



What's New for April 2024

Coffee at the Café – Friday 5th and 19th April



Our coffee drop ins are fast becoming a feature of the 1st and 3rd Friday mornings. Pop in any time between 10.30 and 12noon. Partners and friends are welcome. We meet at Café Piano (formerly Café Rouge) at the back of the café. There will always be someone there to welcome you.

Saturday 13th April, 10am–4pm – Cathedral Spring Fair

Seeing all the wonderful local crafts in the beautiful Cathedral cloisters is always lovely. Worcester u3a have a stall this year. Come along and say hello.

Quiz – Wednesday 17th April from 2–4pm

Woodgreen Church, Warndon Villages, WR4 0SR

Our quizzes have proved very popular in the past, and I am sure this one will be no different. Woodgreen Church is a super venue, and it will be a great chance to meet up with everyone and test your memory with some fun questions. You are welcome to bring along partners/friends as guests. There will, of course, be refreshments. Please contact Pat Davis social@worcesteru3a.org.



Wednesday 15th May at 10am

Bromyard Road Church Hall, St Johns WR2 5DL



Come along and join in with our choir – and enjoy some delicious cakes. Any queries, please contact Liz 07749 087535
lizmarywhitehouse@gmail.com

Retro Disco – Saturday 18th May from 7–10pm

Woodgreen Church, Warndon Villages, WR4 0SR



We are trying something different. Do you ever reminisce about the days when you used to party until dawn?

When you are in Worcester u3a the dancing stops at 10pm. So come along for a convivial, nostalgic evening, dance along to the hits of the 60s and 70s and still be home in plenty of time for a hot chocolate or whiskey before a sensible bedtime. Friends/partners are welcome as guests.

£10 a ticket. Please contact Pat Davis on social@worcesteru3a.org.

Wednesday 22nd May – Trip to Cardiff Monday 24th June – Windsor Castle



Two super days out – full details in Travel News at the end of this newsletter. Which castle will you prefer?



Details of both trips with booking forms can also be found on <https://u3asites.org.uk/worcester> under Events.

A Potential New Group – Historical Fiction



Carolyn Clarke is considering starting a u3a reading group which looks exclusively at the Historical Fiction genre and is asking if you would be interested. If so, please get in touch asap, so that she can decide if this is a viable idea.

Here are a few details and pointers: –

Any era of historical or semi-historical fiction is acceptable, whether it is well-known British authors such as Philippa Gregory, Robert Harris, Jean Plaidy etc., or historical/political fiction from non-British writers such as Jung Chang, Khaled Hosseini. The approach is entirely up to you.

The group will function on the assumption that every member is willing to lead just one discussion a year on a book of their choice – suggested approaches could be simply how well it's written and gives a 'feel' of the age, historical accuracy, empathy, bias etc. The approach is entirely up to you.

Carolyn plans for the group to meet alternate Monday mornings starting Monday 9th September from 10-12.00 at an in-town café (most likely Café Zest) where the chosen historical novel can be discussed over a cup of coffee.

The group will be limited to 12 people and places will be allocated on a first come first served basis. However, because the group is dependent on everyone taking part and presenting a book, as well as committing to reading and discussing other people's choices, Carolyn would ask that if you were not prepared to do this, please don't apply to join.

However, if you are prepared to make this small commitment, you'd be really welcome and please contact Carolyn at carolynmclarke@outlook.com.

A Leukaemia Fund Raising Event Helped by our Wonderful Belly Dancers



Worcester u3a AGM and a Warm Welcome to our New Executive Committee Members

We were so pleased to see so many of you at our AGM and Open Meeting. There are some photos from the day on the next page.

All resolutions passed through unanimously and we were delighted to welcome our new Executive Committee members. **John Elliott has accepted the role of Groups' Coordinator and Debbie Spooner as Newsletter Editor.** Unfortunately, the role of Chair has not been filled. It was a lovely afternoon, with an audience of 125, back to our pre-Covid days. The AGM went well, the sandwiches were delicious and Colin Millett gave a super talk on The Ladies of Porcelain, and their importance in the life of Royal Worcester.

This really is my last newsletter. It is great that they will now continue, and I am sure Debbie will enjoy writing them as much as I have.

The Elizabeth Coxon Bench is in Place



Hugh Thomas and Liz Whitehouse, both of whom knew Elizabeth well. Hugh said some lovely words in her memory.



The Mayor of Worcester, with past Mayors Roger Berry and Jo Hodges, both u3a members.



On the gloriously sunny afternoon of Tuesday 5th March (such a relief after all the rain we had had) the Mayor of Worcester, Louis Steven unveiled the Elizabeth Coxon bench, with Hugh Thomas saying a few words in remembrance of her. We hope lots of people will enjoy taking a break to sit on the bench and watch the clouds, as Elizabeth used to enjoy doing. Her legacy continues by enabling us to facilitate our summer programmes.



Elizabeth Coxon

I was talking with my grandson and said I was sad to be leaving my role on our committee. He replied with this quote: **'Don't be sad because it's over, smile because it happened'**. I believe the actual quote says 'Don't cry'. I don't feel quite that sad, but I think this saying is something to keep in mind all the time.

