

u3a

Pontesbury
& Rea Valley

Editor: Sue Anderson 

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A few words from the Chair ...

Dear Members,

I hope this newsletter finds you well and in good spirits – looking forward to some warm weather and sunshine as we move into spring and summer.

Of course the next main event for us all to look forward to is the **Diamond Jubilee celebrations** – at both a national and local level. Our u3a is not doing anything special to mark the occasion but I am sure many of you will be involved in the local events.

We are not having an **Open Meeting** in May but our June meeting on Wednesday 15 June at Minsterley Parish Hall is definitely one to put in your diaries now. Natalie Cumming will be our presenter and she will be telling the tale of a rather special violin. More details about this presentation will be

in the June newsletter but in the meantime 'save the date' as they say.

You will notice in this newsletter, the advert for the **Friends of Pontesbury Library annual Plant Sale** on Saturday 7 May at the Pavilion between 10am and 1pm. This is always a good event – plenty of plants of course, but lovely cakes, interesting books and all the fun of the Tombola too. Donations for the tombola are particularly welcome from my point of view as I'm running this stall but plants, books and cakes are also welcome. Details on FOPL website, on the posters and from the library. Hope to see you there!

Most of our **Interest Groups** are now up and running – most with face to face meetings which is lovely to see. I feel that we can be quite proud of our u3a as we kept going throughout the

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Special Events

FoPL Plant Sale

7 May 2022
10am–1pm



21 Sept
2022

More details to follow

The Fiddle
by Natalie Cumming

Wed
15
June
2022

2pm
Minsterley Parish Hall
Free



OPEN MEETING
Members & non-members welcome

The Fiddle

by Natalie Cumming

Wed
15
June
2022

2pm
Minsterley Parish Hall
Free

A fascinating talk by the author of the evocative true story of the survival of a violin through the Russian revolution, horrors of the concentration camps to the present day



OPEN MEETING
Members & non-members welcome

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Next open meeting

u3a
Pontesbury
& Rea Valley



E-mail



Website



Video



Facebook Page

u3a News

A few words from the Chair ...

Continued from page 1

lock-downs with Zoom meetings when we could and a real effort made to keep in touch with members who were perhaps feeling a bit isolated or anxious. Our membership has grown slightly and we have a few new interest groups about to start.

Of course the u3a movement is a **self help movement** and it's important that members help each other with the running of the groups and don't just rely on a few members to do it all. I've learnt of a few u3a's recently who have had to close because there are not enough volunteers to join the committee or

run the groups and this seems a real shame. This isn't an advert for joining the committee by the way (although we don't mind if you do!).

The u3a movement is celebrating its **40th Anniversary** in September and of course our u3a will be joining in with the national celebrations. As well as celebrating and publicising what our local u3a has to offer, we're also celebrating what Shropshire has to offer and asking our different interest groups to consider how they can contribute to this theme. Information about this will soon be coming on to the website.

If you've not logged on to our **new website** yet then please do. It's easy to navigate and provides lots of information about our u3a and its events and activities.

In the meantime – enjoy all that our u3a has to offer.

Best wishes
Janet

Chair: Janet Walsh



Membership fees

Thank you to all those who have either paid their annual membership fee for the year 2022/23 or who have confirmed that they do not wish to renew their membership.

I still have twenty four members where either our records are out of date or they have yet to pay or where they have not yet confirmed that they are withdrawing from the u3a. These are busy times with the Easter break and a gradual return to some kind of normal so it is very easy to see how this could have been overlooked.

I will send a further reminder in the near future. After that the Godfather, Michael Corleone's heavy mob will be called in! 😊

Membership secretary:
Peter Traves



E-mail



Website



Video



Facebook Page

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u3a News

Southport Flower Show (18th—21st August 2022)

The Southport Flower Show is offering tickets to all u3a members at a reduced rate.

