



What's New for July 2023

Chat and Coffee at Café Zest



If you are in town on a Friday between 10.30am–12noon, please pop into Café Zest which is on the top floor of the House of Fraser, for a chat and a catch-up. There will always be at least two members of Worcester u3a there on the following Fridays, and they would love to have some extra company. We buy our own drinks at Café Zest, but if you have a refill, it will only cost you £1.00.

● Friday 14th July Friday 28th July Friday 11th August

Just a Reminder of Two Summer Fetes

Saturday 8th July 12–4pm

Whittington Community Event, Church Lane, WR5 2RQ



Sunday 9th July 12–4pm

Warndon Villages Summer Fete, Ankerage Green, Warndon Villages, WR4 ODS

Members of our u3a will be there, introducing themselves to visitors. They would love to have a chat with current members too



**Sunday 13th August on Pitchcroft
10am–5pm**

- Music & Entertainment Market Stalls Kids Zone
- Floral Marquee Craft Marquee Sports Zone
- Fun Dog Show One of Worcester's major events, and our u3a will have a stall
- www.worcestershow.org.uk Take a look at the Gallery to get an idea of all there is to see

If you can help out for a few hours, either before, or during the day, Stephen would love to hear from you. stephen.thorneycroft@worcesteru3a.org or leave a message on **01905 887579**.

Third Age Matters Magazine (TAM)

The Third Age Matters magazine is published 5 times a year. Do you currently receive your TAM magazine through the post, only for it to go straight into the recycle bin? Would you quite happily read it online (text only)? This would not only have a very positive environmental benefit – it is quite a sizeable magazine if it is something that goes straight to the recycle bin, but it would also be a considerable postage cost saving for Worcester u3a.



- If you would like to continue receiving this magazine in the post, please email tam@worcesteru3a.org. If you are not particularly interested in the TAM magazine, and would prefer to save some trees, please do not worry about emailing. You will automatically be taken off the mailing list. If, at any time, you find you miss your physical copy of TAM, you can opt back in by using this email address
- New members will receive the first available copy (they are published in February, April, June, September and November) as part of their welcome to Worcester u3a. They will then be able to decide if they want to continue to receive it

A Small Change to Gift Aid

There is going to be a small change to the wording of the Gift Aid declaration – you do not need to do anything and if you have already completed a Gift Aid declaration, this still applies. The change is to show that from your subscription, £12 goes to running our u3a and only this amount of the subscription fee qualifies for Gift Aid. The balance of your subscription goes towards the costs of running interest groups.

The change is a result of clarification received from the Third Age Trust and will unfortunately, reduce the amount of income that we receive from Gift Aid.

Whilst we do not expect the change to impact on the wide range of interest groups or the events programme available to members, the final position will not be clear until discussions with HMRC have been completed.

If you pay tax and have not completed a Gift Aid declaration, please do so. We receive 25p in Gift Aid for every £1 of eligible income and this contributes significantly to our income.

You can make a Gift Aid declaration:

- By updating your membership record through the Members' Portal, <https://u3asites.org.uk/worcester> and tap on the Join/Renew icon
- By contacting Beryl Curtis, membership@worcesteru3a.org
- or leave a message on our answerphone **01905 887579**

The Chance to Join a Fascinating New Group – Antiques Appreciation and Collecting



Stephen Thorneycroft is thinking of starting a new group which he would like to call 'Antiques Appreciation and Collecting'. Before he takes it further, he would like to know if members would be interested. He has been collecting antiques for nearly forty years and he and his wife have built up a diverse collection of over 700 items, together with catalogues and books in a number of specialist fields.

The idea behind the course is that whilst it is possible to buy antiques as an investment, it is much more important to take pleasure from the things we collect – whatever they are – before worrying about their value. To enjoy owning an antique, it's important to appreciate the quality and history of the object. To get a better appreciation of the field, the group would visit antique fairs, auctions and museums as well as inviting presentations from specialists and professionals.

To make the group successful, we need members who would like to learn more about antiques, but we would also like to encourage members with experience in collecting antique and vintage items who are prepared to share their experience with the group.

Will those interested please contact stephen.thorneycroft@worcesteru3a.org or leave a message on **01905 887579**.

Are There Any Twitchers in our u3a?

