

Editor: [Sue Anderson](#)

## "Curlew Country" – Open Meeting

A huge thank you to Amanda Perkins for her splendid talk on the excellent work Curlew Country are doing to save this iconic bird.

The curlew population has declined by 50% in the UK, with over 30% decline locally in 11 years. The Eurasian Curlew is now classified as 'vulnerable' on the European Red List, meaning that the species is at risk of extinction.

The Curlew Country study area is on the Shropshire and Powys border. With 40 pairs of breeding Curlews it is one of the largest regional strongholds outside managed moors and reserves in the North.

For further information or if you wish to help this valuable project, which can be done in many ways, this can be found on their website, [curlewcountry.org](http://curlewcountry.org).



### Inside

Diary	2
U3a P&RV	3
u3a national	4
Interest Group news	5-9
Interest Groups	10

### Special Events

**21 Dec 2022**  
Open meeting  
**Christmas gathering**

**Pavilion**  
**2-4pm**



## Live on Radio Shropshire!

Well, P&RV u3a are now firmly on the map ... thanks to Janet's brilliant live radio broadcast with Clare Ashford on Radio Shropshire.

Informative, light hearted and interesting. And she called Janet 'the very lovely Janet Walsh' twice!! Couldn't have gone any better. Well done, Janet!

If you would like to hear this you can do so via BBC Sounds, as follows:

**BBC RADIO**  
**SHROPSHIRE**

### Instructions:

- Go to BBC Sounds
- Go to Stations and Schedules
- Scroll down to Radio Shropshire
- Click on Schedule
- Click at the top for the 10 October
- Scroll down to Clare Ashford at 2pm
- Press play – this is where you need to sign in – you might need to use your password for BBC iPlayer.
- Once you're in, fast forward to 21 minutes 30 seconds and shortly after that Janet is on. It's about 8 minutes long.



