

# West Cheshire Rural u3a Newsletter 1/2/2023



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

In February we will have the rescheduled talk by English Heritage on the Roundhouse at Beeston.



**u3a Monthly Meeting  
February 16<sup>th</sup> at 2pm  
Barbour Institute, Tattenhall**



**Speaker: Gary Ashby, English Heritage  
The Roundhouse at Beeston**

2023 started off with a talk at our monthly meeting by Tom Jones. Tom is a Chester Tour Guide and his talk was an insight into the background, purpose, and some of the inhabitants of Chester Zoo. Fifty-three members and two new members joined us which was very good considering how bad the weather has been recently.

Our website provides more information on recent talks and details about interest group activities <https://u3asites.org.uk/west-cheshire/home>

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## New Members

A warm welcome to two new members, Joy and Peter Buckland who have joined West Cheshire Rural u3a.

## 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.

## Quiz

There is a new Quiz ' Homophone towns and cities' on the u3a website plus the answers to 'An A in Science'.

## Ukulele Group

Our new opening warm up song for the new year is “Side by Side” and we have also added two new songs, a “When You're Smiling” medley and “A World of our Own”.

## Sunday Lunch Group

The Sunday lunch group will resume this month with a visit to the Cock O' Barton. As the number in the group has grown, we will try to book two tables of 6 (which may or may not be adjacent) so we can accommodate as many members as possible.

## Cryptic Crosswords

The group meets in the Barbour on alternate Mondays at 2pm. We go through two crosswords each time, one is slightly more difficult than the other but neither is too challenging. The intention is to have fun while learning a new cognitive skill. If you want to try out one of the crosswords we attempted this week, I have reproduced it at the end of the bulletin.

## Poetry Group

The theme for our first poetry session of the new year, led by Sheila, was **Recovery** and as usual it inspired many interesting and varied poems. Here is the list of the poems we read.

**From joy's loveliest Ocean – Rabindranath Tagore**

**Sick Room – Billy Collins**

**Hold your own - Sajeeda Hasanjee**

**Locking yourself out, then trying to get back in – Raymond Carver**

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Lost Things – Lina Patel

After an illness, walking the dog – Jane Kenyon

Beannacht, A new year blessing – John O’Donaghue

Ring out wild bells – Alfred, Lord Tennyson

In lieu of flowers – Sawna Lemay

A winter blue jay - Sara Teasdale

Our lives are one big puzzle – Erin Hanson

The glory of the garden – Rudyard Kipling

Recharge – Elizard Breazth

Being Boring – Wendy Cope

Tomorrow has your name on it – Roger McGough

Sheila had prepared some short clips from poems that we had read during the last couple of years. It was interesting how many of these we could recall from the small section that was read. Sometimes it was the words that we remembered or the construction or rhythm of the poems which were synonymous with a particular poet.

In February the theme is **Narrative**, so the chance to look out those poems that tell a story and really paint a picture in our imagination. In March the theme is **Flowers**, and in April it will be the **Scottish Poets**.

## January Short Walk

Our first main group, shorter walk of the year was on Thursday 12th January. Ten of us, led by Jill, met on the National Trust carpark next to Cheshire Workshop in



Burwardsley. We began our walk by going down Pennsylvania Lane to see the wooden sculpture of Phineus Pheasant. We had originally intended walking a loop behind the pub, but in view of the very wet conditions underfoot decided to retrace our steps and walk up Hill Lane. At the top, we followed the track near the wood to Peckforton gap. Then up Bulkeley Hill where we stopped for refreshments, then down the far side and right down quiet lanes to the carpark.

Most of us then drove to the Boathouse Cafe at the Marina in Tattenhall for lunch.

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## January Long Walk

The long walk of just over 6 miles was led by Sheila and David around Chester. Fourteen of us met at the Little Owl and walked to the far end of the Countess of Chester Nature Reserve, then back towards Chester via the canal towpath, along the banks of the Dee behind the racecourse, under Grosvenor Bridge and through the Little Roodee to the Walls and back to the Little Owl. It was a flat walk which was punctuated by lots of interesting local information. We were lucky to have fine weather with just a little light breeze.