So, thank you to everyone who has supplied me with news and photographs. Please keep sending anything of interest into Debbie (her email address will still be newsletter@worcesteru3a.org). Over to you Debbie, good luck and enjoy your time on the committee.

Tricia Currie

Any updates for What's New by 16th April please for the May edition.

Email: newsletter@worcesteru3a.org Or leave an answerphone message on **01905 887579**.

The Worcester u3a website can be found by clicking <https://u3asites.org.uk/worcester> Under 'Groups' there is up-to-date news and a list of the groups you can join with the Worcester u3a. You can also contact individual Committee members by clicking on the 'Contacts' heading. Here you can leave your email address and your comments.

Worcester u3a AGM – Wednesday 20th March 2024



It became much more crowded than this as well, not a spare seat to be had.



Our retiring Chair, Laurence Wale, our Vice Chair Stephen Thorneycroft, our retiring Groups' Coordinator Adie Ditchburn and our Technical Advisor Roger Marston discussing arrangements with speaker Colin Millett. Roger has been our Technical Advisor for 15 years.

Cotswold Link Has Great Pleasure to Present

Graphic from
Wallpapercrafter.com



4th June 2024 10am – 4pm
At The Pavilion, Hatherley Lane, Cheltenham GL51 6PN

Three, highly qualified speakers to explore different aspects of computer technology in Our Brave New World. Doors open at 9.30am for registration, tea and coffee. 10am start.

AM : ALTERNATIVE REALITIES – THE FUTURE IMPACT OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE ON SOCIETY John Handby FBCS

AM : DOES YOUR COMPUTER SLEEP SOUNDLY AT NIGHT?
Professor Mike Corcoran BSc(Hons)

PM : INTRODUCING HUMAN FACTORS – WHAT IS IT? WHY DO WE NEED IT?
Amanda Kirby BEng, PG Cert, MIET, MCIEHF

PM STRUCTURED QUESTIONS : for all speakers.

Written questions to be collected throughout the day due to the limited time available to each speaker.

www.u3asites.org.uk/cotswold-link



BOOKING FORM

Cotswold Link Special Interest Day Tuesday, 4th June 2024 The Pavilion, Hatherley Lane, Cheltenham GL51 6PN

I/we would like to attend the ***Our Brave New World*** Special Interest Day
(Add a sheet for each applicant from a different address)

Full Name (s) _____

Name of your u3a _____ Your u3a membership number(s) _____

Your address _____

Post Code _____

Contact telephone No. _____ Email address _____

Any Special dietary requirements _____

Special Access Needs _____

The fee of £32 includes access to all lectures, car parking, all refreshments and lunch.

Register by emailing Ann Kelly on annMK6571@hotmail.com attaching your booking form(s) 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

THE SUBJECT MATTER OF 'OUR BRAVE NEW WORLD' HAS CREATED INTEREST FROM BOTH COTSWOLD LINK MEMBERS AND NON LINK MEMBERS. COTSWOLD LINK MEMBERS WILL BE GIVEN PRIORITY UNTIL 1ST APRIL 2024 THEN WE OPEN TO ANY u3a MEMBER. DEADLINE FOR ALL BOOKINGS WILL BE 1ST MAY.

Day Trips for May and June 2024

Worcester u3a Trip to Cardiff

Wednesday 22nd May 2024

Cost: £20

Cardiff – the capital of Wales is a wonderful vibrant city with plenty to do and see on our one-day visit.

If you enjoy the shops – delight in the Victorian arcades and markets; peruse the high street brands or delve into one of the many independent stores. Check out **Castle Arcade and Morgan Arcade** to shop for everything from traditional Welsh textiles and love spoons at the various Welsh goods shops, to fine footwear at The Brogue Trader or music at Spillers Records (est.1894), the oldest record shop in the world.

The art collection at the **National Museum Cardiff** is one of Europe's finest. You can see 500 years of magnificent paintings, drawings, sculpture, silver and ceramics from Wales and across the world, including one of Europe's best collections of Impressionist art – the biggest collection outside of Paris. And admission is free!

Cardiff Castle is the jewel in the city's crown, dominating the city centre and within easy walking distance of all the other sights. Don't forget to glance up at the outer wall to see the quirky 'animal wall', where 100-year-old statues of lynx, seals and other creatures pose above you.

If you have a particular interest in sport you may wish to book a tour of the **Principality Stadium** (in advance). Few cities boast a sporting facility like this one. Slap bang in the middle of Cardiff, Principality Stadium has hosted the UEFA Champions League final, Olympic 2012 events, the Rugby World Cup and musical greats (including James Brown, The Rolling Stones, Beyonce, Jay-Z and Ed Sheeran). You can take a tour to get behind the scenes of this magnificent venue but you will need to book a tour independently in advance.

Bute Park is also a popular spot. Take a walk along the tree-lined paths, or along the river or get a taste for the Taff Trail – it's hard to believe you're in the middle of the city! From Bute Park you can take the water taxi along the Taff to Cardiff Bay or the other way around if you decide to get off at Cardiff Bay first.

