

January 2026. Volume 18. Winter edition Charity Number 111569. web: wrexhamu3a.com

Greetings and all the very best wishes from your Chair and your Committee for a very happy 2026. Last year seems to have passed so quickly but is that a 'something' that, unfortunately, happens the older you get.

LOOKING AHEAD TO 2026 AND OUR 20TH ANNIVERSARY YEAR

We do have an important year ahead of us so please save the dates and we hope you will be able to join us on these auspicious occasions.

WREXHAM U3A - CELEBRATING 20 YEARS 2006—2026

We are sure that you haven't forgotten that this is the year we celebrate 20 years of our Wrexham u3a. To celebrate this important occasion, we have organised the following events:

- At our February Monthly Meeting **Tuesday 17th February 2026 at 2 pm**, we will be officially celebrating our 20 years of Wrexham u3a. Celebrating the inaugural meeting of Wrexham u3a on 2006. With us will be Derrick Gwilliam, the first Chair, Hilary Jones (Flintshire u3a) and Roz Benney who will present a talk from 'Wrexham Revealed'. We will be toasting to the future of Wrexham u3a with drinks and a celebration cake.
- This will be followed up on **Tuesday 16th June 2026 2.00 - 4.15pm**, when our June Monthly Meeting will have a more 'party' feel about it with an invitation to join our **Afternoon Tea Dance** in the company of **Silhouette**. Afternoon tea will be available during the interval. (There will be a cost of £ 5 per member for this event).
- **Photography Exhibition** - We would like to assemble photographs as part of our celebrations and are, therefore, inviting our members to submit photographs that encapsulate everything you enjoy about Wrexham, its surrounding area or the u3a, under the title of **'Why Wrexham? My Wrexham.'**

Whether you are an experienced or amateur photographer or just a happy snapper using your mobile phone camera, please send in photos illustrating your Wrexham. This could be, for example, a favourite scene, a fascinating heritage site, a shared moment, an interesting subject or a group enjoying each other's company.

Closing date is **Sunday 18th January 2026** and the photographs submitted will be on display at the main meeting on Tuesday 17th February 2026. *Happy snapping!*

Please send your photographs to **Linda Wilson** through '**Contact Member**' to include **your name; the title** of your photograph and **where** the photo was taken (*Please ensure that you have permission if you take photos of people.)

Lynn Jones

Chair

Wrexham u3a

Message from the Chair

Have you made any New Year Resolutions? I usually don't but on retiring early, many years ago now, I resolved to take time out to help others and chose to volunteer at Nightingale House Hospice and this has proved to be an enjoyable and very rewarding experience. It is always nice to meet our members enjoying the delicious fare at Caffi Cwtch.

Whilst I am helping the hospice provide a larger workforce and helping to reduce costs, I very quickly learnt that volunteering is a two-way process. Did you know that volunteering boosts your confidence and happiness and improves your mental health and well-being. It has given me the chance to make new social contacts and make new friends one of whom introduced me to the u3a and look where that got me.

So, please, why not offer to help by volunteering for your Wrexham u3a either for the committee or in a non-committee role. Every little bit helps and lessens the burden if we have the numbers to enable joint or team working. If you think you can help, then please get in touch with any committee member (Contact Member on website). We are always available and willing to chat with you and answer any questions you may have.

Lynn Jones

Chair

Wrexham u3a

U3A ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP FEES

1st May 2026 to 30th April 2027

Membership renewal £15

New Members from January £15 until April 2027

e-mail: memwrexu3a@outlook.com

Please e-mail items for **April 2026 newsletter** to **newsrexu3a@outlook.com**
by
20th March 2026

Issues of the Newsletter will now be released in:

January (Winter)

April (Spring)

July (Summer)

October (Autumn)

Notification of 2026 Wrexham u3a Annual General Meeting

The AGM will be held on Tuesday the 17th of March at 2.00pm, at Wrexham Memorial Hall, off Chester Street, Wrexham LL12 7AG.

As for our normal monthly meetings, please register in advance on our website. Also, please refer continually to our website and/or email for the latest news.

The Committee is seeking Committee members. Help will be provided for these positions. If further information is required, please email the current Secretary, Stan Moore, mooresv@aol.com

If you wish to be nominated, please email Stan Moore as above with your name and U3A number and the post in which you are interested.

Also, please include on your email the names and U3A numbers of two seconders. Nominations must be with Stan Moore by 5pm, 31st January. If you wish to make a proposal for inclusion in the AGM Agenda, please email it to Stan Moore, as above, for discussion by the existing Committee.

Proposals must be with Stan Moore by 5pm, 31st January. The AGM Agenda and associated Proposals and other relevant documents will be posted on the Website by 14th February.