Tue 1	<b>Cycling</b> 10am— around 1pm Pontesbury School Green	Wed 9	<b>Recorded Music</b> 2pm—4pm Minsterley Parish Hall	Mon 21	<b>Table Tennis Pontesbury</b> 1:30pm—3:30pm Congregational Church
	<b>Painting &amp; Drawing</b> 2pm—4pm Coordinators House		<b>Literature</b> 2pm—4pm Pavilion, Pontesbury		<b>Art History</b> 2pm—4pm Venue to be advised
	<b>Short Tennis</b> 4:30pm—6pm Mary Webb School,		<b>Pickle Ball</b> 4:30pm—6pm Mary Webb School		<b>Folk Music</b> 2pm—4pm Minsterley Parish Hall
Wed 2	<b>Table Tennis Minsterley</b> 10:am—12:noon Minsterley Parish Hall	Mon 14	<b>Family History</b> 10:15am—12:15pm Pavilion, Pontesbury	Tue 22	<b>Cycling</b> 10am—12 noon Pontesbury School Green
	<b>Italian</b> 10:30am—12: noon Coordinator's house		<b>Table Tennis Pontesbury</b> 1:30pm—3:30pm Congregational Church		<b>Painting &amp; Drawing</b> 2pm—4pm Coordinators House
	<b>Photography</b> 2pm—4pm Venue to be confirmed		<b>Folk Music</b> 2pm—4pm Minsterley Parish Hall		<b>Short Tennis</b> 4:30pm—6pm Mary Webb School
Thu 3	<b>Walking (Long)</b> 10:am As announced	Tue 15	<b>Cycling</b> 10am—12 noon Pontesbury School Green	Wed 23	<b>Table Tennis Minsterley</b> 10:am—12:noon Minsterley Parish Hall
	<b>Creative writing</b> 10:am —12: noon Pavilion		<b>Local History</b> 2pm—4pm Minsterley Parish Hall		<b>Italian</b> 10:30am — 12: noon Coordinator's house
	<b>Pickle Ball</b> 4:30pm—6pm Mary Webb School,		<b>Painting &amp; Drawing</b> 2pm—4pm Coordinators House		<b>Café Society</b> 2pm—4pm Minsterley Parish Hall
Mon 7	<b>Walking (Short)</b> 10:am—12 noon Pontesbury School Green	Wed 16	<b>Short Tennis</b> 4:30pm—6pm Mary Webb School	Thu 24	<b>Pickle Ball</b> 4:30pm—6pm Mary Webb School
	<b>Table Tennis Pontesbury</b> 1:30pm—3:30pm Congregational Church		<b>Table Tennis Minsterley</b> 10:am—12:noon Minsterley Parish Hall		<b>Table Tennis Pontesbury</b> 1:30pm—3:30pm Congregational Church
	<b>Folk Music</b> 2pm—4pm Minsterley Parish Hall		<b>Italian</b> 10:30am —12: noon Coordinator's house		<b>Folk Music</b> 2pm—4pm Minsterley Parish Hall
Tue 8	<b>u3a Committee meeting</b> 4pm Pavilion, Pontesbury	Thu 17	<b>Walking (Long)</b> 10:am As announced	Tues 29	<b>Cycling</b> 10am— around 1pm Pontesbury School Green
	<b>Cycling</b> 10am—12 noon Pontesbury School Green		<b>Creative writing</b> 10:am —12: noon Pavilion		<b>Painting &amp; Drawing</b> 2pm—4pm Coordinators House
	<b>Geology</b> 1pm—3pm Ludlow Museum visit		<b>Pickle Ball</b> 4:30pm—6pm Mary Webb School		<b>Short Tennis</b> 4:30pm—6pm Mary Webb School
Wed 9	<b>Painting &amp; Drawing</b> 2pm—4pm Coordinators House	Fri 18	<b>Cinema &amp; Social</b> 7:30pm Marton Village Hall "Phantom of the Open"	Wed 30	<b>Table Tennis Minsterley</b> 10:am—12:noon Minsterley Parish Hall
	<b>Short Tennis</b> 4:30pm—6pm Mary Webb School		<b>Walking (Short)</b> 10 am Pontesbury School Green		<b>Italian</b> 10:30am—12: noon Coordinator's house
	<b>Table Tennis Minsterley</b> 10:am—12 noon Minsterley Parish Hall		<b>History</b> 10:30am—12:30pm Pavilion, Pontesbury		
	<b>Italian</b> 10:30am—12 noon Coordinator's house				



## A word from the Chair ...



Dear All,

It's quite worrying how quickly the time seems to pass these days. It feels as though I write something for the newsletter much more regularly than once a month, and don't get me started on

the bins – I'm sure I've only just brought an empty bin in when I need to put the next lot out.

I hope that this is a good thing and suggests a nice and busy life with plenty to do – apparently good physical and mental health needs regular activity and interest – just what the u3a provides when you think about it.

Of course this time of year can make people feel a bit fed up. As the clocks go back and the days get shorter – and we've all the worries of fuel bills and power cuts – the carefree days of summer seem a long time ago. If you're feeling a bit like that then why not consider joining a new u3a interest group – there are plenty to choose from – maybe something really outside your normal comfort zone to stop you getting into a winter rut.

Check out the website or have a really good look on the newsletter at what's on offer and make a November resolution to do something different.

Let us know how it turns out.

Janet Walsh (Chair)

## New members



We are delighted to welcome 8 new members this month:

Craig Finch

Debra Finch

Stuart Carter

Paul Maddocks

Ian Bridge

Clare Beaumont

Stephanie Short

Malcolm Philcox

I'm sure that you will all extend them a warm u3a welcome if they join any of your groups.

**Membership secretary**  
Steve Anderson

## TAT Magazine Autumn 2022 issue

Apologies, but the Autumn issue of the Third Age Trust magazine, Third Age Matters, normally issued in September, does not appear to have arrived in our post boxes!