Up until a few years ago, we had a very popular Birdwatching group. After stocktaking, it was pointed out that there is a top-spec birdwatching telescope in our store cupboard. It seems a terrible shame to waste it. Would anyone volunteer to lead a group? Apparently, you don't have to be very knowledgeable, just interested enough to lead the group, and for members to learn together, whilst having a really fun time.

To find out more about how to lead a group, and all the help there would be to get you started, please get in touch with Adie Ditchburn groupcoord@worcesteru3a.org or leave an answerphone message on **01905 887579**. I am sure this could be an equally popular group once again.



Worcester u3a Facebook Page

You don't have to have a Facebook account to sign into our Facebook page. It is a great way to keep up with our news. Just type in Facebook Worcester Area Group u3a.

Please Can Anyone Help?

If you were pretty good, and can still remember some shorthand – or if you can decipher your own version, please could you spare a couple of hours each month to help out by taking notes for our Committee? We usually meet once a month on a Wednesday morning. We're a friendly bunch and enjoy a very good selection of biscuits (thank you, Pat!). This is NOT a Committee post, and could be just for a few meetings or longer, depending on you.

Our next meeting is on 19th July, and would be a good opportunity to see if you're interested. If you can help, please email Laurence chairman@worcesteru3a.org

What a Lovely Afternoon



We had a splendid afternoon at Mount Battenhall for our afternoon tea. As you can see, the selection was marvellous, with everything equally delicious, and tea and coffee topped up throughout – I was one of the few who ate the whole lot. Most people left with a goodie bag to enjoy a cake or two later.

As it was a bit chilly, we ate inside, but when the sun came out after our tea, we lingered on the patio, most of us reluctant to leave.

Thank you so much to Pat Davies for arranging it.

A Super Day Out

Just a couple of photos from what was a really lovely trip to Barnsdale and Belvoir Castle. Thank you so much to our Travel Group for arranging it. Beautiful weather, an interesting and knowledgeable Head Gardener to guide us around the wonderful Barnsdale gardens, with most of our group buying a plant or two, and as you can see, Belvoir Castle looks amazing.



Unfortunately, the day out to Sidmouth had to be cancelled, as there were not enough people to fill the coach.

Advance Notice from our Travel Group



Tuesday 10th October – A visit to the National Centre for Guide Dogs for the Blind, which is near to Leamington Spa.

Cost – £25, which includes a group discount and coach from Worcester.

Time – Coach will leave Croft Road at 9.30am, returning to Worcester at approximately 6pm, dependent on traffic conditions.

Before the Visit – Time will be spent in Leamington, where we can have lunch.

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

Booking Form – in August newsletter and on our website <https://u3asites.org.uk/worcester>. To express and interest, please email Liz Hill ehill473@gmail.com or ring **07812 039188**.



Valerie Gorton writes: The Travel Group held its last meeting on Monday 12th June, when Mary Pritchard gave a photographic presentation of her cruise to

Australia and New Zealand. This brought back many happy memories for members of the Group who had also visited Australia and New Zealand in the past. It was particularly poignant for some as it was prior to the catastrophic earthquake which devastated Christchurch. A wonderful presentation inspiring us all to *get travelling* again.

We also discussed the issue of, and rules for passports, now that we no longer belong to the EU. We are now classed as "third country nationals". If you are a non-EU wishing to visit or travel within the EU, you will need a passport:

- valid for at least 3 months after the date you intend to leave the EU country you are visiting
- which was issued within the previous 10 years

https://europa.eu/youreurope/citizens/travel/entry-exit/non-eu-nationals/index_en.htm

We really hope that u3a members will join in the trips being planned for our season commencing in September. It takes Travel group members a lot of time and effort to organise these trips and it is very disappointing if they are cancelled due to lack of support.

Looking forward to seeing you in the future, either at meetings or trips.

Summer Bowling Group



Our members certainly enjoyed trying their hands at bowls. If you think you would like to have a go, why not contact Barbourne Bowls Club, Redcliffe Street, WR3 7AR on **01905 611081** (not with u3a)?

Hereford Guild of Guides

We have heard from Hereford Guild of Guides to tell us about guided walks they are doing around Hereford. It sounds like a good excuse for a day out to beautiful Hereford. For more information visit <http://herefordguidedwalks.org.uk>

Any updates for What's New by 16th July please for the August 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.