



West Cheshire Rural u3a Newsletter 1/2/2024



February Monthly Meeting

The regular midday proclamation is a Chester tradition and one not to be missed. Chester is the only place in Britain to have retained this tradition of regular midday proclamations at a fixed place and time.

At our meeting on February 15th David Mitchell, will give us a light hearted look at some of the funny experiences from his time as Chester Town Crier.

 <p>West Cheshire Rural u3a presents</p> <p>“FOR CRYING OUT LOUD!” A light-hearted talk from Chester town crier, David Mitchell.</p> <p>15th February 2024 Doors at 2pm Barbour Institute, Tattenhall</p>	
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Januaries Meeting

Fifty-eight members, one new member and two visitors joined us in January when we were treated to a highly entertaining talk by Simon Michael, a barrister who has drawn on his experiences in court to write several best-selling crime novels. Mr Michael was both amusing and erudite, as he told us of his rise from the east end of London to becoming a barrister in Middle Temple, one of the four Inns of Court in the city. His talk was peppered with fascinating facts about the Middle Temple itself, his

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confrontations with the notorious Kray twins and the dreadful racism he experienced in his first chambers, where he was called, amongst other things, a 'Jew Boy' and was the victim of those more senior barristers, who refused to let him take their 'returned' cases because of his less-than-privileged background. Simon Michael's talk was very amusing and enlightening, particularly about police corruption and politicians' bad behaviour. The audience was left wanting more...

Some members purchased one of Simon's books. Mike Woollard suggested that those who had purchased them might like to swap with another member. If you have a book and would like to swap when you have read it, can I suggest you contact Mike.

New Members

Welcome to new members joining West Cheshire Rural u3a, Chris Morris, Jonathon Falcus, Keith Flowers, Roy Cardus, Royan Anthony, Mary Whelan and Chris Collins. Tony Hagan has also re-joined. Our membership stands currently at a very healthy 180.

Vote of Thanks – Monthly Meeting, can you help?

At the end of the monthly meeting, we give a vote of thanks to the speaker. This is a short "thank you" on behalf of the members and has been given largely by Committee Members. We would like to extend this role to any member who would like to be involved. There could be a monthly topic that is of particular interest to you or it may be something you feel inspired by. Please will you speak to Marian if you would like to help with this.

Speaker Schedule

Month	Speaker
March	Christine Stockton – The Story of Flamenco
April	Caroline Eames - Forensic Science, Fact or Fiction

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u3a Diaries - update

In December's Bulletin, the Committee asked for your views about the decision not to offer u3a diaries (2024) for sale. Thank you to those members who took time to give feedback. This was discussed at the January Committee meeting.

Aware that some members were disappointed at our not selling diaries for 2024, but also taking into account our responsibility not to buy diaries that we cannot subsequently sell, the Committee will contact members next Autumn to find out how many of you would like to buy a u3a diary (we will have some idea of the price).

Based on the results, we will decide if this is financially viable. We will, of course, let you know in good time.

u3a Brand Centre – Personal shopping

To clarify the Treasurer's note in the previous article, individual u3a members (or Supporters) **can** set up a personal shopping account with the u3a Brand Centre as long as you agree to be responsible for any purchases you make. There is no set-up fee. Go to <https://u3abrand.org.uk>. Click on **Register** and follow the instructions.

Quiz update

The answers to the **Dingbats** quiz are on the website. The next quiz '**Before the euro**' is also available.

Potential new groups

The second Sunday lunch group is up and running. Marian has organised the first lunch but is hoping someone will come forward to run the group.

Beginners Calligraphy is on hold for now. **Quilting** has a number of interested members and an initial meeting has been arranged. The **Canasta** Group will also start shortly.

Another possible new group is **Learning about Artificial intelligence (AI)**. The u3a have recently appointed a subject adviser for AI. This would be a small group to investigate AI and try to understand what it's all about – where is it being used now?

Sunday Lunch Group

In January we had planned to meet at the Cheshire Cat. Over that weekend the area of Christleton/Rowton suffered some major power cuts and the area was operating on generators. The one covering the area of the Cheshire Cat failed on the Sunday morning and as they had no power, the lunch was cancelled. We have rebooked for February so fingers crossed we are ok this time.

