



AUGUST 2026 NEWSLETTER

Top Stories in this Newsletter.....

BOOK REVIEW

INTEREST GROUP
NEWS

MARGATE

SPEAKERS' CORNER

GROUP LEADERS' GARDEN
PARTY

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



Bushey & District U3A Website

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

From the Chair

Dear Members,

We are of course, in holiday season and I hope you are all enjoying this time whether at home or away, with family or friends! Perhaps you will have something of interest to share for our next Newsletter?

What do we have on the Bushey u3a Calendar? Of course, we there are our Monthly Meetings with interesting Speakers lined up. Don't forget these take place on the 3rd Tuesday of the month and are held at the Metropolitan in Bushey.

We also have more Day Trips coming up, for example a visit to the Garrick Club in Old Covent Garden, London on 8th September. If any of you have an idea of a place you would like to visit but perhaps would prefer to do it in a group, please contact a Committee Member or get in touch through the Newsletter and we will see if we can bring your idea to fruition.

We have two holidays scheduled. A 5-day trip to Liverpool and Port Sunlight in October - some places are still available. Next June 2027 there will be a 5-day trip to Ilfracombe and Highlights of North Devon there are places are still available. You will find more details of these, on our website.

Something you are probably unaware of - every month we hold our Committee Meeting at Bushey Beaumont Care Home in Bushey High Street. We are always made very welcome with refreshments provided too! We have also had some Interest Groups meet there in the past, and hope to do so in the future. We are very appreciative of this arrangement/relationship and are grateful to their General Manager, Mary Jane Bague and to her staff.

Regards,

**Andrew
Chairman**

We at Bushey U3A do not normally get involved in local politics that is not our remit. However, we think that the following contentious issue will be of interest to our members.

The Bushey Museum & Art Gallery is under threat of being removed from its home of more than three decades - the former Bushey Urban District Council Offices in the heart of Bushey Village Conservation Area.

Nominated twice and a previous winner of the Visit England “Hidden Gem” award, the Museum holds the largest collection of public artworks in Hertfordshire, including artworks by the 19th century portraitist and polymath, Sir Hubert von Herkomer (1849-1914), and students of his famous Bushey Art School, notably Lucy Kemp-Welch (1869-1958). The Museum has formally dedicated two complete galleries to Herkomer and Kemp-Welch.

The future of the Bushey Museum & Art Gallery as it stands today is in jeopardy since the Hertsmere Borough Council signed off for the redevelopment of the Bushey Golf Club.

The proposed plan is to build 286 homes within a community complex. The scheme includes a supermarket, car park, and a ‘modern community and cultural hub’ containing an early years’ facility, a café, library and an ‘art gallery’.

The Friends of the Bushey Museum have a Petition to STOP THE MOVE NOW and are asking people to sign. There is a paper copy for signature at the Bushey Museum, in Rudolph Road or you can sign the online Petition by visiting

<https://www.change.org/p/stop-the-move>

SPEAKERS' CORNER

THIS MONTH'S MEETING

18th August 2026 AT 10.00am prompt

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

CHRIS TRURAN

**Retired Metropolitan Police Officer after over 38 years' service in
London**

"CRIME & PUNISHMENT"

A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Old Bailey

**Chris joined the Metropolitan Police in 1975. He trained as a
SOCO (Scenes of Crimes Officer), working in Central, North and
North West London. During his 38 years he examined over
25,000 crime scenes ranging from shop-lifting to murder.**

**Over the years, Chris experienced many occasions when the stupidity
of the criminal became their downfall. He shares the many times he
had to laugh at their behaviour, believing that a term in prison might
help them mend their ways. There is no science in this talk just
amazement at how stupid they were!**

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

15th September 2026

TIM PERKINS from Midshires Search and Rescue

Midshires Search and Rescue are a Voluntary group who assist the police to locate missing persons in Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire. Tim Perkins will tell us about the way the amazing volunteers provide valuable search and rescue support to the emergency services alongside the agencies we are more familiar with.



ANN WIDDECOMBE
R.I.P

I was saddened to hear of the passing of Ann Widdecombe.

Some of our members might remember several years ago when she came to talk at our monthly meeting.

