



## Wu3a's News July 2025



### Worcester u3a's 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

The programme is underway! Here's what's coming up.....

**Friday, 4th July – Guildhall Showcase Event.**

**Wednesday, 9<sup>th</sup> July – Walking tennis taster session, run by Anne Holmes.**

**Sunday, 10<sup>th</sup> August – Worcester Show.**

**Saturday, 30<sup>th</sup> August – Groups' Fair.**

### Plans for the showcase event at the Guildhall on 4<sup>th</sup> July

Doors open at 10.30am and the following groups will be represented.....

Garden Club      ♦      Crafts      ♦      Backgammon in progress  
Bridge in progress      ♦      Jazz & Big Band      ♦      History groups  
Art – Oil painting      ♦      Practical Photography      ♦      Walking groups 1 & 2

The Medium Walks Group will, on the day, be doing a 5-mile 40th anniversary walk, ending at the Guildhall at around 12.30pm. We hope many members will be there to welcome them.

Plus.....A collage detailing all of our groups made by the Calligraphy Group will be on display and our fabulous BellyBelles and Spanish dancers will perform routines at 11am and 11.30 and again at 2.00 and 2.30.

The Mayor, Councillor Dr. Matt Lamb, will be present for the cutting of our 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration cake at 3pm, along with former mayor and u3a member, Roger Berry, current Chair, Chris Scott and former Chairs, Laurence Wale, Dennis Chamberlain, Val Hibbit and Jane Flynn.

Come along to join the celebration – Let's make it a great day!

## Reminders.....

**Walking Tennis** – members and visitors alike are invited to attend a Walking Tennis taster session on Wednesday, July 9<sup>th</sup> or, in case of rain, Wednesday, July 16<sup>th</sup>, between 2 and 3pm, at Hallow Tennis Club, Main Road, Hallow WR2 6PW. If you would like to give Walking Tennis a go, please contact Anne Holmes at [anneholmes2@gmail.com](mailto:anneholmes2@gmail.com) or as usual, if you don't have email, leave a message on our answerphone, 01905 887 579, and I will pass your details to Anne.

See [https://worcester.u3asite.uk/u3a\\_events/walking-tennis-taster-session/](https://worcester.u3asite.uk/u3a_events/walking-tennis-taster-session/) for more details.

**Pickleball** – As part of our 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations, around 80 of our Pickleball players will be taking part in a Pickleball festival on Sunday, 27<sup>th</sup> July at Perdiswell Leisure Centre, in celebration of the game. All eight courts at Perdiswell have been booked from 12 to 4pm. You are invited to come and spectate – non u3a members welcome!

Having watched the play, anyone who wishes to avail themselves of a free one-hour taster session can leave their details with us and we will contact them in due course to make the necessary arrangements. Worcester u3a members can request a taster session any time. Please contact Paul Yeo at [paulyeo@hotmail.com](mailto:paulyeo@hotmail.com) if you would like to do so.

## Unfortunately.....

The Afternoon Tea on 19<sup>th</sup> June, and the Evening Buffet at Café Piano on 4<sup>th</sup> July, had to be cancelled due to not enough tickets being sold to make the events viable. If you have any comments as to why the two events didn't appeal to you, please drop me an email at [communications@worcesteru3a.org](mailto:communications@worcesteru3a.org). It would be very valuable to get your opinions.

## Getting ready for Renewal Period (1st Aug – 30th Sept)

### Debbie Spooner, Membership Secretary

This is to let you know that I will be sending out block emails by membership number (working in reverse order) to those who have yet to set up their personal record within the Beacon computer system. It is where you can change personal details such as email address etc but most importantly, you **renew your membership online**. There are always other methods of renewal that have not changed but increasingly, Members are encouraged to use the online renewal process.

For those receiving my email, it will contain 5 key pieces of information (exact match to what is held on the Membership record currently) that you will need to undertake the set up. So with that email information, head over to the u3a website, select Membership in the main menu, then select Members Portal and follow the instructions. I've done the same exercise with new joiners (as of 1st June) and that was successful. Thereafter you will only ever need your email and password to access your own record.

## Following the Group Leaders' Meeting.....

**Stewart White, Groups Leader Liaison**

### **An appeal to all members**

If you no longer intend to go to a group please notify the Group Leader so they can make your space available to another member. There are currently a large number of closed groups due to the number of members attending. If we can make spaces available to others, that benefits existing u3a members who have been trying to join the group and potential new u3a members who may be put off joining as there are no spaces available in groups that interest them.

We all greatly respect the work of our Group Leaders and the effort they put in to make their groups a success. When groups restart in September please consider ways in which you can assist your Group Leader in sharing their workload as I am sure they would appreciate it

Ahead of our Groups Fair on August 30<sup>th</sup>, can I please ask Group Leaders to review your current memberships of groups.

