



MAY 2026 NEWSLETTER

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Your Newsletter is brought to you Monthly by
Stephanie Benjamin at newsletter@busheyu3a.org



From the Chair

Dear Members,

As a Bushey u3a member I went on our recent 5 day Devon holiday – it was excellent! There were around 30 of us on the trip. On Wednesday, 22nd April the coach took us to Devon. On the way down we stopped at the Westonbirt Arboretum in Gloucestershire which is around 600 acres with over 2,500 different types of trees and shrubs! In Devon we stayed at the Cavendish hotel in Exmouth – a great place to stay as it is close to the beach with nice views! On Thursday, we went on the historic narrow-gauge tramway between Seaton and the ancient town of Colyton. An excellent piece of history!



From there, we went to the Donkey Sanctuary at Sidmouth. On Friday, we went on a cruise around the Exe Estuary enjoying the stunning Jurassic Coast.



Saturday, we had free time in Exeter. I went down to the quay and then walked around the stunning Exeter cathedral - the present building was completed around 1400! Sunday, we headed home having been to lots of very interesting places. The company was excellent too!

So as a member – and also as Chair of the Committee – well done Ann for yet again, organising such a lovely break! Ann is also organising the Liverpool & Port Sunlight break in October which I am sure will be another wonderful trip.

I would also like to thank all of our volunteers who help run our Bushey u3a 'behind the scenes'. Nothing is taken for granted, we appreciate all of you!

Andrew Gunton, Chair

SPEAKERS' CORNER

THIS MONTH'S MEETING

19th MAY 2026 AT 10.00am prompt

**Metropolitan Bushey, Aldenham Road,
Bushey WD23 2TR**

19th May 2026

Granville Taylor

Reveley Lodge

“Managing an asset rich, cash poor organisation”

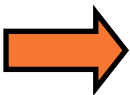
After a career in the telecommunications industry, Granville retired in 2013. He became a Trustee of Reveley Lodge Trust shortly after retirement and the following year became its Chairman. When he was younger he was a member of Bushey and Oxhey Round Table which for many years ran the Bushey Carnival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

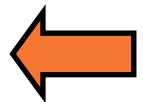
This should be a really interesting talk with lots of background information, filling any gaps in our knowledge of local history.

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

23rd June 2026

ELIZABETH GOWING

Returns to speak on

“Morocco Blues” how and why Morocco got painted blue!

After working in primary education in inner London, Elizabeth moved to Kosovo in 2006. There she milked her first cow , smoked her first cigar and drank her first cup of proper coffee. She is the co-founder of The Ideas Partnership charity working with the power of volunteers to tackle challenges in education, cultural heritage and the environment and with particular focus on the excluded Roma and Ashkali communities. She is also the author of several books.



INTEREST GROUPS

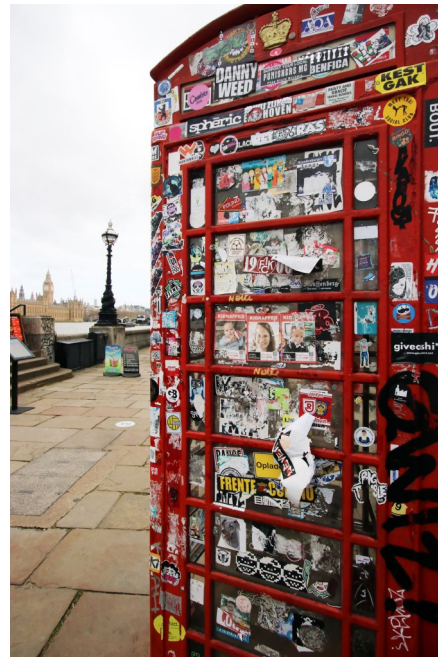
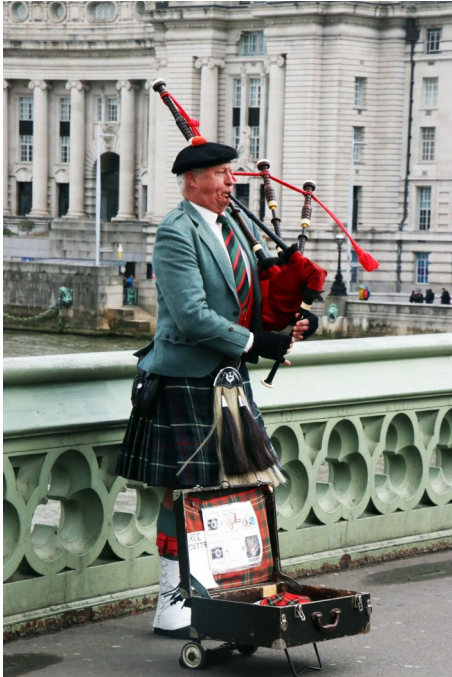
On 30 March 2026 the Photography Group set out cameras in hand to Westminster and this is some of what they captured!





