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## A word or two from the Chair ...

If I'm honest I'm not altogether keen on new technology – aside from the fact that I often feel that my computer or printer has something against me – or i-player decides to go off line just at an exciting bit of Bargain Hunt(!), I can't help feel that if we're not careful the personal touches in life are going to be lost – I still enjoy getting letters or a postcard even – a few pictures on a Facebook page just don't do it for me.

However, I can see that some aspects of technology are actually quite good – and were especially useful during the lock-downs when face to face meeting up wasn't possible. Emails are also a really effective way of getting information circulated and of course Facebook can advertise events and activities to a huge audience.

Our new (ish) Pontesbury & RVD u3a website is starting to get quite a lot of attention and it contains a large amount of important information about our u3a, our groups and our meetings etc. if you haven't yet logged on then please take a look and maybe start to use it regularly so that you know what's happening and when. You can contact committee members and some group leaders via the website if you have queries or feedback about our u3a.

I hope to see you at our next Open Meeting on Wednesday 15 June at Minsterley Parish Hall at 2.00pm. Details about the event are on page 2 and it will be an amazing event.

Our July Open Meeting will be our AGM and details about this will be in

*Continued on page 2*

## Special Events

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

learn, laugh, live

Next open meeting

**u3a**  
Pontesbury  
& Rea Valley

**21 Sept 2022**  
**u3a**  
40th Anniversary  
More details to follow



## u3a News

### A few words from the Chair ...

*Continued from page 1*

the next newsletter (and on the website of course). This will be a Zoom meeting – invites to be sent nearer the time.

We won't have a meeting in August but our Open Meeting in September will be a celebration of the u3a movement as it celebrates its 40th Anniversary.

Plenty to celebrate this year, it seems – enjoy the Jubilee Celebrations this weekend.

Best wishes

**Chair:** Janet Walsh



### u3a 40th anniversary celebrations

In September, the u3a celebrates its 40th anniversary and our u3a will be putting together an event not only celebrating the u3a but our branch and Shropshire.

Please keep an eye out for further details as they are announced.



### Open meeting: "The Fiddle"

**by Natalie Cumming – Wed 15 June 2pm**

**W**hatever you do, put this date in your diary for this unmissable fascinating talk by Natalie Cumming, Shropshire resident and author of "The Fiddle", on the remarkable true story of a family violin from Russia, Germany to the UK; through war and terror, concentration camps to safety in the present day – highlighting some of the most important events in modern history.

In January 2018, the violin featured in BBC 2's, "[The Repair Shop](#)". It has now been donated to the Yehudi Menuhin School of Music and is played every day by a young virtuoso.

Natalie started work aged 17 as a secretary at Gillette Industries. In 1970 she moved into merchant banking, as a personal assistant in the City of London with Lord

Kissin of the Guinness Peat Group, finally working with Jacob Rothschild, Chairman of the Five Arrows Group, before retiring.

She became a Freeman of the City of London in 1983 and Member of the Guild of Freemen in 2003. After becoming a supporter of the Missing People Charity in 1986, she served as a Trustee from 1990 to 2007 and continues her involvement.



### The Fiddle by Natalie Cumming

Wed  
15  
June  
2022

2pm  
Minsterley Parish Hall  
Free



**OPEN MEETING**  
Members & non-members welcome



## u3a News

### Shropshire Network Facebook page

The u3a Shropshire Network have created an open [Facebook Group](#).

The group is open to all u3a members and will be a useful resource so please join the Facebook group to get access to a useful resource.



[u3a Shropshire Network](#)



### Guardian article: "A new start after 60"

In May, the Guardian published a heart-warming story of how the u3a helped Marian Elliott rebuild her life and her confidence after suddenly being left alone when 60 years old.

