NOVEMBER 2026 NEWSLETTER

Top Stories in this Newsletter……

INTEREST GROUP NEWS

AGM

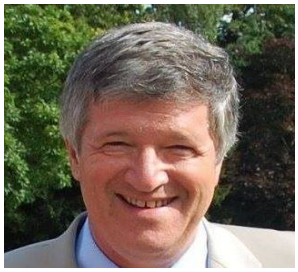
SPEAKERS' CORNER

17TH NOVEMBER MONTHLY MEETING CANCELLED

XMAS LUNCH

LIVERPOOL HOLIDAY

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,

Here we are in Autumn with Christmas not far away. Time goes quickly as we reflect on all the Bushey U3A activities throughout 2026!

We held our AGM on 20th October 2026 and for those of you who were unable to attend, your Committee Officers have all agreed to extend their term of service for another year.

Unfortunately, we were unable to fill the vacancy of Events & Outings Leader as Denise Rickwood, who held the position for several years, has now stood down. We are therefore, still looking for some people to come forward to arrange an Outing. If you haven't done this before, you don't have to worry as full support will be given. Otherwise, if no one comes forward, it looks like we will not have many Outings next year!

I recently joined the 5-day trip to Liverpool and Port Sunlight at the beginning of October. It was really interesting with excellent company. Another great trip organised by our Travel Group Leader, Ann Hodge.

There are more holidays coming up in 2027. In June there is a 5-day tour to Ilfracombe and Highlights of North Devon including outings to Clevedon on the Severn estuary, a drive across Exmoor and a visit to the magical village of Clovelly. In September there will be a 5-day tour to the Blackpool Illuminations, the picturesque Ribble Valley, Tales of the Pendle Witches, and the Settle to Carlisle Railway. For more information about these trips or if you are interested in joining these trips, go to the Events page on our website to contact Ann, our Travel Group Leader.

On 11th December we have our Christmas Lunch at the Blue Check, Bushey. There are still some places available so if you don't want to miss out – book now!

Andrew Gunton, Chairman

SPEAKERS' CORNER

THIS MONTH'S MEETING

17th November 2026

Metropolitan Bushey, Aldenham Road,
Bushey WD23 2TR

ALERT

WITH DEEP REGRET

DUE TO CIRCUMSTANCES

BEYOND OUR CONTROL

THE MEETING AT THE METROPOLITAN

ON 17TH NOVEMBER 2026

HAS BEEN CANCELLED

DUE TO THE RESURFACING OF THE CAR PARK

PLEASE NOTE

With reference to your payment for Parking at the Metropolitan!

When you pay by cash and you do not get a Receipt you have no proof of payment!

We recommend that you pay by credit/debit card so that your payment will show up on your Statement and will be your "proof of payment"

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

18th December 2026

Metropolitan Bushey

Aldenham Road Bushey WD23 2TR

HELEN ASTRID

“Christmas Carols Unwrapped”

Helen is an engaging Speaker and graduate of the Royal academy of Music. She has performed as a soprano soloist at most major venues in the UK including the English National Opera and the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden. Helen now devotes her time to teaching, leading choirs and corporate singing workshops.

We are very pleased to welcome her to our last Monthly Meeting of the year, for what promises to be a pleasant and entertaining lead up to Christmas!

INTEREST GROUPS IN THE SPOTLIGHT

LINE DANCING



Following our very successful taster session in August 2026 with our dance instructor Angie from ADA UK, we were delighted to have had sufficient interest to be able to run two groups on alternate weeks for our first course running September to December.

It has proved to be good exercise for both our minds and bodies, as we try to remember the routines whilst spending an hour on the dance floor, as well as providing plenty of laughter and a sense of achievement as we all try to keep facing the same direction (not as easy as it sounds).

Members do not need to be experienced dancers to join the group but everyone has to meet the balance, mobility, stamina and ability to walk and dance unaided criteria – it is also unsuitable for anyone with chronic pain issues, that might be exacerbated by the twist and turns involved!

