

West Cheshire Rural u3a Newsletter 1/05/2026



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 26th 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](#)

May Monthly Meeting

A promotional poster for a talk. On the left, the u3a logo is at the top, followed by 'West Cheshire Rural u3a presents' and a yellow box containing the title 'A Betrayal of Heroes'. Below this, it says 'A talk by David Ebsworth', 'Thursday 21st May 2026', 'Doors at 2pm', and 'Barbour Institute, Tattenhall'. On the right is a book cover for 'A Betrayal of Heroes' by David Ebsworth, featuring a silhouette of a man in a hat and a car with a 'NO PASARAN' sign.

On May 21st 2026, author David Ebsworth tells the stranger than fiction stories behind his recent novel, “A Betrayal of Heroes”, set in Casablanca and Brazzaville during the Second World War. Join us at the Barbour Institute Tattenhall from 2pm with the speaker slot starting at 2.30 pm.

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April Monthly Meeting

70 members joined us for the April meeting with our speaker Richard Westwood-Brookes, a u3a members from Ludlow. Richard has spent 30 years in the auction business as an expert in the field of autographs and historical documents. His talk was filled with anecdotes of the items he handled and the people he met during that time - sometimes remarkable, sometimes astonishing, sometimes heartwarming and sometimes downright hilarious. He talked about a Dalek signed by every member of the Dr Who team, meeting 'Jesus Christ' and the Kray twins. Richard's entertaining talk left us enriched and enlightened.

Notice of West Cheshire Rural u3a AGM

The West Cheshire Rural u3a AGM will take place on Thursday June 18th, 2026. The AGM will be held at the start of the monthly meeting, prior to the speaker beginning the talk.

Under our constitution members elect a committee that consist of 3 officers, Chair, Treasurer and Secretary and up to 7 committee members. Officers or Committee Members within West Cheshire Rural u3a are elected at the AGM.

In 2026 none of the committee members or officers are up for re-election.

We have one committee vacancy.

u3a

Committee members needed

- ❖ We have a vacancy on our u3a committee
- ❖ Could you be involved as a committee member to help run our u3a
- ❖ Committee members help with:
 - ❖ the day-to-day activities to keep the u3a running
 - ❖ to ensure the u3a exists for the benefit all our members
- ❖ Nomination forms are available from Anne B

Closing date for nominations is 6th June 2026. Nomination forms are available from the Secretary – email wcru3asecretary@gmail.com or will be available at the May Monthly meeting.

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Membership Renewals – Timetable

Membership renewals are due 1/5/2026. If you are planning to renew and have not yet done so, please follow the information provided in the recent email from Niki Wheller.

If you are not renewing your membership this year, please email Niki to let her know. We can remove you from our members renewal list and we won't send you any more reminders. It will save time and you won't get unwanted reminders.

Tabletop Games Afternoon

West Cheshire Rural U3A members enjoyed a successful games afternoon in April, with around twenty members coming together for a relaxed and sociable few hours at the Barbour institute in Tattenhall.

The session hosted the existing Canasta and Mah-Jong interest groups. In addition, members tried their hand at Scrabble and Rummikub.

The Scrabble and Rummikub players were keen to continue to meet alongside the Canasta group so another games afternoon was held on the 28th with all 3 games- Canasta, Scrabble and Rummikub well attended. This is great news as we are confident the 3-game format will be sustainable.

We still have plenty of opportunity for additional members to join any of these games, plus cribbage, backgammon and others. The next session, free to members is from 2-4.30 on 12th May, and new attendees will be welcome. Please advise Mike if you plan to attend.

Concertgoers

The autumn programme for the Liverpool Philharmonic will be released mid-May. We are hoping to arrange another concert trip in September. Keep an eye out for the email.

