



What's New for February 2024

Coffee at the Café – Fridays 2nd and 16th February Café Piano, Friar Street, Worcester, 10.30am–12noon

Remember to pop into Café Piano for your coffee break if you are in town on Friday 2nd or 16th February, between 10.30 and 12noon (coffee or tea and cake £4.95).

We shall be in the area at the back of the café, and would love to see lots of you there. If you are with someone who is not in Worcester u3a, they will be most welcome.



Wednesday 21st February from 2–4pm A Beetle Drive Social Afternoon Woodgreen Church, Warndon Villages, WR4 0SR

This promises to be a very entertaining and sociable afternoon. If you haven't played for ages, come along, relax and chat, whilst enjoying a game that is entirely based on the roll of the dice – with refreshments of course. Friends are welcome to come along and join in the fun.

An Online Talk – Thursday 7th March at 7pm Edward Elgar – The Man and His Music

Sir Edward Elgar was born at the Firs in Lower Broadheath, and remained devoted to this area throughout his celebrated career. In fact, the second of the only two homes he owned was in Rainbow Hill, which is where he died. He was a fascinating man, and something of an enigma even to those who knew him well.

Our speaker is Sam Dobson of the Elgar Society who will tell the story of Sir Edward with plenty of music and illustrations. Sam has been connected with the Leicester Symphony Orchestra for many years. He is a great admirer of Edward Elgar, as a man who rose from relative obscurity to the top of his profession, becoming a national hero with an international following.



Pat Davis, our Social Secretary, will email you with joining instructions a couple of days prior to the talk.

Some Exciting Trips for 2024

Our wonderful Travel Group have come up with some fabulous trips for us all to enjoy this year.



Our first trip is on **Friday 22nd March and is to Oxford.**

From its world-renowned university to its cobbled streets lined with cafes and shops, Oxford has something for everyone to enjoy!

The cost is £21 + £8.50 for an optional one-hour tour of Magdalen College, one of the largest and most beautiful colleges in Oxford. Payments to be received **by Tuesday, 12th March** please.

Depart Croft Road at 9am. Pick-up at the Oak Apple pub, Spetchley Rd, WR5 2NL at 9.10am

Arrive Oxford approximately 11am outside the Ashmolean Museum

Leave Oxford at 5pm, to arrive back in Worcester at approximately 7pm

The Booking Form is on Page 5 and on our website <https://u3asites.org.uk/worcester> under Events, or get in touch with Ruth Saunders ruth.r.saunders@gmail.com.

A couple of these dates aren't definite yet, but it is probably worth making a note in your diary anyway. Confirmation and information will be given in good time.

- Thursday 23rd May – Highgrove – **date to be confirmed**
- Monday 24th June – Windsor – **date to be confirmed**
- Thursday 22nd August – Cardiff – **CONFIRMED**

Revealing Our History

This proactive group covers a wide range of history, county wide, locally and beyond. It developed from one of the original Local History Groups (LH4) in 2021 after lockdown, when the group had been meeting on Zoom. We were joined by some members from LH2 and LH3. Attendance to all history groups had dropped, especially LH4, which had members from all over the city. The original venue was too large and there seemed little demand for 4 groups covering the same local history of Worcester city.

After helping Third Age Trust with a National History Group during 2020–22 when I put together the history of England from 6000BC using BBC history magazines at home, with help from many of the members online, it seemed an ideal opportunity to expand our knowledge.

So, with just 15 members, we met first at Norton in September 2021. Our subjects have included the history of local villages, towns, industry, and landowners, together with interesting presentations as varied as History of Quakers, Puritans, Jesuits and Huguenots presented by members.

There have been guest Speakers on "Lord Austin and the Longbridge Story", "Worcester Farmstead Project" "Demise of Stately Homes" and others. We also have visits to local Museums such as Stourbridge Glass and Worcester Collections at Hartlebury.

Since September 2022 we have been meeting in an excellently equipped room in **the Hive** close to the Bus Station. It is on alternate Tuesday afternoons – our next meeting is **13th February from 2pm–3.30pm**. If you are interested in learning more, please visit the website and contact me Anne Owen annep.owen@yahoo.com.



A Message from Claire Lucas, our Web Editor

Do you have any photos of our city that you are particularly proud of? If so, would you like to see them enhancing our new website?

You may have heard rumours that we have a new and much improved website on the way for Worcester u3a! I'm pleased to say this is true, though we have a few months of hard work to get through before we can share it with you. What I do need is a good supply of photos to make it look as attractive as possible; the new website platform will make it much easier to feature photos and use them in creative ways.

