

# West Cheshire Rural u3a Newsletter 1/10/2023



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 items that we could include in the newsletter, email them to [WCRu3a@hotmail.com](mailto:WCRu3a@hotmail.com)

## October monthly meeting

In October the speaker is Rob Toomey who will talk about Copper Mining in North Wales. Rob's talk will recount the history of Welsh copper and encourage listeners to visit the places described. The Barbour is open from 2pm when coffee, tea and delicious homemade cakes will be available.



**West Cheshire Rural u3a  
Meeting on October 19<sup>th</sup> at 2pm  
Barbour Institute, Tattenhall  
Speaker: Rob Toomey  
Copper Mining in North Wales**

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

For those of you on Facebook, you can like and share information about our talks etc from our Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/WCRU3A>

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## September Monthly Meeting

It was a full house to hear Andrew Kevan's presentation on Cyber Fraud. Sixty-one members, one new member, one returning member and five potential new members attended the September meeting – we almost ran out of chairs!! Thanks to Mike Woollard who helped sort out the tables and chairs for us.

We learned so much about online fraud - that e-mails are one of the most common methods used by criminals; how a bogus caller might phone/text, trying imitate a legitimate organisation, urging us to act quickly to provide personal details; that criminals will hack into social media accounts; they may try to persuade you to download software which will allow them to control your computer remotely; they may fake dating accounts with plausible back stories and pictures to request money or items, relying on the victim to be emotionally invested and that online auctions and market places are used by criminals to advertise non-existent items or to obtain details. As Andrew said "If something doesn't look or feel right, it probably isn't". This presentation was delivered in a light-hearted but informative way and cautioned us all to be ever-vigilant in these increasingly threatening times.

The references provided by Andrew about where to find help and assistance are listed below and will be loaded to the website shortly.

1. A great site to help you lock your social media setting is:  
[WWW.INTERNETMATTERS.ORG](http://WWW.INTERNETMATTERS.ORG)  
There is a Social Media section on their page which provides a 'step by step' guide on how set the security setting for each site.
2. If you receive a suspicious text message forward it to **7726**
3. If you receive a suspicious email, forward them to [report@phishing.gov.uk](mailto:report@phishing.gov.uk)
4. You can check to see if your data has been lost by checking your email address or phone number at: <https://haveibeenpwned.com>
5. Protect your online world with good strong passwords. 'Three Random Words' <https://www.ncsc.gov.uk/collection/top-tips-for-staying-secure-online/three-random-words>
6. Use this free password checker to see if your current password is any good  
<https://www.security.org/how-secure-is-my-password>

Always report any suspicious activity online particularly if you are concerned with content your child has seen or if someone has been speaking to your child you do not know. All Social Media Sites contain adult material, so negotiating social media can be difficult for a child.

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Further information and support can be found on:

- <https://www.iwf.org.uk/>
- <https://www.ceop.police.uk/safety-centre/>
- <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/>

## **Registering when you attend the monthly meeting**

***Please can you make sure that you register with the desk when you come to monthly meeting. I know the lure of cake and coffee takes some of you to the kitchen first but it's important that we keep a record of attendance for fire safety regulations amongst other things. Thank you.***

## **Membership**



Three new members this month Mike Smith John and Gill Mann and one re-joiner Myr Whaley which brings our membership to 166.

## **Christmas Lunch**

The u3a Christmas lunch is being planned for Tuesday 19th December. We normally arrange this for the third Thursday in December but that is rather close to Christmas this year so we have decided on the Tuesday. Save the date – more information in the next month.

## **Committee Vacancy**

We have a vacancy on the committee. **If you're thinking "what do the committee members do? How much of my time would it take up?"**

Well, we have a committee meeting once a month and you'll see committee members at the monthly meeting as manning the welcome desk and greeting new members.

It takes a mixture of different talents to make up a good committee and includes those who are good at coming up with ideas, those able to shape those ideas and those good at implementing things and just getting things done.

If you would like to find out more about what is involved talk to one of the committee members or come along to our next committee meeting.

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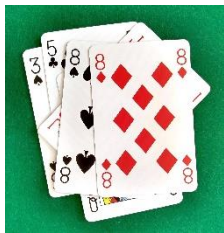
## Charities Commission Registration

West Cheshire Rural u3a operates as a charitable organisation. Once the income of a charitable organisation reaches a certain level it must be registered with the Charities Commission. West Cheshire Rural u3a has reached that threshold. Our application has been successful, thanks very much to the template information provided by the Trust to guide us in how to complete the forms. Now we are registered we can explore the possibilities of claiming gift aid on our membership fees which could generate a small amount of additional money to support the activities of our u3a.

## Quiz update

The answers to the **World cheeses** quiz are on the website plus the new quiz **UK Place Names**.

## Do you play Canasta?



Would you be interested in joining a Canasta group – From what I can see it needs a minimum of 4 interested people to get it off the ground. Please can you let Mike Woollard or Carole Curphey know if you are interested

## Sunday Lunch Group

In September we had lunch at the Swan at Tarporley. Last year the Sunday Lunch group went to the Harvest Festival lunch at Bickerton Village Hall. It was a lovely meal and we will go there again for our Sunday lunch on the 1st October.

