

A Celebration of the activities of Chester u3a

Monday 21 September 2026, Storyhouse Garret Theatre

1pm **Welcome and Introduction** – Peter Goodhew, Vice-Chair, Chester u3a

1.05-1.30 **Chester Zoo's *Networks for Nature* initiative**

Chris Ablett, Community Volunteer Coordinator, Chester Zoo

Chris will give us an insight into Chester Zoo's wildlife work, with the *Networks for Nature* initiative being their current flagship project supported by the National Lottery Heritage Fund. This talk will discuss the various aims of the project and will give us an overview of this world-renowned conservation charity and wildlife attraction on our doorstep.

1.30 - 1.55 **The Chester Repair Café**

Martin Preston and Helen Craig

Chester Repair Cafe volunteers and members of Chester and District Friends of the Earth

Chester Repair Cafe brings together skilled volunteers in a friendly and accessible community environment (with cake!) to repair broken or damaged household items. In this presentation Martin and Helen will explain why we have repair cafes and will talk specifically about the achievements of the Chester Repair Cafe.

1.55 - 2.20 **Print or Digital? How 'green' are your reading choices?**

Liz Eccleston, Chester u3a Committee

What are your reading habits? Do you prefer to read a proper book, a digital format or listen to an audio version? Any choice we make has some sort of impact on the environment but is one way of reading any greener, or better for the planet, than another?

2.20 - 2.40 **Break for refreshments in the Garret Bar**

2.40 - 3.05 **From the Mills to the Hills**

Helen Caine and Carol Fry, Chester u3a History Group

Helen and Carol will share examples of access to land and nature in environmental movements of the past.

3.05 - 3.30 **Organic farming – it's not just weeding in a cardigan!**

Dianna Ellson, Chester u3a Committee

What does 'organic' really mean? A look at organic farming, including how crops are grown and animals are kept, and the principles behind working with nature. A few facts, a few myths – and perhaps some surprises along the way!

3.30 **Closing Remarks** – Peter Goodhew, Vice-Chair, Chester u3a