



## What's New for May 2023

**There will be a new programme of Members' Meetings (both online and face-to-face) in September**

**BUT** in the meantime, there are lots of other Worcester u3a events to which we can look forward

Accompanying this newsletter is Laurence's Address from the Chair, which he gave at our AGM in March.

### **Afternoon Tea – Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> May from 3pm** **Mount Battenhall, Battenhall Avenue, WR5 2JD**

If you didn't get the chance to attend our New Year Lunch at Mount Battenhall (formerly St Mary's Girls' Convent School) don't miss the opportunity to enjoy afternoon tea in the dining room and on the terrace in the garden. The **final date for booking and payment is 16<sup>th</sup> May**. After this date no refunds can be made.



The cost of afternoon tea is £21.00 per person and the number of places available is limited to 40. Bank transfer payments are now accepted and the booking form can be found on our website <https://u3asites.org.uk/worcester> under Events.

If you have any queries, please contact Pat Davis, Social Secretary – Email: [social@worcesteru3a.org](mailto:social@worcesteru3a.org) or leave a message: 01905 887579.

### **Barnsdale OR Belvoir Castle – Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> June**



Only a few more days to book for what will be an amazing day out. **Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> May** is the last day for booking. The cost is £32 and of course we can now do a Bank transfer. The coach leaves Croft Road at 8am, returning at around 6.30–7pm. The booking form for either visit is on the Worcester u3a website <https://u3asites.org.uk/worcester>. If you want more information, please email Ruth Saunders on [ruth.r.saunders@gmail.com](mailto:ruth.r.saunders@gmail.com) or phone 07795 075987.

## A Day at the Seaside – Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> July

Book by **Monday 12<sup>th</sup> June** for a day at the seaside. The cost is £18. Bank transfers are now accepted for all trips. The coach leaves Croft Road at 8am, returning at around 7.30pm. The booking form for Sidmouth is on the Worcester u3a website

<https://u3asites.org.uk/worcester>. If you want more information, please email Lesley Whatmore on [lesley.whatmore@yahoo.co](mailto:lesley.whatmore@yahoo.co) or phone 070928 474637.



## Worcester u3a Choir

### Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> May – Have you Put the Date in your Diary?

Worcester u3a Choir has invited us to come along to **Bromyard Road Church Hall, St Johns, WR2 5DL at 10am** to enjoy some musical entertainment and to join in with some songs from the Sound of Music and other well-known pieces. Everyone is welcome and there will be refreshments too.



Our leader Liz, conductor David, Geoff our accompanist, and all the choir members look forward to seeing you!! Please contact Liz Whitehouse on **01905 21289, 07749 087535** or email [lizmarywhitehouse@gmail.com](mailto:lizmarywhitehouse@gmail.com)

## Worcester u3a Summer Pop-Up Groups

There is still time to let Adie know of any ideas you have for a short summer programme of activities (for up to 12 hours between May and September). Please email [groupscoord@worcesteru3a.org](mailto:groupscoord@worcesteru3a.org) or leave a message on our answerphone 01905 887579.

- There has been quite a bit of interest in learning how to play bowls at **Barbourne Bowling Club, Redcliffe Street, WR3 7AR**, but there is still room for more. The Bowling Club is flexible on dates, but for the moment the likely times are **11am–1pm on Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> June and on 4<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> July**.

Please email Adie on [groupscoord@worcesteru3a.org](mailto:groupscoord@worcesteru3a.org) or Fern on [publicity@worcesteru3a.org](mailto:publicity@worcesteru3a.org) if you are interested – or leave a message on our answerphone 01905 887579.

