

West Cheshire Rural u3a Newsletter 1/1/2023



The newsletter is now published monthly on the first of the month. Our email address for contributions is WCRu3a@hotmail.com or for membership enquiries contact Dorothy Turpy, our Membership Secretary.

2023 starts off with a talk at our monthly meeting by Tom Jones. Tom is a Chester Tour Guide and his talk is an insight into the background, purpose, and some of the inhabitants of Chester Zoo. Did you know that elephants walk on tiptoe?



u3a Monthly Meeting
January 19th 2023 at 2pm
Barbour Institute, Tattenhall
Speaker: Tom Jones
Chester Zoo



Monthly Meeting Talks 2022.

This year we have covered a wide variety of subjects at our monthly meetings. We learnt about the origins of place names and pub signs. Stephen Shakeshaft, uncovered some of the hidden gems in Chester and we had an extremely interesting talk about Viking treasure found on our doorstep in Huxley.

Bryan Anderson showed us some wonderful photographs from his travels to some of the more far-flung places he has explored and Gill Russell introduced us to aspects of Japanese culture.

We have sung along to the Beatles songs with Barrie Humphries and been introduced to the do's and don'ts of sheep farming by the Reluctant Shepherdess.

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We hope you have enjoyed the talks. In 2023 Stephen Shakeshaft will return to give the second part of his talk on Chester, we have the rescheduled Roundhouse talk from English Heritage and we also hope to have a return visit from Bryan Anderson.

We look forward to meeting you all at our monthly meetings.

Website Update

Thanks to the hard work of many u3a volunteers our u3a website has been recovered and is back up and running. There may be some minor issues as photos and files need to be uploaded and links updated.

For information, the websites are now hosted on a server, which is managed by the same provider that has managed the main u3a website for 15 years. A much more robust backup regime is in place which should provide the Trust with the ability to manage any major outage in a much more effective way.

You can now contact committee members and group leaders using the links on the website.

A couple of useful additional email addresses are:

- our email address for general queries wcru3a@hotmail.com
- our email address for membership enquires membershipwcru3a@gmail.com

Interest Group information

If members have ideas for new interest groups or a hobby that they would perhaps like to share with others, please contact Mike Woollard. Mike can give you guidance on setting up a group.

Ukulele Group

Our last session for this year was on the 7th December. We have met continually through the year, a total of 24 times. We have played 315 songs and learnt 9 new ones in various styles. Several new members joined and a few have left, leaving us with a membership of 16 players. I am looking forward to next year when we will continue to move forwards with new songs and chords that expand and enhance our playing. Most of all we will continue to have the fun and enjoyment that makes it a pleasure. Ken

Sunday Lunch Group

The Sunday lunch group will take a break in January. Our first Sunday lunch of 2023 will be on 5th February. Many restaurants are still asking for deposits for large table booking which makes booking slightly more complicated. Our group is large so a plea, if your put your name down, please let the organiser know if you can't make it so someone else can take your place.

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Art Appreciation Group

On 6th December members of the group visited the Tate Gallery in Liverpool to view the four short-listed artists for the Turner Prize 2022. The winner (sculptor Veronica Ryan) was announced at St George's Hall on Wednesday 7th. The Tate also had a small exhibition of J. W. W. Turner's masterful paintings partly inspired by an Arctic expedition that went missing. "Dark Waters" was given a sombre undertow by composer Lamin Fofana's haunting soundtrack.

Poetry Group

This month's theme at the poetry group was Celebrations which was creatively interpreted by all. Here are the poems we read:

- Still I Rise – Maya Angelou**
- Getting Married - Kahil Gilbran**
- The Confirmation -Edwin Muir**
- The Classic of Tea – Lu Yu**
- Journey of the Mago- T.S. Elliot**
- Celebrations – Denis Levertov**
- The Innocent Song – Charles Causley**
- Chocs – Caroline Duffy**
- I want to be thoroughly used up when I die – A quote from George Bernard Shaw**
- A Seasonal Ghazal – Harry Gilonis**
- Phenomenal Woman – Maya Angelou**
- Dance - Paul Hayward**
- Everyone - Sang Siegfried Sassoon**
- Children's Party – Ogden Nash**
- Birthday - William Service**
- Vow – Roger McGough**
- The Pig - Roald Dahl**
- The Baby is Born – Pam Brown**
- Lullaby – Rosemary Norman**
- Christmas Landscape – Laurie Lee**
- Christmas – John Betjeman**
- Little Grey Rabbits Christmas – Alison Uttley**

To confirm our dates for 2023

- 9 January – Recovery led by Sheila**
- 6th February – Narrative led by Pauline**
- 6th March - Flowers led by Anne**
- 3rd April – Scottish Poets.**

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We talked about the Bill Bailey interview on the radio recently. You can catch up with the program where he talked with Moira Stewart on Classic FM. Unfortunately, you do need to create an account to be able to listen to it.

