

## Peter Traves (25 April 1950 – 5 July 2022)

Founder member & First Chair of Pontesbury & Rea Valley u3a

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### Special Events



**24 Sept 2022**  
14h-16h  
The Pavilion,  
Pontesbury

Peter John Underhill Traves will always be so much more than any words which could be used to describe him, no matter how eloquent.

Many people came to the incredibly moving funeral on Monday 25 July, or watched it online around the world or together at The Pavilion Library in Pontesbury. They came to reflect on Peter's early years in Birmingham, his life as a student, working in London at Hackney Downs, and the incredible depth of public service that Peter gave to the community throughout his life.

Moving to Shropshire with Merle and the family, as English Advisor, then head of the Wakeman School in Shrewsbury, Peter went on to join Staffordshire LEA to set up its School Effectiveness Unit, became Deputy Director of Education and Director of Children's Services and then advisor to the Department of Education. Latterly, in retirement, Peter became a founder member of our u3a and Chair of the Shropshire & Wolverhampton Network.

There were moving tributes from family, friends and colleagues on how Peter had touched them all, with his commitment and love of his family, kindness, love of learning and intellect.

Over the past few weeks many words and reflections of Peter came to light. The following are but a few :

*"Intelligence and wisdom"*  
*"Exceptional teacher"*  
*"Always encouraging"*  
*"Gentlest and kindest"*  
*"Generous and empowering"*  
*"Good humour"*  
*"Amazing breadth of knowledge"*  
*"Endless tolerance"*  
*"Incisive judgement"*  
*"Remarkable memory"*  
*"Inspirational"*  
*"Incredibly hard-working"*  
*"Lucid common sense"*  
*"Infectious enthusiasm"*  
*"Good friend"*  
*"Great man"*  
*"Family always came first"*

**Continued on Page 2 ...**



## u3a News

### Continue from Page 1 ...

Assessing each of these carefully, most people would be content with just one or two of these accolades. This list really highlights that Peter was truly one in a million and this world has been enriched and blessed for having had Peter ... and likewise so have we all.

No matter how long any of us had known Peter, not one person went untouched having met him, feeling an instant friendship, kindness and warmth. All of us owe Peter so much, so let us all continue his legacy in keeping our u3a thriving and in our actions and thoughts. Let us think; "What would Peter have done?" For in this, we will all be better people.

And let us keep Merle and their sons; James, David and Richard and family in our hearts and thoughts – for their burden is the greatest, not only in loss but in legacy.

Rest in Peace, Peter. We thank you for all you have given. You will be sorely missed.

Editor: [Sue Anderson](#)



Peter with his book: "Not Great Hopes: A Birmingham Boyhood"

### Thank you from Merle ....

Merle has asked to please pass on her thanks for all the support and messages of sympathy she has received from u3a members at this difficult time. It has been truly amazing for which she is very grateful.

### Donations

The funeral directors have set up an account and link for anyone who wanted to make a donation to the BookTrust but did not get the opportunity to do so at the funeral.

To do this, simply use the links on the tribute at:

[www.pughsfuneraldirectors.com/tributes-donations/funeral-details/?tribute=petertraves](http://www.pughsfuneraldirectors.com/tributes-donations/funeral-details/?tribute=petertraves)

Or ask them to visit: [petertraves.muchloved.com](http://petertraves.muchloved.com)

### Funeral Recording

For those who were unable to view the service or watch it again, the recording of Peter's funeral will be available until the end of Monday 22 August:

Website: [watch.obitus.com](http://watch.obitus.com)