Southport u3a Gardening Group are creating a Show Garden at this year's show on the 18th—21st August 2022. As part of this, they have secured a terrific special ticket entry price for ALL u3as across the UK. Instead of paying

the ticket price of £27 for entry, this is reduced to £18.

Southport Flower Show is one of the largest in the country attracting over 50,000 visitors, with a large range of stands, demonstrations and attractions including Show Gardens.

They want to share this


opportunity with as many u3as as possible. Further details can be found at

www.southportflowershow.co.uk.

Enter **u3a** in the Promo Code box in Tickets and the £18 will come up.

Stockport u3a are looking forward to having other u3a's visit them at the Show.

National u3a online learning events

May's free online courses through the national u3a are listed below. You may want to do this individually or together with one of your Interest Groups. Click on this link for all this  months events or the specific item below:



Pre-War Blues; 4 Week Course

Thurs in May 10am



Cryptic Crosswords for Beginners – May/June

Thurs May 10am



How to Reduce your Carbon Footprint and Energy Bills

Wed 11 May 10am



The Stories of the Willow Pattern Plate

Fri 13 May 2pm



Laughter Yoga Workshops – New Sessional

Wed 11 May 10am



u3a Radio Podcast

17th May



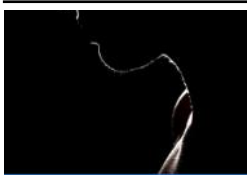
Exploring World Faiths – Buddha Day

Mon 16 May 10am



40th Anniversary Edition – Picnic in the Park – Live Cookery Demonstration

Mon 16 May 10.30



The Woman Who Took Revenge

Tue 17 May 10am



All about Pictish Stones

Fri 20 May 10am



Japan – Lasting Impressions

Tue 24 May 10.30



Geometric Abstraction – repeat event

Fri 27 May 2pm




Welcome!

This month we would like to give a warm welcome to new members :

David Crane
Martyn Richards

Membership secretary:

Peter Traves 

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Group news

Family History

Wem meeting

The Wem Family history group supported our own family history group when we were floundering. They visited us in Pontesbury and gave us much needed advice and direction of ways forward. Without their intervention the group might well have folded.

On the 10th May we will be joining their monthly meeting in Wem Village Hall to hear a speaker on the subject of the Poor Laws.

Families during WWII—a history of Gerard Wood

At the last meeting, Nancy Ketchen provided insight into her father, Gerard Wood, born in 1918 and his war history. Her research shows the difficulties in obtaining family history which she has done a remarkable job in overcoming, but in Nancy's words "Well, if the Roman's can do it, why not me."

The full transcript, timeline and photos is available from Merle or on the Family History page of the website but here are some snippets from Nancy's paper to whet your appetite.

Coordinator:

Merle Traves
01743 790 028



Gerard Wood at Gibraltar:

"He described how when he was in Gibraltar he kept watch for enemy aircraft over the Mediterranean and used his signals role for this. He was also aboard small boats doing this job. One time he had just left Mass when he heard the enemy coming and had to rush back to communicate this with a sore heart, going from prayer to sending people possibly to their death."

On the back of photo 8 there was a message to my Mum. "When you see this you will realise, N, the size of the Rock. Gerry Wood x"

The living conditions of many army bases and particularly in Gibraltar Rock were significant in playing their own role in the lives of the men. Meningitis was rife. My Dad caught meningitis at some point, probably in Gibraltar Rock, and was placed in an isolation hospital in England."



Gerard Wood — somewhere hot

1940–1943: following his promotion to corporal, taken in Gibraltar, Malta or even Africa.



Family History

Mon 9 May
Pavilion, Pontesbury

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Group news

Open meeting: "Show and Tell" Wed 20 April

It was lovely to meet people for our first face-to-face since lockdown.

I couldn't show everyone's items here in the collage, but who ever would have guessed at the amazing, interesting and befuddling items people have in their houses.

Thank you to everyone for participating and those who arranged the meeting.