[Click here to read the full article.](#)



Marian Elliott with her rescue lurcher/collie cross Ruby. Photograph: Sarah Lee/The Guardian

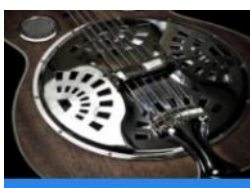
### National u3a online learning events

June'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



**How to Get Published:**

Mon 6 June 2pm



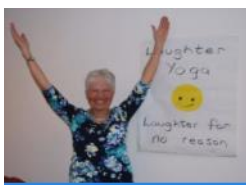
**Post-War Blues**

Thursdays in June  
– 10am



**Mindfulness & Meditation**

Thursdays in Jun  
10am



**Laughter Yoga Workshops – New Sessions!**

Wed 8 June 10am



u3a Radio Podcast

17th June



**deal with climate change?**

Fri 24 June 10am

### Southport Flower Show 18th – 21st August – u3a discount

Remember to book your reduced tickets for £18 (instead of £27) for u3a members to the Southport Flower Show on the 18th–21st August 2022. This will also give you the opportunity to support the Southport u3a Gardening Group, who are creating a Show Garden at this years show.

Further details available at:

[www.southportflowershow.co.uk](http://www.southportflowershow.co.uk).

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

### Welcome!

This month we would like to give a warm welcome to our new member;

Greg McCardell

**Membership secretary:**

Peter Traves



# u3a news

## u3a Network Links

**U**3a Network Links help share local and national ideas, events and challenges and benefits all u3a's with improved communications.

### Newsletter

There is a Network Link newsletter, u3a News for Networks, with many interesting contributions from across the u3a network. To sign up to receive this newsletter, [click here](#). To read the May issue, [click here](#):

### Subject Network

There is also a new type of network under development, bringing members together around interests rather than location.

Subject Networks are an opportunity to share ideas and resources, build relationships and access more learning opportunities around the subject. Whether you attend an interest group in that subject or not, there are many benefits to joining a national u3a subject network.

More subject networks are being developed all the time. Some established subject networks are:

Chess  
Climate Change  
Cycling

Crown Green Bowling  
Science  
Geology

For more information, [click here](#).

### Creative Writing Challenge

The u3a Creative Writing Competition is open for the third year as they search for the best u3a short story, matching the theme '**Opening(s)**.' The deadline is 16 June 2022.

Find this on the learning pages, along with other new opportunities, including the new Spring Learning Programme:

[www.u3a.org.uk/learning/national-](http://www.u3a.org.uk/learning/national-)



## Maths challenges

**E**very week on a Thursday, the u3a post a weekly maths challenge, with problems and puzzles. Check back each week for the solutions.

If you would like to share your ideas on how to solve these puzzles please join the learning forum.

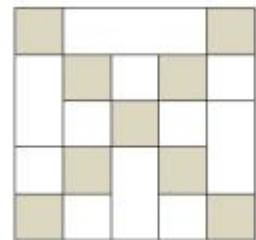
## Logic puzzles for fun

**T**his is the May 2022 Logic puzzles for Fun published by the u3a National programmes, contributed by Gordon Burgin, Norwich u3a member – Maths Group. Solutions will be posted the month after here:

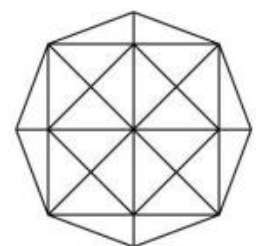
[u3a.org.uk/learning/national-programmes/logic-puzzles-for-fun](http://u3a.org.uk/learning/national-programmes/logic-puzzles-for-fun)

### 1. Can-you-figure-it-out

- a) How many squares, of any size, are there in the following diagram?

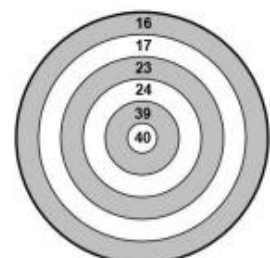


- b) How many squares and triangles of any size are in the following diagram?



### 2. Darts-logic:

To score exactly 100, how many darts must be used?





## Group news

### Geology

The geology group visited the world famous Onny river valley geological section, to see a variety of sedimentary rocks and fossils of mainly Ordovician Age. While no Trilobites samples were found, we did find lots of Brachiopods.

We were also able to locate one unconformity between the Ordovician and Silurian. However, the second unconformity separating Pre Cambrian rocks below was a little more difficult to see in the dense vegetation.

