

March 2022

u3a

Pontesbury
& Rea Valley

Newsletter

Editor: Sue Anderson 

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Editorial changes

A huge thank you to Judith, who after many years of tireless service, has retired as editor of the newsletter. All the members have gratefully appreciated the dedication that Judith has put into this endeavour, and particularly during the pandemic.

New member, Sue Anderson, has volunteered to take over this task. Until Sue has had a chance to get to grips with the intricacies of the u3a Pontesbury & Rea Valley group, a simplified newsletter will be issued, but with some new handy additions.

Chair: Janet Walsh 



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Special Events

u3a
40th Anniversary
**September
2022 - 3rd
week**

Details to follow in the next months

Open
meeting

**Wed 23 March
2022 at 14h.**

"Curlew Country" by
Amanda Perkins
(more info on page 5)






Redesigned newsletter

Thank you to everyone so far for the warm welcome to the u3a and the opportunity to edit the newsletter.

Having moved to Pontesbury in November 2021 and only taken on the responsibilities of the newsletter two weeks after joining the u3a, I am still settling in and finding my feet, so please bear with me while this evolves.

The new layout will now include:

- a handy diary of monthly events on the last page
 - interactive links to click, like these, to easily contact people by email or for more information   
 - the interest groups
 - the u3a branding requirements
- If you have any suggestions for what you would like to see in the newsletter, please contact me.

Editor: Sue Anderson 

u3a News

Membership Fees

Membership fees are now due for this year (1 March 2022 to 28 February 2023). We are reverting to our previous fee of £15.00 for the year unless you are a member of another u3a group, in which case it is £10.00.

If you have joined since Christmas and already paid £10.00 then the fee will be £5.00.

We would prefer the fee to be paid via a BACS transfer, if possible. Our TSB bank account details are:

Account name: Pontesbury and the Rea Valley District u3a

Sort Code: 77 66 74

Account number: 02054660


If you would prefer to pay by cheque (we would prefer to not accept cash) these can be passed to Peter at our next Open Meeting on Wednesday 23 March at 14h00

at Minsterley Hall. Peter's house is not terribly easy to find so if you want to drop cheques off then please do so to 10 Yarlinton Orchard in Pontesbury and we can pass these to Peter in one go.

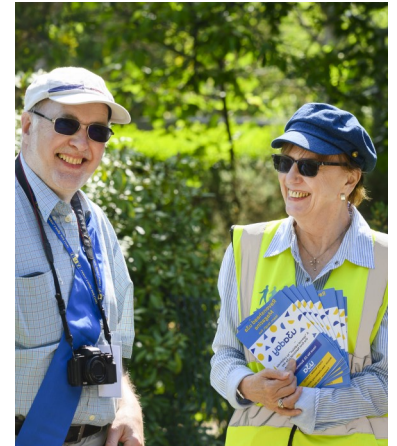
The membership fee gives you access to all of the interest groups, Open Meetings and special events as and when they occur. It also ensures you are insured for activities and receive the national and group u3a magazine. It helps to cover the committee expenses – meeting room hire, stationery etc. and therefore represents good value for money.

Any queries regarding the membership fee should be passed on to Peter

Membership secretary:

Peter Traves 



ptraves50@googlemail.com



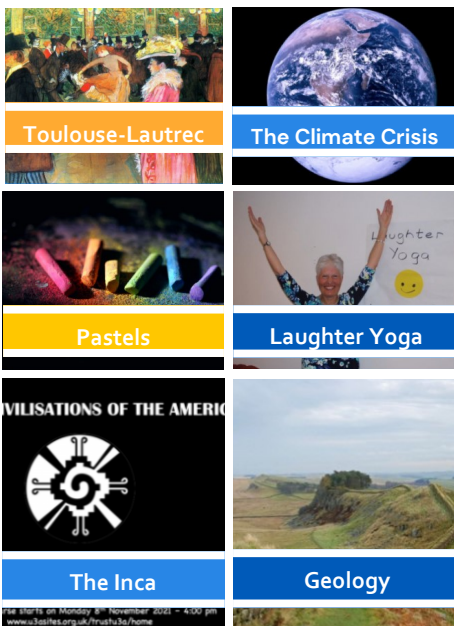
Regional u3a event "Inspiring Lives"

Book a date in your diary for "Inspiring Lives". This event is free and open to all u3a members on Tuesday 22nd March 2022 from 10h00 – 14h30 via zoom.


A series of speakers and presentations will offer an uplifting vision of what has and can be achieved by people in their third age. A link will be sent out to all our members nearer the date along with more details.

For more info:  

National u3a online learning events



There are a range of fascinating online courses offered free through the national u3a website.

