

West Cheshire Rural u3a Newsletter 1/3/2023



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 at membershipwcr3a@gmail.com.

In March our speaker is Brian Anderson with an illustrated talk about Yellowstone National Park. Brian, a Wirral based photographer, tutor, and lecturer wowed us last year with his amazing photography.

As Brian says "Photography is a 'powerful medium of expression and communication' and I use my images so children and adults can explore, experience, and discover the amazing places I have been to, and the inspiring people I have met"



West Cheshire Rural u3a

March 16th at 2pm

Barbour Institute, Tattenhall

Speaker: Brian Anderson

Yellowstone National Park



February Meeting

We welcomed 57 members and 7 potential new members to our meeting in February. Gary Ashby from English Heritage gave a very interesting and informative talk about the roundhouse which English Heritage has built on the area below Beeston Castle. Several roundhouse sites were discovered in the area and Gary stressed the importance English Heritage placed on using materials which would have been available at the time. He emphasised the difficulties involved in fashioning bronze axes and adzes to fell trees and strip bark etc before splitting them using

West Cheshire Rural u3a Newsletter 1/3/2023

wooden wedges, and he explained the huge manpower and length of time involved in lifting the heavy poles into place after building the "A" frames. They had to experiment with the amounts of soil, types of animal dung and the straw to use for the wattle and daub walls - something which time has shown needs to be reassessed due to the crumbly nature of the local soil. The talk was enthusiastically received and there were many questions at the end. Beeston Castle may expect an influx of visitors in the future!

Speaker Schedule

Below is the speaker schedule up to July. We hope there is something there for everyone.

Month	Speaker
April	Christina Spencer, The Bibby Line
May	Kevin Reynolds, Love & War (a talk about British Birds!)
June	Ken Pye, Tales of Rivers and the Sea
July	Simon Cork, American Presidents, The Good, The Bad and the Ugly.

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

Have You Mislaid Some Money?

When tidying up after our monthly meeting on Thursday 17th November, 2022, a sum of money was found which I am sure does not belong in our u3a bank account. Could it be yours?

You may remember the November monthly meeting – Rob Philpott gave a talk about The Huxley Hoard and a number of members paid Marian for their Christmas lunches.

If you were at that meeting and had some cash on you which seems to have gone missing, please contact Linda Davenport via the Treasurer button on the Contact page of our website at <https://u3asites.org.uk/west-cheshire/contact> or speak to a committee member. Linda Davenport, Treasurer

Quiz Update The answers to the **Homophone towns** quiz will be on the website plus the new quiz **Animal Books**.

West Cheshire Rural u3a Newsletter 1/3/2023

Restricted Parking at the Barbour

From Monday 6th March Bolesworth is carrying out maintenance at the Barbour Institute. For the duration of these works there will be scaffolding around the whole of the building which will reduce the available parking. Please can members attending groups or the monthly meeting, park in the car park at Barbour Square which is behind the main street, leaving available parking on Millfield (the area to the right of the building) for those less able to walk. Please be extra careful when entering and leaving the building.

Beacon Emails

We use the u3a system called Beacon for managing our membership list and emailing our members. It has been brought to our attention that emails from this system may not be reaching some members inboxes and are going in to their Spam or Junk folder. You can make sure this doesn't happen by adding the sender to your contacts, or if you don't want to do that, then please check your spam/junk folders for u3a emails.

Networking Event at Gifford Lea



The u3a was invited to a networking event at Gifford Lea last month. We have several current members from Gifford Lea. Dorothy Turpy and Anne Bayliss spent an enjoyable morning talking to the residents and showing what the u3a offers to members.

West Cheshire Rural u3a Newsletter 1/3/2023

WEST CHESHIRE RURAL U3A MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL 2023/24

Annual subscriptions are due on the 1st April. Below are some details of how to renew your membership. Renewal is easy – there is no form to fill in.

Your membership subscription for 2023/24 is £18.00 per member.