Using technology (a smart phone with Google Lens), Hugh's object was finally identified as a civil war portfire holder stove, used for lighting the fuse of a canon!

There is no Open Meeting this month. but please put the 15 June 2022 at 14h00 at Minsterley Parish Hall in your diary now for an amazing talk by Natalie Cumming on the dramatic history of a very special violin and its owners through revolution and war to the present day.

Editor: Sue Anderson



History Group

The History Group did not meet in April as it was felt the Easter holidays meant a probable clash of priorities for members.

We will be meeting next on Wednesday 16th May at 10h30 via zoom.

David Taylor will lead this session which will continue our study of Japanese History.

If you are not a regular member but would like to attend this session, or if you would like a copy of David's paper or a copy of the general introduction to Japanese history, please let me know and I will make sure you get copies of relevant papers and a link to the meeting.

Coordinator: Peter Traves
ptraves50@googlemail.com



History - Japan
Wed 16 May 10:30



Group news

Pickleball

We can no longer play at Mary Webb school until September due to exams.

Thankfully, we now have a new summer venue from the 21st April at:

London Road Sports Centre,
London Road,
Shrewsbury,
Shropshire.
SY2 6PR

There will be lifts into town for those living in the Pontesbury area. We will play weekly on a Thursday 4.30 - 5.55pm (almost

the same time) on 3 courts at a cost of £3 or £3.50 per session (if under 10 players it will be more).

I hope this new arrangement will suit everyone and that you continue to have fun and improve your game of Pickleball. If you have any questions please contact Jane.

Coordinator:

Jane Simms



New groups?

Is anyone interested in any of the following groups or who would like to suggest any new group please contact me:

Coordinator Support
Merle Traves
01743 790 028



Pilates



Scrabble



Knit and natter



Seated Yoga



Photography

Gardening

A coordinator's role is to organise and enthuse others. It can be shared with another group member. A coordinator does not have to know any more about their subject than the rest of the group.

The gardening group already possesses vast knowledge about gardening and has visited a number of gardens. They are looking for someone to coordinate them. Please come and speak to me if you are at all interested.

Coordinator Support

Merle Traves
01743 790 028



Play reading

A huge thank you to Colin for keeping the play reading group going, particularly throughout Covid. For many members it was a way of keeping in touch with others during a very difficult time.

Thanks also to Shirley for allowing us to meet in her beautiful house.

The group is now looking for a different venue and more members. Please come and speak to me if you are interested.

Coordinator Support

Merle Traves
01743 790 028



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Group News

Cinema & Social

Our regular monthly film venue in Marton Village Hall takes a break each Summer but we return in September with:

16th Sept. Spencer
21st Oct. The Duke
18th Nov. Phantom of the Open
16th Dec. Never Say Die

However, if you like to watch films more regularly, we will be visiting other venues in Shropshire to see:

Fantastic Beasts
Downton 2
Phantom of the Open
and Operation Mincemeat.

Coordinator: Judith Rice 
01743 792 790



Cinema & Social
As announced



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Table Tennis



Minsterley

Pontesbury Table Tennis will be cancelled on Monday 2 May as it is a bank holiday. The next session will be on the 9th May.

Beginners are warmly welcomed at both Pontesbury (every Monday 13h30–15h30 Congregational Church Hall) and Minsterley (every Wednesday 10h00–12h00 Minsterley Parish Hall).

Please contact the coordinators if you are interested in more details:



Pontesbury

Pontesbury:

Jane Simms 

Minsterley:

Sue Lambert 

Coordinator:

Mary Lovegrove 



Art appreciation
Mon 16 May
Via Zoom

Art appreciation

Well done to the art appreciation group who have identified some of the artists with connections to Shropshire, which they will be including in their display at our 40th anniversary celebration in September:

John Bowen d. 1773
Thomas Weaver 1774–1844
Henry Blunt 1807–1853 &
Agnes Blunt 1845–1925
Edward Lloyd 1818–1901
The Cole family 1832–1940
Frederick Carter 1883–1967
Darryl Walker 1950



Group News

A few snippets from our u3a page

If you have a Facebook page, please follow or join our u3a Pontesbury and Rea Valley [Facebook page](#) for up-to-date news.

