

Greetings Members!



I'm just back from 3 days in York for the summer u3a festival. I must say I loved going around York, the Minster & the Shambles: it's a beautiful & compact city, filled with history.

I have also fulfilled a 7-year long dream to see BTS in concert- at Tottenham Hotspur's superb stadium. It was truly unreal, and went by far too quickly!



Do please stay safe in these excessive temperatures and remember to drink plenty of fresh cool water!

Our next **monthly meeting** is on **Monday 13 July** at the Methodist Church. **Doors open at 1.30pm** for trips and stalls, teas & coffees.



Our talk this month is by **Andrew Summers** on **"Building the Historic Southend Pier"**. Andrew is an author and publisher of local history books - mainly with an Essex connection. With his co-writer John Debenham they have created the Essex Hundred series of books.



The Struggle to Build Southend's First Pier is based on a book written by Marion Pearce, published by Essex Hundred Publications. Southend's world-famous pier is nearly 200 years old - reputed to be the longest pleasure pier in the world. Andrew's talk covers the first 40 years of a remarkable story. Getting the pier built was problematic: powerful businessmen and landowners repeatedly clashed over its location. The threat of imposition of tolls led to repeated vandalism and violence which local law enforcement was unable to quell. Over its life span the pier has suffered several fires, severe damage from ships crashing into it and come close to being scrapped on more than one occasion by the local authority on the grounds of cost. **Notices will be at 2.25pm & Andrew will start his talk at 2.30pm.**

Magazine – 2026 Edition

Please send your contributions of – particularly photos & descriptions of u3a trips, for the 2026 magazine to our Editor Maureen at magazine@bsu3a.org.uk. We are now compiling the magazine, hopefully for an August publication.

Another new Discount venue!! Courtesy of our own member & Stansted u3a's outgoing Chair, Dame Pauline Green, I'm pleased to announce another discount venue for our members, this time in Stansted Mountfitchet:

The Brasserie **30 Lower Street, Stansted Mountfitchet CM24 8LP**

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Located in the quaint village of Stansted Mountfitchet, in a beautiful 17th century listed building with exposed brick and an original fireplace.

Dine inside in a choice of cosy restaurant areas or private room (seating) ? or outside on the terrace a - perfect spot for people-watching whilst relaxing in comfort in the sunshine.

The food focuses on fresh, high-end seasonal menus prepared by chef/owner Simon wells and Head Chef Raffaele Rioda (recently of Lussmans). This is food and drinks at good prices. Both Simon & his super helpful staff take passion in the food and drink that they serve.

Simon is offering a 15% discount to BSu3a members upon production of a BSu3a membership card. This offer is available from Weds-Sat lunchtimes (the restaurant is closed Mon & Tues).

To book a table please call the restaurant on 01279 817177 or click on hyperlink to book at <https://www.lowerstreetbrasserie.co.uk/>



Membership 2026

The new membership year started on 1 April. You are still able to renew your membership for only £10 until 31 March 2027. New Memberships can be secured from Steve H at membership@bsu3a.org.uk, at the Membership table at the monthly meeting or via the website [click here](#).

All groups are listed in the diary sheet (paper copies available to collect at monthly meetings) or click on our [website](https://bishopsstortford.u3asite.uk.uk/): <https://bishopsstortford.u3asite.uk.uk/>

Are you a lapsed bellringer or want to have a go?



Tower Open Day
Sunday 20 Sept
1.00pm to 3pm
St Michael's Church
Windhill, Bishop's Stortford

**Tour of the Tower
up to the Roof**
(Sorry, not suitable for children under 8)

Visit the Ringing Chamber

**Have a go at bellringing – a sociable
activity that exercises body and mind**

**View the workings of the
200 year old clock**

Adults £5 Children Free

For more info contact:
bells@saintmichaelweb.org.uk
07971 138020

Registered Charity 1130646

Bellringing (campanology) is a great activity to consider for anyone looking for a new challenge. You don't need to be strong, terribly fit or musical. It helps to keep you fit as well as providing mental stimulation and providing the opportunity of being part of a supportive ringing community and a great social life. Some Tower ringers learnt many years ago but didn't continue due to family and work commitments. They have taken it up again after retirement and are finding a renewed fascination with it. Some are taking it up for the first time and really loving the vibe! And for those of you with a mathematical leaning you could go even further and enjoy the challenge of ringing changes- special celebration peals for high days!

Ringling practices are held on
Thursdays 7pm to 9pm.

If anyone is interested in finding out more they can attend the Tower **Open Day on Sunday 20th September** or contact Nick Hughes on bells@saintmichaelweb.org.uk or ring 07971 138020.

