



Wu3a's News

April 2026



Recent events.....

The 2026 AGM

It was great to see so many members at the AGM. All resolutions were passed unanimously and we were delighted to welcome our new Executive Committee members into their new roles. The sandwich lunch obviously went down very well and we enjoyed an amusing talk by Les King.

Here are the outgoing and incoming Committee Members:

Role	Outgoing	Incoming	Email address
Secretary	Annie Patterson	Lorna Fellows	secretary@worcesteru3a.org
Publicity Officer	Ferne Langdon	Sharon Ellson	publicity@worcesteru3a.org
Communications Officer	Ferne Langdon	Ann Digby	communications@worcesteru3a.org
Social Secretary	Pat Davis	Annie Patterson	social@worcester.u3a.org

On behalf of the membership, I would like to thank the outgoing Committee members for the invaluable contribution they have made to running Worcester u3a and welcome the new Committee members to their roles.



Chris Scott (Chair) addressing the audience



Les King delivering his talk

What else is going on?

Board Games Afternoon

Join us for an afternoon playing board games at Lyppard Hub Hall 2, between 12.00 and 3.30 pm on Monday 13th April. You'll be able to try different games, or bring your own favourites (nothing too obscure or complicated!) for others to try.

The event will be free-format, giving the opportunity to participate, and meet, others with similar interests. Volunteers from the other games groups, including Backgammon, will be there so that there will be a core of people to guide and encourage. Please contact Ian Fenton at ian.fenton6@btinternet.com if you have any questions.

Refreshments will, of course, be available.



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.

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 Ego, Manor Farm.

Our April meet-up will be **Tuesday 21st, anytime from 11.00 to 12.30, Ego, Manor Farm**

Partners and friends welcome!

Summer Bowling

Anyone fancy lawn bowls? Barbourne Bowling Club, Redcliffe Street, Worcester, WR3 7AR, has offered us four sessions in June and July to give Worcester u3a members a chance to enjoy Summer Bowls.

Dates are Tuesdays, June 9th, June 23rd, July 7th and July 21st, from 10.30am to 12.30pm.

The Bowling Club has requested a maximum of 18 players on any of the days to use the 2 rinks we have booked. A Barbourne Club member will be at the club to guide members on playing the game and loaning out Woods (bowls) and the necessary equipment.

A donation of £2.50 per day is requested to cover costs, with tea/coffee and biscuits being provided at no extra cost.

Please contact Stewart at groupcoord@worcesteru3a.org if you are interested in playing and on which or all of the days. He will collate the interest and confirm that you are joined up into the group.

Anyone for Badminton?

We have had an offer from the University. They are offering an opportunity for our members to have a bit of fun playing badminton on Thursday afternoons between 1.15pm and 3.15pm, at the University Arena in Hylton Road.

The cost per person would be £3.60 (pay only if you play), payable to University Staff. You could play singles or doubles, depending on your stamina, and if there were enough people, you could take turns playing. Don't worry if you don't have the necessary equipment. The University can provide racquets and shuttlecocks.

If you're interested, please contact me, Ferne Langdon, at green7wr@outlook.com.

Groups News

Tap Dancing

Do you enjoy dancing? Not only is it a great way to stay fit but it keeps the brain ticking over and gets the endorphins going. Worcester u3a has a number of fabulous dance groups including both Beginners and Improvers Tap Dancing groups. After a number of fun years the group leader is now stepping down which gives an opportunity for someone else to pick up the reins and take the group forward in a new direction. Or perhaps two (or even three?) people could share the different roles – organising the programmes, teaching or the admin side of things.

The current u3a season finishes in May with the new season starting towards the end of September. Carol Raven is only too happy for anyone who might be interested to come along to any of the tap dancing sessions before this season ends to meet and chat about the groups, and of course see what they get up to! You can read more about the groups on the u3a tap dancing webpages and watch a couple of videos. You can also contact Carol via these webpages.

The two groups are well established and their members are fun-loving, supportive and very much wish for the groups to continue as they get so much enjoyment from their dancing sessions. Even if you have never taught tap before (Carol hadn't before she became group leader) YouTube is a great source for tutorials and both Carol and the committee would offer all the support they can.

Adventures on Trains

Our latest trip was to Cardiff on Saturday 31st January where 11 members travelled under darkening skies. Luckily the rain stopped once we arrived and members dispersed and visited St. Fagans National Museum of History, Cardiff Castle, Cardiff Bay and even some retail therapy.

There are a number of further trips being planned so keep an eye on the website or contact Stewart at groupcoord@worcesteru3a.org for more details.



Restart of Practical Photography Group

We will be restarting the Practical Photography group from September 2026 and for the moment would like to canvas interest so that we can choose the appropriate venue for the group to meet. The group leader made his living from Photography for over 50 years and would welcome members with an interest in taking up Photography and members who wish to share their interest with others and improve further. Please email Stewart at groupcoord@worcesteru3a.org if interested.

