

West Cheshire Rural u3a Newsletter 1/03/2026



The newsletter is published monthly on the first of the month. The email address for contributions to the newsletter or to the Facebook page is WCRu3a@hotmail.com. Please email contributions by the 25th of the month. For membership enquiries contact Niki Wheller, our Membership Secretary, at membershipwcru3a@gmail.com

Check out our website, Facebook page, and monthly bulletin for the latest updates and events.

If you are a Facebook user please “like” our posts if you can – it helps to expand our contents reach and spread the word about what we do,

[West Cheshire Rural u3a Website](#) [WCRu3a Facebook Page](#)

March Monthly Meeting

A blue-bordered poster for an event. At the top left is the u3a logo. Below it, the text reads 'West Cheshire Rural u3a presents'. A yellow box contains the title 'Cuthbert the Bad & The Trial Of The Lancashire Witches'. Below this, it says 'A talk by Dr Colin Penny', 'Thursday 19th March 2026', 'Doors at 2pm', and 'Barbour Institute, Tattenhall'. On the right side of the poster is a black and white illustration of a man in a hat and a woman in a long dress, with a dog in the background. There are blue triangles in the top right and bottom left corners, and a yellow semi-circle in the bottom right corner.

On March 19th the speaker is Dr Colin Penny with his talk “Cuthbert the Bad and the Lancashire Witches”. The trials of the Lancashire Witches that took place at Lancaster Castle in 1612 are amongst the most famous and infamous in English History. The talk will reveal the real instigator of the trials and his motive.

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

February Monthly Meeting

Once again, we enjoyed an hour of amusement as we listened to funny anecdotes and shared experiences with many laugh-out-loud moments. Martin Gaffney spent 32 years with a major police force and had lots to tell us of those years where he experienced every aspect of human life - some serious - but every story containing humour/human nature " A time to laugh, a time to cry, a time to live and a time to die"

New Members We welcomed 4 new members this month - Nigel Emery, Catherine Holley, Anthony Holley and Alison Ludden.

What does the u3a mean to you.

The Third Age Trust is inviting u3a members to take part in a national u3a survey that explores what u3a means to them and how being part of u3a has impacted their lives.

This survey is open to all u3a members so please take a moment to complete the survey. It is a great opportunity for members to share their experiences and support their u3a to thrive into the future. The feedback will be used to grow membership, demonstrate the impact of u3a and raise our profile. To thank members for their time, they will be entered in a John Lewis £100 prize draw. The survey closes on 31st March.

You can sign into the survey on the following link:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/u3a-me>

Drawing Group

The drawing group has met four times so far this "term" We have been working on using shading to give our drawings a 3D effect. We did two exercises from the book "Drawing on the right side of the brain".

1. copying a set picture only using adding the dark areas and rubbing out the highlights on paper already shaded with graphite.
2. negative spaces – drawing the outlines without details and shading in the negative spaces to reveal the object.

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Our last project was drawing a flower looking into the centre.

We have two more sessions in March before we break for Easter. Dates after the break will be decided in conjunction with another art group who meet there on the alternate Mondays to our group. *Carolyn Vickers*

Canasta Group



Our Canasta group would like some new members with a view to further expansion so that we could play multiple games. There are many options of games to play, we just need more people. Please come and join us. *Ken Wakefield.*

Short Walk February

February saw 13 members of the walking group step out for the short walk which took a circular route of about 4 miles in and around Chester. We started at the Grosvenor Hotel in the town centre and then walked along the city walls, the canal, the River Dee promenade trail and around the perimeter of the Roodee.



We saw parts of Chester some of us hadn't seen before. We had time for a coffee stop at Snugburys on the river before heading back into the city for lunch in the Market Hall. Given the very wet start to the year, we managed to stay dry throughout. *Lorraine Hodgkinson.*

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Sheila led the long walk in February. We had a very enjoyable walk from Eccleston and through the meadows to the Groves in Chester where we enjoyed refreshments in Sunbury's. Our return journey took us around the back of Handbridge, up the Dukes Drive and back to Eccleston. Unfortunately, our usual photographer was on holiday so no photographs this time.

Walk leaders for 2026

I think this list is up to date. Please help us to fill up the available slots so that walks can go ahead.

Short Walk Leader		Long Walk Leaders	
Mar	Dorothy T	Mar	Ian Mc
Apr	Phillip J	Apr	Lisa & Ian W
May	Anne B	May	David & Lynda B
June	Esme & Jill	June	Marjorie
July	Lisa & Ian W	July	
Aug		Aug	Graham E
Sept	Gill F & Sue	Sept	Carol S & Carol B
Oct	David & Lynda B	Oct	
Nov		Nov	
Dec			

West Cheshire Rural u3a Interest Groups

You can join as many groups as you have got time for. If the group you want is not there, why not get one started? There is a lot of help available.

Some groups are limited in size by their resources, for example the Reading Groups, but if there is demand we can start another group.

Group	Current Meeting Times	Group leader
Solving Cryptic Crosswords	Alternate Mondays at 2pm	Mike Woollard
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 Room Tattenhall	Linda Davenport

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Group	Current Meeting Times	Group leader
Ukulele Players	Alternate Wednesdays at 10.30 am in Farndon	Ken Wakefield
Ukulele Improvers	Alternate Wednesdays at 10.30 am in Farndon	Royan Anthony
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	Anne Bayliss
Drawing Group	Fortnightly meeting in Hargrave Village Hall	Carolyn Vickers
Dining	Dining Group 2 second Wednesday of the month	Marian Hagan
Mah-jong for Beginners	2nd & 4th Fridays at 10.30am community room St Albans	Linda Davenport
Music Appreciation	First Thursday of the month in the community room at St Albans	Marian Hagan Colin Bate
Historic Places & Gardens	Fourth 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
Sunday Lunch	First Sunday of the Month	Elaine Dunham
Sunday Dining 2	Third Sunday of the month	Marian Hagan
Canasta	2 nd and 4 th Tuesday in the month	Carole Curphy
Sewing And Quilting	Every three weeks Huxley Village Hall	Donna Eaton
Calligraphy	Twice monthly on a Thursday	Anne Bayliss
Bird Watching	Third Wednesday of the month	Niki Wheller
Concert Goers	As arranged	Anne Bayliss
Knitting and Crochet	Weekly 10:30 am-12:00 pm at Applegate's on the A41	Helen Weaver