

**Happy  
Christmas**



# **And What's New for December 2023**

**Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> December : 2–3.30pm**

**A Social Event with Mince Pies, Coffee and Carols at  
Woodgreen Church, Warndon Villages, WR4 0SR**



Come along for a pre-Christmas get-together and have a marvellous afternoon meeting up with other members with mince pies, tea or coffee and carols. It promises to be a really lovely afternoon. Non u3a friends are welcome.

**New Year's Lunch – Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> January  
at Browns, The Quay, WR1 2JJ – Very Few Spaces Left**



Our New Year's lunch has proved very popular once again and there are not many spaces left. To avoid being disappointed, please email Pat Davis on [social@worcesteru3a.org](mailto:social@worcesteru3a.org) so you can check before you book, but please do so before Friday 8<sup>th</sup> December.



**Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> January An Open Meeting with refreshments  
at 1.30pm – the talk starts at 2–3.30pm – friends welcome**

**Warndon Hub, Shap Drive, Warndon, WR4 9NX**

**Shop in a Book – A History of Kay's**

This will be a fascinating talk. There cannot be many families in Worcester who don't know someone who worked at Kay's, even if it was just a Christmas job picking or packing in the warehouse. I, for one, worked in most of the Kays' buildings spread across the city at some stage in my working life.

Established in 1890 Kay & Company became one of the largest mail-ordering catalogue companies of the 20th century, selling everything from contemporary fashions to household items and luxuries. This talk explores the impact the Worcester catalogue firm had on shaping the nation's lifestyle and clothing choices, as well as documenting the contributions made by former staff to establishing its trademark style.

Our speaker is Bernard Mills who worked at Kay's for many years and is chair of the Kay's Heritage Group.

## A Thoughtful Gift



Do you have friends or relatives for whom you find it difficult to buy a present? Most of us do. Perhaps they have also shown an interest in your activities with u3a, but have never got around to joining. Worcester u3a is now introducing gift membership. It costs £25, which will entitle the recipient to standard membership from January until September 2024. Please contact Beryl Curtis on

[membership@worcesteru3a.org](mailto:membership@worcesteru3a.org) or leave a message on **01905 887579**, to find out more information about this wonderful scheme and to find out how to obtain your subscription gift membership.

## Worcester u3a Membership from January–September 2024

With the excitement of Christmas over, January is a great time to join our u3a. £25 entitles anyone to join as many Standard groups as they like, and to attend any of our social activities. If someone wants to join one of our Standard Plus groups (Duplicate Bridge, Rubber/Chicago Bridge, Bridge Beginners, Film Appreciation, Pickleball Groups 1, 2, 3, and 4, Art – Oil Painting or French Year 3) it will be £34.

## Groups Coordinator Committee Role

This month it is Adie's turn to write about his role as Groups Coordinator. Please consider if you think this vital role is one you would like. Just send Adie an email at [groupcoord@worcesteru3a.org](mailto:groupcoord@worcesteru3a.org) or leave a message on **01905 887579** and he will be happy to give you more information.

'After nearly 4 years as member of the Worcester u3a Committee I am due to stand down from my role as Groups' Coordinator (3 years) and originally assistant groups' coordinator (7 months) at our AGM in March 2024. During this time I have thoroughly enjoyed interacting with the Group Leaders wherever guidance, communication or coordination is required.

Whilst the role has had its challenging moments (i.e Covid 19), I have taken great pleasure in working with all the Group Leaders to help them develop their special interest groups. I would like to thank the Group Leaders for their continual cheerful support and cooperation.

As Groups Coordinator I see the role as having 4 necessary parts:

**First** – Communicating groups' needs to the committee and providing guidance to the Group Leaders on any group-related matter.

**Second** – Managing, coordinating and assisting with the development and operation of facilities provided with the 'largest new member attraction' of the year, namely the Groups Fair.

**Third** – Developing, producing, updating and publishing the two Groups' Programmes during the year (September–April and May–August).

**Fourth** – Assisting Group Leaders with Group registrations and other uses of the Beacon database alongside their development and updating of 'Groups' webpages for the Worcester u3a website.

I spend approximately 3 hrs per week carrying out these coordinator activities although there is a growing intensity in workload from February until the end of August. My experience has shown that spending 6 months in the Groups Coordinator assistance role, prior to taking over as Groups Coordinator, learning how to provide the support needed in those 4 parts is an ideal approach to finally taking over the Groups Coordinator role.

Anyone who decides they would enjoy taking over my role will get continued assistance during their first year as Groups Coordinator.

If you would like further information on the role and think it might suit you, please don't hesitate to get in touch.'



With the help of Netball England, we are exploring the possibility of starting a Walking Netball group, which would take place at the Perdiswell Leisure Centre. Before we go too far it would be good to know if such a group would be popular. To gauge interest please could you let Fern O'Brien know on [publicity@worcesteru3a.org](mailto:publicity@worcesteru3a.org) or leave an answerphone message on **01905 887579**.

**Anne Bisson** has kindly been in touch to say that she has some 2024 u3a diaries. If you would like one, they are **£4 each**, and you can contact Anne on her email address [ramahajo@ymail.com](mailto:ramahajo@ymail.com) or leave an answerphone message on 01905 887579.



## Elizabeth Coxon Memorial Bench

The wording for the plaque for the Elizabeth Coxon bench has now been agreed. Thank you so much to those of you who sent in suggestions. The bench will be situated in a lovely spot close to the ferry steps on the cathedral side of the river. We hope that it will be a welcome place to sit and enjoy the river and cathedral, and be a wonderful tribute to Elizabeth's generosity and love of Worcester u3a. We are hopeful that it will be installed in February or March.

This seat was donated in memory of Elizabeth Coxon  
By friends and members of  
Worcester u3a  
*'Sit and watch the clouds go by'*

## Worcester u3a Facebook Page



Did you know we have a Facebook page exclusively for Worcester u3a members, which means it is totally safe? We use this to post information on group activities, and members can post about anything (but not advertisements unless it is about u3a), including sending a Happy Birthday message to a member friend. If anyone has a Facebook account, please join the group.

If you do not have an account, but you would be interested in keeping right up to date with Worcester u3a news, Fern O'Brien would be happy to help you join Facebook – and see what other Facebook groups you might want to join. Fern

has joined the WR4 residents' group, Everything Worcester, Community News, Worcester UK, Worcester Residents UK, Worcester Floods and of course u3a: Keeping in Touch.

She finds it invaluable to keep up to date with u3a locally and nationally and find out what is happening around Worcester. Please contact Fern on [publicity@worcesteru3a.org](mailto:publicity@worcesteru3a.org) or leave an answerphone message on **01905 887579**.

**Droitwich Wind Instrument Group** has invited all music-reading wind instrument players of Worcester u3a to an open carol-playing session on **Monday 11th December** from **3-5pm in Crowle Platinum Hall** (the one on the left of two halls there), Church Road, WR7 4AZ. For a location map, click, then click on "-" to enlarge the area: [https://w3w.co/videos.restless.misted](https://w3w.co/videos/restless.misted). If you would like to go, please email Fern O'Brien on [publicity@worcesteru3a.org](mailto:publicity@worcesteru3a.org) or leave a message on **01905 887579**. Droitwich Wind Instrument Group will be so pleased to welcome you.

. Any updates for What's New by 16<sup>th</sup> December for the January 2024 edition, please.

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.