And from another perspective!





This Photography Group was started by a member who had very little knowledge of photography but has progressed with the help of others in the Group. Members range from complete novices to semi professional level and we share our knowledge as well as socialising.

The Group meets monthly on a Monday afternoon but unfortunately it is full with a Waiting List. A 2nd Group could easily be set-up and help would be provided!

For more information contact Tony through the website

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

Walking Groups in April

This month, we explored areas of beautiful bluebells, which look more spectacular this year than ever.

On a lovely sunny day **The Five Milers** walked from Stanmore Common, passing two ponds, probably man made, dating from at least Roman times and possibly earlier. One is known as 'Caesar's Pond', based on a tradition that there was a Roman garrison quartered nearby. Boudicca (Boadicea) almost certainly camped by and drank from these ponds. It is these stony ponds or "Stane Meres" that gave Stanmore its name.

From there, we walked to the viewpoint in Stanmore Country Park from where (on a clear day) you can see from Alexandra Palace all the way across to the planes coming in to land at Heathrow, with the London skyline in the distance. Turning into the ancient woodland of Pear Wood (named for Sir William Parys, who owned it in the 13th century), we found masses of bluebells among the magnificent variety of trees, as well as a marker for Grims Dyke, an ancient earthwork that crosses the wood. Its origins are unclear; it may date back to Roman times or from the 5th or 6th century, probably a boundary marker. We circled a large fishing lake, Pear Lake, originally established for the Duke of Chandos towards the end of the 18th century, now leased by the Royal British Legion Fishing Club.



Coming out of the Country Park, we crossed into Bentley Priory, walking past the privately owned herd of Fallow Deer (sadly, we didn't have any carrots to feed them) back to our starting point.



Starting off in rather cloudy weather, **The Wanderers** met at the Old Orchard in Harefield, which has stunning views across the lakes of the Colne Valley (as well as the HS2 viaduct), we walked to Old Park Wood. An ancient woodland with magnificent displays of wildflowers in the springtime, including masses of bluebells, a quiet haven behind Harefield Hospital. Our birdsong recognition apps came in useful to identify the variety of birds we heard along the way.

After meandering around and through the Wood, we returned to the Old Orchard for a tasty lunch, indoors because of the weather rather than on the terrace overlooking the lakes. But the sun came out as we set off for the second part of the walk, so it was off with the raincoats and on with the sunglasses. Downhill to the Grand Union Canal, along the towpath, turning off to a footpath that took us between two lakes up towards Denham; unfortunately, the next part of the walk has been obliterated by the HS2 works so it was back alongside the Rickmansworth Sailing Club to the canal, retracing our steps up the hill to our start point.



Both groups welcome new members; 5 Milers meet on the fourth Thursday of the month, next walk Thursday 28 May and the Wanderers on Tuesday 26 May. If you'd like to join us or find out more, contact Gillian Gurner

ggurner@aol.com

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.**



Calling all Line Dancers or Would Be dancers!

***No previous experience required. Instructions will be
given! We already have some interested members and
want to start a Group. Why not step up for it or get in line?***

**Contact Gill Freed. Interest Group Co-ordinator
through the website <https://bushey.u3asite.uk/>**

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

ONLY TWO TICKETS LEFT!!

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)

4th 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.

Contact Stephanie at busheyu3a@outlook.com to book your
place. Small Group so book early to avoid disappointment!

OUTINGS GROUP

SAVE THE DATE – TUESDAY 8 SEPTEMBER

TOUR OF THE GARRICK CLUB



Situated in the heart of London's West End and Theatreland, in Old Covent Garden, The Garrick Club was founded in 1831, under the patronage of the King's brother, The Duke of Sussex. Its purpose was to be a place where 'actors and men of refinement and education might meet on equal terms', where 'patrons of the drama and its professors were to be brought together', and where 'easy intercourse was to be promoted between artists and patrons'.

