West Cheshire Rural u3a *Bulletin*



Your monthly news, updates and dates for
West Cheshire Rural u3a

Welcome to your October bulletin, keeping you up to date with everything happening in West Cheshire Rural u3a.

MONTHLY MEETING

Thursday October 15th 2026
at 2.30pm
The Barbour Institute, Tattenhall

Our October speaker is **Isabel Robertson** who will give us a glimpse into the life and events during the Edwardian era in Chester through the eyes of Miss Eliza Dutton.

Refreshments and a chat from 2.00pm before the meeting.

GET IN TOUCH

Website
https://west-cheshire.u3asite.uk/

Email
wcru3a@hotmail.com

Membership enquiries
For membership enquiries contact Niki Wheller, Membership Secretary, at membershipwcru3a@gmail.com

For more information about our groups and activities, visit our website or get in touch – we'd love to hear from you!

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October Monthly Meeting



Step back in time to meet Miss Eliza Dutton, Chester's own Edwardian Lady, and hear stories from an age of elegance during the reign of Edward VII who visited Chester as King, but as Prince of Wales opened our Town Hall in 1869.

Chester was a vibrant and prosperous centre of retail with Browns of Chester dominating Eastgate Street in the early 1900s. Hear what life was like in Chester during this overlooked period of our history, positioned between the long reign of Queen Victoria and the outbreak of WW1.

September Meeting

Sixty-nine people including seven visitors attended the first meeting after the summer break to hear John Winter's experience of living in Liverpool during the 60's when he became involved in the music scene. During this time when Liverpool was still recovering from the devastating effects of the war, the city was at the forefront of the revolution in popular music culture. We heard of the famous Cavern Club, the Casbah in West Derby and Litherland Town Hall where the Beatles played for the first time in December 1960. When Bill Shankly joined Liverpool Football Club as manager, his mission was to take the team to the top of the league. He famously said "Football isn't a matter of life and death, it's more important than that" and under his leadership the team went from strength to strength. By the mid-60s, through both music and football, Liverpool transformed its image and that of the Beatles.

New Members

We welcome two new members, Marion Bets, and Stella Smith.

West Cheshire Rural u3a Christmas Lunch



Click this link to view the details and how to contact Isabel to Sign up
WCR Christmas Meal 2026 - West Cheshire Rural

New groups and activities.

Below are some of the groups and activities that are being organised:

- An initial taster session for **Line Dancing** took place in the Barbour Institute main hall on Friday 25th September from 2 - 3pm. Led by Faye Holley the session attracted 33 members who enjoyed a fun hour.

- We are trying to organise a suitable date for the **Boccia** session

- If you are interested in taking part in a **u3a quiz**, please add your name to the quiz list. We took some names at the September monthly meeting, but if you weren't there and would like to join in, please let Mike Woollard know.

- The first **AI workshop** is on the 9th October; we have been oversubscribed for this which is really encouraging. A second workshop is planned for the 23rd October and there is likely to be a third!! Mike will confirm who is scheduled for each date. If you have a place on the first workshop but have decided not to come, or the date is no longer convenient for you, please let Anne Bayliss or John Mann know so that we can re-allocate your place.

Ukulele Update - Would you like to come and sing with the group?

We have now firmly established our new format in our new 'Big Room'. The sound bounces around nicely. September as always is popular for holidays so we still have a lot of people away but the future is looking really good.

I would still be happy for people to come and join us who just want to sing and not play ukulele. There is plenty of space and we normally sing between 12 and 15 songs each session. We don't want to start a choir, it's just a big singalong. Follow what we are doing on our webpage. Ken Wakefield

What Three Words - Calligraphy Group Project

The Calligraphy Group's next project is ***"What Three Words".*** Thinking about three words that sum up our childhood, the challenge is to use our calligraphy skills to write and illustrate these words on a 10x15 cm card. We need to make them interesting and thought provoking. We hope to exhibit them locally when we have completed the project so watch this space!

