



Wu3a's News May 2025



Worcester u3a's 40th Anniversary

The programme so far.....



Wednesday, 21st May – The Choir's 40th Anniversary Celebration

Worcester u3a Choir invites you to come along to Bromyard Road Methodist Church Hall, [Bromyard Road, St John's, Worcester, WR2 5DL](#) at 10am to enjoy some musical entertainment and join in with some songs you will know. Everyone is welcome and there will be refreshments too. Our leader, Liz, conductor and pianist Geoff and all the choir members look forward to seeing you!! Any queries please contact Liz on 07749 087535.

Tuesday, 10th June – Back by popular demand, Karen and Tim Austin will host an Evening Quiz, 7 to 9pm, Perdiswell Young People's Leisure Club, Droitwich Road, Worcester, WR3 7SN.

Thursday, 12th June – New Members' Joining Event, Café Piano, Friar Street, Worcester.

Thursday, 19th June – Afternoon Tea, 2 to 4pm, Ombersley Road Methodist Church, 11 Ombersley Road, Worcester, WR3 7BW. (Booking is necessary – more details to follow).

Wednesday, 25th June – Trip to Shrewsbury (see details further down).

June (dates TBC) – Four week Zen Meditation course run by Ian and Karen Spencer at the URC Church Hall, Albany Terrace, Worcester, WR1 3DU. If you are interested in taking part, please email publicity@worcesteru3a.org or leave a message on our answerphone (01905 887 579) and I will make sure you receive further information.

Friday, 4th July – Guildhall Showcase Event.

Friday, 4th July – Evening Celebration Buffet, exclusively for members, 5.30 to 9.30pm, Café Piano, Friar Street, Worcester. (Booking is necessary – more details to follow).

Wednesday, 9th July – Walking tennis taster session, run by Anne Holmes.

July (date TBC) – Picnic in the Park.

Sunday, 10th August – Worcester Show.

Saturday, 30th August – Groups' Fair.

Plans for the showcase event at the Guildhall on 4th July

The following groups will be there.....

Garden Club	Crafts	Backgammon in progress
Bridge in progress	Jazz & Big Bands	History groups
Oil painting demo	Practical Photography	Walking groups 1 & 2

Local History

Plus.....A collage detailing all of our groups made by the Calligraphy Group will be on display and we will have our fabulous BellyBelles and Spanish dancers performing routines both morning and afternoon.

The Mayor will be present for the cutting of our 40th anniversary celebration cake at 3pm.

This is our 40th year of existence. We want to show the public what we do and what a fantastic organisation u3a actually is, and how it can change lives. We can only do this with your participation as a member. If you can spare some time to just turn up at the Guildhall and speak to members of the public who may want to know more, we would very much appreciate your presence. We are still looking for groups to come forward and showcase their activities so please consider whether there is anything your group could contribute to the day to make it a success.

Exciting News! A possible new group and two definite new groups

Scrabble Group, lead by Jacki Ager

Do you enjoy a game of Scrabble? Good news – A monthly u3a Scrabble group may be starting in September. This will be held from 2.00–4.00pm on the second Thursday of the month from September '25 through to April '26. The venue is Claines Parish Hall WR3 7NY, corner of Cornmeadow Lane/St Anne's Road. To gauge the interest in this new group please contact Jacki directly at bramleyjacki@gmail.com or if you don't have internet, please ring me on 01905 887 579, leave a message and I will pass it on.

Tech Surgery for Non-Techies

Group Leaders will all have received an email from Adie Ditchburn inviting them to sign up for training on the use of u3a systems. Please contact Adie at groupsasst@worcesteru3a.org to take advantage of these training sessions. Click [here](#) for more details.

Pickleball

You're not too late to join the new Pickleball groups playing on Thursdays at Perdiswell Leisure Centre, 2.30 to 3.30. These new groups are being led by Ian Brown. Please contact Ian at ian_brown@mac.com if you are interested.

Recent events.....

News from Shan South, Group Leader, Walking Group 2

The Walking Group has recently returned from a fabulously successful and enjoyable walking holiday in Mallorca (28th March–4th April 2025). This was the first time we have ventured abroad for a walking holiday and have decided it will probably be a regular annual event!! 14 members ventured out!

On this occasion, we booked with “Involved Holidays” as a “closed group” with our own guide. The whole organisation from start to finish was excellent. Details of the itinerary, where we would be walking and a description of the walk, was received in advance from “Involved Holidays” so we knew what to expect. The holiday included 3 guided walks, the other days 3 being “self-guided” but with enough information provided to make informed choices and decisions about where best to go to make the best of our stay.

We had a very good guide who gave us plenty of information about the island; culture; economy; fauna; flora etc. We stayed at an excellent well-appointed hotel, “Hotel Bella Playa & Spa, Cala Agulla, Cala Ratjada ,and were all very impressed with the facilities; excellent food and so much choice!! Needless to say, we have all returned eager to pursue another European holiday next spring!



