

Editor: [Sue Anderson](#)

## Christmas celebration!

We do hope you will be able to call in to our Christmas celebration on Wednesday 21st December at 2.00pm in The Pavilion in Pontesbury.

Bring along your tales and memories of Christmas and perhaps even bring the item that has a special Christmas significance for you. It will be

lovely to have a final get-together for 2022 – with some mince pies and festive drinks of course! There'll even be a tombola in the corner for a bit of added extra fun.

If you can't make it then I'm sure we'll see you in the new year – plenty of events and activities will be coming your way in 2023.

[Janet Walsh](#) (Chair)

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### January Newsletter

Please note that there will be no January 2023 newsletter, due to the holidays.


Wishing you all a very enjoyable Christmas and may the year ahead be full of contentment and joy.

[Sue Anderson](#)

Editor & Secretary



With the holiday season, please check in advance with the coordinator if a session is to go ahead.

Thu 1	Walking (Long) 10:am As announced	Tue 13	Geology 2pm—4pm Pavilion, Pontesbury	Tue 20	Short Tennis 4:30pm—6pm Mary Webb School
	Creative writing 10:am—12: noon Pavilion		Short Tennis 4:30pm—6pm Mary Webb School	Wed 21	Table Tennis Minsterley 10:am—12:noon Minsterley Parish Hall
	Pickle Ball 4:30pm—6pm Mary Webb School <b>CANCELLED</b>	Wed 14	Table Tennis Minsterley 10:am—12:noon Minsterley Parish Hall		Italian 10:30am—12: noon Coordinator's house
Mon 5	Walking (Short) 10:am—12 noon Pontesbury School Green		Italian 10:30am—12: noon Coordinator's house		 u3a Christmas Party 2pm—4pm Pavilion, Pontesbury
	Table Tennis Pontesbury 1:30pm—3:30pm Congregational Church		Literature 2pm—4pm Pavilion, Pontesbury	Thu 22	Pickle Ball 4:30pm—6pm Mary Webb School <b>CANCELLED</b>
	Folk Music 2pm—4pm Minsterley Parish Hall	Thu 15	Walking (Long) 10:am As announced	Mon 26	Table Tennis Pontesbury 1:30pm—3:30pm Congregational Church
Tue 6	Cycling 10am—12 noon Pontesbury School Green		Creative writing 10:am—12: noon Pavilion		Folk Music 2pm—4pm Minsterley Parish Hall
	Painting & Drawing 2pm—4pm Coordinator's house		Pickle Ball 4:30pm—6pm Mary Webb School	Tues 27	Cycling 10am— around 1pm Pontesbury School Green
	Short Tennis 4:30pm—6pm Mary Webb School	Fri 16	Cinema & Social 7:00pm Marton Village Hall "West Side Story"		Short Tennis 4:30pm—6pm Mary Webb School <b>CANCELLED</b>
Wed 7	Table Tennis Minsterley 10:am—12 noon Minsterley Parish Hall	Mon 19	Walking (Short) 10 am Pontesbury School Green	Wed 28	Table Tennis Minsterley 10:am—12:noon Minsterley Parish Hall
	Italian 10:30am—12 noon Coordinator's house		History 10:30am—12:00pm Pavilion, Pontesbury <b>CANCELLED</b>		Italian 10:30am—12: noon Coordinator's house
	Recorded Music 2pm—4pm Minsterley Parish Hall		Table Tennis Pontesbury 1:30pm—3:30pm Congregational Church		Café Societv 2pm—4pm Minsterley Parish Hall <b>CANCELLED</b>
	Photography 2pm—4pm Pavilion, Pontesbury		Art History 2pm—4pm Venue to be advised	Thu 29	Walking (Long) 10:am As announced
Thu 8	Pickle Ball 4:30pm—6pm Mary Webb School		Folk Music 2pm—4pm Minsterley Parish Hall		Pickle Ball 4:30pm—6pm Mary Webb School <b>CANCELLED</b>
Mon 12	Family History 10:30am—12:30pm Pavilion, Pontesbury <b>CANCELLED</b>	Tue 20	Cycling 10am—12 noon Pontesbury School Green		
	Table Tennis Pontesbury 1:30pm—3:30pm Congregational Church		Local History 2pm—4pm Minsterley Parish Hall		
	Folk Music 2pm—4pm Minsterley Parish Hall				
Tue 13	Cycling 10am—12 noon Pontesbury School Green				



