



JUNE 2026 NEWSLETTER

Top Stories in this Newsletter.....

BOOK REVIEW

**INTEREST GROUP
NEWS**

DENBIES WINE ESTATE

SPEAKERS' CORNER

KEW TRIP

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



From the Chair

Dear Members,

As a Member I was delighted to go on the day trip to Denbies Wine Estate in Surrey on 26 May.

Denbies is a family-owned vineyard and is rooted in the Surrey Hills. The estate spans 380 acres, with 265 acres under vine and the capacity to produce up to one million bottles annually. The first vines were planted there in 1986, marking the beginning of a quietly ambitious English wine story. We had a guided tour of the winery explaining how they convert grapes into wine with “tasters” on the way round – fascinating!

I bought a few bottles some of which I have opened – excellent quality! And totally British!

So well done Denise for organising the most enjoyable Denbies Outing and I look forward to our future day trips!

During the course of the year Denise with the help of others, arranges various Outings and Visits to places of interest. We wish to continue providing our u3a members with a great choice of events and the opportunity to go to places they had not previously considered. What we need now is for more people to come forward to help organise a day trip or a visit to a place of interest in London. You would not be alone if this is a “first” for you, full support would be given. So, if you think this is something you could offer, please let us know. It’s very rewarding when you get the positive feedback on how much the participants enjoyed themselves!

We’re all Volunteers working to offer our Bushey u3a members the best in terms of Events, Speakers and Interest Groups so if you would like to join us, we would give you a warm welcome, we are a very friendly lot. You might even like to observe one of our Committee Meetings?

Regards,

**Andrew
Chairman**

SPEAKERS' CORNER

THIS MONTH'S MEETING

16th JUNE 2026 AT 10.00am prompt

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

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.

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!

DATE FOR THE DIARY

21st July 2026

HELEN FRY

“Women in Intelligence - the Spies who should be remembered”

Helen is a renowned British historian, author and broadcaster specialising in WWII, espionage and intelligence. She is known for her books on German refugees in British Forces, “Women in Intelligence” and the “Secret Listener” eavesdropping operations.





INTEREST GROUPS IN THE SPOTLIGHT

The World Religion group had a visit to the Evangelical Sisterhood of Mary in Radlett.

The Lutheran community was formed in Germany in 1947 as the sisterhood were so distressed at what their fellow countrymen had done to the Jewish people. To this day they strongly support Israel and the sisters in the UK joined the rally to bring back the hostages.



There are just 2 sisters living in the large detached house in a residential road in Radlett.

They made us very welcome and told us about their community and their journey. They are getting elderly and unfortunately when they go there probably won't be any representation in the UK.



It was a beautiful day and we had tea and biscuits in the lovely garden.

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.**

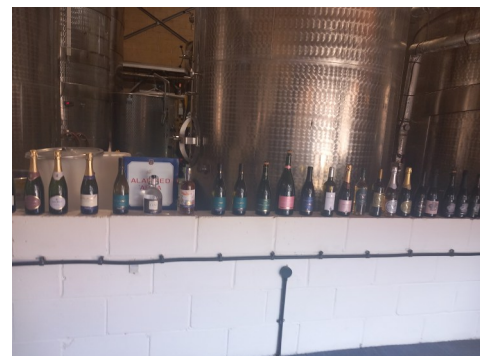
<https://bushey.u3asite.uk>

OUTINGS GROUP



We set off from Bushey on one of the hottest days in May to Denbies Wine Estate.

Unfortunately, the M25 lived up to the usual traffic problems and so we were about 1/2 hour late getting to Denbies. Because of this we were a bit behind schedule so had a slightly shortened tour of the wine distillery. We viewed the distillery and were told how they make their white, rose and red wines from the variety of different grapes grown in the vineyard. We were given two different samples of white wine on our way around and a sample of red wine “don’t put your glasses down, keep hold of them”. we were told! With the red wine we had the choice of it at room temperature or the same red wine which had been refrigerated. Most of us enjoyed the refrigerated red wine the best. Now I don’t feel so bad putting an ice cube in my red wine.



After our tour we had a lovely lunch alfresco under a canvas roof to keep the sun off. Most of us decided not to walk the trail around the vineyards due to the very hot weather, so many of us just found a bench in the shade and relaxed.



After a visit to the shop, we did see the film about Denbies Vineyard and how it was started. The hills seemed to be just the right place to set up a vineyard in the valley with the sloping hills and the chalk earth which seemed to be ideal for growing grapes for wine. Then it was time to get back on the coach for our journey home in the company of clinking wine bottles!

