

West Cheshire Rural u3a Newsletter 1/5/2023



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.

If you have any ideas for items that we could include in the newsletter then let me know.

May Monthly Meeting

The speaker at the West Cheshire Rural u3a meeting on May 18th at the Barbour Institute in Tattenhall is Kevin Reynolds. His talk titled "Love and War" looks at how our relationship with wild birds which we now call "garden birds" has changed over the last 150 years. It's more about people and events than the birds.



**West Cheshire Rural u3a
Meeting on May 18th at 2pm
Barbour Institute, Tattenhall
Speaker: Kevin Reynolds
Love and War**

April Meeting

Christina Spencer's talk was interesting, funny, and dramatic; a life story of struggle and determination. Born in Leipzig just before the start of the Second World War, Leipzig was an important production centre for the German aircraft industry and Christina and her sister witnessed the bombing raids by the Allied Forces. Fearing the worst and before he was taken by the authorities, their father packed a box of

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personal items including Christina's doll, Barbara. During the hostilities Christine and her sister lost contact with both their parents and were evacuated eastwards, subsequently moving to an orphanage in Munich, before being re-settled in their uncle's house in Hamburg. Eventually the parents were released from captivity and the girls went back to Leipzig with them. As life under communist control became more difficult the family moved westwards and managed to reach West Germany before the borders were finally sealed. The story had a happy outcome in that their parents survived the war and eventually the family (and Barbara) were reunited. This was a truly fascinating insight into the hardships of life of ordinary Germans during one of their darkest periods of history.

Speaker Schedule

Below is the speaker schedule. Meetings are on the third Thursday in the month. We hope there is something there for everyone.

Month	Speaker
June	Ken Pye Tales of the 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
October	Rob Toomey – Welsh Copper

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

Quiz Update

Answers to the 'It takes Three' quiz are on the website plus the May quiz 'Monarch Nicknames'. Jean Hancox



We welcomed some new members this month Sheila Chapman, Sandra Barret, Barbara Denyer, Ken Foster, Ronald Martin, Susan Coney, Carole Curphey, Barbara Sculthorpe, and Annona Galliard, and welcomed back Ruth Wrigley who has re-joined.

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Advance Notification of Annual General Meeting (AGM)

The West Cheshire Rural u3a AGM is scheduled to take place on Thursday June 15th. It will be held at the start of the monthly meeting, prior to the Speaker beginning his talk and will commence promptly at 2pm.

Under our constitution, at the AGM we must:

- *Approve the Annual Accounts*
- *Appoint the Auditor for the coming year*
- *Elect Officers or Committee Members for vacant positions*

Kathie Dowson will have completed 3 years as our Chair, plus the additional year that was agreed at last year's AGM, so this year there will need to be election for a new Chair. Kathie is also stepping down from the committee so there is a vacancy on the committee. No other committee elections are required this year.

An email will be sent out in mid-May. Please look out for that email. Any resolutions being proposed by your committee will be circulated at the same time to give Members the chance to examine them and consider responses at the AGM.

Emergency Contact Cards

When members attend meetings or interest group activities, we recommend that they carry details of an emergency contact and, as an option, any information medical professionals need to be aware of.

To this end we are distributing a small card to carry in your wallet or purse, we hope that we never need to access the information but like an insurance policy it's there should the need arise.

For those attending the monthly meeting in May the card can be collected then. For those not at the meeting your card will be available from one of your interest group leaders.

Drawing Group

The Drawing Group has met for the last time before Easter. The subjects chosen for those last three sessions were

- A board game
- A favourite piece of clothing

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- A box of sweets

After Easter we plan to meet outdoors, weather permitting. The dates work round the Watercolour group most of us also go to.

- April 24th
- May 15th
- May 22th
- June 5th
- June 19th

We will be holding an exhibition alongside the Watercolour class at Hargrave on Saturday June 24th as part of Hargrave Happy Days. The exhibition will be in Hargrave Hall and I hope some of you will come to see our work. Carolyn Vickers.

Ukulele Group

Our latest additions to our repertoire is 'Jennifer Juniper' by Donovan. This tested our ability to sing in French! We have some spaces in the ukulele group so if you or a potential new member you know would like to join the group, please contact Ken Wakefield.

Sunday Lunch Group

We went for Sunday lunch in April to the Tattenhall Marina Café. Because of the numerous Bank holiday weekends, the group won't meet in May. In June the plan is to go to the Rowton Poplars on the A41.

Historic Places and Gardens



Despite the inclement weather, the Historic Places and Gardens Group enjoyed a visit to Quarry Bank, Styal, where we explored The Merchant's House, The Mill and did a fascinating tour of The Apprentice House. Thanks to Jim Turpy for the pictures of the machinery inside the mill.

