



Ware u3a Newsletter April 2026

Dear All,

Now the clocks have gone forward I thought I would give some information on the history of BST

British Summer Time, also known as Daylight Saving Time, was the brainchild of a builder from Kent called William Willett. The story goes that one day on his way back from riding his horse in Petts Wood near his home in the early 1900s, he noticed many of the blinds and curtains in the neighbouring houses were still drawn, even though it was light. This led him to consider the idea of adapting the time to better fit daylight hours. Back then the clocks were set all year round to Greenwich Mean Time (GMT), meaning it was light by 3am and dark around 9pm in the summer.

Although he was not the first person to advocate this, he was perhaps the most driven, using his own resources to finance a pamphlet outlining his idea for adapting to daylight hours during the summer. His original proposal was for the clocks to be put forward by 80 minutes in total, in four steps of 20 minutes each Sunday at 2am during April and turned back in the same way in September. He argued that this would mean longer daylight hours for recreation, improving health and also saving the country money in lighting costs.



Through this leaflet "The Waste of Daylight" and his vigorous campaigning, in 1908 Willett got the support of the MP Robert Pearce who championed the idea, albeit unsuccessfully, in the House of Commons.

Exploring London 7

Another great day with the Exploring London Group 7 day out at the underground. So many interesting facts you don't know about when you are busily commuting. An added bonus was watching the filming of the TV show The Piano at Liverpool Street Station. We

saw Claudia Winkleman and Mika and a rendition of I've Got You Under my Skin from Jamie Cullum. Also a bonus was the Scot's Band. A good start to our day.



Art Appreciation Group visit to the Tate Britain

Turner and Constable-Rivals and Originals

Marking 250 years since their births, this landmark exhibition explores Turner and Constable's intertwined lives and legacies. Discover unexpected sides to both artists alongside intimate insights seen through sketchbooks and personal items.

Experience many of the artists' greatest works, with over 170 paintings and works on paper. Highlights include Turner's momentous 1835 *The Burning of the Houses of Lords and Commons*, not seen in Britain for over a century and *The White Horse* 1819, one of Constable's greatest artistic achievements.

This is a once in a lifetime opportunity to explore the careers of the two greatest British landscape painters, seen – as they often were in their own time – side by side.



Dolbadarn
Castle

Mount St
Gotthard

White Horse

The Great Energy Game: Who Controls the Power?

A summary of Graham Fellows' presentation to the MAGI group, 20 March 2026

Most of us assume our energy bills are shaped by government policy and the progress of renewables. Graham's presentation offered a rather more unsettling picture.

The presentation explained how Qatar, a nation of under three million people smaller than Yorkshire, came to control roughly a fifth of global liquefied natural gas trade and especially global gas prices, and with them, UK energy bills.

It described how Europe's desperate scramble after the 2022 Russian gas cutoff handed Qatar extraordinary leverage, while China moved strategically to lock in 27-year supply contracts at favourable prices. This has created a manufacturing cost advantage to China that is driving a permanent transfer of energy-intensive industry away from Europe.

For the UK, despite genuine progress on offshore wind and solar, gas still provides around half of useful final energy, North Sea production is in irreversible decline, and UK gas storage covers less than two weeks of demand.

The presentation's final section drew on a 2025 risk assessment by the Institute and Faculty of Actuaries and the University of Exeter - the professionals who calculate risk for pension funds and insurance companies, whose job is accuracy, not alarm. They have assessed the continuing accumulation of fossil fuel emissions in the atmosphere as likely to produce catastrophic impacts well within our grandchildren's lifetimes. Thirty years of international climate agreements have been accompanied not by falling emissions but by a 73% increase. Wind and solar, despite remarkable growth, still supply only around 3% of global primary energy. The gap between what is needed and what is happening is not closing.

The closing message: these are conclusions we may not want to confront, but that does not make them any less real.

Coming to ASSC (Allenbury Sports and Social Club), in Ware on 19th June at 2pm!

A new film featuring Chris Packham, leading climate and nature scientists, a former general and Jennifer Saunders - all being pretty frank about where things are heading and what can be done about it. Watch the trailer:

<https://youtu.be/Jal-dHgh65Q?si=TRSePREa6xznmpvG>

Forthcoming events

8th April 2026

Monthly Meeting

Commonwealth War Graves with Paul Gosbee (after the AGM)

13th May 2026

Monthly Meeting

A Stunt Woman's Life with Lucy Allen

10th June 2026

Monthly Meeting

Mary's Meals with Gerrard McMahon

8th July 2026

Monthly Meeting

The Life, Music and Influence of Buddy Holly with Tony Tutton



QR Code for
Ware u3a
Website

Best Wishes

Keith

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