

West Cheshire Rural u3a Newsletter 1/7/2023



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.

u3a Coffee morning

We are holding a coffee morning on July 6th 10am-12noon. It will be held in the Billiard Room at the Barbour Institute in Tattenhall. Please drop by if you are in Tattenhall that day.

It's an opportunity for all members, old and new, to come along and meet committee members. It's a chance to ask any questions regarding our u3a and how to get the most from your membership. Potential new members are welcome to join us.



West Cheshire Rural u3a
Coffee Morning
10am-12 noon
July 6th
Barbour Institute Tattenhall
All members welcome

July Monthly Meeting

The speaker at our July meeting is Simon Cork with a talk titled 'American Presidents: The Good, The Bad and the Ugly'. This is a light hearted look at some of the more interesting presidents, how they came to power and what was happening in their era. What did they achieve, why did they fail, does history show them to be exceptional, atrocious, or just plain ordinary? The talk also covers the background to how the position of president evolved and its relationship with Congress.

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**West Cheshire Rural u3a
Meeting on July 20th at 2pm
Barbour Institute, Tattenhall
Speaker: Simon Cork
American Presidents, The Good, The
Bad and the Ugly.**



June Meeting

'Fascinating', 'Stimulating', 'Entertaining', 'Enthralling'. These are just some of the words used to describe Part 1 of Ken Pye's talk on "Tales of the River and the Sea". His collection of stories celebrates the strange and curious secrets of Merseyside's history. Among other things, we learned about Mother Redcap's exploits with smugglers and pirates, the buried treasure supposedly hidden in the secret tunnels in Bidston and much, much more. We are all looking forward to hearing Part 2 of Ken's talk in the near future.

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 |
|-----------|---|
| 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>

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AGM Summary Report

This is a summary of the AGM which preceded our meeting in June.

The minutes from last year's AGM were approved. WCRu3a's outgoing Chair, Kathie Dowson reported on the previous year's activities. This year had been a successful one and WCRu3a continues to have a strong membership in terms of numbers and those willing to be involved, whether it be as a committee member, as a group leader or helping with the refreshments at our monthly meeting. Kathie thanks the many members who contribute to the success of our u3a.

Linda Davenport, Treasurer, presented her annual report. The proposed increase in subscriptions from the Third Age Trust was not passed at the AGM, and our rent increases for our meeting venues were below the inflation rate. These elements combined indicate that we are heading into a calmer period, and our projected Core Costs Budget for this financial year is showing a significantly lower potential shortfall than last year at around. £250.00 – a figure which can well be accommodated within our current funding arrangements. The meeting voted unanimously to approve the audited accounts. Members also agreed unanimously to reappoint Carole Cullen as auditor for the 2023/24 accounts.

Marian Hagan was the only nominee for the position of Chair and was confirmed in the role by a show of hands. There is still a vacancy on the committee. We would be pleased to welcome any member who is interested to come along to a committee meeting. The next committee meeting will be on the 3rd July at 10am. Please contact a committee member if you would like to join us.

The AGM ended with a presentation by Marian to Kathie Dowson to mark the tremendous contribution she has made to the success of West Cheshire Rural u3a. Don't worry, Kathie has said she will continue to make the delicious cakes for the monthly meeting!

Quiz Update

The answers to the last quiz 'Cryptic Food' are on the website.
More quizzes coming in the autumn - Jean Hancox



A warm welcome to Elizabeth Chadwick and Michael Miller who have joined WCRu3a this month

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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. We are going to use our strap line, **Learn, Laugh, Live**, as the focus. 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

Ken and Isabel were away for two of our June meetings. We didn't have our normal speaker for the backing track but we managed quite well with Andy's phone and blue tooth speaker. The intros can prove challenging for a lot of the songs but singing through the first few lines has helped.

Poetry Group

The topic for June was Structures and Edifices. It proved a little more difficult than we originally thought but the group, as usual, managed to interpret it in a variety of ways.

Here is a list of the poems that we read.

