

West Cheshire Rural u3a Newsletter 1/4/2023



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 membershipwcru3a@gmail.com.

April Monthly Meeting

The speaker at the meeting on April 20th at the Barbour Institute will be Christina Spencer. Christina was born in Leipzig in what was then East Germany and her talk "Life on the other side" recounts the life of ordinary Germans during one of their darkest periods of history. The meeting opens at 2pm with the speaker slot starting at 2.30pm.



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Meeting on April 20th at 2pm
Barbour Institute, Tattenhall

Speaker: Christina Spencer
Life on the Other Side



March Meeting

Fifty two members and 8 potential new members joined us at our meeting in March. Brian Anderson's entertaining introduction to the Yellowstone National Park was full of interesting facts. The wild landscape was founded, as a park, by a group led by Ferdinand Hayden in 1872 and their work was documented by Thomas Moran (an artist born in the UK) and the innovative photographer William H Jackson (famous for his true-life photos of the American Civil War).

Brian showed examples of hot springs, cone geysers, mud pots and fumaroles, emphasising the physical dangers to visitors of the hot, sulphurous waters. Wildlife is abundant in the park including grizzly bears, moose, elk and gray (note the

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deliberate spelling of gray) wolves which have recently been reintroduced to re-balance the hierarchy of species. Brian stressed the idiocy of humans who ignore warning signs and approach bison for photo opportunities. The final part of Brian's talk focused on the management's encouragement of eco-tourism and scientific research and the provision of local jobs. His final sound-bite - there is a one in ten thousand chance of a super-eruption in the park!

Speaker Schedule

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

Month	Speaker
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.
September	Cybercrime and Scams – DC Andrew Kevan Cheshire Police

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

Quiz Update

The answers to 'Animal books' is on the website, plus the new quiz 'It takes three'.
Jean Hancox

Membership Renewals

Thank you to all the members who have already renewed their membership for 2023-2024. At the time of writing over 130 members have already renewed their membership.

A reminder of how to renew your membership can be found at the end of this bulletin.

Problem with Beacon emails going to Spam

We highlighted the issue in the last bulletin where emails from Beacon were going to SPAM/JUNK MAIL folders. The easiest way of resolving this, so that these emails

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go to your inbox, appears to be to create an email contact for the address that the Beacon email comes from.

The email address Beacon uses is always noreply@u3abeacon.org.uk irrespective of who actually sends it so you would need to create a contact for this address. We suggest you create a contact with the following

First name - U3A Beacon

Surname - Email.

Email address - noreply@u3abeacon.org.uk .

Interest Group information - Would you be interested in Evening Groups?



Would an evening interest group work better for you?

Suggestions for groups in the evening are:

- **Reading Group**
- **Dining Group**
- **Cinema Group**

Contact Mike Woollard if you are interested

We have also had interest in starting a

- A second discussion group
- A debating group
- Walking with dogs

Interest groups can be as small as 2-3 people, and we can help you get started. If you are interested in any of these, or have other ideas, could you contact Mike Woollard.

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Sunday Lunch Group

The Sunday lunch group had a lovely meal in March at the Inn at Huxley organised by Brenda. Sunday lunch in April will be at the Tattenhall Marina Café.

Looking ahead to the Sunday lunch in May, the first Sunday in May falls on the Bank holiday weekend for the King's Coronation. Venues will be probably be extremely busy that weekend, and many of you will be involved in other things. With that in mind the group will not meet in May but will meet again in June.

Ukulele Group

Our session on St David's Day was led by Paul as Isabel and Ken were still away. A lovely lady heard our "melodious" playing and came to investigate. She stayed to listen to our last couple of songs, which probably weren't the best we had played, but we finished on "Dirty old Town" which always goes down well.

Several members of the Ukulele group had an outing to Storyhouse in Chester on St Patricks Day for a performance by the Ukulele Orchestra of Great Britain. It was lovely to see Kim who was there with her daughter. There was a great atmosphere in the theatre with Chester Ukes playing in the foyer of the theatre before the main performance.

