



What's New for October 2024

Well, we have now entered Autumn and there is much going on with new startup groups alongside the usual regular groups. If you are still in thinking mode about what to do, you can always check the website under 'Groups' to see what's available.

I thought it right to start this month's newsletter with a message from our Vice Chair, Stephen Thorneycroft.



u3a Worcester Progress and a Plea

Dear Fellow Member,

I hope you had an enjoyable summer break, and I'd like to welcome you to another exciting year with Worcester u3a. I'm pleased also to provide you with an update on the progress of our organisation.

During the summer, traditionally a quieter time for u3a, we've been running a variety of formal and informal activities, allowing members to continue working and planning within their groups. A significant number of group leaders embraced this opportunity, and the feedback has been overwhelmingly positive.

We've also been busy recruiting new members. Our stand at the Worcester Show drew considerable interest from the public, and on August 31st, we hosted the Group Fair. This event not only showcases our wonderful organisation to prospective members but also gives current members the chance to explore new activities and renew their membership. This year, we're offering an impressive 100 plus groups—an increase of over 10% from last year. We're delighted to welcome 130 new members!

As always at this time of year, we face the usual challenge of members who either forget to renew their membership or, if they don't plan to renew, neglect to inform us. If this applies to you, we kindly ask that you contact our Membership Secretary, Beryl Curtis, at membership@worcesteru3a.org, to resolve the matter promptly.

For our new members who would like to learn more about the u3a, we will be holding "Coffee at the Café" meetings throughout the year, plus informal social gatherings and talks which are all listed on our website under 'Events'.

A Final Note: We Need a Chairperson.

For the past six months, Worcester u3a has been operating without a Chairperson. While it might seem like things are running smoothly, this is largely due to the strength of our experienced

Executive Committee. However, some key members of the Committee will be ending their terms over the next year, and without a Chairperson, the organisation will lose valuable experience, which could lead to challenges down the road.

If you are interested in standing for the position of Chairperson, you can find a job description on the Worcester u3a website by clicking 'For Members', then 'Committee'. Below the (currently blank) Chair photo, click on the word 'Chair'. You'll see that the role allows for flexibility, and you'll have

the support of a knowledgeable team who will work with you to ease you into the position and establish your own approach and pattern of work.

If you would like to talk about this role informally, please contact me on vicechair@worcesteru3a.org or ring me on 07773338680.

We appreciate your continued support, and I look forward to another productive year with Worcester u3a.

My very best wishes,

Stephen Thorneycroft

Vice-Chairman, Worcester u3a



Christmas Trip to Winchester

Here is a lovely opportunity to visit the cathedral and wander round the Christmas Markets. Also, you have the freedom to organise your day to suit yourself. So, if you need inspiration or other information, you can contact the Tourist Information office on tourism@winchester.gov.uk.

The trip will take place on: **THURSDAY 28 NOVEMBER 2024 and the cost is £25**. Please note that this is a change of date.

Below is a taste of what's on offer and then further on, the booking details.

Winchester Cathedral Christmas Market is recognised as one of the best in Europe, whilst Christmas in Winchester is dubbed 'England's Christmas Capital'.

The Christmas Market takes place between 22nd November – 22nd December. Winchester Cathedral's Christmas Market is renowned for its bustling atmosphere, stunning location and handpicked high quality exhibitors. Its reputation attracts visitors from around the world each year and they come to shop at the pretty wooden chalets, situated within the historic grounds.

The wooden chalets are inspired by traditional German Christmas Markets, and combined with the festive lighting, the sound of Christmas carols and the aroma of mulled wine and cinnamon drifting in the air, visitors will be transported into a festive setting to purchase their Christmas gifts and take in the atmosphere.

For those in search of an authentic Christmas experience, the Cathedral is at the heart of the City's celebration, with its many Christmas services, carol concerts, events and tours.

Tour tickets can be booked and bought in advance, via the Winchester Cathedral's website www.winchester-cathedral.org.uk/.

The coach will leave Croft Road at 08.30am (Please be at your departure point 10 mins before.) We will also pick up at **the Oak Apple at 8.40am** BUT we will not wait, please be there 10mins before.