Bird Watching – Niki Wheller

For our September trip eight members met at the RSPB reserve at Conwy. After a showery morning, we were lucky to have a warm, dry afternoon. We had a disappointing start as the scrape by the cafe was completely dry with no birds to be seen and the only sightings along the paths were a few robins, blue tit, great tit, wren, long-tailed tit and magpie.
In the first hide we could see moorhen, a cormorant and a group of small ducks swimming along in formation feeding, unusually with their heads continually dipped into the water. It looked like shoveler behaviour but they seemed too small so were possibly female teal.
When we got to the main hide we were not disappointed as the lake was teeming with birds. Initially, we spotted several coot, a group of oyster catcher, and several curlew. A very helpful and knowledgeable man had a scope set up and helped us to observe and identify the other species. He showed us bar-tailed godwit, a few small

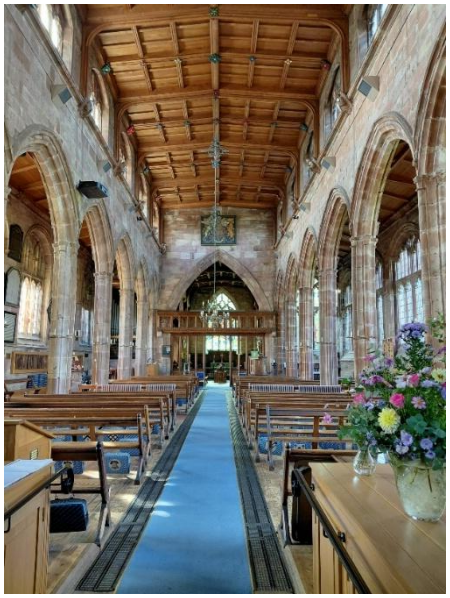
dunlin amongst the curlew, red shank and green shank. We walked round to the other side of the lake and saw pied wagtail, little grebe, black-headed gulls, grey heron, little egrets, mute swans and, of course, lots of mallard and herring gulls in the estuary. After an inauspicious start we all felt that we had enjoyed a very rewarding afternoon and headed to the on-site cafe for a celebratory cuppa and a chat.

Short walk – September

Gill and Sue led the short walk in September. It started from St Boniface Church in Bunbury and we had a quick look around the church before starting the walk. We walked across the fields and lanes and had a short stop at the canal locks in Bunbury where there were quite a few narrowboats traversing the locks. Lunch was at the Dysart Arms.









Long Walk

The long walk on the 24th September was led by Carole H and Carol S. The group walked locally from Tattenhall and finished with lunch in Alisons. Thanks to Marjorie for the photos.







Walking Christmas Lunch

The walking group Christmas lunch will be at the Shady Oak, Tiverton at 12:30 pm on Thursday 10th December. Sheila is organising it and will need names by the 4th November, together with a deposit of £5; and menu choices by the 1st December



Walk Leaders

Short Walk Leader			Long Walk Leaders	
Oct	David & Lynda B		Oct	
Nov	Hilton and Pat		Nov	
Dec	Sheila			

Historic Places – September



The final trip of the year was to the Western Approaches Museum, housed underground in central Liverpool in the original command headquarters of the Battle for the Atlantic during the Second World War. It was fascinating to see artefacts from this period, and the rooms with the original machines, equipment and plotting maps with descriptions of what life was like in there from the actual operators.





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u3a Our Groups



Something for everyone – come along, get involved, enjoy!

Learn Laugh Live

GROUP	Where & When	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	Wednesdays at 10.30 am in Farndon Memorial Hall	Ken Wakefield
Walking	Walking groups schedule: • 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	2nd and 4th Tuesday in the month	Carole Curphy
Board Games	Held at the Barbour Institute on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday in the month	Mike Woollard
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

New members always welcome!

For more information, contact the Group Leader or visit our website or newsletter.