



## What's New for August 2023

**Firstly**, a little plea from me – I am away from 14<sup>th</sup> until 22<sup>nd</sup> September. If you have any news for the September newsletter, I would be most grateful if you could get copy to me as early as possible. [newsletter@worcesteru3a.org](mailto:newsletter@worcesteru3a.org) or leave an answerphone message on **01905 887579**.

### Friday 11<sup>th</sup> August is our last Coffee and Chat For This Year

If you are in town Friday 11<sup>th</sup> August between 10.30am–12noon, please pop into Café Zest which is on the top floor of the House of Fraser, for a coffee and a catch-up.



**Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> August on Pitchcroft  
10am–5pm**

It's a great day out, with fun for the whole family, whether it is listening to the many bands, or watching a fun dog show, there is something that everyone can enjoy. Worcester u3a will have a stall in the Market Street Stalls area; please come along and say 'hello', and perhaps introduce some friends to us. Take a look at [www.worcestershow.org.uk](http://www.worcestershow.org.uk) for more information.

Stephen is our Show Coordinator – [stephen.thorneycroft@worcesteru3a.org](mailto:stephen.thorneycroft@worcesteru3a.org) or leave a message on **01905 887579**.

### Save this Date – Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> September, 10.30–12

**Worcester u3a Group Fair at Nunnery  
Wood High School, Spetchley Road,  
WR5 2LT** – you can renew your subscription, look to see if

**there is a different group you would like to join, bring friends along  
to see what we have to offer, and have a super morning meeting with other u3a members.**



**Subscription Membership for 2023–4** – Full details of how to renew our membership, whether by BACS, PayPal or cheque is on Pages X to X.

Details are also on our u3a website <https://u3asites.org.uk/worcester>. Just click on Join/Renew. We can renew from 1<sup>st</sup> August up until 1<sup>st</sup> September and concessionary rates are still available. If you have any problems, Beryl Curtis will be happy to help [membership@worcesteru3a.org](mailto:membership@worcesteru3a.org) or phone and leave a message on **01905 887579**.

## Don't Miss this Trip



**Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> October** – A visit to the National Centre for Guide Dogs for the Blind, with a couple of hours to spend in Leamington Spa, which is only 5 miles away.

**Cost** – £25, which includes coach travel from Worcester, plus entrance to the Guide Dog Centre, where you will have a guided tour from 2–4.30pm, including refreshments.

If anyone is paying by BACS please send Liz the form so she knows who is coming and has contact information.

A reminder that the closing date is 25th August and places are limited.

### PAYMENT and DEADLINE

You may pay by cheque OR direct transfer to: Worcester Area Group U3A.

**Account number:** 46119168 **Bank Sort Code:** 30-90-89. This is a business account.

Please ENSURE your SURNAME is clear.

Please note that cheque/bank transfers must be received NO LATER than Friday 25<sup>th</sup> August.

After this date, if you wish to cancel your place, you will need to find a replacement yourself with the financial transaction agreed between you. We will not make any refunds after this date.

**Time** – The coach will leave Croft Road, WR1 3NZ at 9.15am to arrive at Leamington by 10.30. We leave Leamington at 1.15 for the Guide Dog Centre. We shall leave there at 5pm, returning to Worcester at around 6.15pm, dependent on traffic conditions.

**Before the Visit** – Free time in Leamington, a really lovely spa town with fine examples of Regency architecture, where we can have lunch.

**Tour** – Starts at 2pm and lasts 2 ½ hours.

The booking form is on Page 5, and also on our website <https://u3asites.org.uk/worcester> under Events. Liz Hill is very much looking forward to sharing this unusual trip with you, and can be contacted on [ehill473@gmail.com](mailto:ehill473@gmail.com) or ring **07812 039188**.

## A u3a Record?



After more than twenty years Andrew Gagg has reluctantly decided to give up leading the Creative Photography group. In this group members would offer photos for critique by Andrew and fellow members. Andrew would be unfailingly positive and courteous whatever the quality of the image. Andrew himself would offer suggestions for any improvements he could see and show these changes using a variety of techniques that he was more familiar with than most of us. However, he always insisted that it was your photograph and, if you did not like any of the changes, you felt quite able to say so.

A common interest in photography brought many people together and, through that medium, members have been to diverse places together and admired the beauty and creativity in the world and in each other. Membership of the group was negatively affected by Covid even though Andrew continued to operate it via Zoom throughout the pandemic and he will continue to lead the Audio-Visual group. Creative photography members past and present are grateful for his years of hard work and commitment. We benefitted from his wide-ranging career in theatre and TV and his status as a Fellow of the Royal Photographic Society.