## u3a P&amp;RV

## A word from the Chair ...

Dear Members,

I hope everyone is well and building up nicely to Christmas. Despite all of the worries about fuel bills and inflation, it is possible to celebrate Christmas in a measured way and maybe even enjoy it more if the pressure to spend, spend, spend is not so great.

I'm finding it a bit difficult to come to terms with getting ready for Christmas and watching the World Cup football matches – the two just don't seem to go together. My normal Christmas watching involves 'Love Actually' and 'A Christmas Carol' (both the Shrewsbury version and The Muppets of course) – it doesn't involve football matches – still it makes a change, I suppose.

We've had an eventful year in our u3a group. We got used to meeting up more normally, had some inspired speakers at our Open

meetings and launched our new website. We mourned the death of Peter Traves

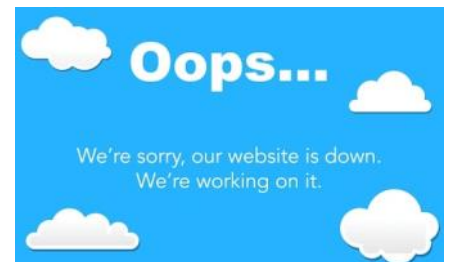
but delighted in the success of our 40th Anniversary celebratory event and we welcomed plenty of new members. We also welcomed Sue and Steve Anderson as new committee members and I must take this opportunity to thank them for the amazingly positive impact they have had on our group. Of course I want to thank all of the committee members and group leaders, personally and on your behalf for putting in the hours to make sure our u3a is so successful.

On behalf of the committee I wish you a very merry Christmas and of course a happy new year.

**Janet Walsh** (Chair)



## Website down!



Our apologies, but due to circumstances beyond our control, SiteBuilder websites – used by a lot of u3as – are down due to technical difficulties with the organisation that hosts the websites.

The Third Age Trust are working hard to help resolve this. We are in touch regularly with the u3as committees affected and are working towards resolution soon. If you have any questions, please contact me.

**Editor**

[Sue Anderson](#)

## TAT Magazine Autumn 2022 issue



Thank you to Paul Kelly and Colin Boarer who managed to secure a copy of the elusive Autumn 2022 magazine, which included the article on our Folk Music Group. This will be available in the library if anyone wishes to read it. Colin will make his copy available once he has finished it.

It transpires that the Royal Mail postal strikes are the cause of the non-appearance of this issue!

## New members



We are delighted to welcome two new members this month:

**Wendy Carter**

**Pat Oakley**

We've had a great year for new membership, and I hope all the new members are enjoying both our u3a and their new groups.







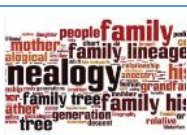



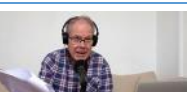


**Membership secretary**

[Steve Anderson](#)



## National u3a Online learning events

There are lots of great free u3a online courses this month : [Click here for this months events:](#)

	Live cookery Demonstration— Christmas	Thurs 1 Dec 10;30am
	The Geology of Oil and Gas Part 2	Thur 1 Dec 2pm
	Seated Yoga	Every Fri 2 Dec —9 Dec 10am
	Learn Digital Life Skills;; Shopping week	Fri 2 Dec 2pm
	Setting up an Exploring World Faiths Group	Mon 5 Dec 10am
	The maths of bell ringing	Tues 6 Dec 10am
	Genetic Genealogy— understanding DNA testing	Tues 6 Dec 2pm
	Writing poetry for Publication & Performance	Tues 13 Dec 2pm
	Learning is the Elixir of Healthy Ageing	Tues 13 Dec 4pm
	Laughter Yoga	Wed 14th Dec 10am
	Radio Podcast of the month	Nov
	Learn Digital Life Skills: Photos week	Fri 16 Dec 2pm
	Cryptic Crosswords explained	Mon 19 Dec 10am

