



## General Meeting

Our next General Meeting is on  
Friday, 31st July, 2026 at 2.00pm

in Trinity Hall at Trinity Church in Sutton – access on  
Hill Road.

Our speaker will be Peter Smith on the subject:  
“The Private Life of Butterflies.”

Sutton u3a is part of a unique and exciting international self-help movement providing recreational, educational and social activities for semi-retired and retired people, offering a wide range of interest groups and “out and about” activities.

Sutton u3a gives you the chance to develop your interests, make new friends and enjoy yourself.

## Vice Chair’s report – June 2026

Summer at last! And during Spring too, what a surprise. I’m guessing by now, most of us have had enough of the high temperatures, the humidity, the nights when it’s difficult to sleep. One thing you can always depend on in Britain: a change in the weather – and I think I just heard a rumble of thunder.

Sutton u3a is flourishing: we have well over 500 members and more than 50 interest groups. A lot of the groups recently formed, like table tennis, padel and another Rambling Group, show how energetic and lively our members are. You might have seen our new trifold handout “Health and Happiness in Later Life” which points to why u3a is good for your health. Interacting with others, learning new skills and making new friends are what u3a is all about and it turns out that these are really good for your mental and physical health. My thanks go to those members who gave me apt quotations to include on the trifold.

We have also had a record number of new members and we welcome them warmly. New members often bring fresh ideas and enthusiasm into the movement and we hope these individuals will take every opportunity to immerse themselves in the activities and perhaps even management of Sutton u3a.

We have also had good attendance at our General Meetings. This is a great time to get together with other members, hear about what's happening and to enjoy our fascinating speakers. Finally, as you probably know, Sutton u3a is 40 years old next year and if you have any ideas for activities or memorials to accompany this celebration, please let a member of the committee know.

***Sue Deans***

**Sutton U3A - Vice-Chair**

## Summer Sunday Picnics - Manor Park

Our second Summer Sunday picnic was held on a very hot day over the Bank holiday week-end. Four of us were persuaded to have a game of pickleball while the rest of the group sat in the shade and watched our feeble attempts to master the game without falling over the gentleman sunbathing nearby.

The Sunday picnics are on a trial period - the next one will be midday - Sunday 28th June.

Joyce Ffrench



## Sad News

We are very sorry to tell you that we have lost two of our dear members recently: Margaret Sargeant and Valerie Still. Our thoughts and condolences go out to their family and friends. They will be greatly missed.



# General Meeting on Friday, July 31st, 2026 at 2 pm

Trinity Church Hall (access in Hill Road)

In July, our speaker is Peter Smith on the subject: The Private Lives of Butterflies.

Are there Camberwell Beauties in Camberwell? Why is the Red Admiral so named? There are 59 species of butterflies in the UK and they all have some amazing stories to tell.

**Members should arrive at 1.30 pm for a 2 pm start. If you cannot attend in person, we will be providing a Zoom link for our meeting.**

## A warm welcome to our new members

We welcome the following new members to Sutton u3a. We hope they find their membership enjoyable and fulfilling.

Brian	Adams	Michael	Edmonston
Brian	Anderson	Peter	Ferns
Sue	Anderson	Sheila	Ferrier
Janet	Baker	Sylvia	Godden
Pauline	Barry	Christopher	Gregory
Alice	Bayandor	Maggie	Jackman
Katherine	Bennetton	Edit	Kokavec
Richard	Brady	Ian	Laurie
Graham	Brassington	Judith	Lobendhan
Alexandra	Brassington	Sandra	Mallett
Ursula	Brien	Myriam	Marriott
Sandra	Brown	Debra	Marshall
Joanne	Bull	Pippa	Maynard
John	Burgess	Maria	Micallef
Chris	Chaplin	Linda	Moore
Lesley	Coonan	Christine	Pope
Doreen	Cox	Alison	Savage
David	Cox		
Jennifer	Davies		
Latha	Dias		
Margaret	Drummond		



## Sutton u3a Social Club Annual report 2025-2026

I would like to thank the members of the committee who have, along with myself, organised coach outings and some who have helped in considering the outings – Susan Richards and Carol Stevens both arranged an outing but retired at the end of the year. They had both organised meetings for many years and felt it was time to leave. Thank you both.