She was charismatic, articulate and spoke a lot of sense. She had been Prisoner Minister and had some interesting ideas for prison reform. Unfortunately, they were not taken up.

We need people like her in public life. She was often controversial and whilst we might not agree with her everyone is entitled to their opinion. She was genuinely interested in the good of the Nation, and not for her own means.

As she said at the memorial for MP David Ames's (stabbed in 2021) " I don't want him to be remembered for his death, I want him to be remembered for his life." I think those sentiments would apply to her.

Denise Rickwood

NOTE

*Last Month the very popular, interesting and entertaining
Helen Fry spoke on “Women in Intelligence”*

*We had a full house and we are pleased to announce that Helen
has been booked to return next year!*

*During her talk she referred to Trent Park (House of Secrets)
that has recently opened to the public but she mistakenly
announced that Bushey U3A were arranging an outing.
Unfortunately, this is not possible because they do not entertain
Group Tours, it is in very close proximity to Bushey in Barnet
and does not warrant a coach, so it is best visited singularly or
with friends.*

INTEREST GROUP LEADERS GARDEN PARTY



All our Group Leaders were invited to an afternoon gathering to discuss how best we can attract new volunteers to help run both some existing groups and also set-up new groups where there are waiting lists, as well as attracting new "blood" onto the Committee to bring fresh perspectives and ideas.

This was held on a sunny afternoon in Bushey Heath with afternoon tea prepared and served by your Committee.

Anyone, not currently involved in volunteering with the u3a will be most welcome and supported to do so.

Just contact Gill our Interest Group Coordinator via the link on the Contacts page <https://bushey.u3asite.uk/>

She will be delighted to hear from you!



The Garden Party was a great success with a lot of positive feedback and some constructive ideas!

Following on from this Gill invited Group Leaders to write something for the Newsletter and the following is from a regular contributor to the Newsletter - Sue Baxter from the "Read With Us" Group.

The reason I joined U3A was to join a book club and so in 2016 I joined Read With Us.

This was led by Frances Kaufman at her home and has led me to read 118 books that I might not have picked up but all of which has proved interesting, especially when we have our group discussion.

Frances wanted to stand down in August 2025 and asked if one of us would take over.

I said I would if someone would help me and fortunately Linda Cochrane agreed.

Meetings take place on the first Monday of each month when we all get together to discuss that month's book. We do not necessarily all agree to like or dislike a book, so there can be a lively discussion.

Frances provides us with tea, coffee and cake and always remembers our drink preferences. Well done Frances and thank you for continuing to host us.

Linda and I usually get together between meetings to share book suggestions over a cup of coffee.

We ask everyone to offer suggestions of books they have enjoyed and then make a list for the coming months from these suggestions, so everyone has a chance to nominate a book of their choice.

We generally read one classic every year and at one meeting each year we all discuss a biography/autobiography that we have read.

Linda and I have to keep a record of all members with their membership numbers, addresses & phone numbers with an emergency contact and record a register of attendees, but this is not too arduous.

I am hopeful that we will have two new members joining us at our August meeting. One through the on-line advertising and one through a personal approach.



INTEREST GROUPS IN THE SPOTLIGHT

**My name is MALCOLM WALKER and I run the
Bushey U3A Duplicate Bridge Group**

**We play bridge online with Real bridge
If you are not familiar with online Real bridge
This is like Zoom but better as you see and talk to
all 4 players**

IT IS 4 TV SCREENS AROUND A GREEN BRIDGE TABLE

**We play around 3 times a month, on Monday mornings,
starting at 9.45am & play 18 boards taking about 2 hours**

**WE SEND OUT A LINK WHICH ALLOWS YOU TO LOGIN
ALL YOU DO IS ENTER YOUR NAME AND LOG ON**

**When you arrive at what we call “The Lobby” you just
choose which table you would like to sit at. You can bring a
partner with you or we will find a bridge partner for you –
all games are pre-arranged in advance.**

**Everyone is extremely friendly – standards are mixed.
Most players play the ACOL system. Players also come from
Radlett U3A and Borehamwood U3A**

