

U3A BUS PASS GROUP

This group has been running for several years and is for members who hold concessionary bus passes offering free travel on the local buses (not National Express)

We are fortunate in Stansted that we have a bus station at our airport which gives us access to numerous bus services.

The aim of the group is to have a monthly outing during spring, summer and autumn, travelling on buses free of charge to somewhere of interest. Members are asked to help with ideas for possible destinations and all suggestions are researched even if they prove to be not suitable. Travel is restricted to no more than two hours in each direction. This may seem a long time but most buses use scenic country roads and it gives the opportunity to chat with other travellers. We try to make trips as varied as possible but outings are not always on the same day of the week (to make it fair for members with regular commitments and because a destination may dictate a certain day of the week eg market days). Members are free to stick together or do their own thing but often some if not all of the group will have lunch together.

To give an idea of where we have been this year, we have visited Saffron Walden for the market, museum and art gallery, Coggleshall Winery for a wine tasting and lunch, Southend-on-Sea for the pier and fish and chips, Rye Mead RSPB Reserve to do some bird watching, Chelmsford to see the Quaker Tapestry exhibition in the Cathedral, Burnham-on-Crouch for the views and the quiet, St. Albans for market day and the Cathedral and we had our Christmas lunch and did some shopping at Van Hages Garden Centre.

Requests for 2017 include Maldon, Hertford with a walk along the New River to Ware and St. Ives on the Busway bus.

To show an interest in a particular trip, sign the notice at the U3A monthly meeting or email groups.stanstedu3a@gmail.com making sure you say you are interested in the Bus Pass Group and leaving your name, telephone number and email address.