



# Wu3a's News March 2026



## Firstly.....Remembering Lucy Dodd



Lucy Margaret Dodd, who died recently just short of her 102<sup>nd</sup> birthday, was a truly remarkable lady. She was born in Crosby, Nr Liverpool, and despite being a talented ballet dancer (she had been offered a place at the Royal School of Ballet but her father refused to let her go!), chose to be a teacher, applying and succeeding post-war, in gaining a Government teaching appointment in East Africa (Rhodesia and Tangyanika as she insisted on calling them to the end!). This not only satisfied her lifelong wish to travel, but enabled her to play tennis virtually every day! She continued to travel all over the world and to play tennis at Hallow Tennis Club into her 90's. As a founder member of Worcester u3a and of our Monday Bridge group, she was attending our group regularly throughout last Autumn until a few weeks before her death.

Throughout her long life, she had never been in hospital until shortly before her death. She never married and lived independently in her own home. Lucy was a very sociable, hospitable (liked to make her own wine) and kind lady who always liked to be warm, always arriving early to occupy the warmest sitting location in the Dorothy Hunt room at the Green Centre for Monday bridge (love of warmth no doubt influenced by her time in East Africa). Latterly, Lucy taught at Blessed Edward Oldcorne School, having moved to Worcester where her only brother and family lived.

**Richard Herriman**  
**Bridge 2 (Rubber/Chicago) Group**

---

## Groups News

### Short Mat Bowling



If you are interested in taking up short mat bowling, the Short Mat Bowling Group 1 has four vacancies available. They play at Perdiswell Leisure Centre on alternate Monday afternoons. This pastime is an ideal way of combining exercising the joints and socialising with other bowlers. Although everyone likes to win, the sessions are generally not supposed to be competitive. No experience is necessary. All you need is a flat pair of shoes and a smile. Contact Bill Holliday via the group's listing on the website, if you are interested.

## Umbrellas at dawn!



Over the years many people have enjoyed walking, whether they are serious walkers, who spend days trekking long distance footpaths, or social walkers, who just want to spend some time in the countryside, the kit that walkers have with them has changed very little. Boots or substantial shoes, weatherproof coat, rucksack, water, first aid kit, map and possibly a hat. But, over the past couple of years, and certainly so far this year, there has been an essential addition to the standard kit – an umbrella as illustrated by our intrepid u3a **walking group1**.

**Local History 2** is a very enthusiastic and friendly group; we are all passionate about the history of our fascinating city and country and many of our members enjoy doing their own individual research, which is often presented to the group as a talk. However, LH2 member Anne Spurgeon took individual research to a whole new level when her interest in the work and legacy of Dean William Moore-Ede resulted in the publication of her book, "Christ's Politics – A life of William Moore-Ede". Dean William Moore-Ede (31 August 1849 – 2 June 1935) described himself as a teetotaler and radical, sporting a moustache and embracing socialism. He studied theology at St. John's College, Cambridge, where he encountered radical reformer and Christian socialist, F.D. Maurice, whose philosophy had a lasting influence on him.

After his ordination in 1873, Moore-Ede's first post was in Alston, Cumbria, home to a Quaker-established model village for workers—a concept he later adapted, on a smaller scale, when he moved to Worcester, to provide decent housing for low-paid workers.

Anne has strong family connections to northeast England, where she first encountered the name of William Moore-Ede, who, despite being honoured in his home county, his progressive views were sometimes seen as too radical by Worcester's more conservative cathedral establishment in the early 20th century.

In Worcester, Moore-Ede's socialist principles are evident in actions such as assisting the chain makers of the Black Country in their fight for a minimum wage, setting up soup kitchens, and building decent housing for poor people in collaboration with architects Phelps and Johnson. These houses can still be seen in Christchurch Road and Lansdowne Road.

As Dean, Moore-Ede oversaw the Cathedral's fabric, including removing degraded gilding from King John's tomb and recasting the bells in 1928. He was also responsible for installing the large stained glass WWI memorial window in St George's Military Chapel and the Gerontius window dedicated to Sir Edward Elgar. Moore-Ede's pacifist views are evident in the plain WWI memorial by George Sprague outside the cathedral, providing a stark contrast to the nearby Boer War memorial. He founded the Friends of Worcester Cathedral, and advocated free entry, which remains today. However, his warnings about securing the Cathedral's pinnacles went unheeded until one fell and damaged the roof in November 2023.