## Hadrian's Wall: 10 May



More details are emerging of the plans for the national **u3a on the wall** day, on Wednesday 10th May 2023., which is a festival of learning and fun on Wednesday 10 May 2023:

- There will be a formal programme of speakers at the Sill site in Northumberland.
- A u3a Off the Wall fringe festival of informal workshops – such as drama, art, music and photography – will be taking place around the site throughout the day.
- The plan also includes walkers and cyclists, who can explore the paths along the Wall and pop-in for a well-earned cup of tea at the end of their excursion.
- In the build up to the day there will be opportunities to attend events online..

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.

Editor  
[Sue Anderson](#)



# Interest Groups

## Local History



There were many interesting presentations from the Local History group on Shropshire at the 40th anniversary celebration in September.

One of these related to the history of the **More Family**, and the lengths a jealous husband would go to get rid of children he didn't believe were his!

A short synopsis of Judith Rice's paper is provided here, but to find out more about this fascinating and shocking story, please contact Susan or Judith for the detailed paper.

The Local History Group meets on the 3rd Tuesday each month, 2pm–4pm, at Minsterley Parish Hall. If anyone is interesting in joining this group, please contact the coordinator.

**Coordinator**

[Susan Lockwood](#)



*Mayflower* plaque in St James Church in Shipton, Shropshire commemorating the More children baptism – courtesy of Phil Revell

## The More Family

### Shropshire's link to the New World and the *Mayflower*

**Samuel More** (1593–1662), believing his children with his wife and cousin, **Katherine More**, were not his own, arranged for the removal of his four young children to the colony of Virginia in the New World aboard the *Mayflower* as indentured servants.

Richard More, Samuel's father, was master of Linley estate near Bishop's Castle. Katherine More, whose father, Jasper More, was master of Larden estate between Much Wenlock and Ludlow in Shropshire.

### A certain death sentence

Sending the children on this trip was a near certain death sentence. At that time, children were routinely rounded up from London streets or taken from poor families to work as labourers in the New World colonies. Many did not survive either the voyage or the harsh climate.

### The *Mayflower* voyage

The siblings departed Plymouth, England on the *Mayflower* 6/16 September 1620. The small, 100-foot ship had 102 passengers and a crew of about 30–40, with dreadful weather, extremely cramped and unsanitary conditions with poor rations,

attributed to what would finally be fatal for many, especially the majority of women and children.



*Mayflower in Plymouth Harbor* by William Halsall (1882)

### The fate of the children

**Elinor More**, aged 8, died in November 1620 soon after the arrival of the *Mayflower* at Cape Cod Harbour.

A month later, at Cape Cod, **Jasper More**, aged 7, died of a "common infection"

**Mary More**, aged 4, died in the winter of 1620/1621.

**Richard More** (1614– c. 1694/1696), the only surviving child, aged 6 at the time of the *Mayflower* voyage, survived; going on to lead a very full life. He became a well-known sea captain who helped deliver vital supplies to various colonies, travelled over Atlantic and West Indies trade routes and fought in various early naval sea battles.

He and other *Mayflower* survivors were referred to in their time as "First Comers", who lived in the perilous times of what was called "The Ancient Beginnings" of the New World adventure.





## Interest Groups

### Photography

Our November meeting was kindly held at Roy Forbes house where photos taken by group members were shown on the subject of 'Reflections'; examples of which are shown here. Our thanks to Roy and Rita for the great refreshments!

The next meeting is on the 7th December in The Pavilion from 2pm – 4pm. We are very fortunate to have Richard Down joining us to give a talk on various technical aspects of photography, which will undoubtedly help all of us improve our camera knowledge and technical skills.

If there is time, we also hope to show some photos taken by group members this month on the subject of '**Movement**'.



