

# West Cheshire Rural u3a Newsletter 1/8/2023



The newsletter is now published monthly on the first of the month. Our email address for contributions is [WCRu3a@hotmail.com](mailto:WCRu3a@hotmail.com) or for membership enquiries contact Dorothy Turpy, our Membership Secretary, at [membershipwcru3a@gmail.com](mailto:membershipwcru3a@gmail.com).

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

## **West Cheshire Rural u3a in August**

There is no monthly meeting in August, but many interest groups will continue – check the website for more information.

The meeting schedule from September includes a talk by a Detective from Cheshire Police on Cybercrime and the second part of the talk by Stephen Shakeshaft, the Chester Tour Guide.

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

## **July meeting**

44 members and 4 potential new members joined us in July when Simon Cork presented us with a light hearted look at some of the more interesting American Presidents. How did they evolve and come to power? What was happening in their era? What did they achieve, or why did they fail and does history show them to be exceptional, atrocious, or just plain ordinary?

## **Committee Vacancy**

We still have a vacancy on the committee – if you would like to find out more about what involved talk to one of the committee members or come along to our meeting on September 4th.

## **Tattenhall Village Show September 3<sup>rd</sup>**

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 40<sup>th</sup>



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Anniversary. We are going to use our strap line ' **Learn, Laugh, Live**' as the focus. Does anyone have some wet Oasis (used in flower arranging) that we could use? We have two small round flower displays to do and another which will be about the size of a tea plate.

## **Ukulele Group**

A good turnout made a great sound for our first meeting of July. We played a new song which will be our warm up song until the end of the year, 'All Shook' up by Elvis Presley. We welcomed Kim back to the group. It was lovely to see her back playing with us.

## **Poetry Group**

We had our last poetry group meeting before the summer break. The topic was People or Occupations. We had wide selection of poems which interpreted the topic in the only way we know how!!

**I can't stand poetry – Jacob Cra**

**I go back to the house for a book – Billy Collins**

**The Teachers Gift – Steve Turner**

**The Diamond Cutter - Elizabeth Jennings**

**Needlework - Alison McVetty**

**The Scarecrow – Walter De La Mare**

**The War Photographer – Carole Ann Duffy**

**Digging – Seamus Heaney**

**Selected Epitaphs and short poems written by Robert Burns**

**Pearls a Singer - Lyrics written by Jerry Leiber, Mike Stoller, Ralph Dino and John Sembello**

**The Village Blacksmith - Henry Wadsworth Longfellow**

**A Teachers Poem - Anon**

**I cannot remember my mother – Rabindranath Tagore**

**Spring Work – Mary Slade**

**The Highwayman – Alfred Noyes**

**The Glory of the Garden – Rudyard Kipling**

**The Babysitters – Sylvia Plath**

**Toads – Philip Larkin**

**Rajpoot Rebels – Sir Alfred Comyn Lyle**

**A letter to his Clock Repairer written by Charles Dickens** ( for those looking for this, its not a poem but a letter Charles wrote to his clock repairer)

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The Poetry Group now takes a break for the Summer and will start up again on September 4<sup>th</sup>. The group meets on the first Monday in the month in the Community Room at St. Alban's Church, Tattenhall, at 2pm. We read our favourite poems which are based on a chosen theme.

The themes when we return are:

**September 4<sup>th</sup> – The colour blue**

**October 2<sup>nd</sup> – Harvest**

**Novembers 6<sup>th</sup> – Fireworks, light and dark**

**December 4<sup>th</sup> - Snow**

## **Sunday Lunch Group**

For our Sunday lunch in July, we visited the Egerton Arms at Broxton. This is under new management, and has been refurbished. It was busy with a nice atmosphere and worth a visit.

In August we are trying another place that has re- opened under new management after being taken over by the Cheshire Pub Company. Previously known as the Shady Oak, this place has reopened as The Shady.

Looking forward, the September lunch will be at the Swan in Tarporley

## **Walking group leader needed.**

Members of the walking groups will have seen this email from Jill Hughes who is standing down as walk group leader. If you are interested in taking over this role or perhaps would share it with someone, please contact Jill.

