her return to England.

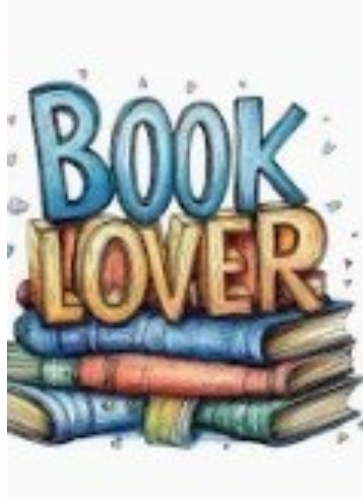
It was well received by our group who found it thought provoking and psychologically insightful. It sparked some retrospection of our own lives. So thank you Mary Westmacott, aka Agatha Christie!

*For more information about our Book Groups*

*“Book Lovers” or “Read with Us”*

*Go to our Website*

<https://bushey.u3asite.uk/>



## **BOOK REVIEWS**

**Book Worms - Avid Readers**

**What have you read recently?**

**Is there a special book that has stayed with you as such a memorable read?**

**Are you a member of a Book Club?**

**Please share your thoughts and reviews with our**

**Bushey u3a Members**

**Send your Reviews to Stephanie**

**At**

**[newsletter@busheyu3a.org](mailto:newsletter@busheyu3a.org)**

## **MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL SUBSCRIPTION**

***Renewal is taken annually on the anniversary of your joining date.***

***A payment of £20 is taken via Go Cardless from your bank account.***

***Please be aware that this can show on your bank account at the time of your renewal date and should not be cancelled or it will void your***

***Membership. Most Renewals take place in April but for newer members this will be in the month of your joining!***

### **WHAT DO YOU GET FROM YOUR MEMBERSHIP?**

**MONTHLY MEETINGS WITH INTERESTING SPEAKERS**

**YOU CAN JOIN AN INTEREST GROUP WITH SPACES**

**OR SET UP A NEW GROUP WITH SUPPORT!**

**ALSO, OUTINGS, DAY TRIPS, HOLIDAYS!**

**THE CHANCE TO MEET OTHER PEOPLE WITH SIMILAR INTERESTS AND MAKE NEW FRIENDS**

**This Newsletter is for you the Membership!**

**Feel free to contribute with your articles, thoughts and ideas! Stephanie would love to hear from you!**

**[newsletter@busheyu3a.org](mailto:newsletter@busheyu3a.org)**

### **Postage Stamps**



Please remember to save any stamps you receive on cards and letters. I collect them all year round to help raise funds for the Peace Hospice Care in Watford. You can give them to me at the monthly meetings. If you do not attend these, please pass them to a friend who does. Thank you very much for all your continued support of Peace Hospice Care, it is very much appreciated.

Judy Dorée