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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. Members read their favourite poems which are based on a chosen theme.

There are a lot of Monday Bank Holidays. Rather than move to a different day which can prove difficult both in terms of people being free on a different day and the room being free, we will have fewer meetings for the first half of the year:

January	No meeting, Bank holiday
5th February	The topic will be Relationships
4th March	The topic will be Occasions/Celebrations
April	No meeting, Bank holiday
May	No meeting, Bank holiday
3rd June	The topic will be Moods
July	The topic will be Humour/Comedy

Ukulele

The beginners Ukulele group has held its first meetings this month and we have welcomed several new u3a members. On their second meeting on the 24th January, as well as working on the practice sheet and how to strum, they played two new songs, Wild Rover and You are my Sunshine, two songs with different rhythms. Its amazing how with the ukulele you can quickly learn to play.

Short Walk January - Jill Hughes

Our first walk of the Year was led by Jill from the Yeld car park at Delamere Forest.



This was a much-loved walk of Jill's, but it was new to a couple of the group. We welcomed Sandie and Audrey for their first walk with us.

Mainly through the forest, with a couple of hilly places but minimal mud, we had a fine day for our 3.5-mile walk. Halfway round we stopped off at the Visitor Centre for refreshments,

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many succumbing to the selection of cakes on offer. Looking forward to our next walk already!

January Longer Walk

We had a full turn out for a circular walk through the grounds and estate at Hawarden Castle. The weather was dry and relatively warm. The path led us through mainly forested land onto the Old Warren Road in Broughton where there is an excellent view of Beeston Castle and back through the estate to Hawarden. The Glynne estate passed through marriage to W.E Gladstone in the 19th Century. At the end of the walk we went to the Gladstone Cafe in St Deniols library for lunch. Gladstone had established the library so that all people could access books. The library is still fully operational and worth a visit in itself.



The Walking Group in 2024

The new arrangement for the walks seems to have worked well in January. Thank you for your help in making it work.

The **walking schedule dates** and walk leaders can be found on the walking group page on the West Cheshire Rural u3a website. We still have some slots available so if you haven't already signed up and would like to lead a walk, these are the current free dates.

The fourth Thursday is usually a longer walk. However, if you can't do one of the free long walk dates, it is ok to do a short walk.

May 23 Longer walk

June 13th Short Walk

August 8th Short Walk

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October 24th - Longer walk

November 28th Longer Walk

Several members of the walking group don't live in Tattenhall, so a walk leader may meet you at the walk start and will not be at Alisons to make sure everyone is there before the cars leave.

Please make sure that the walk leader knows if you need a lift and haven't pre-arranged anything and make sure you are at Alisons promptly. We don't want people to be left behind.

If you want to join the walk, please respond to the walk leaders email given in the walk details. If you just hit reply by mistake and respond to Anne, she will forward your email to the walk leader and copy you in so that you can then contact each other.

If you want to do a write up of your walk for this bulletin then email it to Anne. If there are any other things we need to tweak, let us know.

Newsletter Contributions

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

D Day Landings – a talk at the Grosvenor Museum

One of our members Paul Heffer has passed on some information about a talk on Saturday February 24 at the Grosvenor Museum in Chester about the D-Day landings. The talk has been organised by Camsoc (a group of Cambridge graduates) and it is open to non-members. If any members are interested, here are the programme details:

10.30 am Doors open. Tea or Coffee will be provided in the lecture theatre.

11.15 -12.45 (approx.) Talk

Cost per person for talk and pre-talk coffee £7.50.

Please pay on the door.

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Access and Parking The museum has access for mobility impaired people and a disabled lavatory. There is parking at the castle car park. Contact on the day: Caroline Lloyd 07812 014911.

Cambridge Society of Cheshire and North Wales

THE D DAY LANDINGS



An illustrated talk on the D Day Landings given by amateur military enthusiast, Alan Robinson, who has led many battlefield visits and is an entertaining speaker, much in demand.

July 2024 will see the eightieth anniversary of the D Day landings in Normandy by Anglo-American forces. The landings were not an end in themselves but were the first step in establishing the forces of the Western Allies on the North European plain which leads eventually into the heartland of Germany. As such, the landings marked the beginning of the end of Nazi Germany.