Any Bushey u3a members interested in joining our waiting list for 2027 should contact Gill, the Group Leader, using the link on our website line dancing page.

https://bushey.u3asite.uk/

October Walking Groups

This month, both groups enjoyed sunny conditions for our walks

The 5 Milers took a circular route from The Ridgeway, Mill Hill, up to Totteridge Common, then through the lovely Darlands Nature Reserve, which sits in the Totteridge Valley. The 80 acres of woodlands, wetlands, grasslands and Darland Lake are home to diverse trees and wildlife; there are beautiful views across the valley



From there, along the Folly Brook, past Finchley Nurseries (didn't have time for a refreshment break unfortunately) and back to The Ridgeway

The Wanderers met at Golders Green Station and, led by Peter Goldstone, walked through Golders Hill Park where we admired the colourful autumn foliage. In their small Zoo, we saw wallabies, a Scottish wildcat, donkeys, Fallow deer, ornamental chickens and kookaburras (which prompted all the former Girl Guides among us to render a version of the Kookaburra song). Onto the secret Hill Garden, with its charming 800 ft pergola and beautiful views. The pergola was built in the early 1900's on land owned by Lord Leverhulme. The landscape architect was Thomas Mawson, who also designed the Rose Garden in Bushey.







From there, we walked past the castellated Jack Straw's Castle, once a pub, now converted to flats, to Whitestone Pond. John Constable, who lived locally, was supposed to have been inspired by a cart in the pond for the cart in his painting The Hay Wain. Peter then took us on a meander around the narrow streets of Hampstead Village, past notable and historic buildings, including Admiral's House, Fenton House, Holly Bush Pub, Church Row and the beautiful interior of St John' Church, Constable's tomb, the graves of (among others) Hugh Gaitskill, Kay Kendall, Nicholas Parsons, George du Maurier and Anton Walbrook. Downhill to Flask Walk (named for the flasks made for the water from the nearby Hampstead Wells, known from the 17th century for their medicinal properties), Burgh House, Willow Road (where we saw the modernist terrace built by the architect Erno Goldfinger in 1939) and Keats Grove, where Keats lodged from 1818 to 1820. Lunch was at a café in Belsize Village, sitting outside, undeterred by the odd blast of wind. We noticed that Hampstead residents take Halloween seriously; we passed some weird and wonderful decorations on a number of houses.







Walking up to the top of Primrose Hill, there were splendid views of the London skyline, then to Chalk Farm Station for our journey home. Such an interesting walk; as well as the sites we visited, we saw a number of blue and brown plaques as we wandered through Hampstead, reminding us of its rich intellectual, cultural and artistic heritage, so it was an exercise for the mind as well as the body.

If you would like to join our walks, we welcome new members.
The Wanderers is on the fourth Tuesday of the month and
the Five Milers on the fourth Thursday.
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 & EVENTS



We still have a few spaces left!

So if you want to join us — book now to avoid disappointment!

Festive Christmas Lunch
at the

Blue Check, Bushey on 11th December 2026!

3 course meal £27.50 including tip
drinks extra

Reserve your place on a first come/first served basis!

Contact Denise Rickwood to reserve your place!

barrden@gmail.com

OUTINGS & EVENTS

This is an appeal

from

Denise, ex Outings Organiser

From 2014 to 2019, I organised 38 outings!

Together with the Gardening Group, Wings and Wheels and Theatre Group we offered about 12 outings a year!

They were always full with a waiting list.

It would be such a shame if we are not able to offer our members a lovely day out, especially as some people have no other means of getting out.

We are surrounded by some really interesting places to visit.

So I am appealing to you to come forward and offer to take-on our Outings. If you only did one a year it would be a great help, and you will get lots of support.

There must be someone amongst our members who could give a bit of time. It's very satisfying at the end of the day to know that everyone has had a very enjoyable day out.

Please contact a committee member and start planning your next trip.

https://bushey.u3asite.uk/

OUTINGS & EVENTS



Now it has happened!!!! Denise has stepped down after many years of organising some wonderful Outings & Events that have been greatly enjoyed by our Members.

We asked you to step up and let us have your ideas & help!

Sadly, the response was poor considering we have a very large membership of 750+ people!

We had one positive offer from a member who is a Blue Badge Guide who might arrange a Tour of Oxford but needs some help on the administrative side.

Other than that we will not have much in the way of Outings next year!

What sort of U3A would it be if we didn't have any Outings or Events???

Don't be passive and just wait for things to happen!

We are looking for 2 or 3 people — you can do your own thing or work together as a team and we will give you all the support based on our experience. You will find it very rewarding and satisfying, knowing that people had had a good day out and you made it happen!

If you have any good ideas or are willing to help please make yourself known to any Committee Member at the Monthly Meetings or through the website

https://bushey.u3asite.uk/

OUTINGS & EVENTS



The joint group-leaders of 'Wings and Wheels', Tony and Laurie, have had a number of enquires about the prospect of re-visiting the Mini car works at Cowley, Oxford. This was a very well subscribed and fascinating trip into the world of car manufacturing and robots, in the spring of 2024.