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Poetry Group

We were a small group for our April session but that didn't deter us. The topic was Scottish Poets or Poems led by Jim.

We not only found some interesting Scottish Poets or poems with a Scottish theme but also touched on some Scottish history. I think we all go away from these sessions learning something we didn't know before!!

The poems we read were:

To a Mouse - Robert Burns

Imagination - John Davidson

The Kilt – Pat Batt

The Stags – Kathleen Jamie

Prayer - Carol Ann Duffy

A Dug a Dug – Billy Keys

MacGregor's Gathering – Sir Walter Scott

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The Way We Live - Kathleen Jamie

Flying Scotsman - John Ledingham

My Heart is in the Highlands - Robert Burns

A Man's a Man for a' That - Robert Burns

Requiem – Robert Louis Stevenson

Injuries – Pat Batt

The making of the Flying Scotsman – Simon Armitage

You can hear Simon Armitage read his poem in a Radio 4 clip here on the BBC Sounds website. You will need a BBC login to listen.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/play/p0f55417>

Due to the Bank holiday, we won't meet in May but will have a session both in June and July before we break for the summer. We will need to pay £5 each at the June meeting to cover the room hire for these two sessions.

The topic for June is Structures and Edifices. That could be a poem about a building, a bridge or perhaps a monument, it's up to you how you interpret it.

In July the topic is People or Occupations, again interpret this how you want. It could be a poem about a specific person (real or fictional) or a job or role someone undertakes.

Art Appreciation - Hilary Scarratt



On Saturday 15th April the Art Appreciation Group attended Garden Park for a tour of the sculptures entitled "The Edge of Nature" by a renowned artist, Emma Rodgers. Grant Ford, BBC's Antiques Roadshow expert and Fine Art curator, introduced Emma Rodgers to the audience, along with the Sculpture Garden which is set against the stunning backdrop of the luxury resort.

Emma Rodgers was a prize winner at the V&A whilst still at university and since then has featured in several major international public and private collections including V&A, Saatchi as well as Art Paris, New York and Lineart ,Ghent and Singapore.

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Her works include the iconic Cilla Black statue in Liverpool, the 11m Hornby Liver Bird, as well as being commissioned by Marvel films for the set of Guardians of the Galaxy. She is classed as one of Britain's leading ceramic sculptors using mediums of clay and bronze, pushing them to the edge of their elasticity to create powerful, challenging, delicate, tender, disturbing and yet ethereally beautiful statuary.



Emma carries out a great deal of research of her subject and creates several drawings before producing her works of art. She gave a talk on all her amazing sculptured pieces and explained her thinking behind them. This exhibition is on for a few months if anyone would like to go have a look. Most of the pieces are outside on the front terrace of the hotel. There are a few other smaller pieces inside the hotel.

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April Short Walk

On a bright, sunny, if a little windy morning, twelve of us met up at the Rising Sun in Tarporley. This walk of around 4 miles was expertly led by Dorothy and Jim Turpy. A varied, flat walk followed tracks, country lanes, field paths and included a visit to Portal Golf course, which was quiet.



There were some good views across the surrounding countryside and over towards Derbyshire. Most of us completed the morning with lunch at the Rising Sun. Thanks Dorothy and Jim for a lovely walk.

April Long Walk



The long walk in April, led by Tony and Esme, was a 5.5 mile walk from Rose Farm Shop in Utkinton. 15 of us walked down country lanes and through fields connected by a few stiles. We followed the Sandstone Trail partly, and meandered through Primrose Wood. Lots of good views in different directions, and we ended with lunch at the Farm Cafe. Thanks Tony and Esme.

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Monday Mini Walks



This one missed the last bulletin. Six of us met in Tiverton, walked through Beeston along the A49 and along quiet lanes to the village. More lanes along to the canal and back to the start via the tow path. A beautiful sunny day. We watched barges descending a lock and it was warm enough to sit out for coffee at the Lockgate Cafe.



On another beautiful sunny morning, 5 of us met outside Sheila's house in Chester. We walked about 3 miles to Huntington, and via the Caldley Valley Nature Park down to the Dee. After a short stop there, we returned to our starting point. Sheila treated us to delicious coffee and cake at her house. Lovely morning.

On what started out as a lovely sunny morning 5 of us met up at Walk Mill, open because of the Bank Holiday. We headed in the direction of Stapleford, but turned right before the farm. Following a track then many fields with surprisingly long grass we eventually arrived at the Gowy. The decision was made here to take the shorter path back to the Mill, so after following the path through several more fields we eventually continued along the Gowy back to the Mill. The rain had arrived by this time so we were very happy to seek shelter and refreshments there.