If you would like to discover more about Dean Moore-Ede and read this fascinating book, please contact [administrator@aspect-design.net](mailto:administrator@aspect-design.net) or phone 01684 561567 or contact me, LH2 Group Leader, [carolynmclarke@outlook.com](mailto:carolynmclarke@outlook.com) and I will pass on your questions and queries to Anne.

## Upcoming Events.....

### Worcester u3a AGM with lunch and talk, open to all members

Date and time: **Wednesday, 25th March 2026, 12:30 pm – 3:00 pm**

Venue: **St. Peter's Baptist Church**



Following the AGM, Les King, will present his light-hearted and fascinating talk, **"Tales of Policing, Parleying, and Pontificating"**.

Les spent a total of 55 years working as a senior police officer, probation officer, criminal justice consultant, university lecturer and Trade Union national representative. Expect a light-hearted and entertaining look back at his career, from starting as a police cadet in 1970, to his retirement as a Chief Inspector, responsible for complaints and discipline.

#### Pottery experience

Worcester u3A is delighted to offer up to eight members a chance to explore their creativity with clay, both hand building and the potters' wheel.

The pottery experience is on 21st April for two hours in St. Johns, close to the University.

Group 1 – 10am – noon

Group 2 – 11am – 1pm

We are able to offer this to members at the exceptional price of £22.50 per person, which includes tuition, clay, glaze and kiln firings.

To reserve your place please message Davina Lewis on 07403 996134, stating if you have a preference as to which session you would like to attend.

## 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.

**Café Piano, Friday 6<sup>th</sup> March 2026, anytime from 10.30 to 12.30**

**Ego, Tuesday, 17<sup>th</sup> March 2026, anytime from 11.00 to 12.30**



## The Worcester U3A Choir Singalong

Wednesday 6 May 2026

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 if you want to, with some of the songs which 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.

---

## Recent Events

### Tudor Medicine Revisited



A great turnout for the u3a February event at Lyppard Community Centre, a fascinating insight into the world of Tudor medicine by Angela Dunsby, museum assistant at John Moore Museum, Tewkesbury.

Angela, dressed in Tudor costume introduced us to a whole new medical lexicon including:

A Tussie Mussie – a nosegay of herbs and flowers worn or carried to mask body odours and to protect

against disease.



The Perpetual Pill – a small hard pellet made of antimony used as a laxative. The pill was swallowed, passed through the digestive system, recovered from the faeces and used again.

The spoon of Diocles- a tool designed to extract an arrow head from a wound.

The talk was accompanied by a demonstration of the variety of tools and instruments used by apothecaries, physicians and barber surgeons.

The John Moore Museum is nestled in a terrace of timber framed buildings close to Tewkesbury Abbey and was established in 1980 in memory of the naturalist John Moore.

Please visit [www.johnmooremuseum.org](http://www.johnmooremuseum.org) for more information.

---

## Could you host a French student?

The Experiment in International Living (EIL) is still looking for hosts for their 16 yr old French students, coming to Worcester from 9<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> March, out all day on a supervised activity programme. You would need to provide breakfast, a packed lunch and an evening meal, a bed for each student (students may share a room), and transport. Students must be dropped off at The Croft, Worcester, at approximately 8.30am and collected at approximately 5.30pm. You may host between one and four students, depending on space and preference. Email: [host@eiluk.org](mailto:host@eiluk.org) or phone: 01684 562577.

## A blast from the past.....



Here are Val Hibbitt (Chair) and Diane Elt (Publicity) setting up the first Worcester u3a stand in Gheluveld Park, 2019.

---

## 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:

### The Match Girls' Strike and How it Changed British Labour History

Michael Astrop, of Todmorden u3a, describes the action of 1888, when 1,400 women and girls walked out of an East End match factory and into the history books.

**Thursday, 12<sup>th</sup> March, 10am to 11am.**

### The Cancer Research Revolution and Reasons for Optimism

Professor Tim Humphrey will present the current understanding of cancer, its causes and established therapies. He will then discuss the remarkable biological and technical advances in cancer research and treatments that have become available over the last 25 years and whether these represent a cancer research revolution.

**Tuesday, 24<sup>th</sup> March, 11am to 12.30pm.**

### Deafness and Beyond: The Tribulation and Triumph of Ludwig van Beethoven

Professor Christopher Dorrick, of Orrell Park and District u3a, will show how Beethoven's compositions during his early 30s, when he realised he was becoming profoundly deaf, reflect his distress (for example La Malincolia and The Tempest); and then how he sublimated his suffering, creating some of the most profound music we have ever heard.

**Thursday, 26<sup>th</sup> March, 2pm to 3.30pm.**

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.