West Cheshire Rural u3a *Bulletin*



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

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

MONTHLY MEETING

Thursday November 19th 2026
at 2.30pm

The Barbour Institute, Tattenhall

Our November speaker is **Andrew Emerson JP** who will give an insight into the role of the Magistrate and how the criminal justice system works with examples of the type of cases JPs deal with.

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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November Monthly Meeting



The talk in November is “The History and work of the Magistrate Service” with Andrew Emerson JP. This is an insight into the role of the Magistrate and how the criminal justice system works with examples of the type of cases JPs deal with.

October Meeting

We welcomed 74 people to our October meeting, 69 members and 5 visitors. It was good to welcome some of our recent new members. The speaker, Isabel Robertson took us back in time to meet Miss Eliza Dutton, Chester’s own Edwardian lady. The Edwardian period officially spanned 1901–1910, covering the reign of King Edward VII, although many historians extend it to 1914, when the outbreak of the First World War brought the era to an end.

In Chester, as in the rest of the country, it was an age associated with elegance and prosperity. The city was a thriving retail centre, with Browns of Chester dominating Eastgate Street in the early 1900s.

The Edwardian era also saw women increasingly making their voices heard through the suffragette movement. Miss Dutton recounted the story of Mary Philips, a prominent suffragette who was arrested in Chester in 1912 for throwing flour at Prime Minister Herbert Asquith who was visiting Chester. Her fine was paid by a local sympathiser and she was released.

We also heard about Diana Beck, who came from Chester and went on to become a consultant neurosurgeon at the Middlesex Hospital in London.

It was a fascinating insight into an era that is often overlooked in the history we were taught at school, bringing to life the people, events and changing society of Edwardian Chester.

New Members

Welcome to new members Tiz Corcoran, Linda Smith, Pat Pearson, Jackie Knott , Carole Seaton, Beverley Edwards and Ken Jones.

*****West Cheshire Rural u3a Christmas Lunch – Last Call*****

The Christmas lunch is on the 3rd December this year, and we would love you to join us. We know that coming to a Christmas event on your own can sometimes feel a little daunting, especially if you are a relatively new member. Please don't be put off, you'll be among friends to enjoy a lovely meal, have a chat and share a little early Christmas cheer.



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

If you have put your name down but have not yet paid, please pay as soon as possible. All payments must be cleared and menu choices must be made **BEFORE** the 19th November when the information is sent to the venue. If you are paying by bank transfer, make sure you give time for the payment to clear our account. Most payments look instant but they may take a couple of days to appear in our bank account.

New groups and activities

Remember to check out the meeting dates for your groups on the u3a website *www.west-cheshire.u3asite.uk/groups/*

- **Line Dancing** continues at the Barbour Institute main hall. We have had a great response and we hope that we will be able to accommodate everyone safely on the dance floor! There have been some changes in dates last month but now we can revert to a regular schedule and remember you can check forthcoming dates on the website. The dates in November are 13th and 27th 2-3pm. The group really needs someone to help as group leader. Mike is doing a great job at the moment but we need someone else to help out with organising or on the day.

- A **Boccia** taster session has been arranged for this month and Mike is looking at funding for equipment.

- There were two **AI workshops** this month led by John and Anne**.** We had 12 people at each one which were very interactive sessions**.** Once we have completed the third workshop, we will look at what follow up meetings, if any, we will have. What we do going forward really depends on what interests you. Let us know and we will try and make it work

  The workshop format isn't something we have done before. Perhaps there are other topics where we could use this similar session. This information on the u3a website might also might be of interest to anyone who wasn't able to attend.
  https://www.u3a.org.uk/latest-news/friend-or-foe-ai

- **Board Games -** this has become an established group in our schedule with sessions this month on the 10th and 24th of November.

- We have not forgotten the **Quiz group** and are looking to set something up in the new year.

Cryptic Crosswords

If you've recently joined West Cheshire Rural u3a, you may not yet be aware that we have a Cryptic Crossword group. The group is a friendly way to enjoy a challenge, share ideas and improve your solving skills, whether you're an experienced solver or just getting started. For more information, including details of when and where the group meets, please visit the Groups section of our website.

Drawing Group

We have welcomed two new members to our group, bud sadly have said goodbye to two. Hargrave Hall has plenty of space and good lighting for drawing and more members are always welcome.

We are now half way into our autumn session of drawing with three more sessions before we finish for the Christmas break. We start again on January 11th .
The subjects we have covered so far have been: something from our holidays, trees & leaves, interesting doors or doorways/entrances. Carolyn

Ukulele. Beginners' Introduction Session Ken Wakefield

Would you like to join our Ukulele group? We are planning a friendly session for complete beginners to learn the basics, meet the group, and start making music together. This will be on **Wed 5th Jan.** Booking is essential so please contact us in advance through our webpage Ukulele Players - West Cheshire Rural where you can find full details. Ask Santa to bring you all you need and come and join us.

Walking Christmas Lunch Final Call.

Last call for the walking group Christmas lunch. 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.

Where: The Shady Oak, Tiverton

When: 12:30 pm on Thursday 10th December.

Walk Leaders

Short Walk Leader			**Long Walk Leaders**	
Nov	Hilton and Pat		Nov	
Dec	Sheila			

Short walk – October

October's short walk, led by David and Lynda, started from The Oak Tree on a bright autumn morning with a group of 13 walkers. Before leaving Upton Grange, we chanced upon a garden dressed with many Halloween figures. We then entered the Countess of Chester Country Park through paths many had never seen before, and after a short distance along the towpath of the Shropshire Union Canal, crossed into Mollington Grange. There we saw a solitary swan and a heron on a small lake before crossing the canal once more and finishing our walk along the Poppy Walk to the Liverpool Road. Our walk ended with us all enjoying lunch at the Oak Tree after our 3.5-mile walk.







Long Walk

The walkers enjoyed a circular walk from Chester to Eccleston and through the Dukes Drive back to Chester. The weather was mixed to start with but gradually the sun came out and highlighted the beautiful autumn colours, which were quite uplifting. We lunched at the Little RooDee cafe before walking along the Groves and back to our cars.







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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.