

West Cheshire Rural u3a Newsletter 1/4/2024



April Monthly Meeting

The speaker at our April meeting is Caroline Eames with a talk on Forensic Science 'Fact or Fiction'. This promises to be a very interesting talk on a fascinating subject. Caroline Eames' experience spans over 30 years from starting as a forensic scientist with the Home Office to a role as Senior Forensic Reporting Scientist with Cellmark Forensic Services.

The poster features the u3a logo in the top left corner. The text is centered and reads: 'West Cheshire Rural u3a presents Forensic Science, Fact or Fiction? Talk by Caroline Eames 18th April 2024 Doors at 2pm Barbour Institute, Tattenhall'. To the right of the text is an illustration of a blue and black microscope. The poster is framed by a blue border with small blue and yellow geometric shapes at the corners.

March Meeting

Another excellent turn out for our March meeting. 54 members and 3 potential new members enjoyed a highly entertaining talk by Christine Stockton. Christine detailed a comprehensive history of the five stages of the growth of Flamenco in Spain, which started in Andalusia around 710. Originally ruled by the Islamic Moors, Christianity and Judaism were also tolerated. However, from the 9th century Spain was gradually re-conquered by the Christians, Granada being the last of the Moorish kingdoms to

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fall. Expulsion of Jews and Moors followed; those who didn't want to leave went to live with the gypsies. Around this time, following Christopher Columbus' discovery of the Americas, slave-trading began and many people of African heritage also escaped to join gypsy groups. Christine gave detailed information on the growth of Flamenco from the Cante Jondo, through Siquiriya, Solea, Tangos, Fandangos and Ida y Vuelta (the more familiar dances involving fans and shawls). In addition to the fascinating slide-show, Christine herself showcased many of the dances with lively dramatic demonstrations. Her enthusiasm for her subject was boundless and highly entertaining. A great show!

Speaker Schedule

Month	Speaker
May	Stapeley Grange and the Wildlife Centre will give a talk on the work of the centre
June	Simon Micheal -The second part of Simons talk about his life as a Barrister

An update on u3a websites

As many of you will know, the u3a is moving around 700 websites from the current SiteBuilder platform to the new SiteWorks platform. This is no small job.

The website is our shop window to the world for prospective members and our source of communication and information to existing members. The new website will give us the opportunity to present ourselves in a much better way.

We have just started our switching process and are learning how it works in preparation for the change. Further information to group leaders and webpage editors will be given soon and you will all be made aware when the change will happen.

Around 50 sites have already made the switch, and 50 more have started which includes us.

If you are interested to see the difference, here is a link to allow you to view some of the sites that have already made the change. Each site is individual and you can see that some do far more than others. It's our choice what we will do with our site.

<https://siteworks.u3a.org.uk/current/live-sites/>

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U3A Membership Renewal 2024/25 and Gift Aid update

All members should now have received an email with information about the membership renewal process for 2024. Thank you to those who have already renewed.

Our u3a will be participating in the Gift Aid Scheme which allows charities like ours to claim 25p for every £1.00 donation we receive. Information about gift aid has been included in the membership renewal email. To participate in Gift Aid, a member must be a UK tax payer.

If you are still to renew your membership, please check the renewal email which contains all the information you need.

Information about Gift Aid can be found on our website at <https://u3asites.org.uk/files/w/west-cheshire/docs/giftaid.pdf>

Quiz update

The answers to the Killer Ditloids quiz are on the website. The quiz for April is Cryptic Trees and Shrubs.

New Interest Groups

Beginners Calligraphy

We have found someone who will help get our Calligraphy group started. Sue Robertson who lives in Waverton is an accomplished calligrapher.

We need to meet up as a group and agree a way forward:

- **What do members want to get out of the group?**
- **Where should we meet?** The Burley Hall in Waverton has a room with very good light and therefore very useful for this type of activity. The hall also has a good carpark.
- **How frequently should the group meet?** a 2hr session on the 1st and third Thursday in the month starting 2nd May?
- **What would it cost?** The cost of the room hire would be divided between the members who attend and members would pay in advance for a block of classes.
- **What equipment is needed?** Members would also need a startup pack including pens, ink and paper.(Sue has said she can look at this and put a starter pack together).

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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? We need a couple more people to get this off the ground.