The purpose of this article is to determine whether such a repeat trip, probably in the spring 0f 2027, would be viable. It is estimated that the cost would be in the region of £35 excluding lunch.

If you're interested, please drop a line, either to:

Tony (abaron688@gmail.com) or Laurie (laurie@phase3it.co.uk) and express that interest, without commitment!'



Following a very busy five-day tour to Liverpool, that was packed with history, art, music and anything else you could wish for (and a couple of incidents we wish to forget!!). Read all about it in the following Reports!

I would like to let you know that we still have the following rooms available:

3 twin rooms for the 5-day tour to Ilfracombe, featuring a stop in Clevedon, a drive across Exmoor to the medieval village of Dunster, a day in Bideford and picturesque Clovelly, free time to explore Ilfracombe and a little retail therapy on the homeward journey, on 23rd June 2027.

The 5-day Blackpool tour, featuring the Ribble Valley and the Pendle Witches, Lancaster and Lancaster Castle, the Settle to Carlisle railway and an evening drive through the Blackpool Illuminations on 8th September 2027 is now SOLD OUT. I am keeping a Waiting List if you are interested contact me through the Travel Group link on the website.

The remaining rooms are for two people and cannot be offered for single occupancy. Further details can be seen via the Travel Group page on the Bushey U3a website.

https://bushey.u3asite.uk/

Please contact me via the Travel Group page if you wish to book.

Ann Hodge

Travel Group Leader

U3A Trip to Liverpool and Port Sunlight October 2026

On Monday 5th October our group of intrepid travellers boarded a very comfortable coach (driven by Neil) and headed north and westwards up the M1 and M6. After stopping briefly at Corley Services for coffee, we travelled on to Trentham Shopping Village and Gardens in Newcastle-under-Lyme for lunch. There were a good number of restaurants and cafés to choose from and also a mixture of local and nationally well-known shops.

When we arrived at the ALoft Hotel in Central Liverpool, we were delighted to find that it was situated just 3 minutes from the famous Cavern Club and 10 minutes from the River Mersey. The hotel staff were very welcoming and friendly and the rooms and food were very good.

On Tuesday, Catherine, our guide for the day, took us on a very comprehensive and informative coach tour of the city. We learnt about the history of the city and about the many amazing buildings (including the Metropolitan and Anglican Cathedrals) and the statues. There was a photo opportunity in Penny Lane before we travelled through one of the Mersey Tunnels to the Wirral, to catch the Royal Daffodil ferry back to Liverpool. The river was smooth and we enjoyed outstanding views of the city skyline. Once back on land we parked by the Pier Head to go into the Albert Dock for lunch.



The river front here is very picturesque with The Three Graces - the Royal Liver Building, the Cunard Building and the Port of Liverpool Building. All three are Grade I or II listed buildings and were built in the early 20th century to showcase the city's global and maritime importance. There was a wide choice of cafés and restaurants in the Albert Dock alongside some charming gift shops so many of our group had some retail therapy.





Soon we were driving to Crosby Beach to view the Anthony Gormley art installation called "Another Place". There are 100 life-sized cast iron figures arranged along 3km of the beach, all looking out to sea. It's very impressive and the work involved in setting it up in 2005 must have been phenomenal. After we had enough time to view the scene and enjoy the sea air, Neil kindly drove us back via Anfield so we could see his favourite football ground and also parts of Toxteth.





Wednesday was a free day which was great planning as we could choose which of the iconic buildings, museums and art galleries seen on Tuesday's tour we wanted to visit. Some people had an unexpected guided tour around the Walker Art Gallery while others went up to see the amazing cathedrals. The Cavern Club, The Beatles' Story, Liverpool One and the Museum of Liverpool were also popular choices. It was a very busy day and all too soon we ran out of time.

On Thursday we were driven through the Wallasey Tunnel to Port Sunlight. This is a historic garden village founded in 1888 by William Hesketh Lever. There are over 900 Grade II listed buildings set in 130 acres of parkland and gardens. The houses were built for the soap factory workers and their families and were of a much higher standard than most workers' homes at that time, though Lever insisted that it was a business model rather than philanthropy. We were treated to a walking tour of the village and learnt about the different architectural styles (over 30 different architects were employed) and the formal gardens. Then there was time to visit the Port Sunlight Museum, the Edwardian Worker's Cottage and the Lady Lever Art Gallery (which housed a Turner and a Herkomer painting among many others). On returning to Liverpool we had a little more time to visit another venue as everyone had run out of time on Wednesday.

