## Second Sunday Lunch Group

The current Sunday lunch group is primarily for those who are on their own. We have had a suggestion for a Sunday lunch group which would also include couples. The group would meet mid-month. If you are interested, please speak to Mike Woollard or Marian Hagan.

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

This is our exhibit in the special class in this year's Tattenhall garden society village show for local organisations. Sadly we were the only entry in the class, but at least we got some free publicity!



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## Historic Places and Gardens

In August we made an enjoyable trip to Penrhyn Castle, where the weather brightened up for us to fully appreciate the incredible views of Anglesey, The Great Orme and Snowdonia and the beautiful gardens full of unusual specimens and trees with a fuchsia arch in full bloom.

It was interesting to hear the history of the building dating back to the 15th century which was extended and refurbished to become a neo-Norman castle in the 19th century from the wealth generated by slate mining and Jamaican sugar plantations.

The grandeur of the interior was created to impress, with ornately carved stone and wood work and beautiful stained glass. We were even treated to an impromptu piano performance in The Great Hall.



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Photo taken of the steam engine in The Railway Museum for any train enthusiasts!

## Poetry Group

The theme at the poetry group in September was Blue . We read a mixture of poems, around the colour blue, emotions and even jazz. Brenda Cappaert who has recently joined our u3a joined the poetry group and Mary Medding who was a potential new member joined us too.

The poems we read were:

**Blue Winter- Robert Francis**

**Blue Horses – Mary Oliver**

**He wishes for the cloths from heaven – W B Yeats**

**A slash of Blue – Emily Dickinson**

**Extract from The Great Lover – Rupert Brooke**

**Blue Roses – Wangchat Konyak**

**Blue Roses – Rudyard Kipling**

**Kingfisher – Robert McFarland**

**The Blue Flannel Suit – Ted Hughes**

**The Blues - Billy Collins**

**A Perfect Shade of Blue - Gainor Ventresco**

**Feeling Blue – Susan Williams**

**Love in a Mist – Algernon Charles Swinburn**

**Uxor Vivamus – Dick Davies**

**On the Road to Mandalay - Rudyard Kipling**

**Bluebells- Robert McFarland**

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**Funeral Blues – W H Auden**

**Wait – Galway Kinell**

**Wildflowers – Uilie Kaye**

**Blue Skies - Irving Berlin**

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 theme for October is the harvest.

## The Future of the Walking Group

The walking group is one of the most popular of all the interest groups, but is in danger of closing.

Jill Hughes who has led it for some time is stepping down at the end of the year and we need to find a replacement or replacements. Jill has shared with the group suggestions on how running the group in future might work out.

As Jill has said there is absolutely no need to continue in the same way as now.

All that is needed is that someone ensures that there will be a walk leader for each outing. The leader on the day could be responsible for organising details such as refreshments and travel arrangements.

The job could be taken on for a fixed term, i.e. 3 years or even 1 year. The job could be shared between several people, perhaps one doing the short walks and one the longer walks, the possibilities are endless.

If using Beacon is the deal breaker, then Anne Bayliss has kindly offered to do that part of the job. Having said that, Beacon is not onerous and you will be given training and support.

It will be up to the new group leader to choose how they proceed. It would be very sad if the group closes at the end of the year. The future of the group is in the hands of the members.



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## Short Walk September

Sue M and Gill F led the short walk this month. 8 of us met in Tiverton and walked down country lanes, tracks, fields, and the canal path on a flat circular walk of about 4 miles. We headed first to Birch Heath, then Wharton's lock on the canal along the muddy towpath before ending up in the Lockgate Café which is under new management. We can recommend the excellent food and service. Even the weather was kind to us.



## Long Walk September



On Thursday 28th September, 11 of us had a walk led by Carole S and Carole H in Parkgate. About 4 miles along tracks and paths, flat and mud free! There were no stiles or animals, just good company, with some lovely views of the estuary and over the golf course. Afterwards most of us had fish and chips in Parkgate.

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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.

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.

## 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><li>• Long walk on 4th Thursday</li><li>• Other groups on ad-hoc basis</li></ul> | Jill Hughes     |

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| <b>Group</b>                         | <b>Current Meeting Times</b>  | <b>Group leader</b>                       |
|--------------------------------------|---|---|
| <b>Drawing Group</b>                 | <b>Fortnightly meeting in Hargrave Village Hall</b>   | <b>Carolyn Vickers</b>                    |
| <b>Dining</b>                        | <b>Dining Group1 fourth Friday of the Month<br/>Dining Group2 second Wednesday of the month</b> | <b>Hazel George<br/>Marian Hagan</b>      |
| <b>Mah-jong for Beginners</b>        | <b>2nd &amp; 4th Fridays at 10.30am community room St Albans</b>                                | <b>Linda Davenport &amp; Pauline Bell</b> |
| <b>Music Appreciation</b>            | <b>First Thursday of the month in the community room at St Albans</b>                           | <b>David Thomson</b>                      |
| <b>Historic Places &amp; Gardens</b> | <b>Monthly last Tuesday of the month.</b>   | <b>Marian Hagan<br/>Jill O'Callaghan</b>  |
| <b>Discussion</b>                    | <b>Alternate Tuesdays in The Barbour</b>  | <b>Steven Prince</b>                      |
| <b>Art Appreciation</b>              | <b>Various visits during the year</b>   | <b>Jean Mumford<br/>Vanessa Newman</b>    |