**WE WOULD BE VERY HAPPY TO HAVE NEW PLAYERS IN OUR
GROUP**

**WE GIVE YOU 2 FREE SESSIONS TO SEE HOW MUCH YOU
LIKE IT. WE HAVE NEVER HAD A PLAYER WHO HAS NOT
CONTINUED AFTERWARDS**

**You will need to purchase a Season Ticket to play.
This also includes 2-3 games a month with Radlett Duplicate
Bridge which plays on a Thursday morning. This means if
you wanted, you could play 5-6 times a month.**

**Basically, it means the cost for playing in our group works
out at 20p a session**

**If you want to join up contact Malcolm
07958 631731 - bwebbridge@gmail.com**



Walking Groups July

Yet again, the Wanderers' walk was cancelled because of the heat, but the Five Milers managed a walk from the pretty village of Sarratt through woods to Commonwood, where we admired Commonwood House which, despite its Tudor appearance, was actually built in the early part of the 20th century for David Allen, a printer from Belfast. The building was started in 1913, using many reclaimed Tudor materials and completed in 1932. It is now divided into apartments, some of which have the elaborate ceilings of the original building.

From there, we walked along the boundary of Chipperfield Common, which was under Royal ownership from the 13th to the 16th century. In 1936 it was sold to the Blackwell family 'for the purpose of a public open space' for a nominal sum of ten shillings. The huge Sweet Chestnut trees are said to have been grown from seeds brought back by the Crusaders. We finished our walk back by Sarratt Village Hall.

This month, we will definitely (weather permitting) take the Dollis Valley Greenwalk, with lunch at Finchley Nurseries (Tuesday August 25th) and the Five Milers will walk on Thursday 27th August.

We welcome new walkers for both groups;
please contact Gillian Gurner membership@busheyu3a.org

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>

***If there is a Group that you want to join but it has a
Waiting List - don't be put off!***

***Why not start a second Group?
Full Support will be given!***

OUTINGS GROUP

TUESDAY 8 SEPTEMBER **TOUR OF THE GARRICK CLUB**

There are still a few places left!



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'.

Meet at the Garrick Club nearest station is Leicester Square
Cost is £20

Contact Gillian for more details

ggurner@aol.com

OUTINGS & EVENTS

A Day Out at the Seaside!!



We left Bushey early to head along the M25 towards MARGATE on a sunny and hot Wednesday morning, stopping halfway for a coffee and arriving at about 12.30. Once, we were dropped off, we went our own separate ways. Some headed to the Turner Art Gallery. Others walked about the town and went to lunch, our group stopping for a traditional fish and chip lunch. After lunch most people went for a walk along the promenade with a view of the crowded beach, before catching the coach home.

Tony Baron





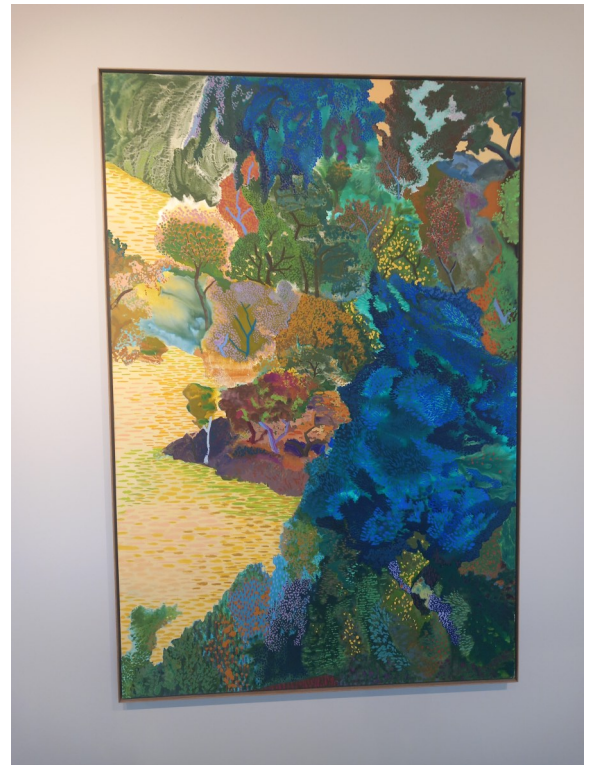
On Tuesday 4th August, 51 of us set off from Bushey for a day trip by coach to Margate, ably organised by Marilyn Kaye. It was glorious hot sunny weather, as has been the norm this summer and we were amply supplied with water by the organisers. Fortunately, there were no hold ups on the way either from traffic, grass fires or motorway accidents and we were entertained enroute with a fun quiz organised by Tony.