When the set list for the Ukulele Orchestra includes Life on Mars (David Bowie), Born this way (Lady Gaga), Kiss (Prince) Anarchy in the UK (Sex Pistols) and Gimme All Your Lovin' (ZZ Top) you know you are in for a great evening!!!

The latest new song for the group is "Ain't She Sweet", and after the visit to Storyhouse, there have been some requests, Lady Gaga and Meatloaf amongst them.

Historic Places and Gardens



This is a new group drawn from the membership of the Plants and Gardens and Historic Houses groups. The first outing of the group was to the National Trust property, Lyme Park, where there were many interesting features to explore. The "Behind The Scenes" tour was thoroughly enjoyed, providing an insight into the lives of servants in grand houses.

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Art Appreciation



On the 20th February members visited Sarah Samuels' gallery in Hoole to view her winter exhibition.

On 24th February, a rather wet blowy day, several members visited Carden Park for a guided tour of the Grant Ford Sculpture Park. Grant Ford is a BBC's Antiques Roadshow expert and fine art curator.

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On the 3rd March the group visited Chester Cathedral to see Gaia by Luke Jerram. This installation is a globe described as measuring 6 metres in diameter with detailed NASA imagery of the Earth's surface, giving visitors the opportunity to see our planet floating in 3-dimensions.

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Poetry Group

The topic at our meeting in March was flowers, which was very apt as many spring flowers are coming into bloom. We also welcomed a visitor, Eiluned Parry.

The poems we read were:

The Liquorice Fields at Pontefract – John Betjeman

The Snowdrop - Mary Robinson

Stage Directions for Bluebells – Dinah Hendry

Floral Tribute Simon Armitage

Loveliest of Trees – A E Houseman

A Snowdrop Spider – Robert Frost

City Lilacs – Helen Dunmore

Thistles – Ted Hughes

On the death of Ophelia from Hamlet – William Shakespeare

Extract from A Midsummer Nights Dream - William Shakespeare

The Dandelion - Janet Niehaus

Flowers – Wendy Cope

Tulipomania – Dennis O’Driscoll

Bluebell time - Fay Slimm

Foxgloves – Mary Webb

Naff Daffs – Anne Wooby

The Flower – Tennyson

Tulip – Helen Dunmore

One Perfect Rose – Dorothy Parker

The Sick Rose – William Blake

Flower Chorus – Ralph Waldo Emerson

Daffodils - William Wordsworth

The Topic in April is Scottish poets and poems about Scotland. Because of the numerous bank holidays we will not have a poetry group meeting in May.

March Short Walk

Due to snowy weather and slippery conditions underfoot the short walk in March was cancelled.

March Long Walk

The long walk in March was led by Bill and Val Walker. 8 members met at Old Ma’s cafe, Manor Farm, Gatesheath. Although the weather wasn’t too kind to us, we

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walked a circle of about 5 miles along the footpath from Manor Farm (with its new kissing gates). We included a loop around Tattenhall visiting the newly planted Memorial Wood behind the Flacca, then out along Frog lane and along the Bishop Bennett's way back to Gatesheath. Most of us stayed at the cafe for lunch.

Monday Mini Walks

The first walk in March was from the Sandstone Pub in Brown Knowl. We walked across fields to Harthill, along by the side of the old school and through woods to a lovely track below Rawhead, taking the quiet lanes back to the pub where we ended the morning with coffee.



On a showery and windy Monday six of us completed our second walk of the month, a circular route around Holt, including a visit to St Chad's Church. We finished with coffee at Cleopatra's.



The walk on the 20th March was a 4-mile circular route from the Morris Dancer in Kelsall. We swapped the muddiest fields for a country lane in view of the recent heavy rain. Refreshments at Citrus in Kelsall ended the walk. Their coffee and home-made cakes were lovely.



