

# West Cheshire Rural u3a Newsletter 1/08/2026



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](mailto:WCRu3a@hotmail.com)

**Please email contributions by the 26<sup>th</sup> of the month.** For membership enquiries contact Niki Wheller, our Membership Secretary, at [membershipwcru3a@gmail.com](mailto: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](#)

## **August Activities**

Just a reminder that there is no monthly meeting in August. Some groups such as drawing, calligraphy and poetry, have a break, whilst ukulele moves to the Barbour Institute during August as the Farndon Memorial Hall is closed. Check out the website for details of what your group is doing.

## **July Monthly Meeting**

The speaker at West Cheshire Rural u3a monthly meeting in July was vet Peter Duncalfe. Peter is a farm vet working mainly with dairy farmers in Cheshire. His talk gave an interesting look at the way the role of a farm vet has changed. Whilst the job is still focused on the care of sick animals, it has evolved to working more with the farmers and other professionals to proactively manage, maintain and improve their herds. The talk was very well received and generated a great deal of questions at the end.

## **Concert Goers**

Tickets have been reserved for the concert at the Liverpool Philharmonic on February 25<sup>th</sup>. As at 1<sup>st</sup> August there are 5 seats left so if you want to go, please contact me.

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The programme for the evening is

- Gideon Klein Partita for Strings
- Haydn Trumpet Concerto
- Mahler Symphony No.1

The concert features the amazing Pacho Flores, the trumpet player who performed in a recent concert.

## **Any one for a Quiz?**

We all know how important it is, as we grow older, to keep active. Exercise, be it a daily walk or visits to the gym are essential for our health and well-being. Whilst it's good to keep as physically fit as we can, it's also important to keep the brain active and a quiz does just that...and it's fun! Would you be interested in a u3a quiz group?

Here are a few questions you can try out just for fun – no googling the answers!!!

1. Flora was the Roman Goddess of what?
2. What does S stand for in NASCAR?
3. The Iron age came after which age?
4. Entomophobia is the fear of what?
5. Emerald is the birthstone of which month?
6. Aglet is the name of which part of a shoe?
7. Orson Welles' radio broadcast of what show caused Americans to panic in 1938?
8. What country in the world has the longest coastline?
9. What is the only mammal with wings?
10. Which ring in Archery is worth more points, red or blue?

## **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. If you have an interesting game, bring it along. This month one table tried a game called Karuba.

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## Ukulele Group

🎵 What a fantastic morning of music! 🎵

Our Ukulele Players and Improvers groups joined forces this month with singers from our u3a, along with some wonderful visiting singers from Holt Community Choir, for an uplifting and thoroughly enjoyable session in Farndon.

Below is a link to one of the videos on YouTube. There was plenty more music, laughter and singing!

[WCru3a ukulele group](#)



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## Drawing Group

The drawing group has now finished for a summer break. We start again on September 14th in Hargrave Hall for six sessions on alternate Mondays 2.00 – 4.00pm.

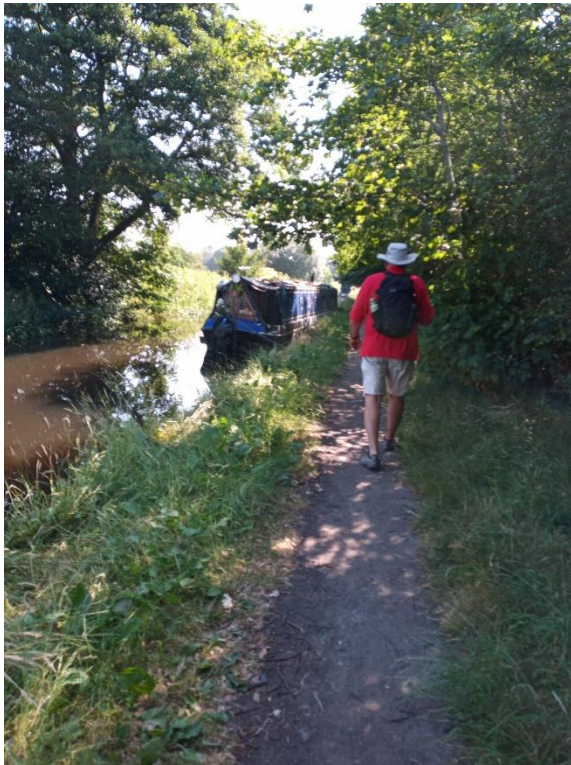


We took part in the exhibition for Hargrave Happy Day with the watercolour group who meet there on the other Mondays (not a U3A group). This year we exhibited two large works rather than individual pieces. One was the drawing of the Millennium Gate to the church section and then put together which each of us had done to make the whole; the other was a collage of drawings demonstrating the subjects we had drawn in the previous year.