All Change

For many years now we have used a system called U3AWeb to provide our membership and groups database plus our website. While this has served us well, the committee felt that now is the right time for us to move over to new systems, called Siteworks and Beacon. Our new web team, supported by a team of Trust volunteers are busy developing our new sites, which are supported by the Third Age Trust, and is already used by nearly 700 other u3as in the UK so we are in good company. Updates will be provided later and rest assured all our members and Group Leaders will be offered lots of help and advice closer to their introduction.

However, it would be very remiss of us not to thank Alan Sutton for all his hard work and efforts over the past 7 years looking after our current systems as Web Manager. He has always found time to help our members and I am certain he will continue to help you all in any way that he can in the future.

Groups

Our Group Leaders are busy ensuring that our groups will continue to be as successful as they were last year. If you have an interest in something that Wrexham u3a doesn't already offer, please get in touch with Zarina Kagan through 'Contact Member' on our website to guide and help you set up a new group.

As you will have seen from the November bulletin, Jan Evans has been seeking out up and coming Theatre visits for you and Margaret Hadwin-Smith has already started organising her Day Trips planning for the first 6 months of the year.

2026 Monthly Talks at the Memorial Hall, Wrexham

January 20th	2 pm	Kate Hill Trevor	Ex Clwyd High Sherriff
February 17th	2 pm	20th Anniversary meeting	Speaker:- Derrick Gwilliam Hilary Jones Roz Benney Plus refreshments
March 17th	2 pm	AGM	Dave McCall 1876 Team speaking on Wrexham's "Year of Wonder"
April 21st	2 pm	Nick Fry	Treasures of Chester Cathedral

Trip to Lyme Park

A great day was had by all at Lyme Park with Sonja very reluctant to leave her Mr Darcy.



Trip to Devon 23rd to 28th February 2026

Cost - £390.00 for five days DBB and 3 excursions.

We have 2 twin rooms available on this trip.

If anyone would like to go on this trip please contact Margaret Hadwin-Smith by email on hadwin541@btinternet.com

Group Leaders Meeting

This will be held on Friday 30th January 2026 at 11 am at the Cunliffe Arms, Jeffrey's Road, Wrexham.

Tea, Coffee and biscuits will be provided. There is no lunch this time, but you are welcome to join members who are staying for lunch after the meeting. Please let me know if you would like to stay for lunch and I can reserve a table.

If you have any Agenda items that you would like to discuss, please let me know. Please also register your attendance for catering purposes.

Zarina Kagan

Heritage Group



The group completed its program for 2025 with a visit to Brymbo Iron and Steel Works which is undergoing renovation to wards opening as a visitor centre in late spring 2026.

It will be known as **Stori Brymbo** and the renovated machine shop will become a museum depicting not only the history of the iron and steel industry in the area, but all of the other industries that Wrexham was built around, it will include an education centre, shop and of course a café.

On the day of our visit, we were given a talk and tour of the newly opened fossilised forest area by the resident palaeontologist, which proved very interesting to the 31 members who attended on the day.

When fully opened in 2026 this will become a main visitor attraction for the area.

More information can be found on their web site - <https://storibrymbo.co.uk/>

It will really be worth a visit when finished.

Throughout the year the outings arranged for the group were all well attended and included town tours, The Gladstone Pottery, Menai Bridge Museum and the Overleigh Cemetery in Chester just to name a few.

In addition, the group held their Autumn lunch at the Ial Restaurant in Wrexham which was very enjoyable and can be recommended.

We now look forward to 2026 and a new program of outings is being planned at the moment.

