

The link to a full list of groups is here: <https://u3asites.org.uk/chester/groups>

While some groups have been dormant during the Covid pandemic, many have continued to be active online. Others are beginning to meet again physically, with due regard to national Covid guidelines – please see here:

(<https://www.u3a.org.uk/covid-19-advice-on-u3a-activities>)

Listed below are those groups who are currently able to welcome new members.

<b><i>Pickleball</i></b>		<b><i>Whist</i></b>
	<b><i>Bird Watching 1</i></b>	
<b><i>Photography</i></b>		<b><i>Cycling</i></b>
	<b><i>New Experiences</i></b>	
<b><i>Bridge</i></b>		<b><i>Old Grumpies</i></b>
	<b><i>Thursday Strollers</i></b>	
<b><i>Ukuleles 1 and 2</i></b>		<b><i>Cryptic Crosswords</i></b>
	<b><i>Singing for Pleasure</i></b>	
<b><i>Science</i></b>		<b><i>Jigsaws Exchange</i></b>
	<b><i>History</i></b>	
<b><i>Industrial Heritage</i></b>		<b><i>Music Performing</i></b>
	<b><i>Crown Green Bowling</i></b>	
<b><i>Latin</i></b>		<b><i>Audio &amp; Video Skills</i></b>
	<b><i>Friday Walkers</i></b>	
<b><i>Spanish Intermediate</i></b>		<b><i>German Improvers</i></b>
	<b><i>Digital Photography</i></b>	

We are aware that some groups are limited in size by the accommodation or facilities they use or by the programme they follow. We hope that new members will be able to join a group or groups that they are interested in, but anyone who encounters any difficulty is encouraged to get in touch. We are happy to provide help and practical advice on the best way forward.

Please email Stuart and Mal via [groups@chesteru3a.org.uk](mailto:groups@chesteru3a.org.uk)

In addition to the Monthly Talks and the Interest Groups, we are currently consulting on establishing a series of **Short Courses**.

- These would be on cross-subject topics
- Initially, it is suggested that there be three short courses
- These would be for a term each, beginning in September, January and May
- They would be designed to appeal to members of several groups
- They would aim to widen members' experience and knowledge
- It is hoped that members with audio/video skills could support the courses and share the resources that are created
- The first proposed Short Course topic would be the Tidal Dee as shown below

# Explore the Tidal Dee

A short Chester u3a programme - fortnightly sessions,  
September to December 2021

- Geology and geography of a shifting river
- Canalisation and land reclamation
- The natural world of the Dee: Burton Mere to the Point of Ayr
- Leisure along the Dee: Coastal paths and sites to visit
- Cultural and historical links: Chester, Basingwerk/Greenfield Valley and Parkgate
- The heritage of the Dee: mining, shipbuilding, salmon, cheese, steel, and aircraft

*Participants will be encouraged to share their own experiences and knowledge and to research areas of particular personal interest.*

Sessions will be via Zoom, with presentations and discussions, plus one or two face to face sessions (if permitted) and at least one visit.

Three competitions for u3a members will run alongside the sessions: one for photography, one for creative writing, and one for art and craft work.

A final exhibition to showcase material which has been produced.



Other suggested topics are:

## **TREES:**

- Art and walking based visit to the “Singing, ringing tree” and the Towneley art gallery in Burnley
- History and walking based visit to the Allerton Oak and/or other ancient trees
- Books for reading and discussion: for example “The Wood” by John Lewis Stempel: “The Overstory” by Richard Powers
- Open talk by (if possible) Professor Roland Ennos, author of “The Wood Age”: How one material shaped the whole of human history”.
- Creative writing as poetry and/or prose themed around trees.
- Photography based on colour, texture, and variety of trees through the year.
- The science of trees: communications networks, climatic, biodiversity and environmental considerations.
- Art appreciation, trees in arts and crafts, as a subject and as a material

## **STUDY OF ONE COUNTRY, eg USA :**

- Geology, geography and landscapes
- Aspects of History: for example, migration, trade and development
- Food and Drink (cooking and wine tasting)
- Art and art appreciation – cultural influences and representations of society
- Film, cinema, music, theatre and literature traditions
- Politics and power at home and abroad
- The natural world
- Personal talks and memoirs from members who have been/lived there – for armchair travellers