Username: yeso7963

Password: 035492

**u3a**  
Pontesbury  
& Rea Valley

Mon 1	<b>Walking (Short)</b> 10:00 Pontesbury School Green	Wed 10	<b>Italian</b> 10:30–12:00 Coordinator's house	Mon 22	<b>Folk Music</b> 14:00–16:00 Minsterley Parish Hall
	<b>Table Tennis Pontesbury</b> 13:30–15:30 Congregational Church	Wed 10	<b>Literature</b> 14:00–16:00 Pavilion, Pontesbury	Tue 23	<b>Cycling</b> 10:00 Pontesbury School Green
	<b>Folk Music</b> 14:00–16:00 Minsterley Parish Hall	Thu 11	<b>Walking (Long)</b> 10:00 As announced	Wed 24	<b>Table Tennis Minsterley</b> 10:00–12:00 Minsterley Parish Hall
	<b>u3a Committee meeting</b> 14:00 Pavilion, Pontesbury		<b>Pickle Ball</b> 16:30–18:00 Mary Webb School, Pontesbury		<b>Italian</b> 10:30–12:00 Coordinator's house
Tue 2	<b>Cycling</b> 10:00 Pontesbury School Green	Mon 15	<b>Walking (Short)</b> 10:00 Pontesbury School Green	Thu 25	<b>Walking (Long)</b> 10:00 As announced
Wed 3	<b>Table Tennis Minsterley</b> 10:00–12:00 Minsterley Parish Hall		<b>History</b> 10:30–12:30 Pavilion, Pontesbury		<b>Pickle Ball</b> 10:00–12:00 Mary Webb School, Pontesbury
	<b>Italian</b> 10:30–12:00 Coordinator's house		<b>HOLIDAYS</b>	Mon 29	<b>Walking (Short)</b> 10:00 Pontesbury School Green
	<b>Recorded Music</b> 14:00 Minsterley Parish Hall		<b>Table Tennis Pontesbury</b> 13:30–15:30 Congregational Church		<b>Table Tennis Pontesbury</b> 13:30–15:30 Congregational Church
	<b>Photography</b> 14:00 Member's house		<b>Art appreciation</b> 14:00–16:00 Pavilion, Pontesbury		<b>Folk Music</b> 14:00–16:00 Minsterley Parish Hall
Thu 4	<b>Creative writing</b> 10:00–12:00 Pavilion/Zoom hybrid		<b>Folk Music</b> 14:00–16:00 Minsterley Parish Hall	Tue 30	<b>Cycling</b> 10:00 Pontesbury School Green
	<b>Pickle Ball</b> 16:30–18:00 Mary Webb School, Pontesbury	Tue 16	<b>Cycling</b> 10:00 Pontesbury School Green	Wed 31	<b>Table Tennis Minsterley</b> 10:00–12:00 Minsterley Parish Hall
Mon 8	<b>Family History</b> 10:00–12:00 Pavilion, Pontesbury		<b>Local History</b> 14:00–16:00 Holy Trinity Minsterley		<b>Italian</b> 10:30–12:00 Coordinator's house
	<b>Table Tennis Pontesbury</b> 13:30–15:30 Congregational Church	Wed 17	<b>Table Tennis Minsterley</b> 10:00–12:00 Minsterley Parish Hall		<b>Café Society</b> 14:00–16:00 Minsterley Parish Hall
	<b>Folk Music</b> 14:00–16:00 Minsterley Parish Hall		<b>Italian</b> 10:30–12:00 Coordinator's house		<b>HOLIDAYS</b>
Tue 9	<b>Cycling</b> 10:00 Pontesbury School Green	Thu 18	<b>Creative writing</b> 10:00–12:00 Pavilion/Zoom hybrid		
	<b>Geology</b> 14:00–16:00 Pavilion, Pontesbury		<b>Pickle Ball</b> 16:30–18:00 Mary Webb School, Pontesbury		
Wed 10	<b>Table Tennis Minsterley</b> 10:00–12:00 Minsterley Parish Hall	Mon 22	<b>Table Tennis Pontesbury</b> 13:30–15:30 Congregational Church		

learn,  
laugh,  
live



## u3a News

### From the Chair ...

Dear Members,

July was a very sad month for our u3a as we come to terms with the sudden death of Peter Traves – our founding chairman and someone who, with Merle, contributed so much to the development of our group. Our thoughts are with Merle at this time and I am sure that we will all find ways to support her over the coming months.

The u3a 40th Anniversary

Celebration event on Saturday 24 September at The Pavilion on Hall Bank (2pm–4pm) will be a somewhat poignant occasion with a mixture of emotions. I am sure though that it will first and foremost be a celebration of our u3a and the movement in general. I look forward to seeing you there. Information about this event will be coming your way over the next few weeks and of course details will also be available on our website.

Thank you to those who attended our AGM last month – we welcomed two new committee members, Steve Anderson and Bob Clare, who will both be involved in the membership side of our u3a. The minutes of the AGM are available on the website.

In the meantime – enjoy the rest of the summer.

Best wishes,

Chair: [Janet](#)

### AGM – 20 July 2022

Thank you to all members who attended the AGM on the 20 July 2022. As Janet mentioned, the minutes are available on the [website](#).

Deeply felt was the absence of Peter and Merle, and tributes to Peter were given by Bob Boden and Doreen Thomas.

The members devolved powers to the committee to agree the new model constitution, to ensure that the updated model document reflects our branch's needs and adapt it with amendments as appropriate.