This issue has the long awaited article on our fabulous Folk Music Group; which we would at least like to secure a copy for them.

We are trying to obtain an answer from the National Office but none is forthcoming at the moment.

If any of our members, particularly those who are also members of Shrewsbury or other branches, have received this issue, please could you let me know and let us have it once you are finished reading it.

Many thanks in advance.

**Editor**



Sue Anderson





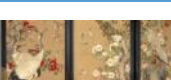





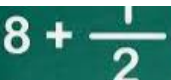



**learn,  
laugh,  
live**





## National u3a Online learning events

Remember to take advantage of any of the u3a's free online courses in November:

	Mindfulness & Meditation	Every Tue 4th Oct—8th Nov 10am
	Tai Chi Series	Thur from 20th Oct for 6 weeks
	Beginners Cryptic Crosswords	Wed 2nd Nov—7 Dec 10am–11.30am
	The Geology of Oil and Gas	Thur 3rd Nov 2pm
	Japanese Art—The British Royal Collection	Tue 8th Nov 2pm
	Laughter Yoga	Wed 9th Nov 10am
	All Souls Day—Explaining World Faiths	Mon 14th Nov 10am
	Radio Podcast of the month	Nov
	Tipping Points and Climate Change	Thur 15th Nov 10am
	Interactive Maths Problem-solving	Thur 17th Nov 10am
	Live cookery Demonstration—Winter warmers	Thur 17th Nov 10.30am
	Creative thinking	Thur 17th Nov 2pm
	Seated Yoga	Every Fri 18 Nov—9 Dec 10am
	Live cookery demo—Christmas Special	Thur 1 Dec 10.30 am

## Subject Advice



Looking for some new inspiration of your group, whether as a coordinator or a member. The u3a has over 70 subject advisors who can provide advice on new ideas or approaches.

There are also new Subject Advisors to help you in backgammon, tennis, art history, local history, music appreciation, cruise club and guitar.

[Click here for more information.](#)

## Hadrian's Wall



Did you know that the Romans started building Hadrian's Wall 1900 years ago, and that for over 300 years, it's numerous forts brought together over 30,000 soldiers, families, and traders from all over the Empire?

The national u3a movement is planning a **u3a on the wall** day on the 10th May 2023. The primary focus for all the u3a activities on the day will be at The Sill: National Landscape Discovery Centre.

This will be a wonderful opportunity to bring together u3a interest groups from around the UK for a series of connected events. A special day on and around the Wall could feature activities from history, geology, art, walking groups, photography and many more.

If you or any group would like to get involved or require further information, please contact [me](#) and we can find out further information and check whether the logistics would be viable for P&RV u3a to get involved as a group.



# Interest Groups

## History



Sue Piggott-Forster gave a fascinating and well researched talk on the **Black Death** to a well attended meeting on the 17 Oct.

Following the presentation there was a lively Q&A and discussion. We also looked briefly at other pandemics and compared how they have been seen, reacted to and dealt with in modern times, including our recent experiences of Coronavirus.

As a footnote, Sue has advised that latest research indicates that the plague was in fact carried by human fleas and lice, not rat fleas as originally believed. Whilst not on the 14C Black Death, there is an excellent documentary on the 17th century outbreak, called **The Great Plague**, that can be watched on My5.

Please contact David if you would like a copy of Sue's amazing paper.

The topic for November's meeting will be 'Women in history who have had a major impact'. Non group members are welcome. Our next meeting is at 10.30am on Monday 21st November at the Pavilion.

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

## The Black Death



14th century plague victims - Engraving

From the Plague of Justinian in AD 541 to the outbreaks in 1900 in San Francisco, and up to the 21st Century, plague has been around us, mainly unnoticed, except in the small pockets where it still persists, mainly in parts of Africa, particularly around the area of The Congo.