You may want to do this individually or together with one of your Interest Groups. Click on this link for all this months events: 

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February Feedback

Open Meeting



Shropshire Seasons from the Skies

Wed 16 Feb 2022

Ric Morris gave a fascinating and inspirational insight into not only the beautiful Shropshire countryside as never seen before, but ballooning, photography, history, geography, geology and nature. Many thanks to Ric for both his time and a brilliant talk.

Members, please put the next Open Meeting on the 23rd March in your diary's.



New Photography Interest Group



Whether inspired by Ric Morris's photos from the open meeting, a life-long interest in photography, wanting to improve your photographic skills or a beginner, this might be the group for you.

Please let Merle know if you are interested and she will send you an invitation to the setting up meeting.

Group Support: [Merle Traves](#) 

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February Feedback


English Literature

The English Literature group had a lively discussion on the topic of Black American literature.


Merle Traves led the discussion and had circulated a very well researched paper to the group.

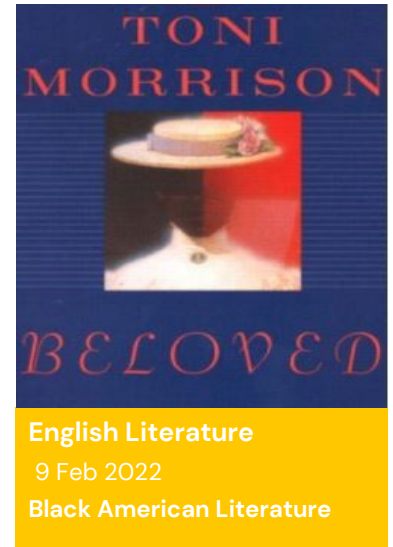
At the meeting we looked at the history of black writing in America from the earliest slave narratives, through the Harlem Renaissance of the 1920s and 30s, to major writers such as Richard Wright and Ralph Ellison and then looked in some

detail at Toni Morrison's novel *Beloved*.

If you would like a copy of Merle's very informative paper please contact her: 

The group continues to widen its area of interest and will be looking at the Russian writer, Dostoevsky next month.

Coordinator: Doreen Thomas 



History

The history group has been looking for the past few months at life in Tudor times. We have tried to focus not on the famous figures – Henry VIII, Elizabeth, Anne Boleyn or Thomas Cromwell but on how ordinary people lived their lives – what they ate, their homes, festivals, food and fun.

Each month a member has written and distributed a paper on one of these topics and then discussed it in our monthly zoom meeting.

This month Stephen Winwood led a lively discussion about religion in the Tudor period. He told us about the everyday changes to how the local church might have appeared and how some aspects of the traditional church service changed.

We tried to imagine how much of the complex issues and ideas that we now call The Reformation would have made sense to the average parishioner.

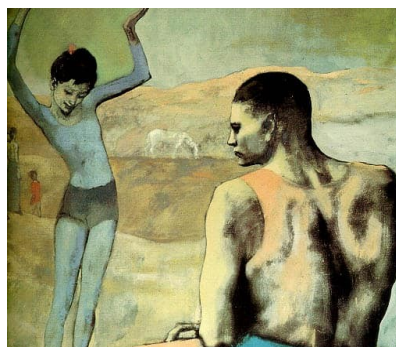
Coordinator: Peter Traves 



Snippets from the u3a page

Yesterday the writing group shared glimpses of childhood. Learning about some of the things that have shaped them at an early age.

Creative Writing
24 Feb 2022



Art Appreciation
21 Feb 2022
Picasso's 'Blue' and 'Rose' period

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Future News


Open Meeting: "Curlew Country"

Curlews, one of the most threatened bird species, are beautiful birds, iconic to the Shropshire Hills.

The Curlew Country Project is a world-leading initiative, started in the Shropshire Hills some 6 years ago to try to stabilise numbers and re-establish them in this area, around Europe, with links in Australia. They have developed innovative ways of doing so and last season was one of their most

successful – it is beginning to work!

The next Open Meeting, will be held at Minsterley Parish Hall on Wednesday 23rd March at 14h **(one week later than normal)** with Amanda Perkins, the Curlew Country Manager, talking about "Curlew Country" aims, exciting achievements and to encourage support. If government guidelines change, the meeting will be held via zoom.

Coordinator: Bob Boden 



Cinema & Social

The next film is **Military Wives** at **Marton Village Hall** on Friday, the 18th March 2022 at 19h30.

Doors open at 19h

Entrance: £4

Refreshments available

“ Faced with their loved ones serving in Afghanistan, women from different backgrounds come together to form the very first military wives choir, helping

each other through some of life's most difficult moments on an international stage **”**

Genre: Drama, Comedy

Director: Peter Cattaneo

Producer: Ben Pugh, Rory Aitken, Piers Tempest

Writer: Rosanne Flynn, Rachel Tunnard

Release Date : May 22, 2020

Runtime: 1h 52m

Coordinator: Judith Rice 



Table Tennis (Pontesbury)

Table tennis has been one of our most successful Groups and there is still space for more players.