Walls – Ernestine Northover

The Bridge – Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

Sunday afternoon Service at St Enodoc Church – John Betjeman

Golden Jubilee - Roger McGough

Millom Old Quarry – Norman Nicholson

Flight Radar - Imtiaz Dharker

Composed Upon Westminster Bridge - William Wordsworth

The Shard – Brian Wakeman

The Great Wall – James Bridgewood

A Spellbound Palace (Hampton Court) – Thomas Hardy

Heart of the City – Sarah Maclenan

The Fox in the National Museum of Wales– Robert Minhinick

The Barn – Edmund London

Six O'Clock on Princes Street

Jodrell Bank- Patric Dickenson

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

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Sunday Lunch Group

Our Sunday lunch in June was at the Rowton Poplars on the A41. It was a very good lunch and great value. In July we will visit the Egerton Arms at Broxton. This is under new management and seems to be getting some good reviews.

Walking group.

Thanks go to the u3a walking group members who recently surveyed the number of styles around Tattenhall for a Parish Council initiative which will improve the accessibility of the footpaths. The plan is to replace these styles with kissing gates.

Apparently, there are 70 styles on the village footpaths. The Tattenhall and District Parish Council has now commenced a project to replace these over time.

June Short Walk



We met at Erdigg carpark, and led by Jeanette and Chris, we followed a circular route along tracks, across fields, up a short incline on a lane and through woods. There was also a path, new to me, from behind the cup and saucer, across more meadows which brought us out onto the lane up from the road.

It was about 3.5 miles, on a beautiful sunny day. Afterwards we had our packed lunch sitting at picnic tables by the pond near the entrance. Thanks to our leaders for a lovely day. Jill



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June Long Walk

Eight of the walking group met by the church in Eccleston. Our walk was about 6 miles, following the Dee back to Chester through fields. Without crossing the Dee,



we continued downstream via Handbridge where we saw 2 herons and an egret.

After Nowhere, we walked up the hill by the cemetery, round the edge of Overleigh Roundabout entering Dukes Drive by the impressive gates. Following this woodland track, we eventually emerged onto Eaton Road which we followed back to our start. Lunch was at the Grosvenor Garden Centre.

Monday Mini Walks

The Monday mini group decided to do the 'Visitor thing' and walk all the way round the Walls instead of the usual bit and pieces. Seven of us met in Handbridge to park



then walked along the very low Dee to the Old Handbridge. After walking 3/4 of the way round in a clockwise direction we stopped in the Huxley Cafe, just after the clock at Eastgate. This is one to visit again, small indoor space and outside ice cream kiosk. Lovely cake and coffee, they even brew their own beer! Suitably refreshed, we completed our circuit and walked back across the bridge to our cars.

On June 12th the Monday group decided to take advantage of the newly fully reopened cafe at the Marina by going there for coffee. Parking in Tattenhall, we walked across fields, emerging near the corner on Newton Lane near Ford Farm. There were sheep in one field, and some curious, but placid cows, in another. After walking along part of Ford Lane, then turning left into a track which took us near the Gowy, we climbed the steps to the canal.



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After a short break we followed the canal left to the Marina and into the café for coffee, before walking back up Tattenhall Road to the village.



On the 19th June the Monday group revisited Little Budworth, walking anti-clockwise through the village, across fields and in ancient woodlands, about 3.5 miles of flat walking.

For the Monday walk on the 26th we met at Alyn Waters, and, led by Di had an interesting walk through the woods, passing sculptures, to the visitors' centre where David joined us for coffee, excellent! Our return took us along the river bank.



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Historic Places and Gardens

For the May trip, an enjoyable day was spent at Dunham Massey, observing the deer in the parkland, strolling round the gardens, and exploring and learning about the different phases of the house's history, including a visit to the amazing silver collection.



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Southport Flower Show August 17th - 20th 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• 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 |

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| Group | Current Meeting Times | Group leader |
|--------------------------------------|---|--|
| 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 |