Also, if you feel inclined, like or share any posts, as this raises the profile of our group.



Beautiful photos from Jane

Local History

There is no meeting in May with a face-to-face meeting planned for the 21st June, - venue to be advised.


We would still be grateful for any memories, photos or memorabilia of previous jubilee celebrations in the Rea Valley (60th, 50th, down to the coronation) for a montage of memories for the Local History Group contribution towards our 40th celebration of the u3a in September.

Please could you contact me with anything you may be able to contribute. Many thanks in advance.



Coordinator:

Susan

Lockwood 

Photography (new group)

Due to illness, the set up meeting has been postponed. If there are any other aspiring photographers, those with a life-long interest in photography, or just wanting to improve your photographic skills please let Merle know and she will send you an invitation to the setting up meeting when it occurs.




Group Support:

[Merle Traves](#) 

Bridge

The bridge group is looking for new members. Beginners or experienced players are all welcome.

Coordinator: Bryan Rigg 

bryanrigg99@gmail.com

01588 650161



Literature

The Literature group has been extending its horizons and plans to follow its study of some key American and Russian texts with a focus on Irish Literature after the summer holiday.

Coordinator: Doreen Thomas

doreen.thomas614@btinternet.com



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Group News


Painting & Drawing

Relaunch

We are trying to get the group going again. Back before Covid we were meeting two afternoons a month to work on a suggested theme or medium, or just to 'do our own thing'.

If you might be interested in joining us, please let me know and I will put you on our e-mailing list.

Coordinator: Hugh Scriven


01743 790430 

Earls Hill celebrations

I would like to join in the Earls Hill celebrations by holding an exhibition of paintings of views of the Hill or views from the Hill. This is hoped will be in the library in July.

Are there any Painters and Drawers who would like to take part, member or ex-members included? Please get in touch.

Coordinator: Gill Scriven

01743 790430 



Recorded Music

At last! The Recorded Music Group will meet again in the Committee Room of Minsterley Parish Hall. The date is Wednesday, 4th May and the time is 2pm. For this meeting the subject is Spring, so bring along

an LP or CD that reminds you of this season. No refreshments are planned on this occasion but may be included for future gatherings depending on how people feel.

Coordinator: John Rice 

01743 792790



Café Society

The next meeting of the Cafe Society group is at the Minsterley Parish Hall on Wednesday 25 May 11:00-13:00. A small charge of £2:50 is required to cover room hire and refreshments.

Please find more information on the on the [website](#)..



Coordinator:

Janet Walsh 





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 	Literature	2nd Wed in month 14:00-16:00 Pavilion, Pontesbury 
Bridge	Under relaunch 	Local History	3rd Tue of month 14:00-16:00 Currently via Zoom 
Café Society	Last Wed of month 11:00-13:00 Minsterley Parish Hall 	Painting & Drawing	Under relaunch 
Cinema & Social Judith Rice 01743 792 790 	As announced 	Pickle Ball /Soft Tennis	Every Thu 16:30-17:55 London Road Sports Centre, Shrewsbury 
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	Under relaunch 
Family History	2nd Mon of month 10h15-12h15 Pavilion , Pontesbury 	Recorded Music	1st Wed of month 14:00 Minsterley Parish Hall 
Folk Music	Every Mon 14:00-16:00 Minsterley Parish Hall 	Table Tennis Minsterley	Every Wed 10:00-12:00 Minsterley Parish Hall 
Gardening	Under relaunch 	Table Tennis Pontesbury	Every Mon 13:30-15:30 Congregational Church 
Geology	2nd Tue of month 14:00-16:00 Pavilion, Pontesbury 	Walking (long)	Alternate Thu 10:00 As announced 
History	3rd Mon of month 10:30-12:30 Currently via Zoom 	Walking (short)	Alternate Mon 10:00 Pontesbury School Green 
Italian	Every Wed 10:30-12:00 Coordinator's house 		