The committee members were nominated in the AGM and responsibilities clarified in the committee meeting as follows:

#### Committee members

Janet Walsh	Chair
David Taylor	Vice Chair
John Rice	Treasurer
Sue Anderson	Secretary & Publicity
Merle Traves	Group coordinator
Steve Anderson	Membership Secretary
Bob Boden	Open Meetings
Bob Clare	Member Induction & Support
Doreen Thomas	Honorary President
Hugh Scriven	



## u3a News

## u3a 40th Anniversary—It's time to get ready ...

Our 40th anniversary celebrations in September are fast approaching and donations and help from the members will be greatly appreciated to make this an amazing event.



**HELP  
WANTED**

## WANTED – TOMBOLA PRIZES

Chair: [Janet](#)

Some of you may know that I consider myself the Tombola Queen of Pontesbury and I shall therefore be 'spinning the drum' at the 40th Anniversary Celebration on Saturday 24 September. To this end, I need some prizes please – bottles always welcome – or chocolates etc. – unwanted (and unused) gifts are also acceptable – in fact anything that you

might like to win yourself if you picked a lucky ticket. Gift donations can be left at the Pavilion or brought to me at 10 Yarlington Orchard – email me first though [japa.walsh1@btinternet.com](mailto:japa.walsh1@btinternet.com) to sort out the best time. I need the donations no later than Wednesday 21 September 2022 please, so I can get all of the tickets organised. Thanks in advance for your support .

## CALLING ALL CAKE MAKERS

Vice-chair: [David](#)

We would be very grateful if you are able and willing to donate a cake, please could you let David know in advance so we know we have sufficient. Cakes to be delivered to the Pavilion at 1pm on the 24th September 2022, so these can be prepared in advance of the opening. Could the ingredients of each contribution be clearly labelled so we can cater for any allergies. Many thanks in advance.

## REFRESHMENT VOLUNTEERS

Vice-chair: [David](#)

Please could any people able to help with serving refreshments and cleaning up let David know.



# Interest Groups

## History



As co-ordinator for our u3a History Group, Peter's enthusiasm and incredible knowledge for all aspects of history was infectious. His ability to bring such varied subjects as the industrial revolution, Tudor England, the history of Japan and many others to life was truly amazing.

Effortlessly setting the scene of the subject with a stimulating overview, Peter would then encourage each of the group members to research a specific aspect of their choice. In turn we would then present our findings and lead the discussion. He was never anything but complimentary and free with his praise.

After giving a presentation you always felt valued and came away with an enormous sense of achievement, that was Peter's remarkable style. As a result, group members who hadn't

studied history since leaving school suddenly felt a renewed interest in history and the group flourished.

Peter effortlessly made new members feel totally welcome and his motivating style was nothing less than inspiring.

The members of the History Group owe so much to Peter and he will be terribly missed by us all.

The proposed session to be led by Sue Pigott-Forster on the 25th July on the Black Death, was postponed to spend time reflecting and sharing our memories of Peter, our inspiring and remarkable coordinator.

As no session was planned for August, Sue's talk on the **Black Death** will now go ahead on Monday, 19th September at 10:30. The next meeting will be a physical meeting rather than zoom at Pontesbury Pavilion. If any non-history group member would like to attend, please contact me for details.

**Temporary Coordinator:**  
[David Taylor](#)



## Recorded Music

The group won't be meeting in August and the next gathering will be at 2 p.m. on 7th September in the Committee Room of Minsterley Parish Hall.

The subject will be: your most liked pieces in this year's BBC Promenade Concerts? – and also your least favourite pieces!

**Coordinator:** [John Rice](#)

01743 792790



## Short Walking

The short walking group will be meeting on the following dates in August, including the Bank Holiday Monday at 10am at School Green, Pontesbury:

Monday 1st August  
Monday 15th August  
Monday 29th August

**Coordinator:** Irene Windows



## Interest Groups

### Photography



We now have a new interest group: **Photography**.

We're a good eclectic mix, mostly novices with some having a bit more experience—most with phone cameras but a couple more advanced ones.

From near novices to some with quite good experience we are going to explore various technical aspects of

imaging and photo storage and presentation tools.

We plan on meeting on the first Monday of the month at 14h–16h either at a members house or a field trip.

Please click here to go to our website for more information:

[u3asites.org.uk/pontesbury-reavalley/page/117558](https://u3asites.org.uk/pontesbury-reavalley/page/117558)

If you have any queries or would like to join the group, please contact me.

**Coordinator:**  
[Steve Anderson](#)



Photography Group founder members

# learn, laugh, live

### Local History

The Local History group did not meet on Tuesday, 19 July, due to the heatwave but plan to meet on Tuesday, 16 August at Holy Trinity Minsterley with the plan to put together our presentation for the 40th u3a anniversary.