Thank you Denise for organising this trip.

Ann Covington



Best made plans went awry as TFL chose to Strike on 4th June and with true British weather we went from sweltering heat last week to stormy weather, so much for “flaming June”! So, we changed to the Overground route we came prepared for wet weather and we had a brilliant time!

Once we arrived at Kew, we split up into smaller groups but crisscrossed paths and met each other along the way. We went on the little train which goes around the whole of the estate with the driver speaking about the history of Kew and pointing out the various trees, birds and natural attractions.

Later we went on a walking tour of the wonderful Henry Moore sculptures which are erected in the natural open spaces. We were guided by a very knowledgeable Kew Guide who helped us get a better understanding of what stood before us.



We were so lucky with the weather, there were periods of light rain and only one heavy downpour where most of us took shelter in one of the Glasshouses.

So much to see and not enough time! The grounds at this time of the year are beautifully laid out with colourful flowers and of course, in the glasshouses, there are such rare and endangered plants in their different botanical environments. Well, it's not going away so I can always go back.

If you were unable to join our trip, the Henry Moore Monumental Nature runs until 31st January 2027.

Stephanie Benjamin — Group Leader



Kew Gardens 4th June 2026

Following the previous week-long heatwave, 12 intrepid u3a members braved a forecast of heavy winds and rain plus yet another London Underground strike, armed with raincoats and umbrellas they set off for Kew Gardens using the Lioness and Mildmay Overground lines from Bushey station.

The journey was, in fact, very easy and pleasant as our Group Leader had already planned the route and we stayed together, ensuring no one got lost on the way!

On arrival we split into smaller groups, one hiking the length and breadth of the gardens, another visiting the art galleries and pagoda, whilst the third settled down for coffee and cakes before spending the next hour walking through the nearby gardens and taking shelter from a downpour in one of the hothouses. Macs and brollies down, it was peaceful for about five minutes, until four groups of schoolchildren and teachers also took shelter with us!

After the deluge the sun came out briefly and we joined a guided tour of the Henry Moore sculptures strategically placed throughout the gardens. Our volunteer guide had been at Kew for a long time and first gained her knowledge of Britain's most successful sculptor when she guided an earlier exhibition some 15 years ago. She explained how he gained inspiration from the hills, rocks and coal mines of his original Yorkshire home. His father had been a miner then a mining engineer and his mother had brought up eight children. She suffered from rheumatism and Henry used to rub liniment into her back - giving him the inspiration for the rounded sculptures of his female forms. Our guide told us that only 6 of the 100 figures were of men, 3 of which were his "Warrior" series created over 30 years but displaying the tragedy rather than the heroism of war, for example amputated limbs. In 1931 he had been hounded out of the Royal College of Art as he was deemed to be an "inappropriate teacher".

During WW2 Moore was unable to work, due to lack of materials and taking shelter in the London Underground, he was struck by the reclining figures in the tube station and would return home to draw from the sketches he took there. This collection of works was called "The Shelter Drawings".

Following the War in 1951 he visited Greece and the statues there, spiked his interest in drapery - already formed by the shelter drawings of reclining figures with blankets.



After WW2 he began to get commissions for sculptures for the new towns being built and in later years he started exploring creating figures in two or three parts. Our guide explained how most, if not all, his sculptures had a void that you could see through and that Moore's passion had always been that sculpture is art of the open air and this was how he wanted his works displayed. The voids enable the viewer to see through the sculpture at the vista beyond from both front and back. Henry Moore was born in 1898 and died in 1986 so had a very long and successful career. He was a prolific sculptor and the Henry Moore foundation has £127 million in investments and sculptures. He created more than one cast of the same sculptures and we were told that the most recent sold in March of this year for £6.5 million. The Foundation supports other young sculptors and has a close relationship with the Leeds College of Art.



This guided tour only took in 13 of the 30 outdoor sculptures dotted around the gardens but the information she imparted was very detailed and as you can see from the above highly educational.

I should mention that at the beginning of this tour our guide explained that the Heathrow flight path alternates between Kew and somewhere else...and that afternoon we had the pleasure of seeing and hearing the planes pass over us. During the hour-long tour, I recorded at least 31 noisy aircraft above, so some of my facts may have been slightly misheard...but you get the picture.