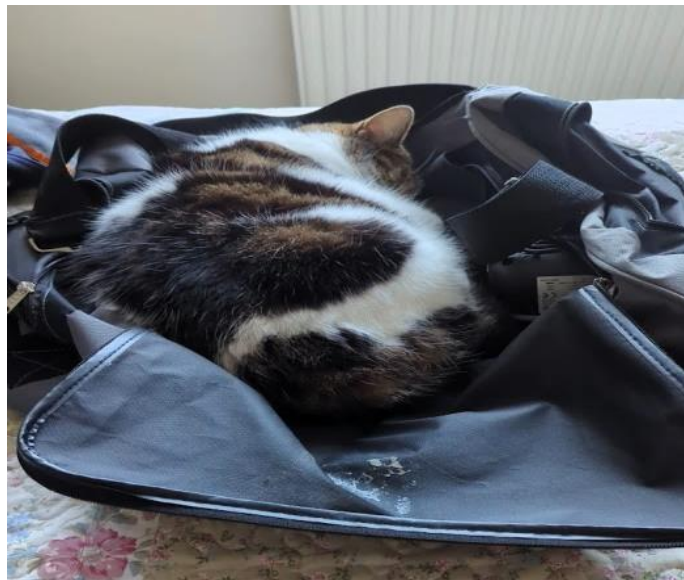
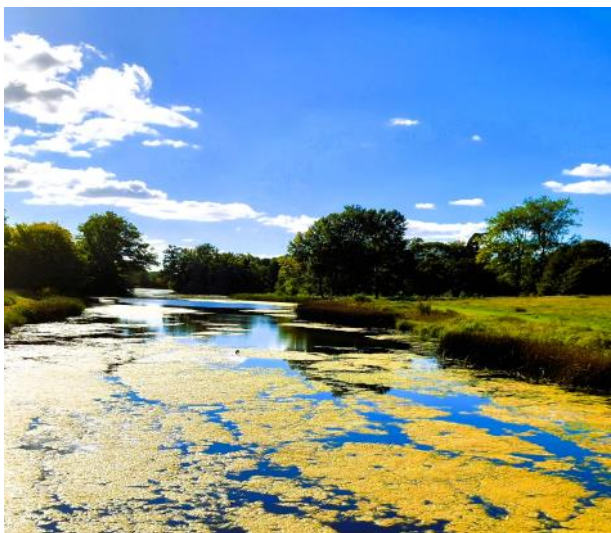
Ken Jones

Digital Photography Group—2026 calendar

Each year the group has been tasked with putting a calendar together and the members submit a number of images from which images are selected at a group meeting for the calendar.

The following are the images that were not selected but shows the level and variety of photography that the group are achieving.

Ken Jones



Images from the Digital Photography Group (continued)



Wrexham U3A

Digital Photography Group

2026 Calendar

u3a

LEARN

LAUGH

LIVE



u3a

LEARN

LAUGH

LIVE

January						
W#	M	T	W	T	F	S S
1				1	2	3 4
2	5	6	7	8	9	10 11
3	12	13	14	15	16	17 18
4	19	20	21	22	23	24 25
5	26	27	28	29	30	31



February						
W#	M	T	W	T	F	S S
5						1
6	2	3	4	5	6	7 8
7	9	10	11	12	13	14 15
8	16	17	18	19	20	21 22
9	23	24	25	26	27	28

March						
W#	M	T	W	T	F	S S
9						1
10	2	3	4	5	6	7 8
11	9	10	11	12	13	14 15
12	16	17	18	19	20	21 22
13	23	24	25	26	27	28 29
14	30	31				



April						
W#	M	T	W	T	F	S S
14			1	2	3	4 5
15	6	7	8	9	10	11 12
16	13	14	15	16	17	18 19
17	20	21	22	23	24	25 26
18	27	28	29	30		

May						
W#	M	T	W	T	F	S S
18					1	2 3
19	4	5	6	7	8	9 10
20	11	12	13	14	15	16 17
21	18	19	20	21	22	23 24
22	25	26	27	28	29	30 31



June						
W#	M	T	W	T	F	S S
23	1	2	3	4	5	6 7
24	8	9	10	11	12	13 14
25	15	16	17	18	19	20 21
26	22	23	24	25	26	27 28
27	29	30				

July						
W#	M	T	W	T	F	S S
27			1	2	3	4 5
28	6	7	8	9	10	11 12
29	13	14	15	16	17	18 19
30	20	21	22	23	24	25 26
31	27	28	29	30	31	



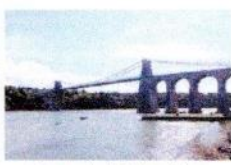
August						
W#	M	T	W	T	F	S S
31						1 2
32	3	4	5	6	7	8 9
33	10	11	12	13	14	15 16
34	17	18	19	20	21	22 23
35	24	25	26	27	28	29 30
36	31					

September						
W#	M	T	W	T	F	S S
36		1	2	3	4	5 6
37	7	8	9	10	11	12 13
38	14	15	16	17	18	19 20
39	21	22	23	24	25	26 27
40	28	29	30			



October						
W#	M	T	W	T	F	S S
40				1	2	3 4
41	5	6	7	8	9	10 11
42	12	13	14	15	16	17 18
43	19	20	21	22	23	24 25
44	26	27	28	29	30	31

November						
W#	M	T	W	T	F	S S
44						1
45	2	3	4	5	6	7 8
46	9	10	11	12	13	14 15
47	16	17	18	19	20	21 22
48	23	24	25	26	27	28 29
49	30					



December						
W#	M	T	W	T	F	S S
49		1	2	3	4	5 6
50	7	8	9	10	11	12 13
51	14	15	16	17	18	19 20
52	21	22	23	24	25	26 27
53	28	29	30	31		

1 Bank Holidays UK

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