A couple of things on this subject that might interest anyone

- The Royal Institute Christmas Lectures are available on the BBC iPlayer. Just search for ***The Royal Institute Christmas Lectures***.
- There is currently a series on BBC Radio 4 at 4pm on a Monday called The Artificial Human. The series will also be available on BBC Sounds, the radio catch up service.

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:

April	No meeting, Bank holiday
May	No meeting, Bank holiday
3rd June	The topic will be Moods
July	The topic will be Humour/Comedy

We welcomed Rajan and Saro to the group in March The theme for our session was Celebration and Occasions and again we had a wide variation of poems. These are the ones we read

An Ode - Francis Anne Kemble

Walking away - Cecil Day Lewis

Ulysees - Alfred, Lord Tennyson

Christmas – John Betjeman

Home Thoughts from Abroad – Robert Browning

How they Brought the Good News from Ghent to Aix - Robert Browning

A Baby is Born – Anon

Maggie and Millie and Molly and May – E.E. Cummings

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The Ballard of the Totems - Kath Walker

Mr Midas Carol Ann Duffy

Ordinary Days and Occasions – Scarlett Treat

Evening by the Seaside – Francis Kemble

**To his Son Vincent Corbet on his Birthday Nov 10th 1630 being then 3
Years Old – Richard Corbett**

Little Grey Rabbits Birthday – Alison Uttley

On Peace - John Keats

When you are Old – W.B.Yeats

On my 75 Birthday – Tom Quilty

A poem by Miheala Pirjol

More - Brian Bendall

Occasional Poem - Jacqueline Woodson

The Crown - Carol Ann Duffy

A Birthday – Christina Rossetti

Spring from the Song of Solomon

After the Lunch – Wendy Cope

They Tuck you up -Adrian Mitchell

Introduction to Poetry – Billy Collins

A Celebration - Anna Akhmatova

Sunday Lunch Group

Gill F and Sue M organised the lunch on March 3rd at Panama Hatty's. Thank you.
Colin has volunteered to organise the April lunch when the group will go to the
Pant-yr-Ochain on 7th April.

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March Short Walk Led by Dorothy and Jim

Twelve members joined a leisurely short walk on 14th March, around Blakemere Moss, Delamere Forest. It was an (almost!) dry but overcast day and the going was good underfoot as we were on Forestry Commission tracks.



It was good to hear the cacophony of the water birds as we walked near the lake.

We enjoyed lunch afterwards at Abbeywood Café – always a good meal.

March Longer Walk – led by Ian and Catherine

The walk on the 28th March was led by Iain and Catherine McIntosh

The circular walk centered on Waun Llyan Country Park (Hope Mountain). It included breathtaking views, industrial heritage, and peaceful countryside. After the walk Lunch was at Fouzi's Cafe Bar Pizzeria.

The Walking Group in 2024

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.

