

West Cheshire Rural u3a Newsletter 1/11/2023



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 items that we could include in the newsletter, email them to WCRu3a@hotmail.com

November Meeting

At our meeting on November 16th Stephen Shakeshaft, a renowned Chester tour guide, returns for the second part of his talk 'Chester uncovered'.

Join us at the Barbour Institute Tattenhall from 2pm with the speaker slot starting at 2.30 pm.



**West Cheshire Rural u3a
November 16th at 2pm
Barbour Institute, Tattenhall
Speaker: Stephen Shakeshaft
Chester Uncovered Part 11**

October Monthly Meeting

Forty-three members and two visitors joined our meeting in October when Rob Toomey, a local historian gave a very interesting talk about copper mining in Wales. Around 4000 years ago, miners began to exploit copper ores from sites in central and northern Wales, including the Great Orme at Llandudno, at Parys Mountain in Anglesey and at Greenfield on the North Wales coast.

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Early mining was done by tunnelling underground to extract the copper. Thomas Williams, one of the leading 18th-century industrialists, later used open cast methods and he soon established a Welsh monopoly on the world supply of copper metal.

There was also extensive smelting of copper in South Wales in the Swansea valley which at its peak had some 200 furnaces in production. For a time, this area produced over half of the world's total output of smelted copper. Such was the importance of this industry that Swansea became known as 'Copperopolis'.

Today in North Wales you can visit the Sygun copper mine located in the Snowdonia National Park just outside Beddgelert and the Greenfield Valley Heritage Park near Holywell.

Speaker Schedule

Month	Speaker
December	No Meeting/Christmas Lunch
January	Simon Michale - My Life in Crime
February	David Mitchell - For Crying Out Loud

Christmas Lunch

The u3a Christmas lunch has been arranged for Tuesday 19th December at 12.30pm. We will be going to Cheshire View, Plough Lane Christleton, CH3 7PT. The Christmas menu is shown below.

The cost will be £21.50 for one course, £26 for two courses, and £30 for three courses. Coffee and tea will also be available for an additional £2. This price includes a contribution towards the room hire charge.

If you would like to reserve a place, please contact Isabel Wakefield either by phone 07947513715 or email isarecreation@btinternet.com

Confirmed places, menu choices and payment in full must be made before 9th December.

In the unlikely event that you are unable to attend, regrettably we will be unable to refund your payment.

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u3a Podcasts

The u3a radio podcast, set up in 2020, showcases the amazing things happening across the movement. It's created by a team of u3a members who all have radio experience and features interviews with members, interest group leaders, Trustees, National Volunteers, and Subject Advisers.

The entire series is available to listen to on the u3a YouTube channel, and since January 2022, has also been available to listen to on podcasting platforms including Spotify, Google Podcasts and Apple Podcasts.

The team are always looking for more stories – please get in touch if you'd like to contribute. The latest podcast is also available on the u3awebsite at:

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<https://www.u3a.org.uk/news/u3a-radio-podcast>

u3a Festival 2024

The University of York will play host to u3a's first ever festival next year – a chance for members from across the UK to gather and share the joy of the movement. u3a festival 24, which takes place 18 – 20th July 2024, will include a wide range of activities, talks, workshops, exhibitions, sports tournaments and concerts that will showcase the vibrancy of u3a.

For more information see the u3a website at

<https://www.u3a.org.uk/latest-news/u3a-to-host-its-first-ever-festival>

Quiz update

The answers to the UK place names quiz is available on the website. The new quiz is Initial letters.

Potential new groups



Would you be interested in joining a **Canasta group**? We need two more members to get this off the ground.

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.

Two more suggestions for potential new groups are **Beginners Calligraphy**, and **Quilting**, both with members willing to lead.

If you are interested in any of these groups, please contact Marian Hagan marianainslie@hotmail.com or by phone 07810195299 or 01829 250303.

Sunday Lunch Group

In October the group went to the Harvest Festival lunch at Bickerton Village Hall. Thanks to Elaine for organising this. November's venue is The Stamford Bridge and for our Christmas meal in December the venue is the Alvanley Arms at Cotebrook.

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Poetry Group

The group meets on the first Monday in the month in the Community Room at St. Alban's Church, Tattenhall, at 2pm. Member read their favourite poems which are based on a chosen theme. In October the theme was Harvest. These are the poems that were read.

Harvest Moon – Ann Foster

September -Christine Wheeler

Mowing – Alison Uttley

The Harvest - M.L.Kaiser

The Harvest Moon – Ted Hughes

The Harvest Moon – H.W.Longfellow

To Autumn – John Keats

The Harvest Bow – Seamus H9999eaney

**The Humble Petition of the Bruar Water to the Noble Duke of Atholl –
Robert Burns**

Blackberry Picking – Seamus Heaney

How Did the Leaves Come Down – Susan Coolidge

Harvest Moon Love – Laura Sanders

Tea Harvested for Tibet – Andre Migot

Thanksgiving – unknown

The topic for November is Fireworks – Light and Dark

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Beginners Ukulele – 29th November

Ken is planning a beginners ukulele session in Farndon – contact Ken via the u3a website ukulele page.