More details later, but if you want to register for the tour, please email ggurner@aol.com

EVENTS & OUTINGS

ROYAL GUNPOWDER MILLS

Waltham Abbey

Thursday 9th. July 2026



ONE REMAINING PLACE

Contact Tony Baron

abaron688@gmail.com



A DAY TRIP TO MARGATE

Tuesday 4th August 2026

SOLD OUT



Our 20 strong group met in the garden café of the MUSEUM OF BRANDS on a beautiful sunny Wednesday in April. We enjoyed coffee and cakes in an amazingly lush garden at the rear of this iconic building in Ladbrooke Grove. We marvelled at the enormous white tulips (Tulip Purissima) a ponderosa lemon and equally unusual kiwi tree, whilst receiving tips on how to cut and replant geraniums from one of the volunteer gardeners. We also learned that the last occupants had turned it into a Memorial Garden for many of the patients, (who had been supported by the London Lighthouse) and whose ashes were now laid to rest there.

Our tour of the Museum began formally with an introductory talk by Becky, who initially told us the history of the building and how the Museum was formed. It was built as the Bayswater Jewish School in March 1929, and a stone plaque denoting this is set into the original front wall which is still visible. It later became known as the Solomon Woolfson School. In 1988 it reopened as the London Lighthouse, a residential unit for patients suffering from Aids. After the charity merged with the Terence Higgins Trust and new medical treatments no longer necessitated residential care, it closed in 2013, before reopening its doors in 2015 once more as the Museum of Brands.

The Museum was the passion and brainchild of Robert Opie, “the consumer historian and patron saint of the package age”. He started his collection of memorabilia at the age of 16, coming from a family of collectors. Robert wanted to create something no one else was doing – so started looking at packaging, foraging in his family and friends’ cupboards, obtaining display materials from shops and even dredging a local Kensington pond for items that had been discarded there.

The Museum is a treasure trove of memorabilia dating back from the Victorian era until the current day, encompassing not only food and drink products, decorative tins celebrating special events over the years but also toys, electrical and electronic items, historical posters, photographs, magazines and so much more. As we passed through the time tunnel starting with the Victorian era and moving through each decade our Group spent time reminiscing over the colourful array of items that we remembered from our youth, our parents’ and grandparents’ homes – bringing back many happy memories of bygone days.



We exchanged our personal memories of items as we passed each display cabinet filled to the brim, marvelling at how they had been curated and grateful we didn't have to dust the shelves in the numerous glass cabinets! The LP record sleeves were familiar to us and we compared notes of which ones we had purchased. The games and jigsaws of 1950's tv programmes, tested our memories of the stars and the series we used to watch.

As we came towards the end of the tunnel, one cabinet brought back a very personal memory to our Group Leader. Gillian's granddaughter had won a competition in the Radio Times to create a cover celebrating Prince William & Princess Catherine's wedding – and there it was displayed with the byline "created by Darcy Gurner aged 7".





The final cabinet displayed the most popular “value for money” products as chosen by The Grocer magazine in December 2026 – No. 1 being Cadburys and No. 2 Coca Cola.

We couldn't believe that after starting our tour at 11.30am some of us were just coming to the end of the tunnel nearly 3 hours later..... it was as if time had stood still! - Gill Freed



“Book Lovers” Review from Penny Shaw

Last month we read *Never Let Me Go* by Kazuo Ishiguro. It is set in an alternative 1990 England where clones are raised in special institutions, such as the idyllic Hailsham school to serve as organ donors for non cloned humans. It is narrated by one pupil Kathy.

There were very mixed opinions from feeling it was very slow and hard to get into to feeling that it was compelling and a good read. We all agreed it was very sad and had some interesting twists. Beautifully written as are all his books !

For more information about our Book Groups

“Book Lovers” or “Read with Us”

Go to our Website

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

Our Book Groups provide a friendly atmosphere where you can join like minded people, have the opportunity to discuss the chosen book, exchange ideas and get together for a chat over a cup of tea & cake.



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

NOTICE

MEMBERSHIP DATABASE

YOU MIGHT NOTICE SOME CHANGES

**IN OUR FUTURE MAILINGS AS WE ARE GOING TO USE THE
U3A BEACON DATABASE WHICH WILL MAKE US MORE EFFICIENT!**

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

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