Don't forget these walking holidays are open to all members of the u3a Walking Groups so if you are keen to join us please just get in touch. Places on all u3a holidays can be booked with Louise Radford . The next walking holiday abroad (in spring 2026) is currently in the planning stage. The Autumn holiday (late September) is in Church Stretton and confirmed as 22nd September 2025. Some rooms are still currently available – so please get in touch.

Invitation to become a Lion King – or Queen!

We're probably all aware of the Lions even if we can't always say exactly what they do. They've been active in Worcester for over 50 years (and worldwide for over a century) and exist to support volunteers providing active hands-on support in their own communities to those who need it and who have perhaps slipped through a gap in the welfare state. Rather like u3a, they're focused locally but part of Lions International, the world's largest voluntary service organisation, and support its activities such as building eye hospitals in the developing world.

They're best known in Worcester for running the Santa Sleigh at Christmas – last year Lions members took it out on 18 different occasions to different parts of Worcester (with those who want to, getting a chance to play Santa!). Anyone who's been part of an activity like this knows how much it's enjoyed by the children who get to meet Santa, which is a joy to see and immensely rewarding. There is a fund-raising side too but this is only one objective and the main one is providing a service to the community – and some fun!

Other current Lions activities including cooking for the Worcester Street Café providing meals for homeless people, maintaining the hospital garden at the Timberdine Rehabilitation Centre, organising the annual Poppy Appeal at Waitrose for the British Legion, and being part of Lions International's programme to collect old spectacles and recycle them for use in the developing world – last year over 10,000 pairs were collected from the Worcester area! During lockdown the Lions collected and recycled used laptops for home schooling (the only organisation in Worcester to do this) and also donated several tablets for the children in the cancer ward at WRH.

The range of activities, and the number of times the Santa Sleigh goes out, are limited only by the number of volunteers available to help, and there's plenty of scope for members to suggest and organise other projects. There's no expectation of any particular level of involvement, Lions is more about offering a framework within which each individual can do as much or as little of whichever activity as they like.

Worcester Lions is actively looking to recruit new members to help with organising and delivering these services. Membership is open to both men and women of all ages, although for the obvious reason of having sufficient spare time, in practice, many tend to be of more mature years – very much like u3a in fact! In fact, being part of the Lions is an excellent counter-part to u3a which, as we all know, provides an excellent network for meeting others with similar interests, to pursue a wide-ranging variety of social activities – Lions is complementary to this by providing an opportunity to give something back to the community and help those who for whatever reasons haven't done as well as thankfully, most of us have been able to.

If you're interested, please drop a line to either hello@worcesterlionsclub.org.uk or if you prefer, to me at martindbennett@btinternet.com (some of you will know me from the u3a groups I'm enjoying being part of). And if you want to see a bit more about what Lions is about and what they do, see the photos below and you may find these links interesting (the last one is specifically about the Santa Sleigh run).

www.worcesterlionsclub.org.uk

www.facebook.com/worcesterlionsclub

www.facebook.com/worcesterlionsssleigh

Martin Bennett

Global Causes & Initiatives

- Childhood Cancer
- Diabetes
- Disaster Relief
- Environment
- Humanitarian
- Hunger
- Vision
- Youth
- Mental Health & Well-Being

Programs

- Advocacy
- Diabetes Camps
- Diabetes Peer Support Groups
- Strides for Diabetes Awareness
- Type 2 Diabetes Screening
- Lions Eye Banks
- Recycle Eyeglasses
- Eyeglass Recycling Centers
- SightFirst
- Lions Quest
- Youth Camps & Exchange



A Plea from Worcestershire Wildlife Trust

We are writing to share details of an exciting new project that Worcestershire Wildlife Trust is developing, pending funding from the National Lottery Heritage Fund. A Network for Nature is a five-year landscape-scale restoration project that aims to reconnect and restore habitats across a third of Worcestershire, centred on the historic Forest of Feckenham.

The Forest of Feckenham once spanned much of eastern Worcestershire, extending into Warwickshire and was a vast, wooded landscape rich in wildlife. Under forest law, it was a protected area where diverse habitats such as woodlands, meadows and wetlands thrived, supporting species such as badgers, foxes, pine martens, otters, wild boar, wild cats and wolves, alongside a wide variety of plants and insects. Over time, much of this landscape has been lost and the vital habitat corridors that once connected these ecosystems have been fragmented due to changes in land use. As a result, many species that once called this area home are now either absent or in decline.

This project presents an opportunity to restore these lost connections and revive the landscape through collaboration with local landowners and communities. By reconnecting woodlands, hedgerows, meadows, scrublands and waterways – not only on nature reserves and farmlands but also in gardens, allotments, school grounds, village greens and other green spaces – we can create places where nature can once again thrive.

The project area spans approximately 30km north to south and 15km west to east, covering parts of Bromsgrove, Redditch, Pershore and Evesham. Through land restoration, habitat creation, farm advisory work, citizen science and community collaboration, we hope to make the landscape better for both wildlife and people.