Margaret Hey, Clare Brain and Carol Hodges, who took the minutes, also helped. Angela Bradbrook is our faithful treasurer. We now had a problem with only me to organise outings. We asked the members for help and thankfully David Jarvis joined us; so now there are three of us: David (with Margaret's help) and myself.

We had four outings last year:

- Scotney Castle in May, including Tunbridge Wells for coffee.
- The American Museum in June. This was a long journey to Claverton, near Bath, but well worth it.
- Stratford upon Avon in September
- Petworth in December. It was decorated for Christmas.

I'm sure this reminder has revived good memories for some of us. Another year, already started, is before us. And we need more help, please.

Mavis McCarthy, Social Committee Chair

## Sutton Socials

Our next Social will be on Friday 26th June at All Bar One from 2-4pm. We will again have a Book Exchange table - bring unwanted books (no more than two please) in good condition – you can then choose one or two books yourself from the table. Also there will be help for basic mobile and computer problems available.

Our venue is All Bar One, situated behind Waterstones and almost opposite Trinity Hall. They have kindly offered us their Function Room for our meetings. The address is 2, Hill Road, SM1 1DZ. Food and drink are available.

Come along, meet friends and perhaps make new ones. Everyone is welcome. Please contact me if you need any further details.

Sue Deans



## Coach trip to Parham

### Thursday, 23rd July, 2026



Parham is a beautiful Tudor house, gardens and park near Pulborough, W. Sussex. Henry VIII granted the land to the family of Thomas Bishopp, who lived at Parham for 11 generations until 1922. It was sold to the Hon. Clive Pearson and his wife in a very sad state, and they spent the 1920s and 1930s repairing it. There is a beautiful Long Gallery spanning the entire length of the house, and at 48 metres is the longest in England.

The 7 acres of pleasure grounds were laid out in the 18th century. There is a walled garden with a maze, herbaceous borders, rose garden, orchard and a Wendy House from the 1920s.

We have arranged coffee or tea and biscuits on arrival. We will then be divided into 2 groups to have a private, guided tour of the house.

The house is open to the public at 12 noon, so we can spend the afternoon looking around the house again, the gardens, café and shop.

**Parham is cashless, so CARD ONLY please.**

Cost: £44, including coach, gratuity, private guided tour of the house and coffee/tea/biscuits to start.

Pick ups:

Shotfield, Wallington 8.40am

Grove Road, Sutton 8.50am

Return Departure 4.00pm

Mavis McCarthy

**Please use the attached booking form, if you wish to join us.**



## Coach trip to Watercress Line Thursday, 17th September, 2026



We are planning an outing to visit the Watercress Line in Hampshire in September. Details are to follow so keep an eye on your emails.

David Jarvis



Congratulations to Michael Larkin, a member of Sutton u3a and Padel player. He completed the 26.2 miles of London marathon and raised money for Royal Marsden.

## Coach trip to Penshurst Place

May 2026

The weather was looking a bit ominous when we set off first thing as the coach drove through the rain. On arrival we had a look round the toy museum, which was good fun and brought back many childhood memories. We then had a tour of the house. The house was originally built in the 14th century and enlarged over the next two hundred years or so. The house was given by Edward VI to Sir William Sidney and has been in the hands of the Sidney family ever since. The Sidney family were very involved in the politics of the Tudor period. The house has a series of fabulous rooms, which we all enjoyed. When we emerged from the house it was obvious that it had been raining outside and there was a heavy downpour while we had lunch. After lunch we walked around the beautiful formal gardens in bright sunshine, not quite believing our luck with the weather. Overall it was a very interesting and pleasant day out.

Tony Haggar



Photos by Beresford Campbell and Rachael Ironside



## News from our Groups

### Social Walking B

Social Walking group B recently enjoyed a beautiful spring walk in Cannizaro Park and Wimbledon common. The weather was kind to us and we saw some English bluebells and colourful azaleas followed by lunch at the café on the common.

Susan Watson



### u3a Essay Competition 2026

Are you a budding writer? Did you know u3a have an essay writing competition?