May 23 - Longer walk

June 13th - Short Walk

August 8th - Short Walk

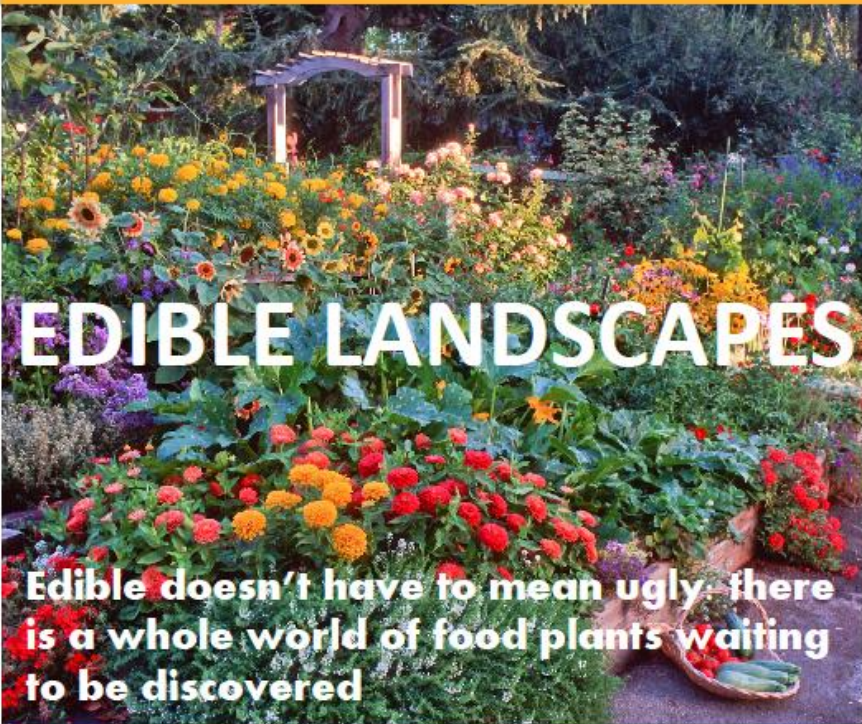
October 24th - Longer walk

November 28th - Longer Walk

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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 on that day. A short walk is better than no walk at all.

Tattenhall Garden Society



TATTENHALL GARDENING SOCIETY

EDIBLE LANDSCAPES

Edible doesn't have to mean ugly. there is a whole world of food plants waiting to be discovered

A talk by Richard Smedley, Weds 10 April 7.45pm
in the Barbour Institute, High Street, Tattenhall.

Members, free; anyone else, £3 pay on door.
Refreshments included.

Queries? Email tattenhallgdnsoc@gmail.com

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North West Region - Dates for your diary

Big Sing Liverpool: Saturday June 15th

By popular request, we will hold another Big Sing led once again by Fredrik Holt. Details are being finalised and will be on the NW website very soon with booking details.

North West Regional Conference/AGM: Tuesday July 2nd

The NW region Conference and AGM will be held on July 2nd in Liverpool. The morning conference will involve some short workshops. In the afternoon we will be entertained by Fools Gold members. Details will be on the North West Regional website in due course.

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 membershipwcru3a@gmail.com

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

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North West Region of U3As

u3a
North West Region

Registered Charity No: 1159091

invite applications for the 2024 Summer School

**Residential Summer School Tues 13th August – Friday 16th August
At University of Cumbria, Fusehill St Campus, Carlisle, CA1 2HH**

An opportunity to learn in the inspiring setting of historical Carlisle



The Fusehill St campus is located in the centre of Carlisle and less than 15 minutes' walk from Carlisle Railway Station. The campus has modern facilities, student en-suite rooms with Wi-Fi access. A large room is available for meeting and socialising. There will be a quiz on the first evening and a "Gala Dinner" on the third and final evening.

Full Board Residential Delegate; £420. (+£10 car parking charge if applicable; +£25 field trips (2 off) surcharge for archaeology, and £15 field trip surcharge for British artists courses) We include full board for 3 nights, including dinner on 13th August, breakfast, lunch and dinner on 14th August, breakfast, lunch and gala dinner on 15th August, and breakfast on 16th August. Also, tea and coffee refreshments on each day.

Non-Residential Day Delegate: £210 (+parking and field trip surcharge if applicable) includes lunches, teas and coffees, excludes breakfast daily and dinner on Tuesday and Wednesday but does include the gala dinner on 15th August. Accommodation is available nearby in the Carlisle city centre.

An Application form (available online at north west site) must be completed by post or email, Payment can be either by bank transfer (North West Region of U3A's, Lloyds Bank sort code 30-90-16, account 00197002 quoting name and post code) or by cheque (payable to North West Region of U3A's)

DO NOT SEND PAYMENT UNTIL YOUR APPLICATION IS CONFIRMED (SEE BOOKING NOTE 8)

queries should be directed to Alan Hough on 07544 359125 or

alanhough1949@gmail.com

Post to 8 Salwick Close, Wigan, Gtr Manchester. WN3 6RE

The 7 courses on offer are:-

Archaeology: "Archaeological sites in Cumbria"; Art Challenges: "Working in the style of..."; Literature: "North by North west"; Art: "British artists: Hogarth to Hockney"; Genealogy; Ukulele for Improvers and Japanese Encounter.

Full course synopses available separately (and on north west site).

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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
Page turners	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 fourth Tuesday of the month.	Marian Hagan Jill O'Callaghan
Discussion	Alternate Tuesdays in The Barbour	Steven Prince

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Group	Current Meeting Times	Group leader
Art Appreciation	Various visits during the year	Jean Mumford Vanessa Newman
Sunday Dining 2	Third Sunday of the month	Marian Hagan
Canasta	Alternate Tuesdays	Carole Curphy
Quilting	Fortnightly Huxley Village Hall	Donna Eaton