But the Black Death of the 14th century was different (one source believes the name to have come from the black bruising of the skin caused by the buboes, that for many spelt death).

Interestingly, the bacterium, *Yersinia pestis*, which caused the plague was only identified in 1894. Rats and rat fleas generally carried the plague from port to port and person to person. But in some forms it was also airborne.



The flea - common carrier of "*Yersinia pestis*"

However, none of this was known at the time and how to control it.

It is remembered because of the impact it had across the known world, from Egypt to Constantinople, China to England and Scandinavia. It touched lives, livelihoods and even changed feudalism and serfdom forever.

But the Black Death remains in our psyche, because, although the actual death toll in pure numbers was lower than many pandemics since, it is however the sheer percentage of population it wiped out in some countries, indeed up to as much as 50% of the population of men, women and children, rich or poor; across the known world.



"The Triumph of Death"  
- Fresco (Anon)

Very few countries escaped its relentless march across countries and continents, respecting neither borders or religions, leaving in its wake a sense of fear, abandonment, and helplessness, in populations where Bible prophecy seemed to become reality, as many believed the end of the world had come!



## Interest Groups

### Photography

We had a very enjoyable photo shoot in Shrewsbury on 12th October. The subject was churches and graveyards, the results of which we will review at our next meeting in November. After completing our task we all met up at the Old Market Hall for coffee and cake – all very civilised!

Our 'task' ahead for the November meeting on Wednesday 2 November is to take photographs of 'Reflections' whether in water, shop fronts, puddles etc. The results will certainly be interesting....

We are delighted that from the original four interested members in July this year, we now have ten members, which is really pleasing.



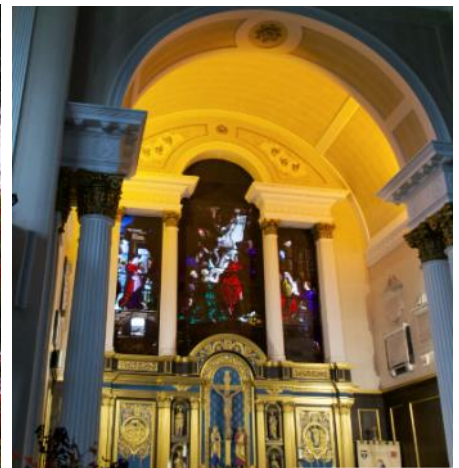
**Coordinator:**  
[Steve Anderson](#)



Roy Forbes



Val Sinclair



Paul Maddocks

### Painting & Drawing



Painting & Drawing is getting going again! New members welcome.

It will be run over 5 sessions, 2:00–4:00pm on Tuesdays from the 1st to 29th November at Harlow Cottage, Habberley Road, Pontesbury, SY5 OTN.

We decided to go for short bursts of 5 sessions at a time (rather than the twice a month model) partly to fit in with our need to be away occasionally and to keep the energy going in the sessions.

Sessions are normally based round observational drawing/painting (and other media e.g. collage) using still-life or outdoor settings and/or suggesting a theme, materials or approach.



Participants normally bring their own paints, pencils, sketch pads etc, depending on the suggested theme, but we have plenty of materials here.

We will be contacting previous members and those who have expressed an interest, but if there is anyone else interested please contact us so we can keep a eye on numbers and so we can let them know what is needed for the next session.

#### Coordinators

Hugh & Gill Scriven

Email: [prvdmem@gmail.com](mailto:prvdmem@gmail.com)

# learn, laugh, live





# 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.



Sue Hansen Anderson shared a link.  
Admin · +1 · 21 October at 12:38 · 🌐

Talking to some u3a members yesterday, it became apparent that online safety is of a concern to many and sometimes fear of the security issues may prevent people happily using the internet or using it to its best advantage.

In putting together this month's newsletter, I came across this free online learning event held by the u3a which may help many of our members: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/.../staying-safe-online-a...>

The talk is on Wednesday 26th October at 2pm.