Renewal online or by post and how to pay. Just follow these steps:

RENEWING ONLINE

- Email our Membership Secretary, Dorothy Turpy via the membership email membershipwcru3a@gmail.com or via the Membership enquiries button on our website at <https://u3asites.org.uk/west-cheshire/contact>.
- Head your email message “**U3A Membership Renewal**”.
- Write your name[s] & address in the email (so we can clearly identify you in our records).
- Pay your subscription (£18.00 per member) with a direct transfer (Faster Payment) from your bank.
- Please use the Reference **MEM** immediately followed by your surname e.g. **MEMJONES** in the transaction.
- Our bank details for a Faster Payment are:
Bank Name: NatWest
Account Name: West Cheshire Rural u3a
Account type: Business
Sort Code: 01-07-02
Account Number: 56544502

RENEWING BY POST

- Send your name[s] & address with your cheque to: Dorothy Turpy, Membership Secretary WCRu3a, 18 Shire Way, Tattenhall, Chester, CH3 9RL.
- Make your cheque (£18.00 per member) payable to **West Cheshire Rural u3a**.
- Write on the back of your cheque **Membership 2023/24**.
- **Please do not send cash.**

Members wanting to pay in cash can do so at our monthly meeting on Thursday March 16th, 2023.

For any u3a Membership queries please contact Dorothy Turpy, Membership Secretary WCRu3a, 18 Shire Way, Tattenhall, Chester, CH3 9RL by post or by email at membershipwcru3a@gmail.com

Important: If any of your contact details have changed, please include the new information with your email/cheque so we can keep your records up-to-date

West Cheshire Rural u3a Newsletter 1/3/2023

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.

Discussion Group

The current discussion group meets fortnightly in the Boys' Room in the Barbour Institute. It is currently some 14 strong which generally gives a group of around ten attending which is felt to be approaching the limit that allows everyone to have a say.

If you would be interested in joining a discussion group, perhaps we could start a second group.

Cinema Group

Pam Baggot has been group leader for the Home Cinema Group for some 9 years but has decided now is the time to hand over the baton. Do we have a member who would be willing to take on the role of group leader?.

Perhaps the group could work in an informal way where someone spots a film at the cinema that they want to go to see, selects a day and time (matinees often are less crowded) and the details are circulated to the group. If you want to go you can just arrange to meet with the organiser and watch the film together. I often have been to matinees on my own so would be interested. Please let Mike Woollard know if you would be interested in an informal cinema group.

Ukulele Group

Ken and Isabel are away this month so we are having to master the backing track and our new songs so that we will be note perfect for their return.

Sunday Lunch Group

The Sunday lunch group had a lovely meal this month at the Cock O' Barton. Brenda is organising the next meal which will be at The Inn at Huxley.

Historic Places and Gardens

This is a new group drawn from the membership of the Plants and Gardens and Historic Houses groups previously led by Jean Hancox and Jill Worthington. Marian Hagan and Jill O'Callaghan will become joint group leaders for this new group. Thank you, Marian, and Jill, for leading this group, we look forward to many visits over the next year. The first outing in February was to Lyme Park.

West Cheshire Rural u3a Newsletter 1/3/2023

Poetry Group

The theme for our poetry session in February was narrative, led by Gill. A usual we had a good mix of subjects. Narrative poems we found by nature tend to be much longer.

Here is a list of what we read:

Paul Revere's Ride - Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

Casey at the Bat – Ernest Lawrence Thayer

The Knitter – Jackie Kay

The Lady of Shalott - Alfred Tennyson

The Conversion of St Paul – John Betjeman

The Well of St Keyne – Robert Southey

The Cremation of Sam McGhee – Robert Service

The Lion and Albert – Marriot Edgar

Adventures of Isabel Ogden Nash

The Enchanted Shirt – John Hay

Through the Train Window – Christine Wheeler (Christine was formerly taught by Elaine)

Alan has found a little more about the Well at St Keyne

St Keyne's Holy Well is dedicated to the daughter of King Brychan. It is said that whoever of two newly-weds first drinks the water will gain the upper hand in the marriage. Or as the nearby plaque spells it out:

"The legend of St Keyne's Well. St Keyne was a princess who lived about 600 AD. She laid on the waters of this well a spell thus described by Carew in 1602 AD—'The quality that man or wife whom chance or choice attains first of this sacred spring to drink thereby the mastery gains.'"

