

# JUNE 2026 NEWSLETTER



[www.worcester.u3asite.uk](http://www.worcester.u3asite.uk)

Dear Member

Welcome to the June edition of your monthly newsletter – we are the new editors and would welcome any suggestions for what you want to see in your newsletter – please email [publicity@worcesteru3a.org](mailto:publicity@worcesteru3a.org) or [communications@worcesteru3a.org](mailto:communications@worcesteru3a.org)

Many Thanks Sharon Ellson and Ann Digby

## DATES FOR THE DIARY

### Adventures On Trains - Liverpool

4<sup>th</sup> July 7:30-9:30 pm – Cost £20 – this is open to all u3a members and any friends and family as public transport is used on these trips. For more information, please refer to

[Liverpool Day Trip on Trains](#)

### Quiz Afternoon

Karen and Tim Austin will host another wonderful quiz afternoon on 8<sup>th</sup> July

For more information, please refer to – <https://worcester.u3asite.uk/events/>



## UPCOMING EVENTS 2026

### JUNE 7

St Peters Fete at Power Park. WU3a has a stand at the fete from 12:00-16:00 and volunteers are needed to attend and talk about what u3a membership can offer - please e-mail [groupcoord@worcesteru3a.org](mailto:groupcoord@worcesteru3a.org) if you are willing to help.

### JUNE 26

Worcester U3a Group Leaders meeting - 11:00 at Worcester Golf Club, Bransford Road, Worcester WR2 4EZ

### JUNE 30

Spanish dance open afternoon 13:00-15:00 at The Masonic Hall, Rainbow Hill, Worcester email [mcgtait@gmail.com](mailto:mcgtait@gmail.com) for a place

## ITALIAN -BEYOND THE BASICS -VICKI PERRIDGE

Many of us begin learning Italian with holidays in mind — ordering coffee in Rome, buying train tickets in Florence, or asking directions in a Tuscan village. But what happens when you move beyond “*un cappuccino, per favore*”?

Our **Italian: Beyond the Basics** group is designed for learners who already have some grounding in the language and want to go further — building confidence, accuracy and fluency in a friendly, supportive environment.

We explore grammar in a practical way (modal verbs, imperatives, pronouns, past tenses and more), always rooted in real conversation. Sessions combine structured revision with speaking activities, games, listening practice, short texts and discussion. There is no pressure to be perfect — mistakes are part of the process — but there is encouragement to stretch yourself.

We also dip into Italian culture: traditions, regional differences, current affairs, literature and everyday life. Language makes much more sense when you understand the people who speak it.

Above all, this is a collaborative group. Everyone brings something — curiosity, humour, travel stories, persistence — and we learn together.

If you can already hold a basic conversation in Italian and would like to deepen your knowledge while enjoying good company, this group may be just what you're looking for.

### **Benvenuti!**

If you would like to join this group, please visit the U3a website <https://worchester.u3asite.uk/> - go to groups and group listing – find Italian Beyond the Basics, click on group email and register your interest.

## POTENTIAL NEW GROUP – EXPLORING AI



## FREE EVENTS IN WORCESTERSHIRE

### SEVERN ARTS SUMMER FESTIVAL

Free events at Worcester Guildhall, St Andrews Church and Cathedral Square – see <https://www.severnarts.org.uk/event/severn-arts-summer-festival-2026> for details.

### WORCESTER ART & POETRY EXHIBITION

From 6th-19th June the Deans chapel will host a special art and poetry exhibition exploring the theme of “wonder” – this forms part of the Worcestershire Literary Festival 7th -13th June

### TALK: WORCESTER'S GLOVING INDUSTRY

9th June 2:00 PM- 2:30 PM – Worcester City Art Gallery – Drop into the museum for a fascinating, free, bite-sized historical talk on Worcester's famous hand in the global gloving industry.

**AI Grows tomatoes** – AI has successfully grown tomatoes, one of the largest cultivated crops in the world, demonstrating how practically and concretely it can be applied. Whether AI grown tomatoes will improve the taste of supermarket ones, it is yet to be seen. The developers of AlphaFold – an AI that predicts how proteins fold and has positive consequences in developing treatments for some medical conditions- were awarded a Nobel prize in 2024. AI tools are already available for everyday tasks- augmenting internet searches with summaries, helping to draft emails, supporting genealogy research, assisting presentations, creating images. As editor, assistant, and content creator, AI offers a range of ways to extend what we already do and to do it more easily, more quickly and more richly.

If you would enjoy finding out more about AI, this group may be for you. Together we can explore the practical questions of how to get the most from AI, where and how AI is being used, to deeper questions about the limits and what it reveals about intelligence itself. The group will be shaped by the interests and experience of its members, with the first sessions establishing who we are and what we most want to understand.

Group meetings will be in central Worcester – day to be decided. Get in touch if you are curious, sceptical, already engaged, or simply feel that AI is something that you want to understand better.