EVENTBRITE.CO.UK  
**Staying Safe Online - A u3a Presentation with Q&A**  
Keeping you safe in an electronic age: A repeat talk by Barry Linton ...

John Rice  
9 October at 11:27 · 🌐

Flicks in the Sticks starts again in MARTON VILLAGE HALL on Friday, 21st October with a showing of 'The Duke'



## Cinema & Social

The next Friday film at Marton Village Hall will be "**Phantom of the Open**" on the 21st October.

After this, the next viewing will be on the 16th Dec. West Side Story (new version)

Just a reminder that due to changes in the way that Arts Alive will operate from 2023, Marton Village Hall will no longer be able to have films nights and therefore our Cinema and Social Group will not be able to meet in Marton after our December film.



Coordinator  
[Judith Rice](#)



## Geology

The Geology group will not be meeting at the Pavilion in November, but have a pre-arranged, behind the scenes visit to view the geology collection at Ludlow Museum on 8<sup>th</sup> November 1-3pm. Everything returns to normal with our next meeting at the Pavilion on the 13<sup>th</sup> December 2-4pm.



Coordinator  
[Richard Down](#)

## Café Society

The next Café Society meeting will be a week earlier on Wednesday 23rd November. After that, meetings will resume on the last Wednesday of the month.



Coordinator  
[Janet Walsh](#)

## Recorded Music

In November, the Recorded Music Appreciation group will meet on Wednesday 9th instead of the 2nd. The subject is something from a concert or any musical event that you would like to hear again.



Coordinator  
[John Rice](#)



## Interest Groups

### Family History



We had a very interesting meeting this month where

each member selected a female ancestor and gave a quick synopsis on their personal details. Family mysteries, places of birth, careers and relationships were all uncovered. We were lucky to have some new members attend who also joined in with their family story.

At our November meeting on Monday 14th November at 10.15 am we intend to concentrate upon the practicalities of researching family history via Ancestry.com.

**Temporary Coordinator**

David Taylor

### The 19th century Butterfly wing necklace

At the 40th anniversary celebrations in September, the Family History group put together a magnificent table which displayed many interesting personal items including two WW1 bayonets, a railway lamp, a painting from WW2, a Dead Man's Penny and many interesting examples of family trees and stories.

One item eye-catching item was this butterfly-wing necklace purchased in India around 1890 and given to David's great-grandmother Sarah Hill (1874-1934). If you look carefully, you can see Sarah wearing the necklace at a wedding in 1922. She is sitting front row, second from the right and all in black in respect of the death of her baby grandson who had died in a house fire just a month prior to wedding.





## Interest Groups

### Literature

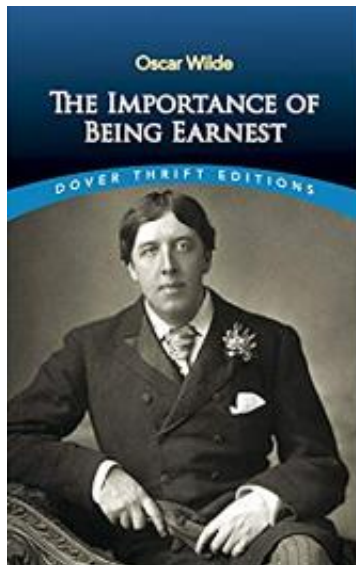
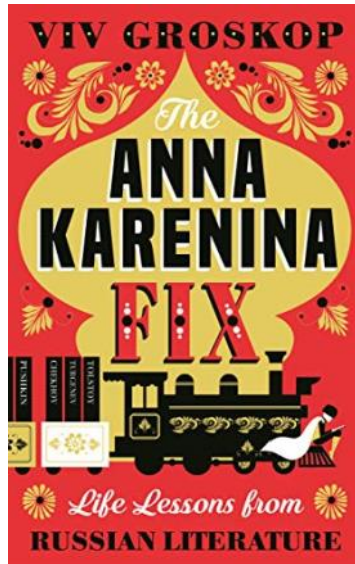


We have finally finished our study into Russian literature, which started in February with a recommendation from Steve, a member of the group, that we read **Viv Groskop's "The Anna Karenina Fix – A Life Lesson in Russian Literature"**. We learned that not all Russian books are full of doom, gloom and tormented lies, but there are lessons to be learned from the classic Russian novels and short stories.