The theme for our next session in March is **flowers**, led by Anne.

Drawing Group

We are half way through our six sessions before finishing at Easter. The subjects we have been drawing so far have been

- Jewellery
- Umbrellas
- A picture by a famous or favourite artist or a picture in the style of a famous or favourite artist.

West Cheshire Rural u3a Newsletter 1/3/2023

The next session's subject is a board game. The subject for the following week is chosen from a list of suggestions at the end of each session.

After Easter we will try and meet outdoors (with a handy café for refreshments afterwards) but this is always weather dependent. **Carolyn Vickers**

February Short Walk

Our 4.6 mile shorter walk was led by Lisa and Ian. 15 of us met in the carpark of the Fox and Barrel, including a new member, Helen C. On a lovely late winter morning we walked down tracks, past the polo field, along quiet country lanes, across a few fields, and through the ancient forest at Little Budworth. At the entrance to Oulton Park we saw some classic racing cars speeding round the track. To finish we had lunch at the Fox and Barrel.



West Cheshire Rural u3a Newsletter 1/3/2023

February Long Walk

The seven mile walk on Thursday 23 Feb was blessed with glorious weather. Walking from the Trevor Basin ten of us followed the Offa's Dyke Path up through the woods to a high level track and narrow lanes to the Hooson Monument and the panorama walk. We had lunch overlooking the beautiful Vale of Llangollen. Down through woodland and lanes to reach the canal, which we followed back to the junction and the highly recommended Chapel tea room.



Sandstone Trail Walk



Our first walk of the year was a short walk along part of the Sandstone Trail. We started from the National Trust Carpark at Bickerton Hill, taking the woodland path towards Bickerton Church and then back along the Sandstone Trail past the Kitty stone and on to Maiden Castle, returning around the edge of the National Trust land. Wendy Broad

There were 8 of us walking from The Yeld carpark to Delamere Forest. We took Forest Gate Lane to the path up to Old Pale and then down to the visitor's centre for a coffee, returning along the track to Eddisbury Lodge and back via the Sandstone Trail and Forest Gate Road. The weather was amazingly beautiful with panoramic views towards the mist in the distant hills.



West Cheshire Rural u3a Newsletter 1/3/2023

Monday Mini Walks



The Monday group enjoyed a 4 mile walk around quiet lanes, and Carden Park Golf Club. Afterwards we had coffee at Alison's Cafe.

The second walk for the Monday Group was a 4 mile walk from Burwardsley, up Hill lane, across to the Peckforton Gap, up Bulkeley Hill where the picture was taken. We returned across several fields, now dry, down to Sara Lane then back to the cars. Afterwards we had coffee at Alison's.



On Feb 20 we met in Barrow and walked a loop of about 4 miles through the Barrowmore estate to Plemstall Church. After a refreshment, we did a short detour to the Holy Well before returning along tracks, fields and lanes to our starting point. A short drive down the hill took us to the Stamford Bridge pub for coffee.

West Cheshire Rural u3a Newsletter 1/3/2023

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>

A couple of events being organised by North West Region

u3a members from all over the UK will descend on Hadrian's Wall on 10th May 2023 to celebrate the building of the wall and the influence that the wall has had on our creative lives. The wall extends from coast to coast across Northumberland and Cumbria - from Wallsend on the River Tyne in the east to Bowness-on-Solway in the west, and once marked the north western border of the Roman Empire.