The coach will depart Winchester at 4.30pm. We should arrive back in Worcester by 7pm. To secure your place please let **Valerie Gorton** have payment by **November 6th** by cheque, payable to Worcester Area Group u3a or BACS. Please check you have entered your bank details as exactly as shown below:

Recipient name: Worcester Area Group u3a (some banks ask if this is a personal or business account, please chose business)

Bank account number: 46119168 Bank Sort Code: 30-90-89

Payment details: WCM & your surname (this is to identify the payment is from you)

NOTE: Bank details for trips are different from the ones you may have used to pay your subscription.

Please note that payment must be received by the trip organiser before **November 6th**. After this date, if you wish to cancel your place, you will need to find a u3a member replacement yourself and the financial transaction will be between the two of you. We will not make any refunds after this date.

Please note a member of any u3a can go on one of our trips so please bring along a guest. A non-member can attend one trip, only, after which our Membership secretary will contact them about joining Worcester u3a.

RETURN SLIP – WINCHESTER CATHEDRAL AND CHRISTMAS MARKET

Please post your cheque / return by hand to Valerie Gorton, Turnstone House, Church Lane Little Witley WR6 6LP 07759578109 j.gorton668@btinternet.com by November 6th.

Your name(s): _____

Your u3a Membership Number(s): _____

Name and contact details of next of kin: _____

Relation: _____ Contact no: _____

Amount on cheque enclosed _£_____ BACS amount & date _£_____

Your contact numbers: Landline: _____ Mobile: _____

Your email address: _____



The Black Country Living Museum trip

This was a great day out and where visitors were transported back in time. It might have the word Museum in the title but in reality, it's a huge site. As you can see from the picture to the side, you could watch demonstrations of various trades including nail making. It's hard to believe that by the age of 8, a child was considered an expert nail maker and that was his trade for life, knocking out 1500 nails a day.

Some more photos around the site. There was plenty to see and explore, some peeled off to the café before venturing onwards while some tried the canal barge trip, or both. It was a bit of a grey day but very worthwhile and many thanks to Ruth Saunders for organising it.



No one is likely to have missed the penguin sculptures in and around Worcester over the last couple of months and I have received a contribution from one of the Walking Groups, so many thanks.



The Great Worcester Waddle

Worcester was invaded during the summer by a raft of penguins. Forty, 5ft tall species lined our main streets around the city with an extended parade either side of the river to Diglis bridge. Additionally, a further forty smaller birds adorned Crown Gate and some city businesses. Each bird was decorated with a wide range of different colourful styles and topics.

Not wishing this army of ornithological delights to be missed, eighteen members of our u3a Walking Group¹ set out one Friday in September to follow the 5½ mile route of 'The Great Waddle' around the city and out to Diglis. With titles such as Captain Blackbeak, Penguin on Holiday, Fisherman's Friend and Waddle I Do Without You, a great deal of fun, as well as a good walk, was enjoyed by all.

All eighty penguins were transferred to Worcestershire County Cricket Club where they will be on show for the first two weekends in October. After that time, they will be auctioned off to raise money for St Richards Hospice.

Here are some pics of our walkers.





What's going on

Coffee at the Café meetings:

4th October 2024, Friday from 10:30am to 12.20pm at Café Piano,
followed by **17th October 2024**, Thursday from 1.30pm to 3.30pm at
Café Piano.

Don't forget to check the u3a website for other events such as meetings and online talks. There is a meeting at Woodgreen Church, Warndon on the 2nd October at 2pm-3.30pm. **Musical Satire of the 20th Century – Peter Gill.**

Any updates for What's New by **21st October** please for the November edition.

Email: newsletter@worcesteru3a.org Or leave an answerphone message on **01905 887579**.

The Worcester u3a website can be found by clicking <https://worcester.u3asite.uk/>

Under 'Groups' there is up-to-date news and a list of the groups you can join with the Worcester u3a. You can also contact individual Committee members by clicking on the 'Contacts' heading. Here you can leave your email address and your comments.