We left Liverpool promptly at 9am on Friday and drove via Chester and Lichfield to the Shugborough Estate in Staffordshire, which is managed by the National Trust. This is a mansion with a dual historic interest - the Anson brothers in the 18th century and the 5th Earl, Patrick Lichfield's apartment which is very late



20th century in artefacts and decor. Thomas Anson was a politician and he inherited the mansion in 1720 while his younger brother, Admiral George Hanson circumnavigated the world in HMS Centurion and used the enormous amount of prize money from his naval career to finance the extension and transformation of the building. In contrast to the opulence in the mansion, the tour around the servants' areas revealed the differences between the social classes. The kitchens had a massive cooking range and a great collection of all the utensils and equipment that was used for food preparation, while the laundry room had rows of metal washing tubs, mangles and even some Sunlight soap! The Trust volunteers were very informative and friendly and were happy to share their knowledge of the buildings and their treasures. The mansion is set in extensive park land and there is also a walled garden, formal gardens and vegetable gardens to enjoy. Long horned cattle and a flock of heritage Southdown sheep roam some of the fields.

We left Shugborough at 2:30pm and, after a brief hold up on the M1, arrived back in Bushey just before 5:30pm.

Two groups also enjoyed some evening entertainment during the week - one group saw the 30th

Anniversary Performance of The Lord of the Dance at the Liverpool Empire and the others saw “Sense and Sensibility” at the Everyman Cinema.

Thank you, Ann, for all your hard work in organising this holiday. We had a wonderful time and many of us have expressed the desire to return to the amazing city that is Liverpool!

Gill (a happy traveller)

A dramatic tale with a happy ending!

A visit to Crosby Beach near Liverpool



Last week I, along with 40+ others, went on a U3A tour to Liverpool arranged by Ann Hodge.

On our first day we went on a morning excursion by coach around Liverpool given by a very experienced and personable guide. We were then free for a couple of hours before re-joining our coach and driver Neil, for a trip to Crosby Beach to view the 100 cast iron figures sculpted by Antony Gormley, which are only visible at low tide.

On arrival, a fair number of us ventured on to the beach; which at low tide was huge and showed the figures to good advantage. There was a sign warning: "No Bathing" in large lettering followed by other instructions in much smaller print, which I certainly did not read! A few of us ventured further down the beach to examine the figures at close quarters. I went out a few metres further than the others and suddenly the sand, which up till this point had been damp but firm, became waterlogged and with my next steps I sank ankle deep in mud. I attempted to extricate one leg, lost my balance and fell to my knees, I was stuck firmly in the mud and did not dare to move for fear of sinking further. Luckily the tide was far out and I was not alone. I waved and shouted and Gay Butler approached, but she wisely stayed at a safe distance. She rang Ann Hodge and she went to the nearby Leisure Centre where the RNLI and coast guard were notified.

After about 15 minutes, an RNLI member in yellow sou'wester and wellington boots approached with a modified paddle board. He pushed the board towards me, and I was able to grip this and clamber on to it. I was most thankful. I lost one shoe in the process, which was forever consigned to the mud. I also had to divest myself of my trousers which were completely covered in mud. Gay managed to bundle me into my jacket to preserve my modesty.

Before we moved off the coastguard checked I was ok and warned that I had to be aware of possible leg compression for the next 24 hours as I had been stuck in the mud in one position. Luckily for me I survived the next 24 hours and then made sure I was an exemplary coach passenger for the rest of the trip!

Vivien Noble



Book Review from “Book Lovers”

Diane Pratt

“The Stone Diaries” by Carol Shields

This was the story of Daisy Goodwill Flett, a so called “ordinary woman”, from her birth in 1905 to her death at the end of the century. Her life spanned the majority of the twentieth century but the focus was very much on her domestic life and not the seismic events and changes of that century. It was set in Canada and the USA. Shields visited Daisy's life every ten years or so exploring key times in her life such as birth, childhood, motherhood, work and finally death. The author experimented with the biographical form giving a variety of perspectives from a wide range of characters. This made the novel an interesting but challenging read. However the quality of the writing was unmistakable and accounted for its winning the Pulitzer Prize.

Our book group had a rather mixed response to “The Stone Diaries” but we all acknowledged that it was an impressive work. The consensus was that we would be wary of who we recommended it to as we felt that it would not be to everyone’s taste.

For more information about our Book Groups
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.



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