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Our Monday walk on 17th April led by Marjorie started from the Yeld and was a circular walk round the Old Pale, which took us to an area we'd not seen before. We went up to Pale Heights in low cloud and light rain, so no lovely views, then we headed east and did a circuit of Eddisbury hill fort which is actually lower than the Heights and not at all a feature in the landscape until you get to the southern side of it.



A section on the line of the Roman road from Northwich to Chester with a couple of interesting historical features brought us back to the Sandstone Trail and the lane back up the Yeld. About 4 miles.

A big feature of our walks is the coffee stop afterwards, this week it was at Citrus in Kelsall, opposite the Morris Dancer. Marjorie Watson

For the final walk in April six of us met up in Chester and walked a circular route taking in the canal tow path, Hoole Lane, back roads to Hoole Road and the Old drovers route via Flookersbrook back to Chester, around 4 miles. From there we got a bus back to Boughton and had excellent coffee and cake at Sheila and David's house.



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North West Region

Conference and AGM 2023

Quaker Meeting House, School Lane, Liverpool, L1 3BT

July 4th 10.00 – 4.00pm

Who is it for? Anyone who wishes to attend, as well as those voting representatives at the AGM

Programme

10.00	Registration and refreshments
10.55	Welcome
11.00	First discussion group
11.45	Second discussion group
12.30	Lunch <i>Bring your own, visit a local café or book a sandwich lunch for £5.00 payable in advance to the NW region (– see below!)</i>
13.40	Performance by Andrew Wilde, concert pianist
14.30	Refreshment break
15.00	AGM

We hope to finish by 3.45

Discussion groups: Each group will be approx. 40 minutes. Details are on the event page of the NW website. Please select two

- Interest groups –Facilitator: Gill Russell NW Region Acting Chair
 - What The Third Age Trust does. Facilitator: Neil Stevenson, NW Trustee
 - Research and Shared Learning: There are the three topics we'll work on in our 40 minutes together. Details are on the NW website Research page. Facilitator: Maggy Simms – National R & SL co-ordinator.
 - Have you got a 'wartime story'?
 - Is there a family photo that always evokes that time when.....?
 - Has your bank closed its local branch?
- Please register by Monday June 26th.
- Online access code <https://forms.gle/GE8eVTsSrn5XBYpr6>
- Or by post to Gill Russell, 71 Barn Hey Crescent, Meols, Wirral CH47 9RW

Refreshments will be provided at no extra charge.

If you wish to book the sandwich buffet for lunch please pay £5.00pp in advance before June 24th to cover the cost. Please pay by BACs into the NW account:

Acc: 01197002 sort code: 30-90-16 and use NW AGM as reference

Or by cheque payable to NW Region of u3as. Send by post to Gill

The venue is accessible and there is a lift to all floors. It's a short walk from Liverpool Lime Street station and Central station. There is a Q Park in Hanover Street, a few minutes away. There is a discount if you book in advance using the following promocode: QUAKERSLV. Please let me know if you need directions.

For more information please contact Gill on u3anwrchair@gmail.com

NW region of u3as Charity Commission registration no: 115909

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Southport Flower Show August 17th - 20th

Last year Southport u3a created a winning show garden, gaining a Large Gold Medal and a Silver Trophy. After TV appearances and more, the u3a certainly made its mark – Southport Flower Show want us all back!

Two great pieces of information to for **your u3a Group** below:-

1. Discount Tickets for u3a Members is back

Southport Flower Show are offering all u3a Members a discount off their advanced ticket price. Members get tickets for just £19.00 each instead of the £28.00 'at the gate' price. Simply add **SFSU3A** in the Promo code section when you book online at <https://www.southportflowershow.co.uk>

2. Design a Garden Competition

Fancy getting involved with our Design a Garden for the u3a? Design a small 6 x 6 metre garden suitable for u3a Members.

The winner receives the much converted u3a Watering Can Trophy plus two VIP tickets to the 100th Anniversary Southport 1920's Gala Flower Show in 2024. Tickets are worth £240 and include dinner, afternoon tea, meet the celebrities and much, much more.

For information on the Design a Garden Competition please contact Southportu3aflowershow@gmail.com to receive your free entry form.

To enter the competition you will need:-

- A title for your garden with a brief design description.
- The main features, colour palette and any hard landscaping, and why you feel the design is suitable for a u3a Member.
- A drawing of your garden - this does not need to be too detailed, either an overhead design or front view.
- Ideally your garden should be a sustainable and environmentally friendly design.
- Extra points will be given for originality and suitability
- You don't have any budget constraints - so go wild and create

Southport u3a Gardening Group, still exhausted from last year's efforts, won't be building an outside show garden this year but you will find us in the Societies Tent – look for a huge Victorian Gazebo with, (hopefully), a gorgeous but rather more modest garden beneath. We will also be showcasing your fabulous Garden Designs. We look forward to hearing from you and seeing you there in August. Happy gardening!

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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