



Wu3a's News October 2025



First of all, apologies that this is late. I thought I'd have plenty of time after my holiday but events overtook me and I spent a few days in hospital towards the end of the month. Anyway....here we go!

Groups News...

Culture Vultures - the programme so far

October 10th - Book group - "Raising Hare".

October 13th - Theatre - "Emma" at Malvern Theatres

October 25th - Meal at Sweet Greeks, Mealcheapen Street, Worcester.

November 4th - Theatre - NT screening of "Mrs Warrens Profession" at the Swan.

November 14th - Book Group - Pat Barker's "Silence of the Girls 2".

This is a new group and after discussion, members agreed that they wanted to look at new authors, different genres and read some international books. If you think you'd like to get involved in this group's activities and have some ideas to make it a "wow", please contact Chris Scott at chair@worcesteru3a.org.

Adventures on Trains

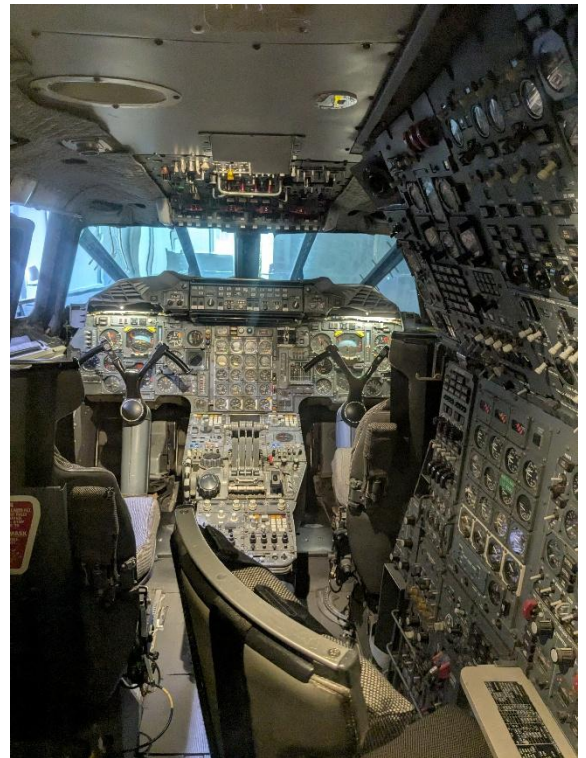
Our latest group outing took place on Friday 12th September, when we visited the Aerospace Bristol Museum. We travelled down to Bristol Parkway Station and then a combination of bus and a short walk got us to the museum.

For over a century, Bristol has been at the forefront of aeronautical and space technology, breaking boundaries to create the fastest, the biggest and the highest. This museum took us through all these achievements with clear documentation at each exhibit explaining the part that Bristol played. The last Concorde to fly is stored here in its own purpose built hangar and you are able to walk aboard and experience its unique role in aviation.

Volunteers are currently restoring two older aircraft and you have the chance to walk onboard the transporter aircraft to experience how these operated.

Admission to the museum was £20 and on reflection, good value, given the experiences available.

Here are some super photos from the trip:



Two future trips in 2025 are:

Thursday 23rd October: London – To visit any of the great museums in South Kensington
Leaves Worcester 0725 arriving back 1810

Thursday 27th November: Bath – To visit the first day of their Christmas Market
Leaves Worcester 1000 arriving back 2000

These trips are open to any member of Worcester u3a, their family and friends. Please contact Stewart at groupcoord@worcesteru3a.org for more information.

A New Group...

“You and the Law made simple – Discussion Group”

This group will explore different scenarios from ‘Real Life’ situations, where resolution requires compliance with the law and personal satisfaction. Members will be encouraged to bring their own issues or experiences to the group for debate. Discussion will be the focus of this group but you will be able to just listen and take everything in and give your own opinion if you wish. It will be thought provoking and will generate a great deal of debate. We all have an opinion!

The sessions will be two hours duration and the group will meet fortnightly.

Day – Wednesday, 1000 to 1200, from Wednesday 8th October to 22nd April 2026

Group Leader – Malcolm Copson 07785 383141, email copsonm@yahoo.co.uk



What else is going on?

Coffee at the Café

Come and join us for a cuppa and a chat with other Worcester u3a members. We meet the first Friday of the month at Café Piano in Friar Street and the third Tuesday of the month at our new venue on the west side of the river, Ego at Manor Farm, WR2 4BS.

The next Tuesday meet-up will be on **21st October 2025, anytime from 11.00 to 12.30pm**

Partners and friends welcome!

Please see the website for dates for future Coffee at the Café meet-ups and the programme of monthly open meetings and social events.

An Invitation from Pershore U3a recorder group

This is a small friendly group, playing a variety of different styles of music and have been rated as outstanding in two classes at the 2025 Worcester Competitive Arts Festival. We would like to invite any Worcester members who play, or would like to play the recorder, to join us. We have a number of spare recorders of all sizes and run extra sessions for those who want extra practice.