When we arrived, we divided up to explore Margate and its surroundings. Some of us visited the very modern Turner Gallery, which currently has an exhibition of contemporary art by Hulda Guzman and has a lovely outdoor café. We walked along the promenade admiring the beautiful and popular sandy beach and the floral displays and checking the menus of the many fish and chip shops and eateries. Several of the more energetic in the group walked to Cliftonville and back; and several of us found a great restaurant with a view over the promenade and beach where we enjoyed a leisurely lunch. Afterwards, there were the shops and lanes of the old town to explore, and some shady places to sit by the promenade.

It was only a relatively short stroll back to our coach, which was parked by Dreamland. We arrived back at Bushey in really good time, after an excellent and enjoyable days outing. A big thank you to the organisers.

Sally Brooks

Denise went to the Turner Gallery where they were displaying works by the Dominican artist Hulda Guzman and she sent in these lovely photos!



OUTINGS & EVENTS

Our trip to Margate was a truly collaborative event. Marilyn and Denise did the arrangements, Gill Freed researched places of interest and Tony Baron organised the quiz.

It was the first time Marilyn had done anything like this before and she said afterwards it was like having a baby. The immediate reaction was “never again”, but after a while, you think, well maybe I will try again!

Perhaps you have some ideas for day trips for our members, and would like to help organise them. You would get lots of support and it's extremely satisfying knowing that people had had a good day out.

If you are able to give your time please contact Denise barrden@gmail.com

SAVE THE DATE



Maybe a bit too early to be thinking of Christmas especially in the middle of a heatwave but just a little reminder that we will be returning to the Blue Check, Bushey for our Annual Xmas Lunch on 11th December 2026!

Look out for more information about booking your place in forthcoming Newsletters!



Book Review from “Book Lovers”

This month's book was James McBride's acclaimed novel
“The Heaven & Earth Grocery Store”

Although the first chapter was set in 1972, the bulk of the story took place in the 1920s and 1930s in Pottstown, Pennsylvania in a run down neighbourhood called Chicken Hill. Here lived African Americans, Jews and other European immigrants in relative harmony. The store of the title was very much at the heart of this community, run by the inimitable Chona with a huge generosity of spirit. The story was a demanding one largely because of the vast number of characters making it difficult to keep track of who was who, it was positively Dickensian in this respect. It raised important issues such as equality and prejudice. However, there was no shortage of warmth and humour, but be prepared for some emotionally harrowing episodes. Overall we were all glad that we read the novel and concluded that it was definitely worthwhile.

Diane Pratt

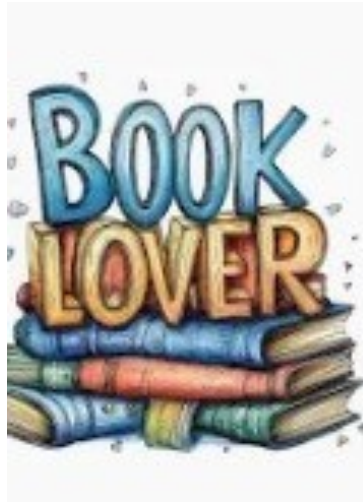
For more information about our Book Groups

“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

THE ARTS SOCIETY BUSHEY

If you are interested in every aspect of the Arts, our Society offers talks by world-class lecturers on the fourth Wednesday of the month in Bushey Heath. Our programme is extremely varied and recent talks have included theatre design, Brazilian art and architecture, American artists and the Monopoly Board.

Future talks will cover Dutch art, Royal Parks, Georgian London, The Age of AI and Art on the Underground

**For more information please contact
asbushey.members@gmail.com or phone me on 07986 056347
and I'll be happy to help.**

**Lynne Dorff
Programme Secretary**



**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

IF YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS HAS CHANGED PLEASE LET US KNOW AS WE WILL NEED TO UPDATE OUR RECORDS TO ENSURE THAT YOU RECEIVE ALL NOTIFICATIONS!

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