It's free to enter, open to all u3a members and details can be found here:

[u3a - u3a Essay Competition 2026](#)

## Philatelic Group (stamp collecting)

The philatelic group would welcome anyone interested in, or actively collecting, stamps. We meet periodically to discuss our collections, share advice and exchange information, swap duplicates, visit exhibitions/stamp fairs and help prepare items/collections for auctions. Anyone who has an unwanted stamp collection and wishes to sell, the group would be happy to supply guidance and help prepare them for sale at an Auction House (who would take a small commission). One member of our group can also help with free guidance on coin collections as well. If you would like any further information, please contact Steve Harris on 07818 063530 .

Steve Harris & Judy Taylor

## Popular Music

As leader of the Popular Music Group since its inception in 2021, I'm pleased to say that thanks to a large influx of new members in the U3A new year (ie April) we are now a group of 52 members of which 16 are boys and 36 girls. This group has no limits.

We are all like-minded in that we love our music, but all very different in our own choices and favourites – it's those differences that keep the group buzzing and sees different members attending different concerts (or gigs) every week.

And we are very fortunate to have several venues within easy reach, in particular the Cryer Arts in Carshalton where in May, for instance, we have been lucky enough to watch and listen to superb tribute acts like The Hijacked Hollies, Glamstar (with their fabulous get-ups as 70's glam-rockers – sold out), Blur2 v Pulpd (sold out), and an Amy Winehouse tribute (sold out). As you can see from that brief listing, these 4 acts alone cover the 60's, 70's, 90's and 00's, and all playing to such a high standard. The people in these bands do it for one big reason – they love the music - and also they totally respect the original performers. Watching them is an easy way to escape life's problems for a couple of hours and transport yourself back to those happier times. And nearly every show is SOLD OUT!

In addition to the Cryer, there's the Boom Boom club at Sutton United's ground, which is now under new management and has an almost-full diary through to December. That place really throbs when a band hits the heights. Recent successes there include Oasis (sold out), Squeezed, the Thin White Duke (Bowie) and Rod & the Facez – again showing a mix of eras and genres. Lots more coming up too, including on Fri 31<sup>st</sup> July, Glamstar again, and 18 of our group are already booked in. Does anyone fancy joining us?

Then there's the Fairfield Halls and the Epsom Playhouse, both of which are well within our spectrum, and of course further afield in Wimbledon, Dorking, Redhill, Bromley, Chislehurst etc and in the smoke at all London's venues and beyond. The choice is limitless – but please check your wallets!

So if anyone fancies joining us for a bit of this wonderful action, and to make new friends with like-minded people, please get in touch with me. I may be 70, but I'm a teenager at heart! Aren't we all in this group!

Peter Hurn

## Active Ramblers A

The last two outings of the Active Ramblers (A) have been along the south bank of the Thames. In April we walked from Barnes Bridge to Putney Bridge. We started off with a coffee at a lovely cafe/bakery called The Base, just off the High Street. We then followed the Thames to Hammersmith Bridge where we took a slight detour to see Harrods Village. The Harrods Furniture Depository buildings were built on the site of an old soap factory in 1894 as a storage centre for the larger items that could not be taken into Knightsbridge to the Harrods department store. It was converted into a residential estate in 2000 and is now known as Harrods Village. We then rejoined the Thames Path to complete the walk to Putney Bridge, passing Fulham's Craven Cottage football ground on the opposite side, and on to our pub lunch.

In May, due to the planned tube strike (later cancelled), we dropped our scheduled trip to the Olympic Park in Stratford, and went instead to Clapham Junction, from where we headed the short distance north to the Thames Path. On the way we had intended to stop for coffee at the Academy Pantry, part of the Royal Academy of Dance. However, on arrival (to the horror of the organisers) we discovered that it was closed for kitchen works (and yes, we had told them when we were coming!). The Academy reception staff were very welcoming and allowed us to use the toilet facilities before we departed, and we decided as a group not to add to our route by diverting to an alternative café. On our way along the Thames Path we had to go slightly inland to go round the Battersea helipad, and were lucky to see two helicopters take off and one land as we passed. After the Albert Bridge we diverted into Battersea Park, to see the Peace Pagoda, the fountains, the bandstand, and sections of the lake where we saw a pair of swans with 8 cygnets, a heron, and the usual collection of ducks. The final stretch took us across Chelsea Bridge, then away from the Thames Path (after a good view of Battersea Power Station), and through some backstreets to the side entrance of Victoria station, lunch and the trains home.