To do this well, we need the knowledge, support and voices of local communities. That's why we're contacting groups like yours – to help shape a project that not only restores nature but also reflects and celebrates the deep heritage of this landscape. We believe the Forest of Feckenham's rich and rooted past – from its days under forest law to its cultural and ecological legacy – can play a powerful role in inspiring people to reconnect with the land and help shape its future. The project is set to begin its development phase in 2026 and we're looking to involve groups like yours right from the start.

Would your group be able to/be interested in:-

- Sharing any existing knowledge or resources on the Forest and surrounding area (e.g. historic geography, mapping, culture, land use, biodiversity)?
- Supporting voluntary research into the area's history, forest law, or ecological changes?
- Helping with and/or participating in public engagement – such as talks, guided walks, podcasts, storytelling, exhibitions, re-enactments or school workshops?

If you think you'd like to help and want to get involved, please email Caitlin Stuart, Worcestershire Wildlife Trust's Fundraising Officer at caitlin@worcestershirowildlifetrust.org

Day Trip to Shrewsbury Reminder

Worcester u3a's 40th Anniversary Trip to Shrewsbury

Wednesday 25th June 2025

COST: Coach £20 OR Coach & Boat trip £30

Shrewsbury sits inside a loop of the River Severn, and its Tudor centre is lined with half-timbered houses. The medieval, red-brick Shrewsbury Castle houses the Shropshire Regimental Museum, where military artefacts include uniforms and weaponry.

Charles Darwin was baptised in St Chad's Church, near the Quarry Park, famous for its unique circular nave. Darwin went to school in Shrewsbury and there is a statue of him outside the library. (opposite the Castle) St Mary's Church in town centre has elaborate stained-glass windows. The Shrewsbury Museum & Art Gallery is in The Square in the centre of town inc. the tourist office. The indoor Market (on the first floor) is very popular. There is a good supply of independent shops, cafes & restaurants, some in traffic free areas, in the heart of the town where many of the Half-Timbered buildings are. You can link streets by using Stuts (ginnels, alleyways, passages!)

20 minutes' walk from the Castle is **Shrewsbury Flaxmill Maltings** (recently restored), the Grandparent of Skyscrapers with its pioneering iron frame, which launched a thousand skylines. The Mill building, with the first iron multi-framed building is one of eight listed buildings on the site. Tours & a café are available.

The River Severn is a great attraction with lovely walks on both sides of the river with 7 bridges to make many circular walks. The Quarry Park and Dingle were created from an old quarry with the help of Percy Thrower and is just a few meters from the Boat. For those that wish to there will be **a boat trip on The Sabrina**, with a particularly good explanation about the buildings and history of Shrewsbury. If you plan to bring a wheelchair/ walking frames etc please let me know, you can be accommodated.

NB The paths around the river are flat and the access to the old town centre is uphill.

We plan to leave from Croft Road at 8.45am and Sixways at 9am. Sixways has plenty of free parking! We plan to leave Shrewsbury at 4.30. More details will be available nearer the time.

To secure your place(s) please let Ruth Saunders have payment (and Return Slip) by **Friday 6th June** by BAC's or Cheque payable to Worcester Area Group u3a. Bank Account no. 46119168 Sort Code 30-90-89 Business account. Please note, this account is different to the one you use to pay your subscription. Payment details SHRW & your surname.

If you cancel your place after June 6th, you will need to find another u3a member to fill your place yourself and the financial transaction will be between yourselves. We will not make any refunds after this date.

NB please note any member of u3a can go on ONE trip only, after which our membership secretary will contact them about joining u3a.

RETURN SLIP – SHREWSBURY JUNE 25th

If you are not paying by BAC's please post your cheque to Ruth Saunders, 17 Lobelia Close, Worcester, WR5 3RR, or email ruth.r.saunders@gmail.com

Your u3a no.(s) _____

Name (s) _____

Boat Trip: YES/ NO Email address _____

Pick up: Croft Road/ Sixways Rugby Club bus stop

Amount paid by BACS £ _____ Amount by cheque £ _____

Your Tel no: _____ Mobile no: _____

Next of kin _____

Relation _____ Mobile no: _____

Walking Frames _____

And finally.....

The Worcester u3a website can be found by clicking [here](#).

Under 'Groups', you'll find up-to-date news and a list of all Worcester u3a groups. You can also contact individual Committee members by clicking on the 'Get in Touch' heading.

Please do check the EVENTS page on the website for talks and events taking place further ahead. Click [here](#).

National and Regional Activities

You might be interested to know that the national u3a body organises a number of online talks and demonstrations, on a wide variety of topics, for u3a members. These range from cookery demonstrations to keeping safe online. This month there are talks on mass extinctions, their causes and consequences, the history of the 16th century ruff and "From the Soviet Gulag to Arnhem", a Polish Paratrooper's Epic Wartime Journey. Click on [Online learning](#) to find out more.

If you want to be kept informed about the various events being held you can sign up to receive the national newsletter for u3a stories, events, advice, opportunities and more. Click on [u3a National Newsletter](#).

If you have something for the next newsletter or questions about anything in this newsletter, please email communications@worcesteru3a.org or leave an answerphone message on **01905 887579**.