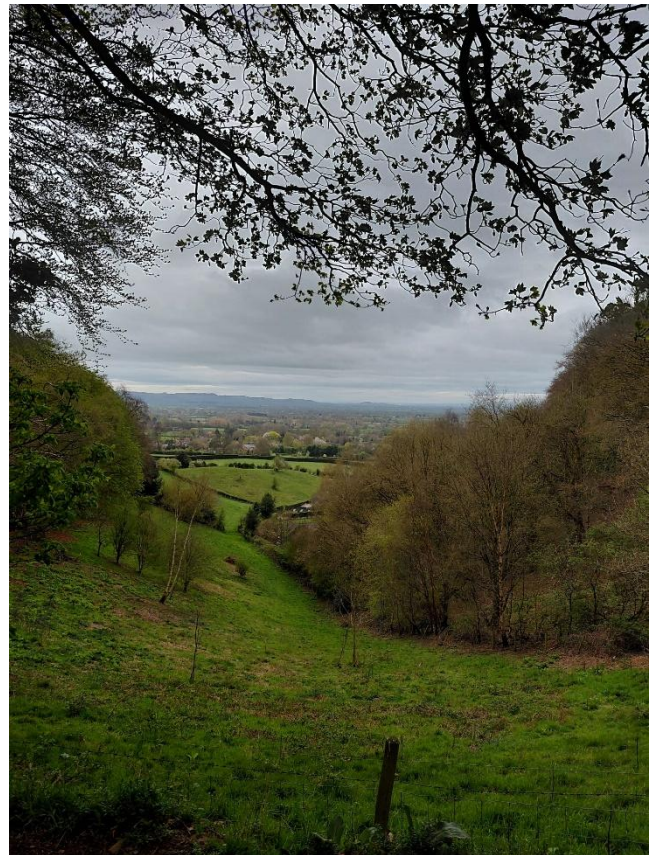
Discussion Group

There was a lot to talk about this month in the Discussion Group, as you can imagine! Trump, Mandelson, NHS, the King's visit, shoplifting and how to combat it, all came up and no mention of the Archers!

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Short Walk in March led by Phillip

The short walk in April around Kelsall was led by Phillip. The weather was overcast but the rain stayed off. For those familiar with the area, we did a loop from the Morris Dancer around Kelsall taking in an area called Little Switzerland where the photo was taken.



Long walk led by Ian and Lisa

We had a very enjoyable long walk (5,5miles) led by Ian and Lisa. We began at Horseshoe Falls car park, crossing the river Dee via the Chain bridge in Llangollen and walking alongside the river on tracks and lanes, past woods full of Spring flowers, sheep grazing and beautiful views. The weather was perfect, warm and sunny with a gentle breeze, dry underfoot. There were 7 walkers, 5 of us climbed the steep incline to be rewarded with a magnificent view. Two of us took the opportunity to rest. We enjoyed a nice lunch at the Chainbridge hotel.

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Reporting Accidents or Incidents

In the light of a recent issue on a walk I thought it would be useful to direct you to the policy documents on the website. Below is the extract from the u3a Health and Safety policy that can be accessed along with other relevant policies here

[Documents and Policies - West Cheshire Rural](#)

Responding to accidents/incidents and dealing with emergencies

In the event of an incident/accident the Chair and vice-Chair of West Cheshire Rural u3a should be informed as soon as appropriate. Where a u3a member is involved in an accident or incident whilst taking part in a u3a event West Cheshire Rural u3a will ensure those who witnessed the event and were involved complete an incident report. This must be completed and shared with those who need to have access to it, including the Committee Chair and kept on file. It will also need to be shared with the insurers in the event of an insurance claim.

Walk leaders for 2026

A quick reminder to walk leaders, can you make sure you confirm a walk place to members by email. Emails can be a bit unpredictable at times, and it just confirms you have received their email, and it hasn't gone missing in the ether.

Short Walk Leader		Long Walk Leaders	
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	Hilton and Pat	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.

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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 7.30pm	Barbara Garner
Pageturners	The third Friday in the month 11.00am in St Albans Community Room Tattenhall	Linda Davenport
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 Group2 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

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Group	Current Meeting Times	Group leader
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