If you would like to take part, please see

<https://www.u3a.org.uk/events/off-the-wall>

The NW Region would like to invite you to a Big Sing at the Quaker Meeting House in School Lane, Liverpool on May 10th. This is an all-day event for anyone who enjoys singing, whether or not they belong to a singing group. It will be led by Fredrik Holm from Lancaster & Morecambe u3a and members of the regional committee. There will be charge of £15 per person to cover room hire, printing costs, refreshments, and incidental expenses. Details are being finalised and we expect the information and booking arrangements to be available on the NW website from the middle of March.

Local Amateur Orchestra – Based in Wistaston

Mike Woollard has received this invitation from a local u3a to any budding musicians in our membership

I was wondering whether any of your U3A members would be interested in playing in a local amateur orchestra.

The South Cheshire Orchestra is a small friendly orchestra that meets on Sunday mornings in Wistaston. We're currently looking to recruit players who like classical music and play an orchestral instrument. There's no audition, people can just come along and see how they like it.

If anyone is interested, they can contact the group by email

southcheshireorchestra@gmail.com or just come along to a rehearsal. We meet on Sunday mornings 10:00-12:15 at Wistaston Memorial Hall, 75 Church Lane CW2 8ER.

West Cheshire Rural u3a Newsletter 1/3/2023

Ukulele Sing- Along organised by Lancs Merseyside and Deeside & Wirral networks.

An invitation has been received from the Lancs-Merseyside and Deeside & Wirral networks. They would like to extend an invitation to the South and Mid Cheshire Networks to come and join them in a Ukulele Singalong in Liverpool. The session is being held in Liverpool on the 30th March. It is open to anyone who plays ukulele OR enjoys singing - or both. You don't have to belong to an interest group. The application form can be found at the end of the bulletin.

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
Dining	Dining Group1 fourth Friday of the Month Dining Group2 second Wednesday of the month	Hazel George Marian Hagan
Cinema Group	Informal group being proposed	TBC

West Cheshire Rural u3a Newsletter 1/3/2023

Group	Current Meeting Times	Group leader
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 Places & Gardens	Monthly outing	Marian Hagan Jill O'Callaghan
Discussion	Alternate Tuesdays in The Barbour	Steven Prince
Art Appreciation	Various visits during the year	Jean Mumford Vanessa Newman

West Cheshire Rural u3a Newsletter 1/3/2023

UKULELE SING-ALONG

Thursday 30th March from 1-30 – 4

Quaker Meeting House, School Lane, Liverpool

Cost £5 per person to cover room hire, refreshments and incidental expenses.

This event is being organised for members of the Lancs - Merseyside network and Deeside & Wirral network. It is open to anyone who plays ukulele **OR** enjoys singing - or both. You don't have to belong to an interest group.

There will also be opportunities to try out a ukulele if you want to 'have a go'.

To register please provide the following information as soon as possible to ensure a place.:

Name _____

U3A _____

Contact details:

Email: _____

Phone number _____

Permission to keep your contact details for the duration of this event: YES NO

We would like to video this event and take photographs. Please let us know if you don't agree.

Send your details and payment of £5.00 before March 6th to

Gill Russell, 71 Barn Hey Crescent, Meols, Wirral, CH479RW

For more information contact Gill on gillruss71@gmail.com

Or phone 07710 531 876

Please make cheques payable to North West Region of U3As

Additional information:

The venue is easily accessible at street level and there are lifts to all floors.

The words and ukulele chords will be shown on a large screen. In order to reduce costs and eliminate the need for music stands, paper copies will not be provided. Please let us know if you need to sit near the front and we will try to provide accessible seating.

If you wish you can also bring a tablet or phone to link up to the WiFi then access the songs on your own device. Web access details will be provided on the day.

The venue is located behind Primark and is within walking distance of Lime Street, Central station and Queens Square. There is no parking available at the venue but there is a nearby public car park behind Hanover Street. Directions can be provided if required.