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Mon 2	Table Tennis Pontesbury 13:30–15:30 Congregational Church CANCELLED BANK HOLIDAY Folk Music 14:00–16:00 Minsterley Parish Hall	Tue 10	Cycling 10:00 Pontesbury School Green Family History (Wem) 10:30 Wem Village Hall “The Poor Laws” Geology 14:00–16:00 Pavilion, Pontesbury	Thu 19	Creative writing 10:00–12:00 Pavilion/Zoom hybrid Walking (Long) 10:00 As announced Pickle Ball/Soft Tennis 16:30–17:55 London Road Sports Centre, Shrewsbury
Tue 3	Cycling 10:00 Pontesbury School Green	Wed 11	Table Tennis Minsterley 10:00–12:00 Minsterley Parish Hall Italian 10:30–12:00 Coordinator’s house Literature 14:00–16:00 Pavilion, Pontesbury	Mon 23	Walking (Short) 10:00 Pontesbury School Green Table Tennis Pontesbury 13:30–15:30 Congregational Church Folk Music 14:00–16:00 Minsterley Parish Hall
Wed 4	Table Tennis Minsterley 10:00–12:00 Minsterley Parish Hall Italian 10:30–12:00 Coordinator’s house Recorded Music 14:00 Minsterley Parish Hall	Thu 12	Pickle Ball/Soft Tennis 16:30–17:55 London Road Sports Centre, Shrewsbury History 10:30–12:30 via Zoom Table Tennis Pontesbury 13:30–15:30 Congregational Church Art appreciation 14:00–16:00 via Zoom	Tue 24	Cycling 10:00 Pontesbury School Green Table Tennis Minsterley 10:00–12:00 Minsterley Parish Hall Italian 10:30–12:00 Coordinator’s house Café Society Time 11:00–13:00 Minsterley Parish Hall
Thu 5	Creative writing 10:00–12:00 Pavilion/Zoom hybrid Bridge 10:00–12:00 Horseshoes Inn Walking (Long) 10:00 As announced Pickle Ball/Soft Tennis 16:30–17:55 London Road Sports Centre, Shrewsbury	Mon 16	Folk Music 14:00–16:00 Minsterley Parish Hall Cycling 10:00 Pontesbury School Green Local History 14:00–16:00 via Zoom CANCELLED Table Tennis Minsterley 10:00–12:00 Minsterley Parish Hall Italian 10:30–12:00 Coordinator’s house Bridge 10:00–12:00 Horseshoes Inn	Wed 25	Pickle Ball/Soft Tennis 16:30–17:55 London Road Sports Centre, Shrewsbury
Sat 7	FoPL Plant Sale 10:00–13:00 The Pavilion	Tue 17	Cycling 10:00 Pontesbury School Green Local History 14:00–16:00 via Zoom CANCELLED Table Tennis Minsterley 10:00–12:00 Minsterley Parish Hall Italian 10:30–12:00 Coordinator’s house	Thu 26	Pickle Ball/Soft Tennis 16:30–17:55 London Road Sports Centre, Shrewsbury
Mon 9	Walking (Short) 10:00 Pontesbury School Green Family History 10:15–12:15 Pavilion, Pontesbury u3a Committee meeting 13:00 The Pavilion Table Tennis Pontesbury 13:30–15:30 Congregational Church Folk Music 14:00–16:00 Minsterley Parish Hall	Wed 18	Table Tennis Minsterley 10:00–12:00 Minsterley Parish Hall Italian 10:30–12:00 Coordinator’s house		
		Thu 19	Bridge 10:00–12:00 Horseshoes Inn		

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