Stu made his living in Marketing and Photography for over 50 years. Here are some examples of his work:



To see more about Stu, see <https://www.lensculture.com/stu-booth>

COTSWOLD LINK Special Interest Day

Tuesday 2nd June 2026

The Pavilion, Hatherley Lane, Cheltenham, GL51 6PN, 10.30 – 15.30

From Pen to Reader: The Journey of a Book

A day of four lively talks exploring how books are imagined, written, researched, published, and brought to readers. Open to all members of u3as affiliated to the Cotswold Link network.



Bums on Seats

Sue Ablett

Founder and Chair of the Evesham Festival of Words, Sue shares a behind-the-scenes look at running a literary festival. She draws on her varied career and her experience as a self-published non-fiction author, offering practical tips for writers hoping to promote their books.



Researching Roman Britain

Jacqui Rogers

Jacqui writes two crime/thriller series set in 3rd-century Roman Britain, including the bestselling *The Loyal Centurion*. She talks about researching the ancient world, building believable historical settings, and shaping compelling characters.



The Joys and Perils of Being an Author

Colin Wade

Author of seven crime and mystery thrillers, Colin discusses his writing journey, the surprises of publishing, and how his background with Thames Valley Police helps him craft fast-paced, gripping stories.



A Publisher's Perspective

Gareth Swain

Managing Director and co-owner of The History Press, Gareth offers an insider's view of modern publishing—how decisions are made, what publishers look for, and how a manuscript becomes a finished book.



Bonus Session

Jocelyn Wishart

How one u3a Creative Writing Group successfully wrote and published their own books.

Special Interest Day Booking Form

Please register, ideally using the electronic booking link and including all the details requested on the booking form below.

Electronic Booking Link Booking form link <https://forms.gle/xpWiJ3tMMrCTeFYt5>

BOOKING FORM

I/We would like to attend the Special Interest Day

(Please complete further sheets if necessary)

Full Name/s

Address

.....

Telephone No.....email:.....

Member(s) ofu3a Membership number/s.....

Special dietary requirements

Special access needs.....

£28 to include attendance, car parking, coffee/tea on arrival and lunch. Deadline for receipt of payment and booking form is 2nd May 2026. Applications on first come, first booked basis.

If you can't use the electronic booking link, email Ann Kelly on annMK6571@hotmail.com, attaching the booking form or including all the details from the booking form in your email. **Pay by BACS** to Lloyds Bank Account Name: Cotswold Link, A/C No: 02375425, Sort Code:30-92-06.

Please quote your surname/u3a as reference and advise Ann that you are paying electronically.

Alternatively return completed form and **cheques made payable to Cotswold Link** to:
Ann Kelly, White Cottage, Martley Road, Lower Broadheath, Worcester. WR2 6QG.

Cotswold Link website link: [Special Interest Days - Cotswold u3a Link](#)

Taekwon-Do

Worcestershire Martial Arts has recently launched a Taekwon-Do class specifically designed for adults aged 60 and over. The class focuses on improving balance, flexibility, coordination and confidence through gentle martial arts training in a friendly and supportive environment. No previous martial arts or fitness experience is required.

The programme is designed to help people stay active, maintain mobility and reduce the risk of falls, while also providing a social and engaging weekly activity.

Class details:

Thursdays – 10:30–11:30am, at

Worcestershire Martial Arts, Unit 3, Checketts Lane Trading Estate, Worcester, WR3 7JW

We are currently offering a free 4-week taster course for new participants. After the taster course, membership is £25 per month (one session per week) and a uniform is provided free of charge if participants choose to continue.

For more information, see <https://www.worcestershiremartialarts.co.uk/senior-taekwondo>

If it would be helpful, I would also be very happy to arrange a short demonstration or introductory session for u3a members so they can see what the class involves.

Sally Greaves

Director of Worcestershire Martial Arts Ltd

worcestershiremartialarts@gmail.com

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:

Richard Nixon – A Truly Complex Man

Paul Carter is the national adviser to the u3a with regard to UK and US politics and will cover Nixon's career and life in a 60-minute session.

Thursday, 16th April, 2pm to 3pm.

Anglo-Saxon England – From the Dark Ages to the Viking Age

Author Charles Boundy explores the arrival and settlement of the Anglo-Saxons in Britain, in and following the so-called 'Dark Ages', asking who they were, where they came from, when and why they migrated, and how they established themselves across the country.

Tuesday, 21st April, 2pm to 3.30pm.

Oi! Mind Yer Language! – exploring the English Language: history, structures, usage, mysteries, magic.. and more.

Three u3a group conveners (including Pam Upton, u3a's National Subject Advisor) will explore some delights and secrets of the English language, looking at four typical example areas of language interest: children's language learning, dictionaries and new words, surnames, and the nature and sources of 'language data'.

Thursday, 30th April, 2pm to 3pm.

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.