The walk along the disused railway by the Onny River was very pleasant with bluebells and wild garlic in full bloom and is highly recommended even for non geologists.

**Coordinator:**

Richard Down 



### Literature


We have been dipping our toe into Russian Literature for the last few months and it has provided us with a good insight into 19/20th Century Russian history, in which Russian authors are acclaimed for their literary brilliance.

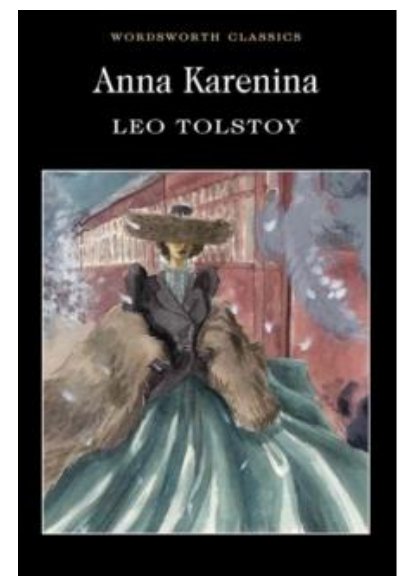
At our June meeting, we shall be discussing Tolstoy's famous novel Anna Karenina (all 940 pages!)

Our next adventure will be a journey of discovery into Irish literature,

which will include the authors Oscar Wilde, Seamus Heaney, Lady Gregory and .Oliver Goldsmith.

We meet on the second Wednesday of the month (excluding August) at 2 pm in the meeting room at Pontesbury Pavilion. We have lively discussions as well as fun and laughter. If you would like to join us, contact Doreen.

**Coordinator:** Doreen Thomas   
01743 790332



## Group news

### Pickleball

No doubt by now, you would, have seen the article on Pickleball in the latest national u3a magazine, Third Age Matters:

*"Pickleball? The new craze that's sweeping the nation—and u3a's",*

Our u3a had probably one of the earliest Pickleball groups, when Jane Simms combined it with Soft Tennis and arranged tuition. Now there is a friendly group of addicted (to!) pickleball players.

As mentioned, it is a game suitable for all age groups and skills; quick and easy to learn.

The pickleball group has relocated to the London Road Sports Centre in Shrewsbury over the summer, when hopefully afterwards we should be returning to Mary Webb School.

Currently, there is a lift-sharing scheme into town for those living in the Pontesbury area. We 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).

If you have any questions please contact Jane.

**Coordinator:**

Jane Simms



### Gardening

The gardening group is still looking for a coordinator.

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.

Please come and speak to me if you are at all interested.

**Coordinator Support**

Merle Traves  
01743 790 028



### 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



Sunday lunch  
eating out



Seated Yoga



Photography

### Local History

The local history group will be meeting at 2pm at the Holy Trinity Minsterley to put together their contribution to the u3a 40th celebration in September.

If any one else is interested in seeing the Maiden's Garlands in the church, they are more than welcome to join us.

**Coordinator:**

Susan Lockwood



[susanlockwood345@btinternet.com](mailto:susanlockwood345@btinternet.com)



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## Group News

### A few snippets from our u3a page

If you are on Facebook, 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.



More beautiful photos from Jane

### Cinema & Social

There will be no more Friday films at Marton Village Hall over summer but we return in September with 4 excellent films:

16th Sept. Spencer  
21st Oct. The Duke  
18th Nov. Phantom of the Open  
16th Dec. West Side Story

Over the Summer months, we will visit other venues in Shropshire to see several interesting films:

4th June The Queen  
10th June Downton 2  
18th June Operation Mincemeat  
27th June King Richard  
4th July Summer Holiday  
14th July Road Dance

Please contact Judith for further details.

#### Coordinator:

Judith Rice   
01743 792 790  
email jebbri@u3a.org.uk



Cinema & Social  
As announced

### Art appreciation

We are continuing our exploration of Picasso's life and works at our usual time on Monday June 20th, when our postponed discussion on Picasso's Cubist period will now take place.

We will probably also look at his progression into Neo-Classicism and Surrealism, with a sideways glance at his involvement with the Ballet Russes.