So, please look through your digital photos and get in touch with me at webeditor@worcesteru3a.org if you would be happy for me to use them. They should have been taken in Worcester or the surrounding area, and I'm hoping they will reflect the city at different times of the year. I'll be happy to credit the photographer so let me know what name you'd like associated with your photo(s), as well as where it was taken. Photos should be your own, please, or belong to someone else you know, as long as you have their permission for them to be used. If you need help sending them to me, or if you have any questions, please get in touch on the email address above. Thank you in advance!



Thinking About Joining the Committee, But Not Sure?

The thought of taking on a committee role may be daunting, but take it from me, there are lots of potential benefits – developing new skills, making new friends and feeling a sense of achievement in working with those new friends toward a shared goal.

Our committee is a team working together for the benefit of Worcester u3a members, dedicated to helping the groups expand, and making it work better, but we also like to have some fun while carrying out our roles! Our committee meetings are well-structured and well-prepared. They last two, maybe two and a half hours, once a month, and we have a cuppa and a chat half-way through. u3a is a mutual aid organisation and that is how the committee operates. We support each other and if one of us asks for help, it is willingly offered. If you think you might like to get more involved, you wouldn't have to jump in at the deep end!

You could start out as an assistant to a committee member, shadowing or offering help when and where needed, such as in preparations for the Groups' Fair and during membership renewal time. You would have support

***Make a Difference
Join our Committee***

from all the committee members. We are a friendly, welcoming bunch and very open to new ideas. We are enthusiastic about u3a, but we don't take ourselves too seriously! Committee positions are usually for a three-year term, but if you decide that it's not for you, you are not locked in and can leave at any time.

If this is something you think you'd like to explore, you are more than welcome to attend a committee meeting and observe, and if you would like to talk to me about being on the committee, please contact me at publicity@worcesteru3a.org and we will have a chat.

Just a reminder: our vacancies are for **Chair, Group Coordinator** and **Newsletter Editor**. If you think you would prefer to be an assistant, your help at certain times of the year would be very welcome, particularly for our Group Coordinator and Membership Secretary.

The Nomination Form is on Page 6. You can nominate yourself.

Any updates for What's New by 16th February please for the March 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 Trip to Oxford

Date: Friday 22nd March, 2024

Cost: £21 + £8.50 Optional Tour

We plan to leave Croft Road at **9am promptly** and there will be a pickup at the Oak Apple pub at **9.10am**. We will aim to leave Oxford **at 5pm** and back **by 7pm approximately**.

We will be dropped off outside the Ashmolean Museum at approximately **11am**. There is an **optional one-hour tour of Magdalen College**, one of the largest and most beautiful colleges in Oxford, **at 12noon** and the rest of the day you are free to explore. The Oxford Botanical Gardens are opposite Magdalen with paths that take you on through Christ Church meadow.

I suggest you look at www.insidersoxford.com for ideas on the places to visit during the day.

Please check you have entered your bank details 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: **Oxford plus Your Surname** (this is to ensure you identify the payment is from you)

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

Cheques/ bank transfers must be received by the trip organiser before **Tuesday 12th March**.

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.

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RETURN SLIP for OXFORD trip 22nd March, 2024

Please send your cheque payable to Worcester Area Group u3a and booking form to Ruth Saunders 17 Lobelia Close Worcester WR5 3RR, phone 07795 075987 **before Tuesday 12th March**. Please indicate if you wish to go on the tour of Magdalen College.

If you have transferred the money from your bank, send this form to the above address or email it to ruth.r.saunders@gmail.com

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

Tour Magdalen College: Yes/No

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 _____

Nomination Form Executive Committee 2024

The following Executive Committee positions are open for nominations:

- Chair
- Groups' Coordinator
- Newsletter Editor

In addition, our current Treasurer and Website Editor will be coming to the end of their 3-year term and have offered themselves for re-election.

You can nominate yourself or another member for any of the open positions but please ensure that the nominee is willing to stand before you nominate.

I would like to nominate

For the position of

You do not need to use this form, but please make it clear who is being nominated and the position for which they will be standing. If you wish to make more than one nomination using this form, please make a copy.

Nominations can be sent by email, secretary@worcesteru3a.org, or by post:

Worcester u3a
389 Bath Road
Worcester WR5 3BE

To be received on or before **Wednesday 6th March 2024**.

Please contact the Secretary secretary@worcesteru3a.org or **07900 244766** if you are interested in any of these roles and have any questions. Descriptions of the different roles are available on request.