

West Cheshire Rural u3a Newsletter 1/07/2026



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](#)

July Monthly Meeting

On July 16th the Speaker at West Cheshire Rural u3a monthly meeting is vet Peter Duncalfe. “A Vet’s Life” provides a look at Peter Duncalfe’s farm vet work and delves into some of the issues farm vets and the industry currently face.



West Cheshire Rural u3a
presents

A Vet’s Life

A talk by Peter Duncalfe

Thursday 16th July 2026
Doors at 2pm
Barbour Institute, Tattenhall



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June Monthly Meeting

Dr David Mottram gave us an interesting and informative talk about the complexities involved in providing medical services for the Olympic Games. The sheer numbers of people they cater for are mind-boggling. Athletes, support staff, volunteers and the spectators all need to be included. There were many questions from the floor following his talk, many about dope-testing. Dr Mottram was a mine of information and his slides about the Olympic Games in Rio were extremely interesting.

The number of members attending the June monthly meeting were noticeably lower than recent sessions. There was a TOFS outing scheduled on the same day, so for many it was diary clash. It is a shame that both happen on the same day but hopefully it won't be every month.

New members

This month we welcome Paul Green, Chris Hackett, Allan Gregory, Ilene Hoyle, Christopher McEwan and Mike Rodgers to West Cheshire Rural u3a

West Cheshire Rural u3a AGM

The West Cheshire Rural u3a AGM took place on Thursday June 18th, 2026. The AGM was held at the start of the monthly meeting prior to the speaker beginning the talk. Mike Woollard our Chair reported on the activities in our u3a during the year which is included below for you to read.

John Mann Treasurer provided a summary of the financial position and copies of the certified accounts for 2025/6 were available for approval. WCRu3a is in a good financial position with a healthy bank balance. There was a question from the floor on whether we should spend some of the money on activities etc for members. The financial position has enabled the u3a to retain membership fees at the same level for quite a few years, enables us to fund excellent speakers for our meetings and we are always looking for new things to introduce. If you have any suggestions please talk to a committee member. The one stipulation is that the money must be spent on something that is open to all members.

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West Cheshire Rural u3a Chairman's report - June 2026

2025/26 has proved a successful year for West Cheshire Rural u3a. As at the AGM last year we had 199 members and at the start of our new financial year we have 228 and others joining regularly, usually at the monthly meetings.

Thanks to a vibrant committee and excellent Interest Group Leaders, we now have 24 thriving activities to the benefit of our membership.

We have benefitted from a selection of excellent monthly talks in the Barbour Institute and must commend Jill and Jenny for the consistent high standard and variety of the speakers and content.

Two new groups have been introduced - Crochet and Knitting in October (thanks to Helen Weaver) with 10 members, and Board Games afternoons at the Barbour Institute - including the already successful Canasta group (thanks to Carole and Ken). There are now 35 members interested, many of whom attend regularly.

Other groups formed in recent years are thriving;

Jan 2023 - Historic Houses (Marian and Jill) - over 50 members registered.

Jan 2025 - Birdwatching (Niki) - 28 members.

Jan 2025 - Concert Goers (Anne) - 73 members

Jan 2024 - Sewing and quilting (Donna) - 13 members.

It would be remiss of me not to mention the 2 Ukulele groups (Ken and Royan) - 35 members, and the 50 members registered with the 2 Walking groups. In addition, we have other thriving existing groups, offering a variety of interests for all tastes.

The common theme in all our groups is the passion and commitment demonstrated by our Interest Group Leaders, for which many thanks to all, but we have to accept that from time to time some leaders will decide that it's time to pass the baton over to others, and we do appreciate members being willing to take over to ensure continuity, as Marian and Colin have demonstrated with the Music Appreciation group after David's many years of driving it.

Similarly, John Mann has taken over as Treasurer from Linda, and we could not have wished for a more committed and astute addition to the committee, very ably supported by Gill.