The venue for this catch-up is to be decided, but we are hoping that the weather will be kind and that we can hold an actual meeting, preferably outside in the garden!

#### Coordinator:

Mary Lovegrove 



#### Art appreciation

Mon 1620 June  
Venue to be confirmed

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Pontesbury  
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## Group News

### Family History

The family history group was kindly invited by Wem u3a on the 10th May to attend a well attended talk on the English Poor Laws, a system of poor relief that developed from early 16th century until the modern welfare state emerged after the Second World War.

A huge thank you to Lesley Schofield and the Wem u3a for inviting us and the warm welcome, along with some scrumptious cakes afterwards.

**Coordinator:** Merle Traves 



### Recorded Music

The June meeting of the Recorded Music Group will meet again in the Committee Room of Minsterley Parish Hall on Wednesday 8th June not the 1st this month because the Hall is being otherwise used.

For this meeting the subject is dance; it shouldn't be too difficult to find some music for that (!) but the more unusual the better!

**Coordinator:** John Rice 

01743 792790



#### Recorded Music

8 June 14h00  
Minsterley Parish Hall  
(Committee room)


### Café Society

A lively and interesting debate was had this month at our relaunch meeting on the merits, or otherwise, of Home Schooling.

The next Cafe society meeting will be taking place on Wednesday 29 June in The Committee Room at Minsterley Parish Hall at 2.00pm. (£2.50 to cover room hire and refreshments).

We would love to welcome a few new members so if you fancy some interesting conversation do please come and join us.

Our main topic for this session will be 'Free Speech' – seems a good topic for a discussion group!

Information about the group and its meetings can be found on the Pontesbury u3a [website](https://www.u3a.org.uk/pontesbury-reavalley). 

Please contact Janet if you have any queries.

**Coordinator:**  
Janet Walsh 



#### Café Society

Wed 29 June 14h00  
Minsterley Paris Hall

**u3a**  
Pontesbury  
& Rea Valley





## 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 

<b>Art Appreciation</b>	3rd Mon of month 14:00-16:00 <b>To be confirmed</b>		<b>Local History</b>	3rd Tue of month 14:00-16:00 <b>Holy Trinity Minsterley</b>	
<b>Bridge</b>	<b>Under relaunch</b>		<b>Painting &amp; Drawing</b>	<b>Under relaunch</b>	
<b>Café Society</b>	Last Wed of month <b>14:00-16:00</b> <b>Minsterley Parish Hall</b>		<b>Pickle Ball /Soft Tennis</b>	Every Thu 16:30-17:55 <b>London Road Sports Center, Shrewsbury</b>	
<b>Cinema &amp; Social</b>	As announced		<b>Play Reading</b>	<b>Under relaunch</b>	
<b>Creative writing</b>	1st & 3rd Thu 10:00-12:00 Pavilion/Zoom hybrid		<b>Recorded Music</b>	1st Wed of month 14:00 Minsterley Parish Hall	
<b>Cycling</b>	Every Tue 10:00 Pontesbury School Green		<b>Table Tennis Minsterley</b>	Every Wed 10:00-12:00 Minsterley Parish Hall	
<b>Family History</b>	2nd Mon of month 10h15-12h15 Pavilion, Pontesbury		<b>Table Tennis Pontesbury</b>	Every Mon 13:30-15:30 Congregational Church	
<b>Folk Music</b>	Every Mon 14:00-16:00 Minsterley Parish Hall		<b>Walking (long)</b>	Alternate Thu 10:00 As announced	
<b>Gardening</b>	<b>Under relaunch</b>		<b>Walking (short)</b>	Alternate Mon 10:00 Pontesbury School Green	
<b>Geology</b>	2nd Tue of month 14:00-16:00 Pavilion, Pontesbury		<b>Potential new groups under investigation</b>		
<b>History</b>	3rd Mon of month 10:30-12:30 Currently via Zoom				
<b>Italian</b>	Every Wed 10:30-12:00 Coordinator's house				
<b>Literature</b>	2nd Wed in month 14:00-16:00 Pavilion, Pontesbury				