<https://www.globalplayer.com/catchup/classicfm/uk/>

December Walking Group

Monday Walks



The weather was perfect for a stroll through the woods at Little Budworth on the last Monday walk in November, with sunshine lighting up the colours of the fallen leaves. We walked along sunken lanes, by ways across fields to Little Budworth Mere and through the village back to the car park. Coffee at Tarporley Garden Centre.

On Monday 5th the Monday walk was at Erdigg Hall. We walked down to Pulson Fellin, and back through the woods, beyond the Hall then back along a tree lined avenue, after exploring the motte and bailey castle remains. A perfect winters day to enjoy a day out with friends.



On December 12th, seven of us braved the frosty morning and met up for a walk around Tattenhall. The route across crisp, cow free fields to Ford Lane, took us back down Newton Lane, past the Ice Cream Farm and back to the village along Tattenhall Road. Surprisingly, there was very little ice on the lanes or paths. Afterwards, we had a warming drink.

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For the final Monday walk 8 members met up in Chester and walked a loop of about 4 miles taking in the canal, river Dee and Caldley Valley Nature Park. We ended the morning with superb refreshments at Sheila and David's house. What a way to end our walking year!

Walking Christmas Lunch

For the final outing of the year the walking group celebrated with lunch at Gifford Lea. To ensure that we didn't arrive there with muddy boots, and in view of the limited parking, some of us met up at Alison's where we had a relaxed coffee. After that we meandered down the road for our lunch, meeting up with the rest of the group. Next year we plan to revert to having a proper short walk before our meal. Lunch was lovely, Gifford Lea lived up to its great reputation. We're looking forward to our walks next year, always welcoming new members!



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Thanks to those of you who have already offered to lead walks next year. Walk groups depend on the members leading a walk. All the walks will be on Thursdays, the shorter walks, about 4 miles on the second Thursday, and the longer ones, 6-8 miles on the fourth Thursday. If you are new to leading a walk, but would like to do so, other group members would be willing to recce a walk with you. Also remember there are lots of resources out there for finding local walks for example many pubs publicise walks on their website. Please Contact Jill Hughes if you would like to put your name down to lead a walk in 2023.

Events organised by National Office and open to u3a members.

u3a Office has a fantastic selection of free online learning events to suit all tastes. If you're looking for something to inspire you. Take a look at the events page:
<https://www.u3a.org.uk/events/educational-events>

West Cheshire Rural u3a Interest Groups

All Group Leaders can be contacted using the mail icon on the relevant group page on the website

Group	Current Meeting Times	Group leader
Map Reading for Walkers	As advertised	Marjorie Watson
Sunday Lunch Group	First Sunday in the month	Anne Bayliss
Solving Cryptic Crosswords	Alternate Mondays at 2pm in the Barbour	Hilary Scarratt
Poetry	First Monday in the month in St Albans Community Room Tattenhall	Gill Foster
Chapter Chats	Last Tuesday in the month at 8pm	Barbara Garner
Pageturners	The third Friday in the month 11.00am in St Albans Community Roo3m Tattenhall	Linda Davenport
Ukulele	Alternate Wednesdays at 10.30 am in Farndon	Ken Wakefield
Walking	Walking groups schedule: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Short walk on 2nd Thursday• Long walk on 4th Thursday• Other groups on ad-hoc basis	Jill Hughes
Drawing Group	Fortnightly meeting in Hargrave Village Hall	Carolyn Vickers

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Group	Current Meeting Times	Group leader
Dining	Dining Group1 fourth Friday of the Month Dining Group2 second Wednesday of the month	Hazel George Marian Hagan
Home Cinema 2	The cinema-based group has restarted	Pam Baggott
Mah-jong for Beginners	2nd & 4th Fridays at 10.30am Walk Mill Waverton	Linda Davenport & Pauline Bell
Music Appreciation	First Thursday of the month in the community room at St Albans	David Thomson
Historic Houses	2-3 outings during the summer	TBC
Plants & Gardens	2-3 outings during the summer	TBC
Discussion	Alternate Tuesdays in The Barbour	Steven Prince
Art Appreciation	Various visits during the year	Jean Mumford Vanessa Newman