***After many years leading the group I have decided that the time has come for me to step down. I have really enjoyed the experience, but plan to pass on the job sometime before the end of the year. Please let me know if you are interested, or can nominate someone else, with their permission of course. I'm happy to give any help needed with the transition.***

***Thanks to everyone who has helped me over the years, I couldn't have done it without you, and know that you will continue to support whoever takes over the reins.***

***Jill Hughes***

## **July Short Walk**

The shorter walk in July was led by Sue F, a beautiful walk, and so much information about the church and the well that we visited, thanks Sue. After parking at the

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Bluebell Cafe in Barrowmore, 6 of us were led on a flat circular route of about 5 miles. We walked along quiet country lanes, tracks, and fields to Plemstall Church and St Plegmunds Holy Well. We stopped here for a break after visiting both before continuing our circuit. After the walk most of us stopped at the cafe for a very good lunch.

## July Long Walk



A select 4 met up behind Alison's and drove the scenic route to the Ponderosa Cafe on the Horseshoe Pass. We were guided by Marjorie on a longer walk along paths, tracks and lanes battling against tall bracken at one point. Although it was drizzly rain at the start, as you can see from the picture, it soon dried and we walked through stunning scenery. Well worth the effort, we were even inside a rainbow at one point! Back at the car

we changed out of our boots and headed into the cafe for a late lunch, great day!



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## Monday Mini Walks



On a very wet day we proceeded on our planned walk from the Flacca to Dark Lane, checking on the new kissing gates. All have been done except the one onto the lane at the end which is planned for a later date. We came back along Dark Lane and Burwardsley Road in a record time to dry off and recover at Alison's. Wet feet and legs from long grass and crops, rain from in front on the way there, and back on our return.



On Monday 10<sup>th</sup> we repeated the short walk around Ness led then by David and Lynda Bish.

Meeting in the carpark near the Wirral Way we walked down tracks, quiet lanes, fields and back along the Wirral Way. We were not so lucky with the weather, but no horses joining us this time. We repeated the visit to Gordale for a warm drink at the end.



Four of us met in Burwardsley for a local walk. We revisited Phineus Pheasant on the lane at the side of the pub, then continued into the woods, up the hill to the left and left again and through Peckforton woods where we emerged by the old gatehouse. Cutting short our journey, we then returned to the Pheasant pub for coffee.

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On the 24th July five of us walked in the Wrexham area again, this time in Moss Valley, not far from Alyn Woods.

Again, an old industrial area which has been reclaimed as a recreational facility. We walked two of the trails, through sloped woodlands and open meadows around a stream and lake, passing old quarries. Coffee at Lewis in Farndon, we can recommend their scones and toasted tea cakes!



## Art Appreciation

On the 7th July, eleven members of the Art Appreciation Group enjoyed a beautiful sunny day at the British Ironworks in Shropshire, visiting the Sculpture Park which is the largest centre in the UK for decorative metal works. In the group photo you can see the renowned 'Spoon Gorilla' in the background.



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## Historic Places and Gardens

The Historic Places and Gardens group visited Powis Castle in June. They explored spectacular terraced gardens in full bloom, saw interesting artefacts in the Castle and Clive Museum and viewed the beautiful contemporary quilts of Kaffe Fassett, inspired by Powis Castle itself.

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## **Booking a holiday with Riviera Travel could benefit WCRu3a**

Riviera Travel operate an "Affinity" Charity Scheme with the Third Age Trust that can benefit all u3as. Riviera Travel will donate 10% of the total basic cost of holidays booked by members as a charitable donation back to the u3a. Any holiday booked by a member with Riviera Travel is eligible.



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How it works:

- Make a booking by contacting Riviera Travel directly, simply mention you are a member of u3a and want to claim Affinity Commission for your u3a.
- At the end of your holiday, Riviera Travel make a payment to the Third Age Trust. After deducting a handling fee (10% of the commission sum donated) the Third Age Trust will pass the remaining 90% of the donation on to the relevant u3a.

If booking online, use [www.u3ariviera.co.uk](http://www.u3ariviera.co.uk), it 'tags' u3a in general to the booking and then the Third Age Trust will check which local u3a is to benefit.

## **Southport Flower Show August 17th - 20<sup>th</sup> 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"><li>• Short walk on 2nd Thursday</li></ul>	Jill Hughes

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Group	Current Meeting Times	Group leader
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Long walk on 4th Thursday</li><li>• Other groups on ad-hoc basis</li></ul>	
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 last Tuesday of the month.	Marian Hagan Jill O'Callaghan
Discussion	Alternate Tuesdays in The Barbour	Steven Prince
Art Appreciation	Various visits during the year	Jean Mumford Vanessa Newman