The next eight months will be taken up with **Irish writers**, each member will choose an author to research and will give a presentation on their life and works, before going on to talk about the chosen book under consideration.

There is plenty of choice and in December we will ease ourselves in by watching one of Oscar Wilde's plays on DVD while enjoying some festive fayre!

**Coordinator**  
[Doreen Thomas](#)



### Folk Music



The folk music group now has 16 members.

On the first Monday of each month we choose a theme. Recently, the themes have been 'sea songs', 'disasters', 'a song you've never sung before' and 'transport'.

A discussion, in October, was on song writing and appears to be ongoing.

**Coordinator**  
[Mal Brown](#)

### Local History



At the Local History's meeting on 18 October I challenged everyone with the following: How many miles have you travelled each time you moved house from birth to Shropshire? My count is 7,777 miles.

At our next meeting on the 15th November we will discuss the next projects. I have a couple of suggestions for speakers and maybe we would like to visit somewhere we haven't been before in the Rea Valley.

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

**u3a**  
Pontesbury  
& Rea Valley

**learn,  
laugh,  
live**



## 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.

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 History</b>	3rd Mon of month 2pm–4pm Venue to be advised		<b>Local History</b>	3rd Tue of month 2pm–4pm Minsterley Parish Hall	
<b>Bridge</b>	<b>Under relaunch</b>		<b>Painting &amp; Drawing</b>	<b>Every Tues in Nov 2pm–4pm Coordinator's House</b>	
<b>Café Society</b>	Last Wed of month 2pm–4pm Minsterley Parish Hall		<b>Pickle Ball</b>	Every Thu 4:30pm–6pm Mary Webb, Pontesbury	
<b>Cinema &amp; Social</b>	As announced		<b>Photography</b>	First Wed of month 2pm–4pm Venue to be advised	
<b>Creative writing</b>	1st & 3rd Thu 10am–12 noon Pavilion		<b>Play Reading</b>	<b>Under relaunch</b>	
<b>Cycling</b>	Every Tue 10am– around 1pm Pontesbury School Green		<b>Recorded Music</b>	1st Wed of month 2pm–4pm Minsterley Parish Hall	
<b>Family History</b>	2nd Mon of month 10:15am–12h15pm Pavilion, Pontesbury		<b>Short Tennis</b>	Every Tues 4:30pm–6pm Mary Webb, Pontesbury	
<b>Folk Music</b>	Every Mon 2pm–4pm Minsterley Parish Hall		<b>Table Tennis Minsterley</b>	Every Wed 10am–12 noon Minsterley Parish Hall	
<b>Gardening</b>	<b>Under relaunch</b>		<b>Table Tennis Pontesbury</b>	Every Mon 1:30pm–3:30pm Congregational Church	
<b>Geology</b>	2nd Tue of month 2pm–4pm Pavilion, Pontesbury		<b>Walking (long)</b>	Alternate Thu 10am–12 noon Venue to be advised	
<b>History</b>	3rd Mon of month 10:30am–12:30pm Pavilion, Pontesbury		<b>Walking (short)</b>	Alternate Mon 10am–12 noon Pontesbury School Green	
<b>Italian</b>	Every Wed 10:30am–12: noon Coordinator's house		<b>Potential new groups</b>		
<b>Literature</b>	2nd Wed in month 2pm–4pm Pavilion, Pontesbury				

- Pilates
- Scrabble
- Sunday lunch
- Astronomy
- Seated Yoga