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

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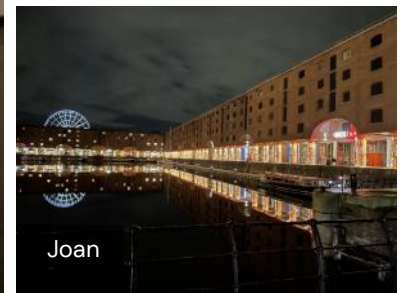
**u3a**  
Pontesbury  
& Rea Valley



Chrissy



Jane



Joan



Don



Val



## Interest Groups

### History

There will be no December meeting, our next is on 15th January at the Pavilion at 10.30am.

At our November meeting, we had presentations on two remarkable women. David Taylor discussed **Mary Seacole**, the 19th Century Jamaican nurse who travelled half-way around the world to care for wounded and dying soldiers during the Crimea war.



Mary Seacole

The other presentation was by Sue Piggott-Forster on **Margaret 'James Barry' Bulkley**. Born a female in the late 18th century Margaret decided to dress and present herself as a man in order to succeed as a senior doctor in a male dominated world.

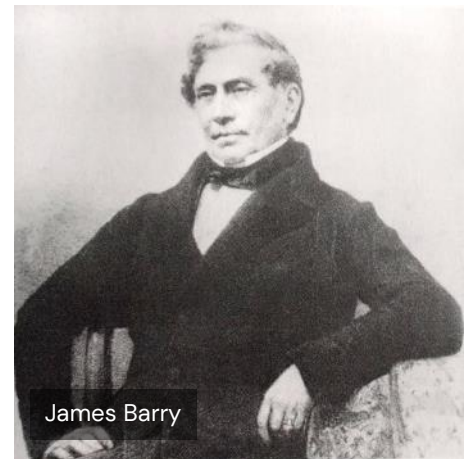
In January, we shall hear more fascinating group presentations on women who have impacted history.

Non group members are more than welcome to attend.

**Coordinator**  
David Taylor



Margaret Bulkley



James Barry

### Painting & Drawing

It's lovely to see Painting & Drawing is back up and running in its new format of short bursts of weekly sessions! We've had a great 5 sessions under Hugh and Gill's excellent hospitality covering sketching, charcoal drawing, collage, anything to do with leaves, lino cutting and watercolour.

By popular demand there will be one more session on the 6 December, then after the December break, the next series will restart on 10th January.



**Coordinators**

Hugh & Gill Scriven

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



*Painting & Drawing*

NOVEMBER 2022





## Interest Groups

### Cinema & Social

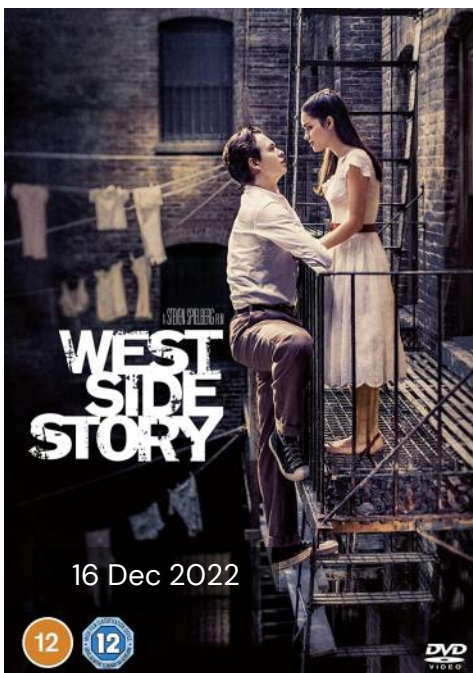
**T**hankfully our cinema club will continue. Future films booked are:

- 16th December: **West Side Story** (modern version)  
 20th January: **On the Basis of Sex**  
 17th February: **Arthur's Dyke**  
 17th March: **Mrs Harris goes to Paris**

These are all at Marton Village Hall. Bar opens at 7:00p.m. Film starts at 7:30. £5:00 pp. Refreshments available in the interval.