**Coordinator:**  
[Susan Lockwood](#)



### Family History

The Family History group will not meet in August. The next meeting will be on the 12th September 2022 in the Pavilion at 10.30am

**Coordinator (Temp):**  
[David Taylor](#)



### Interest Groups

Until Merle is able to re-join us, Doreen will be assisting Merle on any assistance the Interest Groups require. Please pass on any queries to Doreen if need be.

**Group coordinator support (Temp):**  
[Doreen Thomas](#)



# Interest Groups

## A few snippets from our u3a page

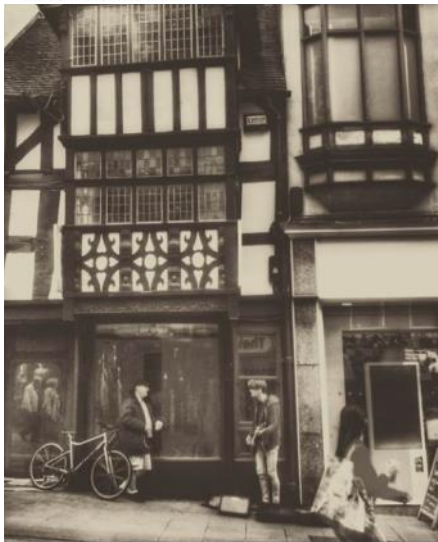
If you are on Facebook, please follow or join our u3a Pontesbury and Rea Valley [Facebook page](#) for up-to-date news.

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



Veronica Simms  
22 July at 21:20 · 🌐

"Sing A Sad Song."

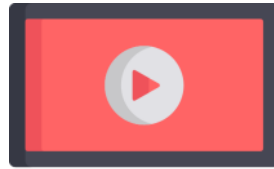


Sue Hansen Anderson  
Admin · 16 July at 22:22 · 🌐

Castle Hotel, Bishop's Castle



## 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

Please contact Judith for further details.

**Coordinator**

[Judith Rice](#)

01743 792 790

## Art appreciation

Our group will not be holding a meeting in August but will reconvene in September just before the Anniversary celebration.



**Coordinator:**

[Mary Lovegrove](#)

## Geology

There will be a meeting in August on Tuesday 9th, 2 to 4pm at the Pavilion to start preparing our 40th Anniversary display.



**Coordinator:**

[Richard Down](#)

## National u3a

### Online learning events

August's free online courses are now available: [Click here for this months events:](#)

	Laughter Yoga	Wed 10th Aug 10am
	The Art of the Goldsmith	Tues 16th Aug 10am
	Radio Podcast of the month	Wed 17th July



## 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 Venue to be advised		<b>Local History</b>	3rd Tue of month 14:00-16:00 Holy Trinity Minsterley	
<b>Bridge</b>	<b>Under relaunch</b>		<b>Painting &amp; Drawing</b>	<b>Under relaunch</b>	
<b>Café Society</b>	Last Wed of month 14:00-16:00 Minsterley Parish Hall		<b>Pickle Ball</b>	Every Thu 16:30-18:00 <b>Mary Webb School, Pontesbury</b>	
<b>Cinema &amp; Social</b>	As announced		<b>Photography</b>	<b>First Wed of month 14:00-16:00 Venue to be advised</b>	
<b>Creative writing</b>	1st & 3rd Thu 10:00-12:00 Pavilion/Zoom hybrid		<b>Play Reading</b>	<b>Under relaunch</b>	
<b>Cycling</b>	Every Tue 10:00 Pontesbury School Green		<b>Recorded Music</b>	1st Wed of month 14:00 Minsterley Parish Hall	
<b>Family History</b>	2nd Mon of month 10h15-12h15 Pavilion, Pontesbury		<b>Table Tennis Minsterley</b>	Every Wed 10:00-12:00 Minsterley Parish Hall	
<b>Folk Music</b>	Every Mon 14:00-16:00 Minsterley Parish Hall		<b>Table Tennis Pontesbury</b>	Every Mon 13:30-15:30 Congregational Church	
<b>Gardening</b>	<b>Under relaunch</b>		<b>Walking (long)</b>	Alternate Thu 10:00 Venue to be advised	
<b>Geology</b>	2nd Tue of month 14:00-16:00 Pavilion, Pontesbury		<b>Walking (short)</b>	Alternate Mon 10:00 Pontesbury School Green	
<b>History</b>	3rd Mon of month 10:30-12:30 <b>Pavilion, Pontesbury</b>		<b>Potential new groups under investigation</b>		
<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
- Astronomy
- Scrabble
- Seated Yoga
- Sunday lunch