Our friendly group meets at the Congregational Hall in Pontesbury every Monday 13h30 – 15h30. Half time refreshments provided. Come along for a taster session.

Lessons given to new starters.

Coordinator: Jane Simms 



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Future News

Pickleball/Soft Tennis

Both sports are ideal for those people who wish to work up to/maintain a medium level of fitness:

Pickle Ball is a delightful combination of the games of badminton, tennis and table tennis. Easy to learn and very addictive.


Soft Tennis is similar to tennis but is played with a soft ball and you don't have to cover a large play area as you are playing on a

badminton court.

Members are lucky to have the opportunity to play these two sports on the same afternoon at Mary Webb School.

We hire three courts at the school every Thursday, at 16h30 – 18h for a nominal sum.

It is highly recommended that you join us for a taster session.

Coordinator: Jane Simms 



Every Thursday
16:30 – 18:00
Mary Webb School

History

In March, we are starting a new, and for us a very challenging topic – **the history of Japan**.

If you want to join us at our first meeting on this new and exciting theme which will take place via zoom on Monday 21st March you will be made very welcome – please contact Peter

Traves to be added to the meeting.

Peter will attempt to offer a broad outline of the scope of Japanese history so that the group can then decide which aspects to look at in more detail.

Coordinator: Peter Traves 



Mon 21 March 2022
10:30 – 12:00
By Zoom

Recorded Music

The Recorded Music group was due to meet next Wednesday (2nd March).

However, this has been cancelled and will recommence with the first meeting of 2022 on the 4th May, by which time fears of catching Covid-19 should hopefully have diminished.

Coordinator: John Rice 


Restarting 4 May 2022
Minsterley Parish Hall



Painting & Drawing

The Painting & Drawing group is currently proposing a relaunch.

If you are interested in joining or continuing with this group, please let Hugh know so he can run a consultation to identify the date and frequency to suit most people.

Coordinator: Hugh Scriven 
01743 790430

Relaunch



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Future News

Walking

We are lucky to have two active and friendly walking groups who always welcome new members.

Short Walking

We meet at 10 am on Monday, fortnightly at School Green Pontesbury.

The walks around the village usually last about one and a half hours and are suitable for all abilities.

Coordinator: Irene Windows
01743 791903. ✉

Long Walking

Walks start at 10 am on Thursdays, fortnightly – location to be announced.

Our walks are around 6 to 7 miles and we walk at the pace of the slowest, there is no pressure to be the first up that hill!

Coordinator: Marko Ivanovic
07769 155 319



Alternate Mon (Short) & Thu (Long)
10:00

Café Society

Cafe Society...is back.

After a long break (only one meeting since January 2020) Cafe Society resumes on Wednesday 30 March 2022 at 14h00 at the Horseshoes Inn on Minsterley Road.

Where does the term Cafe Society come from?:

Café society was the description of the "Beautiful People" and "Bright Young Things" who gathered in fashionable cafés and restaurants in New York, Paris and London beginning in the late 19th century.

Now it's probably fair to say that our Cafe Society group doesn't really reflect that definition – but we're all young and beautiful inside – and the Horseshoes Inn is reasonably trendy – and we always have a good discussion and some nice coffee and biscuits.

Our group meets to discuss

interesting and/or relevant issues of the day. Nothing too contentious or overly political but topics to get you thinking. We don't take ourselves too seriously but like to think that we learn something from the meeting and maybe leave with a different perspective.

Our topics for the meeting on 30 March 2022 are:

- Social media has improved human communication
- All adults should have the right to own guns
- Should the TV licence be abolished?
- What has made you laugh recently?

We would welcome some new members so if you're free and you would like to join us please do.

Coordinator: Janet Walsh ✉



Wed 30 March 2022
14:00 – 16:00
Horseshoes Inn

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Interest Groups

There are a wide range of life-enhancing and life-changing friendly groups, run by the group coordinators.

Please check out the activities available and if anything takes your interest or you wish to suggest a new activity, please contact the Support team. Some groups have returned to face-to-face meetings

but some are still being held on zoom. Things are changing daily as things get back to "normal". Please always check beforehand if the activity is being held and the venue before attending, as this could be subject to change.

