



# Wu3a's News December 2025



**ON BEHALF OF YOUR COMMITTEE, MAY I WISH ALL OF OUR  
MEMBERS A WONDERFUL CHRISTMAS AND A VERY  
HAPPY NEW YEAR**

## Groups News...

### Players wanted

The Monday afternoon, Bridge 2 (Rubber/Chicago) groups has vacancies for new players. It is a Standard+ group, meeting every Monday from 1.30 to 4.30 pm, at the Green Centre, Dines Green. It is a very friendly group and you would be made most welcome. If you are interested, please contact Richard Herriman via the website.

**Craft Group 2 members have found a very novel way to display their Christmas wreath creations!**



**And here are the Art in the Jubilee Room artists, clearly enjoying themselves!**



## Recent events

### Adventures on Trains – Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> November – Remembrance Weekend

#### Stewart White

We took a trip to the National Memorial Arboretum at Alrewas. The weather was grey but the rain held off all day. We took the 9.14 train to Tamworth from Worcestershire Parkway and on arrival, caught the shuttle bus up to the Arboretum arriving at 11.00. Leaving at 3.15 for the return journey, we arrived back at WP at 4.58.

It was a day of reflection on the sacrifices so many have made in defence of our Country. We saw the broadcast crew setting up for the following day's celebrations. There were many people in attendance, however as the site is large easy access was possible wherever we went.

Six of us travelled and we all had an enjoyable time.

The itinerary for this trip is easy to follow and if anyone wishes a copy of it please email me at [groupcoord@worcesteru3a.org](mailto:groupcoord@worcesteru3a.org) and I will send it to you.

### Open meeting, 12<sup>th</sup> November, Woodgreen Church



#### “The Seventeenth Century Bishops of Worcester”

I couldn't attend myself, but I've heard that this talk by Philip Bowen was very interesting and entertaining. 40 members attended.

Philip is a former headmaster of Bromsgrove School and now a guide at Worcester Cathedral.

## 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 Friday meet-up will be on **5<sup>th</sup> December 2025, anytime from 10.30 to 12.30pm**

The next Tuesday meet-up will be on **16<sup>th</sup> December 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.



## New Year Lunch

**Browns at the Quay, Wednesday 7 January 2025**

**Arrive from 12.00 for a pre-dinner drink and chat at the bar. Lunch will be served at 1pm. £25 for a starter and main course.**

Come and enjoy good food, good company and start the New Year on a high note. You are welcome to bring non-members with you if you wish. Below is a sample menu and booking form.

Key to codes

V –VEGETARIAN, VG –VEGAN, VGO –VEGAN OPTION, GF –GLUTEN FREE, GFO –GLUTEN FREE OPTION

c – crustaceans, ce – celery, d – dairy, e – eggs, f – fish, g – gluten, l – lupin, n – nuts, mo – molluscs, mu – mustard, p – peanut, s – soya, sd – sulphur dioxide, se – sesame

### STARTERS

**Minestrone Soup** (V, GFO) with sourdough baguette and butter (sd, g, d, c, e)

**Prawn & Crayfish Tian** (GFO) with herb crostini, cucumber, pickled shallot, caper dressing (sd, g, e, d, cr)

**Roasted Vegetable Tart** (V) with dressed baby leaf salad (d, e, g, mu, sd)

**Chicken Liver Parfait** (GFO) with pickled shallot, crostini, onion marmalade, lambs leaf lettuce (ce, sd, mu, g, e)

### MAIN COURSES (All served with seasonal greens)

**Chargrilled Beef Fillet Medallions** (GF) – with sautéed potatoes, bacon, shallot, spinach, red wine sauce (d, sd, mu, f)

**Roasted Chicken Supreme** (GF) – with mashed potato, tenderstem broccoli, pink peppercorn sauce (d, ce, sd)

**Pan-fried Salmon Fillet** (GF) – with sautéed potatoes, broccoli, green beans, garlic & herb cream sauce (sd, cr, d)

**Vegetable Wellington** (V) – with dauphinoise potato, baby carrots, tenderstem asparagus, red wine gravy (d, g, s, sd)

### OPTIONAL

#### Dessert (£6.00)

**Sticky Toffee Pudding** (GFO, V) – with banana fudge ice cream, butterscotch sauce, glazed banana, honeycomb (g, d, e)

**Biscoff Cheesecake** (V) – with sweet vanilla cream, honeycomb, caramel sauce (e, d, g)

**Limoncello Tart** (V, VGO) – with fresh lemon curd, raspberry sorbet (d, g, e)

**Cheese & Biscuits** (V, GFO) – Cornish brie, mature cheddar, stilton, celery, apple, chutney, crackers (g, d, ce)

#### Coffee (£1.99)

**BOOKING FORM**

I/we would like to attend the New Year Lunch

Name(s): .....

Contact Email: ..... Tel No: .....