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Marjorie's Long Walk Group

Marjorie has restarted her long walks group and did the first walk this weekend with Teresa. This was a linear walk from Duckington, round the hill and through the heathland to Bickerton church. It was quite slow going in the melting snow and slippery muddy paths, but very beautiful, and we managed to stay upright.



A short steep ascent brought us to the track beneath Rawhead, and on to the footpath leading down to Burwardsley. As we reached the Poffee the forecast rain was just starting, so we settled down for a late lunch. We'd done about six miles by then. We were gearing ourselves up for a very wet walk down the road when a familiar face appeared in the post office, and we were swept back to Tattenhall in style. Many thanks to Jill O'C for a lovely end to our adventure.

Anyone for Croquet?



Tattenhall Croquet Club are offering a taster session in April. Contact Ruth Wrigley for more information or to book a place. Perhaps the u3a could start a session for members to learn to play.

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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
Mah-jong for Beginners	2nd & 4th Fridays at 10.30am community room St Albans	Linda Davenport & Pauline Bell
Music Appreciation	First Thursday of the month in the community room at St Albans	David Thomson
Historic Places & Gardens	Monthly outings	Marian Hagan Jill O'Callaghan
Discussion	Alternate Tuesdays in The Barbour	Steven Prince
Art Appreciation	Various visits during the year	Jean Mumford Vanessa Newman

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Events organised by North West Region and open to u3a members.

The Big Sing

Below is a flyer and registration form for the Big Sing in Liverpool on May 10th. This event was held twice before Covid and it was very popular. It's for anyone who likes to sing, whether or not they belong to a singing group. Contact Gill Russel if you have any questions.



Charity Registration No 1159091

NW Regional Privacy Policy can be seen on www.u3asites.org.uk/north-west

THE BIG SING

Wednesday 10th May 2023, 10.15 a.m. – 3.30 p.m.

at

The Quaker Meeting House, School Lane, Liverpool.

Led by Fredrik Holm, music specialist from Lancaster and Morecambe u3a

and

Members of the North West Regional Team.

PROGRAMME

- 10.15 refreshments and registration
- 10.55 Welcome & Introduction
- 11:00– 12.15 First practice session
- 12.15 – 1.15 Lunch - bring your own or use the local cafes
- 1.15 – 2.15 Second practice session
- 2.15 – 2.45 comfort break
- 2.45 – 3.30 The Big Sing – putting together everything you have learned

The venue is accessible and there is a lift to all floors. Parking is limited but there is a public carpark nearby and the venue is within walking distance of Lime Street and Central Stations.

Please indicate if you have any special requirements with regard to seating or large print.

Cost for the event: £15.00 including refreshments.
Please note, lunch is not provided. Bring your own or use nearby cafes.

Please try to register by May 3rd.

Send registration form and cheque for £15 payable to 'North West Region of U3As'

To G. Russell, 71 Barn Hey Crescent, Meols, Wirral CH47 9RW.

If you prefer to pay by BACs please contact Gill for bank details.

For more information contact Gill Russell: mob: 07710531876

gillruss71@gmail.com

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Registered Charity number 1159091 www.u3asites.org.uk/north-west

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Led by Fredrik Holm, music specialist from Lancaster and Morecambe u3a and
Members of the North West Regional Team.

Who is it for? Anyone who enjoys singing.

The venue is accessible and has a lift to all floors. NB lunch is not provided. Please bring your own

Registration Form: Please try to return by May 3rd

THE BIG SING

Wednesday May 10th 2023

Name:	
Address:	
Telephone Number:	
Email:	
U3A name	

Do you have any special requirements?

I agree to my contact details being retained for the duration of this event. YES NO

NW Regional Privacy Policy can be seen on www.u3asites.org.uk/north-west

Please return this form with a cheque for £15

payable to 'North West Region of U3As' by May 3rd to:

G. Russell, 71 Barn Hey Crescent, Wirral, CH47 9RW

Or if you prefer to pay by BACs please contact Gill for bank details.

For more information email Gill Russell

gillruss71@gmail.com or phone 07710531876

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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