Gill Hyslop



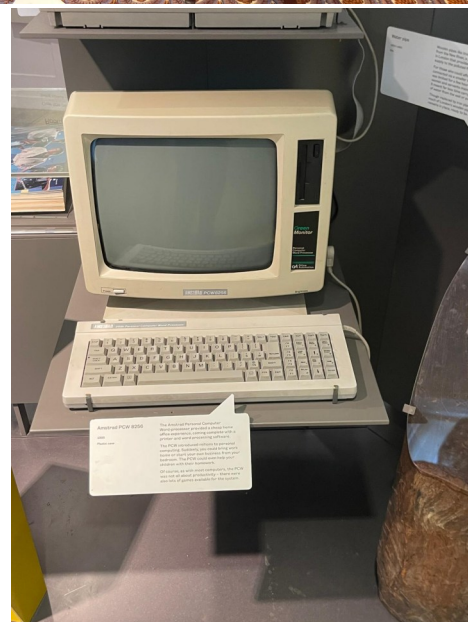
## London Explorers A

In February our group visited the Museum of the Home (formally the Jeffrey Museum) in Hoxton. We travelled by train to London Bridge and then bus to Hoxton, on the bus ride we had an extra bonus to our trip. We suddenly heard whistles and police motorcycle riders were stopping all the traffic, a moment later a cavalcade of several more police motorcycles and three cars passed us and in the second car we could see King Charles and Queen Camilla on the way to an official visit.

After all this excitement and a stop for coffee we made our way to the museum where we spent a couple of hours looking round. The museum is based in some old Alms Houses and has lots of rooms to see which are decorated and furnished in the various styles to be found over the last four centuries. They also have lots of smaller displays and description of life over the ages from various Hoxton residents. There are also gardens which are all laid out in different styles from over the ages. This museum is free to visit, they just ask for (optional) donations after your visit.

Once we finished at the museum, we found a local pub where we had lunch and then made our way back towards London Bridge Station. On the way we stopped of at 120 Fenchurch Street to see their roof garden. This isn't as tall as some other places you can visit but there are, nevertheless, some spectacular views and very nice gardens. It was a very cold, wet and windy day so we didn't stay long but some of us will visit again later in the year, it's particularly impressive in Spring/early Summer when the wisteria is in flower. This roof garden is free to visit; you don't need to book but groups of 12 + can book in advance and perhaps beat the queues.

Graham Vincent



## Group Vacancies

The following groups have vacancies. Please contact the group leader as listed at the end of the newsletter or via our website, if you are interested.

Active rambling A	Family History	Photography
Active Rambling B	Geology	Political Philosophy
Art	German Language Intermediate	Popular Music
Art Galleries and Museums	History	Real Ale Appreciation
Art Appreciation A	Italian	Rummikub
Art Appreciation B	London Appreciation B	Science
Bird Watching	London Appreciation C	Snooker
Book club	London Appreciation D	Social Photography
Bookworms	London Explorer C	Social Walking B
Bridge Wednesdays	Lunch Group (1st Sunday)	Spanish
Coffee Club	Mahjong	Sports
Creative Writing	Making Music	Table Tennis
Current Affairs	Padel Tennis	Town & Country
French	Philosophy	

## Explore the UK with u3a getaways

We are excited to invite you to the first of our u3a getaways trips - The Agatha Christie Story - from 14-18 September 2026. You'll join other u3a members from across the country to explore the beautiful houses and coastlines that inspired her famous mysteries, and there are now other trips available too, including Appreciating Shakespeare and Yorkshire Festive trips.

u3a getaways is a new programme of bespoke holidays exclusively for u3a members and friends.

Please share this news with your members. Find out more on the u3a getaways website:

[Explore the UK with u3a getaways.](#)