

West Cheshire Rural u3a Newsletter 1/6/2023



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.

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

June Monthly Meeting

The speaker at the meeting on June 15th at the Barbour Institute is Ken Pye. Ken's talk, **Tales of the River and the Sea** is a wonderful collection of maritime facts and fantasies all centred on the rivers Dee and Mersey, and on the connections that Liverpool and Merseyside have always had with the seven seas and oceans of the world.

This talk is preceded by the AGM which starts at 2pm, please arrive promptly.



**West Cheshire Rural u3a
Meeting on June 15th at 2pm
Barbour Institute, Tattenhall
Speaker: Ken Pye
Tales of the River and the Sea**



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May Meeting

Forty-five members joined us at our May meeting. Kevin Reynolds gave us a truly insightful and informative talk on how our relationship with the wild birds in our garden has changed over the last 150 years. We discovered that Charles Waterton (1782-1865) invented the bird-nesting box and created the world's first wildlife sanctuary at Walton Hall near Wakefield. We were reminded that it wasn't that long ago wild birds were a source of food and were more likely to be eaten rather than fed. Among many other interesting facts, we heard about Etta Lemon's lifelong campaign against the worldwide slaughter of birds for extravagantly feathered hats and the shocking information that over 5 million birds were killed only for their feathers. Etta Lemon's legacy is the RSPB, grown from an all-female pressure group of 1889 with the pledge "Wear No Feathers". Her long battle against "murderous millinery" triumphed with the Plumage Act of 1921.

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
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
November	Stephen Shakeshaft - Chester Uncovered Part 2

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 the 'Monarch Nicknames' quiz are on the website, plus the last quiz until the Autumn, 'Cryptic foods'.

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Welcome to three new members this month, Martine Hutchinson, Sandra Martin, and David Roderick.

Notification of Annual General Meeting (AGM)

This message about the forthcoming West Cheshire Rural u3a Annual General Meeting (AGM) was emailed to all members and is reproduced here. This is in line with the obligations that the committee has under our constitution.

The AGM will take place on Thursday 15th June at 2pm prior to start of the usual monthly meeting.

We have been fortunate that the current committee membership has remained strong through this year and the committee continues to work to support WCRu3a.

The position of Chair becomes vacant this year. Kathie Dowson has served a 3-year term as Chair of WCRu3a plus the additional year that was approved at the AGM in 2022. This is the maximum term allowed under the constitution. After serving on the committee for many years in different roles, Kathie will step down this year.

Committee members serve for a 3-year term. All the other current committee have some of that term remaining and will remain as committee members.

Nominations for the office of Chair and for one committee member can now be made. If any member wishes to put their name forward, please e-mail wcru3asecretary@gmail.com for a nomination form.

Completed nominations forms must be received by 5th June.

If any member wishes to submit a resolution for discussion at the AGM, please contact the secretary as soon as possible, and certainly before 5th June.

Emergency Contact Cards

For those who could not collect your card at the May meeting, we will arrange for your card to be available through interest group leaders.

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Tattenhall Village Show September 3rd



There is a special class in this year's Tattenhall Garden society village show for local organisations. Last year we entered a similar class with a display celebrating our 40th Anniversary. Would any members be interested in helping to put a display together, or have ideas of what would represent us as an organisation? Perhaps something using our strap line, **Learn, Laugh, Live**. The exhibit is not part of the classes that are judged – the winner will be decided by public vote during the afternoon. There are no technical rules for this class but wit, ingenuity and humour are all good ideas.

Ukulele Group

We welcomed Martine Hutchinson to the ukulele group. Martine had dropped by when we were playing a couple of months ago and wasn't put off. We hope you enjoy playing with the group. At our meeting on the 10th May we had three banjolele's players. It was loud!

Sunday Lunch Group

Our Sunday Lunch this month is at the Rowton Poplars on the A41.

Poetry Group

Due to the Bank holiday, we didn'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.

Historic Places and Gardens

The Historic Places and Gardens group had an enjoyable visit to Ness Botanical Gardens in April, enhanced by beautiful weather. After exploring the gardens individually in the morning, the members were given an interesting tour by a knowledgeable guide who talked about the establishment of Ness Gardens and pointed out some of the rare plants and trees there and the stories behind them.



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May Short Walk



The shorter walk on May 11th was led by David and Lynda Bish. It was a circular flat route of 4.5 miles starting from Wirral Country Park Carpark on Lees Lane, Neston. Twelve of us first visited the fairy garden there, then along lanes, tracks, and fields through to Little Neston via Ness where Lady Hamilton was born in Swan Cottage. After walking along the estuary to Old Quay, we went through fields (where we were accompanied by two horses) up

to the Wirral Way which we followed back to the car park. Lunch was at Gordale Garden Centre.

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May Long Walk



Marjorie led the longer walk this month, seven of us doing about seven miles up and down in the Conwy Valley. Starting by the Woollen Mill in Trefriw we passed the Fairy Falls then continued through the sunny woodland full of bluebells and birdsong, to emerge high above the ruins of an old slate works.

We had our picnic lunch beside the tiny isolated ancient church, then descended back to the valley floor via lanes and the impressive double waterfall, the Grey Mare's Tail. A short stretch by the river, then along the track back to Trefriw, where there is a newly opened cafe to replace the one in the mill.



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Monday Mini Walks

Here we are on May 1st walking in the woods by Dukes Drive. Five of us met in Sandy Lane Chester and crossed to the Meadows via the ferry which operates on Bank Holiday Mondays and weekends in the summer at £1 per crossing. We then



went left upstream, and eventually cut across to Eaton Road just above the A55. Then down Dukes Drive where we had our break, back across Eaton Road and downstream by the Dee back to the ferry. To crown it all we had coffee and scones with Sheila and David. Lovely!

On May 8th Sue F, Teresa and Jill defied the very poor weather forecast (which turned out to be wrong) and met in Burwardsley for a walk of about 4 miles including Bulkeley Woods. Fairly quiet considering it was a Bank Holiday. Afterwards we had coffee and a chat at the Pheasant Pub.

Here is our group, in its natural habitat, at a cafe. As you can see, we're at the Station House Cafe in Delamere. Six of us met at the Yeld carpark and walked via Pale Heights and returned through Nettleford Woods. Lovely day!



On Monday 22nd, a lovely late spring morning, five of us met up at King's Gate. We walked around Primrose Wood, onto Tilley Lane, and via Gooseberry Lane up Little Switzerland. About our usual 4 miles. Refreshments at Citrus Cafe in Kelsall. Thanks to Marjorie for leading the walk and taking

the picture.

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North West Region AGM and Election of Trustees

This year there will be elections for the North West Region Trustee. This takes place at the AGM – The notification and details can be found using this link

<https://mailchi.mp/u3a/agm-23-director-trustee-elections?e=12e5cd5e10>

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!

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/>

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	Jill Hughes

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Group	Current Meeting Times	Group leader
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Long walk on 4th Thursday • Other groups on ad-hoc basis 	
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