*Nb. This note was written by a human. AI was used to help develop the approach and check for the correct use of English.*

Laurence Wales – u3a member

If you are interested in joining this group please contact Stewart White – [groupcoord@worcesteru3a.org](mailto:groupcoord@worcesteru3a.org)

## GROUP NEWS

### WALKING GROUP THURSDAYS AND 10+ WALKING GROUP SHAN SOUTH

In April 2026 (17<sup>th</sup>-24<sup>th</sup>) 15 members of our u3a Walking Group spent a week walking in beautiful Tuscany. This is the second walking holiday we have had abroad (last year we went to Mallorca), booked by Louise Radford with “Involved Holidays”. This was an out of season “bespoke” arrangement. The company were easy to deal with and the travel arrangements very straight forward. Louise also arranged for two taxis to pick us all up from home and take us to the airport and collect us to go home at a very reasonable price – so the whole holiday was very well organised.

We stayed in the Hotel Joseph in **Pietrasanta** which was very well appointed. We all had individual rooms with balcony's which enjoyed lovely views of the sea on one side and views of the fabulous Apuan Alps on the other.

The food was amazing – as you would expect of Italian food and so much of it!! We were served 4 courses if you include the “help yourself” salad selection to begin with and the quantities were very generous. There was plenty of choice too including fabulous pasta dishes as well as fish, meat and vegetarian options.

The one-week holiday included 3 organised walks plus a supervised trip and guided tour of Florence. Frederick, our walk leader/guide was really good and offered plenty of information about the areas/regions we were visiting and his knowledge of flora.



The walking trips were across different parts of the region of Tuscany so we had the opportunity to really enjoy views of the countryside and villages from the comfort of our coach. Our first trip was to **Nozzano Castello** and following a visit to the medieval castle and a beautiful circular walk of approximately 7 miles, we were taken to **Lucca** with plenty of free time to explore.

Our second walking trip was to **Calci**, a picturesque village nestled in the serene Gracious Valley; a peaceful and beautiful place with stunning panoramic views. This 5 mile walk included a gentle climb through olive groves and pine forest, ancient water mills and the ruins of an old castle.



We had a free day between the supervised walks and so a group of us went to **Pisa** and spent a lovely day there – two of us booked tickets in advance to climb the steps of the leaning tower and visit the Cathedral and Baptistry – it was all fabulous.

The following day was our supervised excursion to **Florence** which involved a coach trip part of the way and then a tram into the centre of Florence. We were given a 1.5-hour walking tour of all the main attractions with a very good city guide before having free time for the rest of the day which was great as it gave us more time to consolidate some of the information we had been given on the tour.

Our third guided 5 mile walking trip was to the maritime village of **Tellaro** on the Gulf of Poets which is on the list of “the most beautiful villages of Italy” with its colourful fishermen’s houses clustered close to St George’s Church. From there we continued to **Lerici** with its 12<sup>th</sup> century castle (worth the climb to get great views towards Portovenere and the off shore islands).

We had a free day on the Thursday so once again most of our group decided to go to **Cinque Terre**. Stewart White who is an absolute “whizz” at organising buses, boats and trains planned the whole journey for us so we could maximise our time at the villages and get the best from the visit to this amazing area. Two of us walked the first section of the Sentiero Corniglia–Vernazza trail climbing the “Lardarina Staircase” which was quite something!! The boat trip afterwards along the coast and viewing all the villages was spectacular.



So, all in all we had the most fabulous walking holiday! The weather was just about perfect with warm sunny days – perfect for walking – mostly in lower 20 degrees so it was T-shirt weather most of the time.

### U3A CATALONIA WALKING HOLIDAY 4-11 MAY 2027

Following our successful holidays in Majorca in 2025 and Tuscany in 2026 we are now organising our next trip for 2027- a walking holiday in Northern Spain.

#### **Details of the Trip**

We have secured a no single supplement rate – the cost is £1,349 which includes a 10% discount. A 25% deposit is required - £337.25. The balance is payable 8 weeks before departure – <https://involvedholidays.com/holidays/holiday/?id=1375&title=catalonia-trails-andrails>

It would be fabulous if you wanted to join us on this trip and if you are interested, please book direct with Involved Holidays, telephone number 01858 896 111 and quote our organiser Louise Radford and Worcester U3a to ensure your booking is linked to our group.

If you do book please call Louise on 07407 301 659 so she can add you to the Beacon group for future communications

Many Thanks

Stewart White

## POTTERY EXPERIENCE

Eight of our members explored their creative side with a pottery workshop in April.

Potters spent an hour on the wheel, each making two pots. After glazing and firings, these highly individual items will be taken home and displayed in pride of place.

The hand building session saw the inspired making of many fish, leaves and an octopus with seven legs. Ingenuity was ably assisted with the U3A staple of tea and biscuits.



Many of the participants had not worked with clay before and the level of artistic vision was astounding.

Comments from those attending include: -

*'This was great. I'm hooked.'*

*'That was huge fun. Would highly recommend'.*

We will offer a further workshop if there is sufficient appetite. The cost is £22.50 per person. If you are interested, please contact Davina by email at: [Davina30@icloud.com](mailto:Davina30@icloud.com)