Does his twenty-plus years of group leadership constitute a local record?

## Our u3a Ukestars



The u3a Ukestars, Worcester u3a's ukulele performance group, played for a small but enthusiastic audience of u3a members on 8<sup>th</sup> June at the Worcester Masonic Hall. Songs played ranged from the 1950s (Teenager in Love), The Beatles (Eight Days a Week), traditional spiritual (This Little Light of Mine) to Disney musicals (I Wanna be Like You) with the audience joining in singing, clapping and shaking tambourines, maracas and anything else which came to hand. A good time was had by all.

The Ukestars will be playing again during the 2023/4 u3a year so keep an eye on the Newsletter for details.

If you play the ukulele, or would like to learn, why not join the ukulele group which will be meeting every other Thursday afternoon from 5<sup>th</sup> October. See the Groups page on the u3a web site <https://u3asites.org.uk/worcester> for more details.

## Worcestershire Open Studios – Pop in to See Derek's Work

This well-loved annual event returns from 19<sup>th</sup> until 28<sup>th</sup> August. It is the largest free art event in the county with more studios than ever taking part this year – 97 venues will showcase 128 artists with over 40 artists taking part for the first time [www.worcestershireopenstudios.org](http://www.worcestershireopenstudios.org).

Derek Gale, who is a member of our Short Walks Group, is one of those participating in this event. He tells us "When I was learning photography, I was told to make sure I kept the camera very still, make sure I got the subject sharply in focus and make sure I got the whole subject in the frame. Nowadays I do the exact opposite!

I explore the use of Intentional Camera Movement, Subject Movement, "Bokeh" – the deliberate use of out-of-focus areas – and "Abstraction by Isolation". Some images are of colours swirling into each other, some lack sharp edges, some show the beauty of moving water, and many images make you ask, "What is that?". My images are presented on metallic paper in custom-made frames or as large frameless prints on aluminium or acrylic."

Derek's web address is [www.galephotography.co.uk](http://www.galephotography.co.uk). He is open on the **19<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup>, and 26<sup>th</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup> of August from 11am to 5.30pm**. He lives in Sherwood Lane in Worcester, WR2 4NX and would love to see some of our u3a members.

## A Discount Offer for u3a Members

G4 is a classical/cross-over harmony quartet group that rose to fame after winning the first X-factor. They will be performing at Worcester Cathedral on **Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> November**. Their Production Team is offering u3a members a 10% discount when quoting **Code U3A2023**. For more information, please contact [Production@amickproductions.co.uk](mailto:Production@amickproductions.co.uk).

**Thank you** to Elisabeth Ford who sent me the lovely photograph on Page 1 of the wild flowers in St George's Square, Worcester, with the church in the background.

Any updates for What's New by 16<sup>th</sup> August for the September edition.

Email: [newsletter@worcesteru3a.org](mailto: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 TRIP to the GUIDE DOG NATIONAL CENTRE

**Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> October 2023 : Cost: £25 per person**

Cost includes coach travel to Royal Leamington Spa where you will be able to spend some time and obtain lunch, plus entrance to the Guide Dog Centre where you will have a guided tour from **2 until 4.30pm**, including refreshments.

Depart Croft Road at **9.15am** to arrive in Leamington by **10.30am**

Depart Leamington at **1.15pm** for the Guide Dog Centre

Leave the Centre by **5pm** to arrive in Worcester by **6.15pm**, dependant on traffic conditions

### **PAYMENT and DEADLINE**

You may pay by cheque OR direct transfer to: Worcester Area Group u3a

Account number: **46119168**

Bank Sort Code: **30-90-89** – this is a business account

Please ENSURE your SURNAME is clear

Please note that cheque/bank, transfers must be received **NO LATER than Friday 25th August**.

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I look forward to sharing this unusual trip with you.

Liz

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### **RETURN SLIP**

Guide Dogs National Centre, Tuesday 10th October 2023.

Please send your cheque payable to Worcester Area Group u3a as above and this form to:

Elizabeth Hill, Willow Bank, Broadwas on Teme, Worcester. WR6 5NF

If you have transferred funds from your bank account, please send this form to the above address or email to: ehil473@gmail.com

YOUR NAME/S.....

Membership No.....

Amount on cheque/transferred £.....

Date of Transfer.....

YOUR mobile number.....

YOUR e-mail address.....

Emergency contact details.....