We meet on 2nd and 4th Fridays, 2 – 4pm at Pershore Riverside Centre.

An ability to read music would be helpful. Lower instruments particularly welcome!

If you would like to join us, please contact either myself hazel.woodhead@icloud.com or Lynda Martinson, our Musical Director on dreen05@sky.com.

Walking Group news.....

u3a Walking Holiday a great success!

This year, 22nd–26th September 2025 the walking holiday was in Church Stretton and 24 members had the most wonderful week. The weather was absolutely fabulous every single day and enabled the whole group to have some wonderful walks from a wide selection of short, medium and long walks offered by the HF House. Photographs attached give a flavour of some the amazing scenery in Church Stretton.

Sue Collins, Stewart White and Claire McLaughlin led the short and medium walks each day. Hilary Walters, Lynne Millington, Sharon Webb and Adam Scott led the longer walks. All offered plenty of choice and enabled everyone to choose which walk they wanted to do each day or indeed simply please themselves as walking every day isn't compulsory!! Because the locations of our walking holidays are simply fabulous – u3a members can join the holidays and please themselves whether to walk or simply go out and about.

Worcester u3a is affiliated to HF Holidays and enjoys exclusive benefits and discounts. Walking holidays are open to all u3a members – not just those who are members of the Walking Groups. In years gone by, we have had total occupancy of the HF houses which has been great! that way we have more choice of all rooms available; otherwise, single rooms in particular fill up quite quickly. However, there are always plenty of double or twin rooms available for those who are happy to share.

Next September the walking holiday is in the **Peak District** (Peveril of the Peak). A non-refundable deposit is required to secure a place on the walking holidays. Places on all U3A holidays can be booked with **Louise Radford** and you can contact Louise at b.w.radford@btinternet.com, if you would like more information about the holidays being offered.



Shan South, Group Leader

Worcester Lions Club Poppy Appeal and Santa Sleigh

The Worcester Lions Club (a charity) have two major events coming up shortly. The first is the annual Poppy Collection to support the Royal British Legion; the second is the Santa Sleigh runs in the weeks leading up to Christmas (also annual, unsurprisingly!). These are both major events and labour-intensive, and we'd welcome the support of any volunteers who can offer a few hours of their time.

Poppy Appeal: the Lions run an outlet for the Royal British Legion Waitrose on London Road from Saturday 25th October to Sunday 9th November (inclusive). This needs volunteers (preferably working in pairs, though singly is fine too) to staff a table in the café area offering poppies and other British Legion merchandise to anyone passing in return for a contribution to the great work the Legion does for ex-servicemen. We're looking for volunteers to help out with us, working in 3-hour shifts* (see below for the times). And if an incentive is needed, Waitrose are great hosts as they're strong supporters of the British Legion – and as many U3A members can already confirm, they make excellent coffee!

Santa Sleigh: you may already have seen this if you live in Worcester, either touring the streets (see the picture below) or parked up in (for example) Tesco or Waitrose car parks in the weeks leading up to Christmas. It's an opportunity to help raise funds for deserving causes – one recent example has been sponsoring a visiting theatre company to run an event for 85 special needs children from Worcester at Regency School in Warndon. Though maybe an even greater benefit is simply taking the Sleigh around Worcester, evidenced by the expressions on the faces of the children who come out to line the route as Santa goes by! However running the sleigh's outings and complying with all the relevant safety regulations means they're inevitably rather labour-intensive, so we'd appreciate any offers of assistance – this could be walking alongside the Sleigh, driving the towing vehicle (fortunately a bit simpler than managing a team of reindeer!), maybe even taking a turn behind the beard as Santa! Everyone who's ever done this agrees it's a great way to get into the Christmas spirit and kick off the festive season!

If you'd like to volunteer your services to help out with either (or even better, both!) of these activities then please let us know at hello@worcesterlionsclub.org.uk – thanks.

* the shifts are 10 am –1 pm, 1-4 pm and 4-7 pm every weekday, and 10 am –1 pm and 1-4 pm on Sundays.



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](#).

One thing I'd like to mention and remind everyone of, is that u3a is a member-led organisation. We cannot operate without the members' input – to start groups, join the committee, help committee members with tasks and help out at events. A lot of you have done your bit, leading groups, being a committee member, etc. and we very much appreciate what you've done for the group. We now have a lot of new members and I would urge them to get more involved in the running of Worcester u3a. Without offers of help, we will see a reduction in new groups and events, as we saw with the cancellation of the Zoom Meeting about Joseph Merrick due to no one coming forward to introduce the speaker to those joining! With over 1,000 members, this is extraordinary.

National and Regional Activities

You might be interested to know that the national u3a body organises a number of free online talks via Zoom, 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:

Click on [Online learning](#) to find out more and book.

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. Comments, suggestions and ideas to improve the group are always welcome.

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.