At **Cardiff Bay** you can visit **Wales Millenium Centre** and the **Welsh Assembly Building** as well as enjoying a walk around the bay and/or taking lunch/refreshments at the numerous cafés/restaurants.

The coach will leave **Croft Road at 8am** promptly and there will be a pickup at the **Oak Apple pub at 8.10am**. We will aim to leave Cardiff at 5pm but this is negotiable.

We will be dropped off at Cardiff Castle or Cardiff Bay. Please state which drop off point you would prefer. **Pick up at 5pm will be outside Cardiff Castle.**

Cardiff Trip

Please check you have entered your bank details exactly as shown.

Recipient name: Worcester Area Group u3a (some banks ask if this is a personal or business account– please choose business).

Bank Account number: 46119168

Bank Sort Code: 30–90–89

Payment details: Cff & Your Surname (this is to ensure we identify the payment is from you)

NOTE: The bank details for trips are **different from** the ones you may have used to pay your subscription.

Please note that cheques/ bank transfers must be received by the trip organiser 2 weeks before the trip date. After this date, if you wish to cancel your place, you will need to find a u3a member replacement yourself and the financial transaction will be between the two of you. We will not make any refunds after this date.

Please note only u3a members are able to go on u3a Trips.

RETURN SLIP

Cardiff trip on Wednesday 22nd May 2024

Please send your cheque payable to **Worcester Area Group u3a** and booking form to **Shan South “Lynton” Battenhall Avenue, Worcester WR5 2HW** by Wednesday 8th May.

Mobile No: 07736656004

If you have transferred the money from your bank, send this form to the above address or email it to shansouth@btinternet.com.

Your Name/s: _____ Your u3a Membership Number(s) _____

Oak Apple pick up : _____ Yes/No

Amount on cheque £ _____ Amount of Bank transfer £ _____

Date of Bank Transfer _____

Your mobile number: _____

Your e-mail address: _____

Emergency contact details _____

Would you prefer to be dropped off at Cardiff Castle _____ or Cardiff Bay _____

Worcester u3a Trip to Windsor Castle

Monday 24th June 2024

Cost: £46

Windsor Castle is the oldest and largest occupied castle in the world and was founded by William the Conqueror in 11th Century. It has been the home of 40 monarchs. The Castle includes the State Apartments that are used today by the Royal Family, the historical rooms that were built for Charles II and private apartments created for George IV. There are many famous “must-see” moments within these spectacular rooms, like the colossal Waterloo Chamber, magnificent Crimson Drawing Room and impressive Grand Staircase.

The magnificent ceremonial rooms which were used by Queen Elizabeth II to entertain guests are luxurious. The most striking is the Grand Reception Room, decorated with real gold and chandeliers. It was once used as the main ballroom in the Castle. Perhaps the most striking piece on display is the large urn, presented to Queen Victoria by Tsar Nicholas I in 1839, and one of the largest examples outside Russia. There really is so much to see and there is a multimedia guide available for you to do things at your own pace.

Also in the grounds of Windsor Castle is St George’s Chapel, a 500-year-old medieval marvel where many monarchs are buried including Henry VIII, Charles I and Queen Elizabeth II.

When you need to take a break, relax at the “Undercroft Café” where you can enjoy fresh salads, a range of bloomers, baguettes, open sandwiches and wraps, all filled with fresh locally sourced ingredients and home-made soups, barista-made coffee and freshly-baked cakes.

Outside the Castle there are some lovely little teasops and cafes across the road and if time permits, you can take a bus ride to Eton or enjoy a walk by the river or walk the “Long Walk” and enjoy the surrounding grounds.

The coach will leave **Croft Road at 8am promptly** and there will be a pickup at the **Oak apple pub at 8.10am**.

We will aim to leave Windsor at **5pm but this is negotiable**.

We will be dropped off as close as possible to Windsor Castle and hopefully have time for refreshments prior to our admission time at **11.30am**.

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Windsor Trip

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

Recipient name: Worcester Area Group u3a

(some banks ask if this is a personal or business account – please choose business)

Bank Account number: **46119168**

Bank Sort Code: **30-90-89**

Payment details:

WIN & Your Surname

(this is to ensure you identify the payment is from you)

NOTE: The bank details for trips are different from the ones you may have used to pay your subscription.

Please note that cheques/ bank transfers must be received by the trip organiser before 17th May.

After this date, if you wish to cancel your place, you will need to find a u3a member replacement yourself and the financial transaction will be between the two of you. We will not make any refunds after this date.

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Please send your cheque payable to
and booking form to:-

Worcester Area Group u3a

Shan South "Lynton" Battenhall Avenue, Worcester WR5 2HW before Friday 17th May 2024.

Mobile No: **07736 656004**

If you have transferred the money from your bank, send this form to the above address or email it to shansouth@btinternet.com.

Your Name/s: _____ Your u3a Membership No(s) _____

Oak Apple pick up: **Yes/No**

Amount on cheque £ _____

Amount of Bank transfer £ _____

Date of Bank Transfer _____

Your mobile No: _____ Your email address: _____

Emergency contact details _____