## Monday Mini Walks



On Monday January 2<sup>nd</sup> eight of us met up in Holt. We were originally planning to meet by the Dee in Farndon, but as you can see by the photo that this carpark was under water!

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The group met in Threapwood on the 9<sup>th</sup> January. We walked a loop of around 4 miles down quiet country lanes and a bridlepath on a surprisingly fine morning. Afterwards we were invited to Teresa's home for coffee and delicious cake.



The third walk of January was from the Yeld carpark. We walked the usual 4 mile walk up to Pale Heights then down to the Visitor Centre for coffee. From there back to the cars via Nettleton Woods which unlike the rest of the walk, was predictably muddy underfoot. The weather was fine and sunny, if a little bracing when we were in windy areas.



The walk on Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> January, started at Gresty's Waste carpark for a walk of about 5 miles up tracks to Primrose Woods. A lovely winter's day where the patches of snow still covered the paths in sheltered areas. Afterwards most of us went for refreshments at Okells cafe.

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## 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

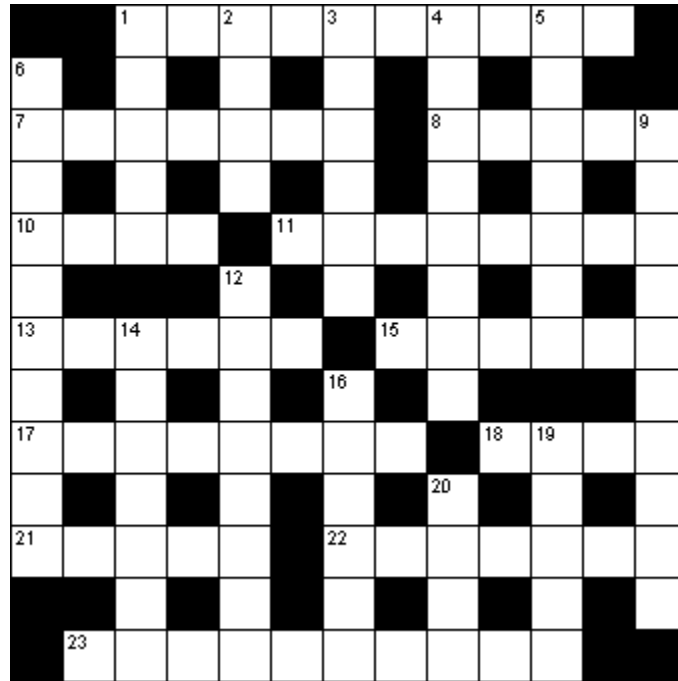
*All Group Leaders can be contacted using the mail icon on the relevant group page on the website*

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"><li>• Short walk on 2nd Thursday</li><li>• Long walk on 4th Thursday</li><li>• Other groups on ad-hoc basis</li></ul>	Jill Hughes
Drawing Group	Fortnightly meeting in Hargrave Village Hall	Carolyn Vickers
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

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Group	Current Meeting Times	Group leader
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

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## Across

- 1 Sailor with coat and first man to cover a road? (10)
- 7 Article about performance (7)
- 8 New husband is a stable man (5)
- 10 Top of skirt has new waistband (4)
- 11 Doubt set in quotes (8)
- 13 Be united with company present (6)
- 15 Moves after I left cagebirds (6)
- 17 Where schoolchildren bought food for friar's dance? (4-4)
- 18 Norse god with some authority (4)
- 21 A girl of the Indian Empire (5)
- 22 One tail wagging with great joy (7)
- 23 Lasting well in its present form (10)

## Down

- 1 Insects making right marks (5)
- 2 The ceremony is correct, we hear (4)
- 3 Using maximum power, everyone is on strike (3-3)
- 4 Roman emperor giving a month to us (:
- 5 Loving a party call (7)
- 6 Writing censored by editor taken to cou (10)
- 9 Cook sent in more soup (10)
- 12 People who work backstage making furniture? (8)
- 14 Replacement for the acre! (7)
- 16 Do they pull tall buildings? (6)
- 19 Uplift one gets in a crowd (5)
- 20 Get a poor number of spectators (4)