- Pilates
- Scrabble
- Sunday lunch
- Seated Yoga
- Photography

**u3a**  
Pontesbury  
& Rea Valley



Wed 1	<b>Table Tennis Minsterley</b> 10:00–12:00 Minsterley Parish Hall	Mon 13	<b>Table Tennis Pontesbury</b> 13:30–15:30 Congregational Church	Tue 21	<b>Cycling</b> 10:00 Pontesbury School Green
	<b>Italian</b> 10:30–12:00 Coordinator's house		<b>Folk Music</b> 14:00–16:00 Minsterley Parish Hall		<b>Local History</b> 14:00–16:00 Holy Trinity Minsterley
Thu 2	<b>Walking (Long)</b> 10:00 As announced	Tue 14	<b>Cycling</b> 10:00 Pontesbury School Green	Wed 22	<b>Table Tennis Minsterley</b> 10:00–12:00 Minsterley Parish Hall
	<b>Creative writing</b> 9:30–12:00 <b>CANCELLED</b>		<b>Geology</b> 14:00–16:00 Pavilion, Pontesbury		<b>Italian</b> 10:30–12:00 Coordinator's house
	<b>Pickle Ball/Soft Tennis</b> 9:30–17:30 <b>CANCELLED</b>	Wed 15	<b>Table Tennis Minsterley</b> 10:00–12:00 Minsterley Parish Hall	Thu 23	<b>Pickle Ball/Soft Tennis</b> 16:30–17:55 London Road Sports Centre, Shrewsbury
Sun 5	<b>Pontesbury Queen's Jubilee Celebrations</b> 14:00–22:00 Pontesbury		<b>Italian</b> 10:30–12:00 Coordinator's house	Mon 27	<b>Table Tennis Pontesbury</b> 13:30–15:30 Congregational Church
Mon 6	<b>Walking (Short)</b> 10:00 Pontesbury School Green		<b>u3a Committee meeting</b> 12:45 Minsterley Parish Hall		<b>Folk Music</b> 14:00–16:00 Minsterley Parish Hall
	<b>Table Tennis Pontesbury</b> 13:30–15:30 Congregational Church	 <b>Open Meeting: "The Fiddle" - Natalie Cumming</b> 14:00 Minsterley Parish Hall		Tue 28	<b>Cycling</b> 10:00 Pontesbury School Green
	<b>Folk Music</b> 14:00–16:00 Minsterley Parish Hall	Thu 16	<b>Creative writing</b> 10:00–12:00 Pavilion/Zoom hybrid	Wed 29	<b>Table Tennis Minsterley</b> 10:00–12:00 Minsterley Parish Hall
Tue 7	<b>Cycling</b> 10:00 Pontesbury School Green		<b>Walking (Long)</b> 10:00 As announced		<b>Italian</b> 10:30–12:00 Coordinator's house
Wed 8	<b>Table Tennis Minsterley</b> 10:00–12:00 Minsterley Parish Hall		<b>Pickle Ball/Soft Tennis</b> 16:30–17:55 London Road Sports Centre, Shrewsbury	Thu 30	<b>Walking (Long)</b> 10:00 As announced
	<b>Italian</b> 10:30–12:00 Coordinator's house	Mon 20	<b>Walking (Short)</b> 10:00 Pontesbury School Green		<b>Pickle Ball/Soft Tennis</b> 16:30–17:55 London Road Sports Centre, Shrewsbury
	<b>Recorded Music</b> 14:00 Minsterley Parish Hall		<b>History</b> 10:30–12:30 via Zoom		
	<b>Literature</b> 14:00–16:00 Pavilion, Pontesbury		<b>Table Tennis Pontesbury</b> 13:30–15:30 Congregational Church		
Thu 9	<b>Pickle Ball/Soft Tennis</b> 16:30–17:55 London Road Sports Centre, Shrewsbury		<b>Art appreciation</b> 14:00–16:00 To be advised		
Mon 13	<b>Family History</b> 10:15–12:15 Pavilion, Pontesbury		<b>Folk Music</b> 14:00–16:00 Minsterley Parish Hall		

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