For Britain, the landings marked a reversal in the fortunes of war which saw the British army ejected from mainland Europe in the Spring of 1940. For many Britons living at the time, D Day was to become an iconic day. It was a day long remembered. Many had played a role in preparing for the landings and many had taken part in the landings. Although the landings were successful and casualties were mercifully light, there was considerable trepidation beforehand amongst leaders and in the military hierarchy that the landings would result in a bloodbath and be a failure. That the landings were successful was due in large measure to the planning and the preparations made. The talk will discuss the planning and preparations that took place and give an account of the airborne and amphibious landings which took place.

Venue and Date

The lecture theatre, Grosvenor Museum, Grosvenor Street, Chester
Saturday 24th February 2024




UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE
ALUMNI
CHESHIRE AND NORTH WALES

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Defibrillator at the Barbour Institute

A new defibrillator has been installed at the Barbour. It would be useful to know if any of our members who attend meetings in Tattenhall have done the defibrillator training or have experience in using one.



The image shows a yellow and green defibrillator unit. The front panel is green and features the word 'DEFIBRILLATOR' at the top. Below it, there are instructions: 'TO OPEN IN AN EMERGENCY: 1. CALL 999 or 112, 2. KEEP CALM & FOLLOW INSTRUCTIONS, 3. TELL THE CALL OPERATOR YOU ARE AT LOCATION: [address], 4. STAY ON THE LINE FOR FURTHER GUIDANCE'. There is also a 'FirstRescue' logo and a 'SAFELY' button. To the right of the defibrillator is a logo for 'THE BARBOUR INSTITUTE' with a drawing of a building. Below the logo is contact information: 'High Street, Tattenhall, Chester, CH3 9PX', 'Telephone: 01829 771649', 'email: info@barbourinstitute.com', and 'www.barbourinstitute.com'. There are also social media icons for Instagram and Facebook. At the bottom right, there is a logo for 'TATTENHALL FIRST RESPONDERS' with the tagline 'The Heart of the Community' and a 'North West' logo.

To all Tattenhallers,

To celebrate the installation of the life-saving defibrillator now in situ outside the Barbour Institute we are thrilled to be working with Tattenhall First Responders to offer Defibrillator Training at the Barbour.

Some info re the re training –

- It will last approx. 2 hours, in the Billiard room at the Barbour
- Numbers are limited to 12, with 3 additional First Responders

It is free of charge, however if you wish to make a donation each time we will donate all proceeds to a local charity or cause and inform you of the chosen charity

Whether we host regular or ad hoc session we endeavour to meet demand.

Get in touch if you are interested, by emailing info@barbourinstitute.com or if you have any questions.

“As someone who has had to use one recently, I urge as many people to get trained on it as possible, It’s easy to use and it can save a life” SF, Tattenhall

Tattenhall Garden Society are inviting u3a members to join their talk in February. Gardening products containing peat can no longer be sold to domestic users in the UK. Unfortunately, there is no doubt that the new mixes available do not perform in the same way as the multipurpose mixes we've all become used to. This talk is aimed at helping us to adapt to using peat-free products and getting the best out of them. Anton has worked with Garden Organic for more than 15 years. His work has ranged from projects with commercial field-scale growers to small-scale community gardens and allotments. He has worked as a grower, runs many citizen

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science projects and training courses, and regularly writes for Grow Your Own and Kitchen Garden magazine. He has a passion for soils, composting and growing veg from a wide range of cultures and horizons so if you have any queries about peat-free growing, he's your man!

If any of members would like to join this meeting, please email tattenhallgdnsoc@gmail.com by Weds 7 February and they will send payment details. **The meeting cost is £3 for non-members.** This should allow enough time for us to email out the Zoom link.



TATTENHALL GARDENING SOCIETY

PEAT FREE GROWING

A Zoom talk by Anton Rosenfeld (Garden Organic)
7.45pm 14 Feb 2024.

What better way to spend Valentine's Day!

TGS members - free
Non-members £3.00.

Email (by 7 Feb) to tattenhallgdnsoc@gmail.com
for details on how to pay

West Cheshire Rural u3a Interest Groups

All Group Leaders can be contacted using the mail icon on the relevant group page on the website

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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