The hall is large and bright so plenty of space for more people to join us. No skill needed, if you can hold a pencil, you can draw! We do not have a teacher but are happy to share what we have learnt; we also have a number of books/art magazines to help that you can borrow or keep. Carolyn

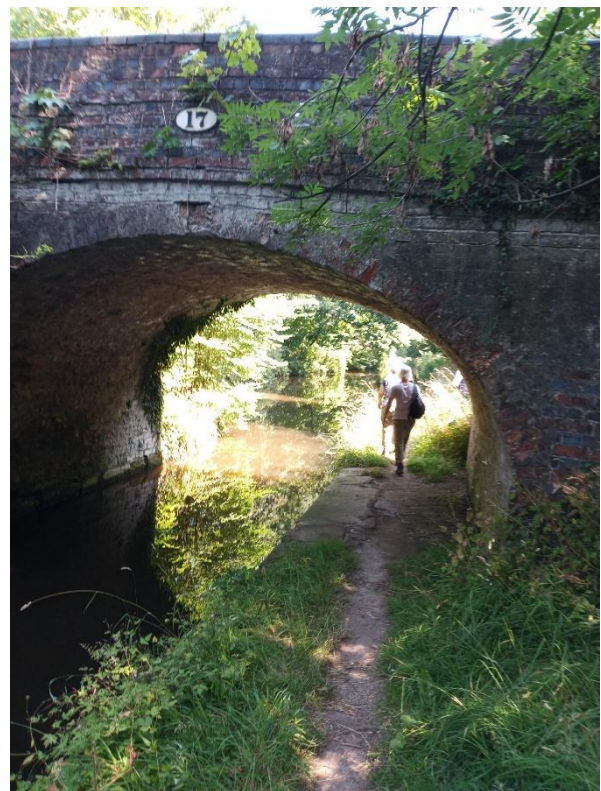


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## Short Walk led by Lisa and Ian

Despite the very hot and sunny weather there were 7 of us on a 4-mile circular walk around Wrenbury beginning and ending at the Dusty Miller pub. The first part of the walk along the canal was well shaded and led us to Aston village which is very pretty. Whilst looking at one of the oldest houses, we spotted a coffee shop and decided to break the walk with a refreshing drink. We continued through fields and lanes back into Wrenbury and walked a short distance again on the canal. A nice easy walk for a hot day. We then had a lovely lunch at the Dusty Miller, fanning ourselves with the menus!



## Longer walk

Marjorie led the longer walk this month to the Fenns and Whixall Mosses.

Cooler weather meant that we were able to explore more of the area around the Llangollen canal. We enjoyed seeing the boats passing by, and the lift bridges being



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opened, then we went on to the open expanse of Whixall Moss, following tracks past various points of interest. Back along the Prees branch to the marina cafe for lunch, having walked about 6.5 miles. Marjorie



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## Walk Leaders

| Short Walk Leader |                 | Long Walk Leaders |                   |
|-------------------|-----------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Aug               | TBC             | Aug               | Graham E          |
| Sept              | Gill F & Sue    | Sept              | Carol S & Carol B |
| Oct               | David & Lynda B | Oct               |                   |
| Nov               | Hilton and Pat  | Nov               |                   |
| Dec               | Sheila          |                   |                   |

## 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.

## Line Dancing – Would You Be Interested?

We have been approached by an experienced line dancing teacher to see whether West Cheshire Rural u3a members would be interested in giving line dancing a try.

Depending on the level of interest, we could arrange either a one-off taster session or a short series of classes. Keep an eye on your email and our Facebook page for more information.

## 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 |



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| Group                     | Current Meeting Times                                                                                                                                                     | Group leader                     |
|---------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 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"> <li>• Short walk on 2nd Thursday</li> <li>• Long walk on 4th Thursday</li> </ul> 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<br>Colin Bate       |
| Historic Places & Gardens | Fourth Tuesday of the month.                                                                                                                                              | Marian Hagan<br>Jill O'Callaghan |
| Discussion                | Alternate Tuesdays in The Barbour                                                                                                                                         | Steven Prince                    |
| Art Appreciation          | Various visits during the year                                                                                                                                            | Jean Mumford<br>Vanessa Newman   |
| Sunday Lunch              | First Sunday of the Month                                                                                                                                                 | Elaine Dunham                    |
| Sunday Dining 2           | Third Sunday of the month                                                                                                                                                 | Marian Hagan                     |
| Canasta                   | 2 <sup>nd</sup> and 4 <sup>th</sup> Tuesday in the month                                                                                                                  | Carole Curphy                    |
| Board Games               | Held at the Barbour Institute on the 2 <sup>nd</sup> and 4 <sup>th</sup> Tuesday in the month                                                                             | Mike Woollard                    |



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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 |