### **Potential new groups**

At the Group Leaders' meeting on June 13<sup>th</sup>, we asked each other for suggestions for new groups

The ideas for new groups were recorded as follows –

- Interest groups – u3a online. National u3a run a large number of groups online across a wide range of interests
- Adventures on buses – day trips using bus passes across Worcestershire
- Adventures on trains – day trips on trains, utilising Senior Railcards where possible
- Pottery Group
- Sailing
- Early morning swimming
- New book groups
- Evening walking group
- Astronomy group
- International Food Group – Visits to local restaurants to sample a different cuisine each month
- 'Taster' sessions for existing groups
- Group for members newly single
- Quiz group
- Blues music
- Discovering classical music

I am now asking you to contact me at [groupcoord@worcesteru3a.org](mailto:groupcoord@worcesteru3a.org) if you have an interest in becoming a member of any of the above.

Should there be enough interest I will do my best to make these groups happen, which would include finding a venue, group leader/s and any required support in administering the Beacon and Website elements of the group.

It is your u3a and we would welcome any other ideas for groups. New groups are good for existing members and also attract new members.

We have recently set up new groups as follows –

Beginners Bridge – starts in September – Group Leader, Ferne Langdon

Birdwatching and Wildlife – started in June – Group Leader, Margaret White

Scrabble group – starts in September – Group Leader, Jacki Ager

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## Walking Groups News

### Walking the Pembrokeshire Coastal Path

For the past 3 years a small group of us have spent a week walking sections of the Pembrokeshire Coastal Path. We started in St Dogmaels and will finish in Amroth (179.4 miles). We've chosen the month of May as this is when the weather is generally favourable and when the late spring and early summer flowers are at their best.



Last year we had a real challenge with poor weather – it rained for almost the whole week and the walking proved most challenging! However, this year we had the most amazing weather all week (12th –19th May) which more than made up for the previous year. The section walked this year was from Little Haven to Angle and covered a total of 65 miles. Next May will see the completion of the trail and we only have just under 40 miles left to walk!! The last section also covers some of the loveliest beaches in Pembrokeshire including Freshwater, Penally, Tenby and Saundersfoot. As before I will be finding a suitable Airbnb which will accommodate the number of people who want to join us to walk this section, and which is reasonably accessible to travel back and fore to the start and finishing points each day.

If anyone would like to join us next May – please be kind enough to get in touch with me and I will be happy to let you have more details.

### Shan South u3a Walks Leader



## To All Bridge playing members of Worcester u3a:

A reminder that we have a few spaces available for pairs of bridge players to join us on 12th July 2025 at either or both of the bridge sessions to be held at Albany Terrace URC Church in celebration of the 40th Anniversary of Worcester u3a.

Morning session 9.00am – 12.30pm (space for 8 more pairs)

Afternoon session 1.00pm – 4.30pm (space for 5 more pairs)

£2 per session per player.

Please contact Beryl or Jeremy Curtis on 01905 458781 asap to book your place.

## Recent Events

### The Quiz at Perdiswell Young Peoples Leisure Club, 10<sup>th</sup> June

There was a fantastic turnout for our latest quiz, hosted by Karen and Tim Austin, with a very tricky “picture” round devised by John Brady – for sports enthusiasts! Here are some pics. Looking forward to the next quiz near Christmas and perhaps more regular quizzes.



## Volunteering opportunities at Greyfriars

Greyfriars House and Garden is looking for volunteers for the Outdoor Welcome role for the summer. If you are interested, email [elishia.baker@nationaltrust.org.uk](mailto:elishia.baker@nationaltrust.org.uk) or call 01905 23571.

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### 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 free online talks and demonstrations, on a wide variety of topics, free for u3a members. These range from cookery demonstrations to staying safe online. Here are just a few of the talks this month:

**"Ice to Athelstan – The Emergence of England" – Thursday, 3<sup>rd</sup> July, 11am.**

**"Exploring World Faiths: Friendship". – Monday, 14<sup>th</sup> July, 10am.** The International Day of Friendship takes place on Wed 30<sup>th</sup> July. Friendship can take many forms between individuals, in neighbourhoods, places of worship, between faiths and between nations. In this webinar, we will explore approaches to friendship from different faith perspectives. The host is Exploring World Faiths subject adviser, Dr Peter Rookes.

**"Plants, Medicine and Magic" – Tuesday, 15<sup>th</sup> July, 11am.**

**"Turner's Timeless Treasures" – Thursday, 17<sup>th</sup> July, 10am.**

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](#).

Plus, a digital version of the u3a Matters magazine (formerly known as Third Age Matters) has been launched. You can now read u3a Matters free online. See <https://www.u3a.org.uk/news/u3a-matters#taster> for a taster!

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

**P.S** For those who have joined our **Facebook group page**, on most group pages, you can decide how you want posts to be sorted. I can't see this as I'm an Administrator, so receive all posts. If you can see a symbol that looks like two black lines with two black dots, the top one to the left and the bottom one to the right, click on that, and you can sort your posts.