Ukulele Beginners class – Memorial Hall Farndon



Weds 29th November 10:30 – 12:00

We are having a get together as above. Come and learn this popular beginners instrument and open a new fun chapter in your life.

This is aimed at Absolute Beginners and therefore initially :-

- No instrument needed.
- No previous experience necessary.
- You do not need to read music.
- You just need the interest and enthusiasm to have a go !

Please go to our ukulele group webpage to read more and click the mail icon on that page to register your interest.

Historic Places and Gardens



In September, an enjoyable visit was made to Dudmaston Hall, a family home, lived in by the Hamilton-Russell family for over 875 years. A complete contrast to the grandeur of Penrhyn Castle, this house is lived in by the family when the Hall is closed to the public and has a comfortable feel to many rooms. It houses an important private collection of Modern Art with works by Hepworth, Moore and Matisse, a beautiful Botanical

Art collection and outdoor sculptures by Anthony Twentyman and Anthony Robinson. Some members enjoyed an interesting guided tour of the gardens too, with beautiful views of the extensive parkland.

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Short Walk October



The group visited Whixhall Moss near Whitchurch for September's short walk led by Anne B. The walk along the History Trail, started from the Roundthorn Bridge. It was 3 miles long and flat, but was a bit boggy in places after the recent rain!

It is an area of Special Scientific Interest and a European Specialist Area of Conservation. The area was also a WW2 Strategic Starfish site set up to simulate a burning town to confuse German bombers. There are walk leaflets which are in boxes on the route, and the site is maintained by Natural England.



<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/shropshires-national-nature-reserves/shropshires-national-nature-reserves>

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October Long Walk

This October long walk, led by Iain and Catherine was around Erdigg Hall. 8 of us met in a car park close to Pulstone Fellin and walked up towards the Hall. Despite the recent heavy rain, we escaped the worst of the mud, with only a few interesting encounters with it! We walked across fields, along tracks and country lanes on a very mild Autumn morning for just under 6 miles. Most of us went to Bellis's for lunch.

Thanks Iain and Catherine for an enjoyable outing.

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 **unless we find a way of running the group it will close.**

We are proposing to trial running the group for 2024 in a slightly different way, or until we find a permanent leader. Volunteers will still lead each walk – the leader for each walk will do a similar role to what they do now, but with a little added co-ordination activity (this is one of the things currently done by Jill).

If everyone can lead one walk during the year it won't be an onerous task for anyone and the group can continue.

Walk Leaders Responsibilities

If you choose to lead a walk you would be responsible for

- doing the walk recce in advance
- providing the description of the walk (Is it hilly? Are there stiles on the route etc)
- organising a coffee or lunch stop at the end of the walk (optional)
- collecting the email responses of those who want to go on the walk (currently members email Jill who co-ordinates the numbers)
- make sure that there are car shares so that everyone can get to the start of the walk. This has been easy as there are usually more than enough people willing to meet at Alisons and drive.

Cancelling a walk

- If the walk leader cannot do their walk at short notice – we would cancel the walk by email or perhaps a WhatsApp message if it is on the day. (Only one walk was cancelled this year due to adverse weather).
- If the walk leader wants to change their planned walk date – they should try to find someone else to swap with. There will be a list of dates and walk leaders on the website so you can see who is doing which walk each month. If no one can swap with you, then the walk may need to be cancelled

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Admin

Anne Bayliss will send out the walk details which have been provided by the leader for that month's walks using Beacon.

Members who want to go on the walk will reply to the walk leader.

If a walk must be cancelled at short notice the leader should contact Anne Bayliss who will send out a Beacon Email.

U3a Trust AGM

The Trust's AGM took place on the 18th October. It was very different from last year, two and a half hours in length instead of six and with much less contentious resolutions which led to a much smoother process.

Two resolutions were proposed by members. The first detailed below and proposed by Hastings and Rother u3a and seconded by Hailsham and District u3a was not passed.

Now that the u3a has in excess of 1000 u3a's, with the South East Region representing around 20% of the National figure, we request that the organisational review of the Third Age Trust is mandated to consider a mechanism to give greater status and input to smaller networks/clusters.

The Second proposed by Royston u3a and seconded by Tring u3a was passed.

This Annual General Meeting calls on the Third Age Trust to:

- 1. Adopt as a key strategic priority an increase in national u3a membership to at least 500,000 by the end of 2028*
- 2. Implement regular and substantial national promotional activities that enable this goal to be achieved*
- 3. To report on the implementation and impact of promotional activities at Board meetings and in Annual Reports*

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Tattenhall Garden Society

Tattenhall Gardening Society's next talk will be given by Mike Porter of the National Garden Scheme on Wed 8th November in the Barbour Institute.

TATTENHALL GARDENING SOCIETY

£67 million

That's how much the National Garden Scheme has donated to health & gardening charities, with £3.11 million in 2022 alone.

But what makes a NGS garden? Find out at the TGS talk by Mike Porter on Wednesday 8 November, 7.30pm* Barbour Institute, High Street, Tattenhall.

Members free; £3 everyone else. Pay on door.

*Please note earlier start time

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. It 'tags' u3a in general to the booking and then the Third Age Trust will check which local u3a is to benefit.

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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 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