Is there someone you'd particularly like to share a table with? YES / NO

If YES, please tell us their name(s): .....

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**Booking & Payment (£25 per person) to be received by Friday, 12 December 2025**

Please send order form by post if you are paying by cheque, (made payable to **Worcester Area Group u3a**), to Social Secretary Worcester u3a, 2 Pevensey Close, Worcester, WR5 2HZ

Our preferred method of payment is by BACS (Electronic Bank Transfer), sending the payment directly from your bank to ours. If you choose this method of payment, you do not need to send the booking form – just email the Social Secretary with the details required (as above) to [social@worcesteru3a.org](mailto:social@worcesteru3a.org). Let Pat know that you have or are about to, transfer the payment.

Please check you have entered our bank account details exactly as shown below:

Payee: **Worcester Area Group u3a** (choose business account, if asked)

Account number: 46119168

Sort code: 30-90-89

Use the reference "LUNCH" plus your surname.

PAYMENTS MAY ALSO BE MADE AT COFFEE AT THE CAFE SESSIONS.

*If you wish to cancel your place after you have booked and paid, you will need to find a u3a member to replace you, and the financial transaction will be between the two of you. We will not make any refunds after 12<sup>th</sup> December.*

**Volunteers Needed.....**

This is an appeal for people to step forward to help with running our u3a group next year. You don't need to take on sole responsibility for a task. You may feel that a committee role would be too much for you, but there are other ways you could help – perhaps share a role with a friend or assist a committee member. We committee members, are all just volunteers working together as a team, who help to organise events, talks, the AGM, keep an eye on our finances and find solutions to problems that may crop up. New Worcester u3a members, or anyone interested, is very welcome to come along to a committee meeting to see what we get up to. Coffee and cake will be on offer and you will be made most welcome.

If you'd prefer to help in another way, we always need people to help set up meetings, meet and greet, record visitors' details and serve tea and coffee.

If you think you can help out, even in a small way, please contact our Chair, Chris, or our Secretary, Annie, via me, Ferne, at [communications@worcesteru3a.org](mailto:communications@worcesteru3a.org).

On that note, my term as Publicity/Communications Officer ends at the AGM in March, so we are looking for someone to take over from me. As I have created posters, flyers, articles, etc., you would not have to start everything from scratch – but you could put your own stamp on things. My role is to promote Worcester u3a whenever I can, be it contacting Worcester News to get publicity into the newspaper, popping something on Facebook when there is something coming up, or posting to other Facebook or Nextdoor sites to promote our activities. It is very satisfying to see something you've written in print and broadcast to Worcester residents. If you think you might be interested in this role – it is a Committee position – please contact me at [communications@worcesteru3a.org](mailto:communications@worcesteru3a.org) and, if you wish, we can meet to discuss my role..

## Monthly Open meetings.....

We have been surveying our members recently to find out what you like or don't like about the open meetings and what subjects for talks would interest you. We've had some great ideas. If you would like to add your comments and ideas, please email me at [communications@worcesteru3a.org](mailto:communications@worcesteru3a.org). We'd love to hear them.

We would also like to use some of the amazing talent within our u3a group and for all of us to enjoy some of the very interesting things that go on in our interest and activity groups.

Ideas for events are: a Book Festival, an Art Exhibition, a Bridge drive, a Genealogy session.

Our Chair has reported a very productive Group Leaders' meeting with several expressions of interest in taking on an Open meeting with their Group.

## A message from David Lees, group leader for the North Cotswold photography group.....

"I've noticed that your photography group is currently not running. We do have a few places available in our group as we recently lost several members. If there is anyone in your group could travel to Willesley near Broadway on the second Monday of the month and would be interested in coming along to see what we do. We would make them very welcome."

## Bransford Community Farm

We've been asked to make you aware of a community farm being developed in Bransford, next to the River Teme. Within the 200 acres of woodlands, fields and lakes, there are various walks, fishing, a small café and a shop. The farm also owns the Bear & Ragged Staff pub.

See <https://www.bransfordcommunityfarm.org/> for more information.

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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 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 coming up this month:

**Safes and Safe-breaking: Investigating the struggle between safe-makers and criminal safe-breakers.**

**Monday 1<sup>st</sup> December, 10am**

**Inflammation and cancer: removing dying cells to control immune response: Dr Ioannis Kourtzelis explores efferocytosis and the pathophysiology of inflammatory diseases and cancer in this Science Network Event.**

**Wednesday, 3<sup>rd</sup> December, 10am.**

**Bridge: What's it all about? Discover the joy of playing Bridge in this introduction to the game, and find out how to play online, with u3a Bridge Adviser, Steve Carter.**

**Thursday, 4<sup>th</sup> December, 10am.**

**Boost your Festive Batteries with Qigong: Paul Myszor guides us through an hour of Qigong to help us survive this busy season.**

**Wednesday, 17<sup>th</sup> December, 10am.**

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](mailto: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.