Group Coordinator Support:

Merle Traves 01743 790 028 
Doreen Thomas 01743 790 332 

Art Appreciation	3rd Mon of month 14:00-16:00 Currently via Zoom		Italian	Every Wed 10:30-12:00 Coordinator's house	
Bridge	Restarting April TBA Horseshoes Inn		Local History	3rd Tue of month 14:00-16:00 Currently via Zoom	
Café Society	Last Wed of month 14:00-16:00 Horseshoes Inn		Painting & Drawing	Under relaunch	
Cinema & Social Judith Rice 01743 792 790 	As announced		Pickle Ball/Soft Tennis	Every Thu 16:30-18:00 Mary Webb School	
Creative writing	1st & 3rd Thu 10:00-12:00 Pavilion/Zoom hybrid		Photography	Being set up	
Cycling	Every Tue 10:00 Pontesbury School Green		Play Reading	1st & 3rd Mon 14:00-16:00 Coordinator's house	
English Literature	2nd Wed in month 14:00-16:00 Congregational Church		Recorded Music Restarting 4 May	1st Wed of month pm Minsterley Parish Hall	
Family History	2nd Mon of month 10h15-12h15 Pavilion, Pontesbury		Table Tennis Minsterley	Every Wed 10:00-12:00 Minsterley Parish Hall	
Folk Music	Every Mon 14:00-16:00 Minsterley Parish Hall		Table Tennis Pontesbury	Every Mon 13:30-15:30 Congregational Church	
Gardening New coordinator	Alternate Wed 14:00-16:00 Member's garden or visit		Walking (long)	Alternate Thu 10:00 As announced	
Geology	2nd Tue of month 14:00-16:00 Pavilion, Pontesbury		Walking (short)	Alternate Mon 10:00 Pontesbury School Green	
History	3rd Mon of month 10:30-12:30 Currently via Zoom				

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Tue 1	Cycling 10:00 Pontesbury School Green	Thu 10	Walking (Long) 10:00 As announced	Mon 21	Folk Music 14:00–16:00 Minsterley Parish Hall
Wed 2	Table Tennis Minsterley 10:00–12:00 Minsterley Parish Hall		Pickle Ball/Soft Tennis 16:30–18:00 Mary Webb School		Play Reading 14:00–16:00 Coordinator's house
	Italian 10:30–12:00 Coordinator's house	Mon 14	Walking (Short) 10:00 Pontesbury School Green	Tue 22	Cycling 10:00 Pontesbury School Green
Thu 3	Creative writing 10:00–12:00 Pavilion/Zoom hybrid		Family History 10:15–12:15 Pavilion, Pontesbury		Regional u3a: Inspiring Lives 10:00–14:30 Via Zoom
	Pickle Ball/Soft Tennis 16:30–18:00 Mary Webb School		Table Tennis Pontesbury 13:30–15:30 Congregational Church	Wed 23	Table Tennis Minsterley 10:00–12:00 Minsterley Parish Hall
Mon 7	Table Tennis Pontesbury 13:30–15:30 Congregational Church		Folk Music 14:00–16:00 Minsterley Parish Hall		Italian 10:30–12:00 Coordinator's house
	Folk Music 14:00–16:00 Minsterley Parish Hall	Tue 15	Cycling 10:00 Pontesbury School Green		Open Meeting "Curling Country" 10:00 Minsterley Parish Hall
	Play Reading 14:00–16:00 Coordinator's house		Local History 14:00–16:00 via Zoom	Thu 24	Walking (Long) 10:00 As announced
	u3a Committee meeting 14:00 Pavilion, Pontesbury	Wed 16	Table Tennis Minsterley 10:00–12:00 Minsterley Parish Hall		Pickle Ball/Soft Tennis 16:30–18:00 Mary Webb School
Tue 8	Cycling 10:00 Pontesbury School Green		Italian 10:30–12:00 Coordinator's house	Mon 28	Walking (Short) 10:00 Pontesbury School Green
	Geology 14:00–16:00 Pavilion, Pontesbury	Thu 17	Creative writing 10:00–12:00 Pavilion/Zoom hybrid		Table Tennis Pontesbury 13:30–15:30 Congregational Church
Wed 9	Table Tennis Minsterley 10:00–12:00 Minsterley Parish Hall		Pickle Ball/Soft Tennis 16:30–18:00 Mary Webb School		Folk Music 14:00–16:00 Minsterley Parish Hall
	Italian 10:30–12:00 Coordinator's house	Fri 18	Cinema & Social: "Military Wives" 19:00 Marston Village Hall	Tue 29	Cycling 10:00 Pontesbury School Green
	English Literature 14:00–16:00 Congregational Church	Mon 21	History 10:30–12:30 via Zoom	Wed 30	Table Tennis Minsterley 10:00–12:00 Minsterley Parish Hall
			Table Tennis Pontesbury 13:30–15:30 Congregational Church		Italian 10:30–12:00 Coordinator's house
			Art appreciation 14:00–16:00 via Zoom	Thu 31	Café Society 14:00–16:00 Horseshoes Inn
					Pickle Ball/Soft Tennis 16:30–18:00 Mary Webb School