Our little group finished our visit with a 30 minute "train" journey around the site where we saw the most incredible array of trees, the Japanese Pagoda, Kew House (the smallest of the Royal Palaces and home to Queen Charlotte (the one in Bridgerton) - some of which was recorded at Kew. We also learned that 90% of the world's plants are grown at Kew with 2.5 billion seeds stored - hopefully keeping the flora and fauna of the world safe for the future.



Kew Palace built 1631

We returned back to Bushey in time for another deluge of rain - exhausted, but exhilarated after a very enjoyable day out - we very much appreciated Stephanie's organisation of this outing.

Gill Freed

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'.

Cost will be up to £20 each, depending on numbers coming.

More details later, but if you want to register for the tour,

please email: ggurner@aol.com



“Season of Light” by Katharine McMahon

We had greatly enjoyed McMahon's novels previously so were keen to read another book by her, “Season of Light”, set in England and Revolutionary France in the late 18th century. The English heroine, Asa, at the age of 19 goes to Paris and falls desperately in love with Didier, a handsome dynamic and passionate French firebrand full of revolutionary fervour. However she is forced to return to England. The years following are extremely eventful for young Asa, especially when she returns on a quest to a much changed Paris some years later. Some things are expected and some definitely are not, so it makes for an interesting read. It's a fairly long novel but on the whole it held the attention of the majority of our book club members.



“The Correspondent” by Virginia Evans

This book is unusual in that the entire story is told in letter form. Sybil van Antwerp writes letters to her family, friends and also to well known people. Many people reply to Sybil and so we learn Sybil's life story from this correspondence. A really good read!

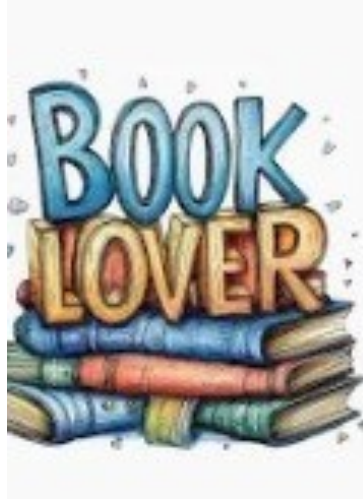
For more information about our Book Groups

“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.



*I recently read **The Secret Sewing Society** by Siobhan Curham which narrates two parallel connected stories in Lwow Poland /Russia during World War II and modern day Lvov, Ukraine. Very good and well worth a read!*

Stephanie

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

***SOMETHING ELSE FOR THE
DIARY***

**Rickmansworth Waterways Trust, based in Rickmansworth,
are running**

**Heritage Boat Experiences
on Sunday 7 June, 5 July, 2 August**

**The 2 hour event includes a guided tour of the historic site at
Batchworth, a short talk about Roger, our historic wooden
narrowboat and a visit to the boatman's cabin and an hour-long
boat ride on Roger (unless raining, in which case it will be on our
trip boat).**

Cost: £20 a head, Times: 10.30 am & 2.00 pm.

For more details go to:

<https://rwt.org.uk/events/short-heritage-boat-experience-2026/>

**U3A members who came last year said it was really interesting and
would recommend it.**



BUSHEY HOUSE
BEAUMONT
BARCHESTER HEALTHCARE

Antiques Valuation Afternoon Tuesday 16th June 2.00pm to 4.00pm

Join us with your treasured items for expert valuations
and intriguing insights from Bushey Auctions. You
never know what hidden gems you may have.



Bushey House Beaumont Care Home

High Street, Bushey, WD23 1QN

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BARCHESTER

Celebrating life

Supporting Bushey Festival 2026

Bushey House Beaumont's Garden Party

Friday 3rd July

From 2.00 – 4.00pm

Tickets cost £8 which includes live
entertainment from a jazz band and a delicious tea served
in our stunning grounds.

Spaces are limited, to book your place please call us
on the number below by Friday 26th June

Please note: on-site disabled parking is available
and we kindly ask all others to park in the
Bushey Country Club car park
situated next door.

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**COME & JOIN US
BE PART OF GROWING
OUR BUSHEY U3A
INTO THE BEST IT CAN BE**

YOU HAVE SOMETHING TO OFFER!

GIVE US YOUR IDEAS!

GIVE US YOUR HELP!

**COME AND SIT IN ON ONE OF OUR
COMMITTEE MEETINGS TO SEE WHAT
IT'S ALL ABOUT!**

Contact Stephanie at

newsletter@busheyu3a.org

NOTICE

MEMBERSHIP DATABASE

YOU MIGHT NOTICE SOME CHANGES

***IN OUR FUTURE MAILINGS AS WE ARE NOW USING 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