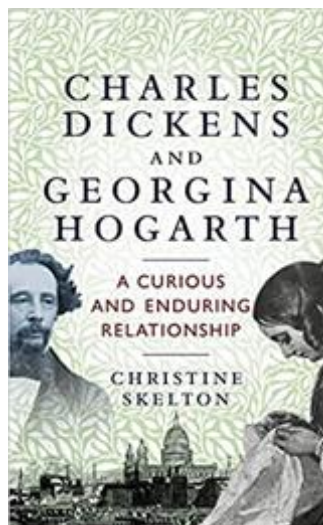
## The Big Bowls Weekend at Barbourne Bowls Club



**Friday 26<sup>th</sup>–Monday 29<sup>th</sup> May** – The Big Bowls national open weekend. On **Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> May 11am to 4pm** we have the chance to try out the game at **Barbourne Bowls Club, Redcliffe Street, WR3 7AR**. Telephone number **01905 611081**.

The green and bar will be open and, weather permitting, the barbecue will be serving hot dogs and burgers.

## A Curious and Enduring Relationship



Christine Skelton, who leads our History's People group, has had a biography of Charles Dickens and his sister-in-law published this month.

"Charles Dickens called his sister-in-law Georgina Hogarth his 'best and truest friend'. Georgina saw Dickens as much more than a friend. They lived together for twenty-eight years, during which time their relationship constantly changed. The sister of his wife Catherine, the sharp and witty Georgina moved into the Dickens' home aged fifteen. What began as a father-daughter relationship blossomed into a genuine rapport, but their easy relations were fractured when Dickens had a mid-life crisis and determined to rid himself of Catherine. Georgina's refusal to leave Dickens and his desire for her to remain in his household led to rumours of an affair and even illegitimate children.

He left her the equivalent of almost £1 million and all his personal papers in his will. Georgina's commitment to Dickens was unwavering but it is far from clear what he did to deserve such loyalty. There were several occasions when he misused her in order to protect his public reputation. Why did Georgina betray her once much-loved sister? Why did she fall out with her family and risk her reputation in order to stay with Dickens? And why did the Dickenses' daughter Katey say it was 'the greatest mistake ever' to invite a sister-in-law to live with a family?"

## Two Summer Events – And Worcester u3a Will be at Both



### Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> July – Whittington Community Event 12–4pm

Whittington Community Hall, Church Lane, WR5 2RQ

with magician, bar, live music, great food, ice cream, face painting, bouncy castles, local businesses. Entry and car parking will be free.

### Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> July – Warndon Villages Summer Fete 12–4pm

Ankerage Green, Warndon Villages, WR4 0DZ

This year is a special year as it will be a celebration of Lyppard Hub's 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary. There will be lots of fun and entertainment for all the family to enjoy, with fairground rides, craft and community stalls, pony rides, inflatables, live music, candy floss and ice creams, hot food, raffle prizes and much more. It is also an opportunity to discover all the activities that take place at Lyppard Hub.

Organised by Lyppard Hub and supported by Warndon Parish Council and Tesco.

## Their Finest Hour

Maggy Simms, u3a National Research & Shared Learning Coordinator has been in touch to tell us about 'Their Finest Hour'. This is a project by Oxford University to collect and archive stories from WW2, either from the survivors who can remember the war as children, or from the next generation who can pass on the stories handed down by their parents. There was a previous project on WW1 and one of the people who worked on that is now a u3a member and is leading the partnership with Oxford.

To help with this project **Malvern Library, Graham Road, Malvern, WR14 2HU** is holding a Digital Collection Day on **Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> May between 10am and 3pm.**

Do you have any items related to the Second World War? Would you like to share and preserve these objects and stories for future generations?

Bring your diaries, letters, photographs, memoirs, objects or stories about your family's experience in the war to **Malvern Library** to be recorded and added to our freely-available, online archive.

Volunteers will be on hand from **10am to 3pm** to welcome you and help record your story and photograph your objects.

If you have any questions, please email [theirfinesthour@ell.ox.ac.uk](mailto:theirfinesthour@ell.ox.ac.uk) or find out more on <https://theirfinesthour.english.ox.ac.uk/>

Any updates for What's New by 16<sup>th</sup> May please for the June 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.