The role of Chairman is not too demanding, I am happy to say, especially when he has an outstanding Secretary, which Anne undoubtedly is. You should all be aware of much of the work that she does - Bulletin, multiple groups leader, Concert Goers coordinator, heartbeat of the committee, but she also does so much more behind the scenes.

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Ken also updates the website, and I would urge members to view the pages regularly as they are very informative, and Isabel coordinates the Christmas meal annually.

Thanks to Hilary for her many years commitment to u3a, and ongoing management of the Beacon system, as well as being secretary of the northwest network of u3a groups. We recently attended a network meeting at Congleton, which proved very interesting and useful in the ongoing running of our group.

We are very lucky to have such wonderful venues for our activities, and hopefully they will continue to host us and thrive.

Finally, we have to thank former chair Kathie for the wonderful cakes, and her team of Sue and Linda for keeping us fed and watered at monthly meetings. We are well aware that these are an equal attraction to the talks for many members, not least me!

Regards

Board Games Group at the Barbour

The board games group meets on the second and fourth Tuesday of the month starting at 2pm in the billiard room at the Barbour Institute in Tattenhall.

There will be a small charge of £4 per session to cover the cost of the room, payable on the day.

Boccia

We are exploring the possibility of setting up a Boccia group. Boccia is a fun and inclusive ball game, similar to Boules, that can be enjoyed by people of all ages and abilities.

The aim of the game is to throw red or blue leather balls as close as possible to a white target ball, known as the jack. Players compete over a number of ends – four in singles and pairs games, or six in team games.

Boccia can be played indoors and is suitable for both seated and standing players, making it an activity that is open and accessible to everyone.

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Short Walk led by Esme & Jill

For the short walk on 11th June 15 members led by Esme and Jill met at the car park behind Alison's café. The route went through the churchyard and took the Chester Road past the school, then followed a path across fields to Brook Hall and from there to Manor Farm, where stopped for coffee.



Because of the persistent rain some walkers decided to take the same route back, but in the opposite direction, to Alison's for lunch while others continued along Gatesheath road to Gatesheath and Bishop Bennet's Way to reach Russia Hall, Frog Lane and thence to Tattenhall. A very enjoyable walk in spite of the rain.

Long walks led by Marjorie

Slight change of plan for the second walk in June because of the heat, we walked about four miles and felt that was quite enough.

We met as planned at Whixall marina and enjoyed a leisurely visit to the cafe with a refreshing breeze off the water. We then walked beside the canal and towards the woodland on Bettisfield Moss, keeping to the shade, then ambled around the shady paths listening to the birdsong and spotting butterflies and damselflies. We accidentally reached the small car park at World's End, with its helpful information board, then strolled back to the marina for the usual excellent lunch.

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Walk Leaders

Short Walk Leader			Long Walk Leaders	
July	Lisa & Ian W		July	Marjorie
Aug			Aug	Graham E
Sept	Gill F & Sue		Sept	Carol S & Carol B
Oct	David & Lynda B		Oct	
Nov	Hilton and Pat		Nov	
Dec	Sheila			

Contacting Committee members or Group Leaders by email

Did you know that if you want to contact a u3a Group Leader or a u3a Committee Member, it's easy to do so through the West Cheshire Rural u3a website? You don't need to know the person's email address; the Website handles all that for you.

Committee Members can be contacted via the Contact page on the website. From the Contact page simply click on the name of the person you wish to contact, complete the message form that appears and the website will take care of the rest by sending your email directly to them.

If you would like to contact a Group Leader, visit the relevant group page and click on the link next to "Group Email". This is in the information details at the top of every group page. Enter your message in to the message form, click the "Send Email" button and the website will do the rest, delivering your message directly to the Group Leader.

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This is not a u3a event but may be of interest to some of our members.



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 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:	Anne Bayliss

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Group	Current Meeting Times	Group leader
	• Short walk on 2nd Thursday • Long walk on 4th Thursday Other groups on ad-hoc basis	
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