The Practical Art and Drawing group is holding its **2nd Annual Open Day** on the **7th August** when you can pop in and view a selection of their completed work and see some work in progress.

Complimentary tea and biscuits are available.

Venue: The Markwell Studio in the Castle Park between 2-30pm and 4pm.

Contact: Derek Crowther : john.crowther2@ntlworld.com



The library has updated its IT champion availability (Tues 14-1600; Weds 10-12). They are also advertising for volunteers across the region to help people improve their IT skills <https://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/services/libraries-and-archives/support-your-library/jobs-and-volunteering-at-your-library.aspx>

2026 Trips

If you have requests for trips please contact trips@bsu3a.org.uk.



Trip to Hitchin Lavender Fields: Friday 17 July – 9 spaces still available!

This is the final call for members who wish to join the Hitchin Lavender trip on 17 July. Departing 12 noon and returning by 5pm, this trip includes a guided tour & a cream tea. Cost is £36. Picking up at St Thorley Sainsburys, the Rugby Club & now also picking up at Bridge Street.

If interested please email chair@bsu3a.org.uk or sign up at the Trips desk in the Oasis Lounge.

Payment by bank transfer or cheque to: Bishop's Stortford University,
Sort code 60-02-36 Account Number 67945651 Using reference **Hitchin** & your membership number.

You can also sign up at the trips table at the monthly meeting!

2nd Trip to Royston Cave and Knebworth House

Rose's trip on 29 July being fully booked, Chris Fitzgerald is organising a **second** trip on **17 September**. Please note this is an **additional** trip to the one Rose is running on 29 July. The booking code for this trip is ROY2.

Chris will have a stall at the monthly meeting on Monday to promote the trip and take bookings or you can contact Chris at: cdfitzgerald67@gmail.com

Date: **17 September 2026**

Cost: **£48.00 per person** - if paying by bank transfer, code is **ROY2**

Coach pick up points and departure times:

08:30 Bishop's Stortford train station

08:45 Sainsbury car park, Thorley

Royston Caves

Guided tours x 3 (consecutive groups of 15 people per tour).



Knebworth House

Please note, there will be no catering facilities at Knebworth House.

Arrival 13:30

Guided Tours x 2 – 14:30

Depart: 16:00



When considering taking part on trips, please consider your own needs, mobility and ability to cope with the demands of each group/trip. All trip participants are kindly asked to please ensure that you have all completed your ICE (In Case of Emergency) contact details on the reverse of your membership cards.

Are you an Aspiring Writer?

The **2026 national u3a Essay Competition** is for aspiring writers who can take us on a real-life fictional journey – of discovery, adventure or transformation – and bring the story to life in fewer than 1,000 (English) words.

The competition is open to all u3a members and is free to enter. The deadline for entries is 31 July, The prizes are book bundles for the winner and two runners-up (donated by HX Expeditions).

For more information, rules and submission form, control/click this link:

<https://www.u3a.org.uk/what-we-do/learning/learning-activities/essay-competition-2026?highlight=WyJlc3NheSIsmNvbXBldGl0aW9uIiwY29tcGV0aXQiXQ==>

Free Digital Service from Age Well East

The charity Age Well East believes everyone deserves to age well. It offers many services including Digital Inclusion. **Digital Friends** is a free service for adults 60+ across Essex who struggle to access the community and need digital support in their own homes. Trained volunteers provide patient one to one support at a pace that suits each person. This might include learning how to use a smartphone or tablet, setting up and managing email, accessing NHS and GP online services, shopping online safely, or keeping in touch with family and friends through video calls and messaging. AWE focuses on reducing barriers, building practical skills, and ensuring older adults are not left behind in an increasingly digital world.

If interested in this FREE service, please contact Mary Nolan-Lucas 07761209822 Or email her at: mary.nolanlucas@agewelleast.org.uk or come and talk with her at this Monday's monthly meeting

Committee News

We are still looking for a Vice Chair and Assistant Membership Secretary. If you'd like to attend a committee meeting, please email the Secretary and he'll send you the details of the next meeting: secretary@bsu3a.org.uk

I attach the **Groups Information/diary sheet**. Hard copies will be at the meeting on **Monday 13 July** & in the library & tourist information office.

See you on Monday 13 July!

Sue RJ

Dr Sue Rayner Jacobs
Chair, Bishop's Stortford u3a
chair@bsu3a.org.uk
For BSu3a website: [click here](#)

Digital Champion

A Digital Champion is available to help with IT queries:

Tuesday 14:00 – 16:00

Wednesday 10:00 – 12:00



www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/libraries