Come along to watch an entertaining film, get to know other members as well as local residents prior to the film, in the interval and often as we get ready to leave.

**Coordinator**



### Astronomy



**T**he astronomy group is gearing up for relaunch. - the telescope will shortly be assembled at the Bog centre in Stiperstones, where it will be an ideal spot to view the night sky.

Practical sessions will be held on Wednesday evenings from 7.30 - 9.30 pm at The Bog Visitor Centre and, initially, once a month, probably starting on Wednesday, 11 January..

There will be two telescopes available but members are welcome to bring their own equipment. Anyone interested in the night sky is welcome to attend. Please contact Noel if you are interested.

**Coordinator**

Noel

[noel@tankervillegallery.co.uk](mailto:noel@tankervillegallery.co.uk)

Tel: 01743 791850

**Don't forget 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.



### Recorded Music

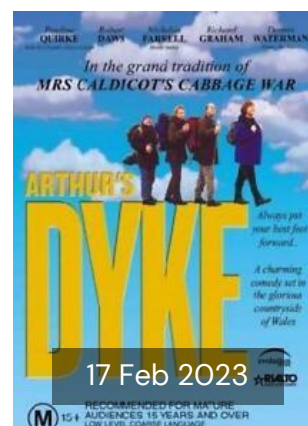
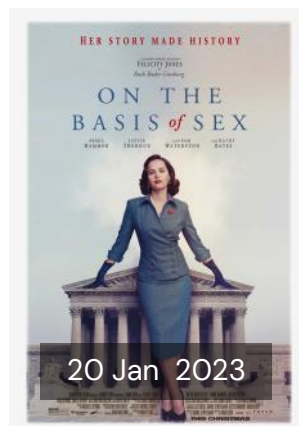
**T**he Recorded Music Group meets again on 7th December. As Christmas approaches the theme is seasonal music but with a difference - the more unusual the better.



**Coordinator**

[John Rice](#)

# learn, laugh, live





## Interest Groups

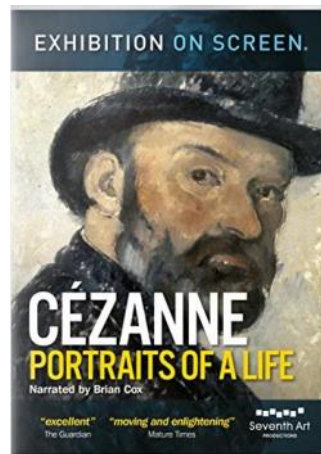
### Art History



Our November meeting took place in **Shrewsbury Museum and Art Gallery**, where the curator, Emma- Kate Lanyon gave us a private visit to see the works associated with the Shropshire Artists we had researched for the u3a Anniversary meeting in September.

Hearing first about the founding and history of the Museum's collections, we were then able to look at the fine details of several of the works she had accessed for us. A further treat was in store as our small group divided to be shown the Art store where those works not on display are kept, and we were able to appreciate the wide range of Artists, styles and subjects held for us in our town.

Our December meeting has been brought forward to Monday 12th December, when we are meeting at the Old Market Hall for the 5.30 showing of the film '**Cezanne: Portraits of a Life**' which is being shown to coincide with the current Cezanne exhibition in London.



Our regular third Monday meetings will resume in January with a look at '**Guernica**' by Picasso.



Coordinator  
[Mary Lovegrove](#)

### Folk Music



The folk music group has full membership and is well attended every Monday 14:00 – 16:00.

If any members of other u3a groups would like to learn basic instrument playing (guitar, banjo, ukulele, Irish drum, mandolin) or singing folk songs and song writing, please contact me

Coordinator  
[Mal Brown](#)

### Café Society



There will be no Café Society meeting in December. Look forward to seeing you in January.

Coordinator  
[Janet Walsh](#)

### Family History



There will be no December meeting, with our next on 8th January at the Pavilion at 10.30am where we shall look at practical ways of how one can record family history information.

We may also have time for more practical investigative work.

Temporary Coordinator  
[David Taylor](#)

**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>Astronomy</b>	2nd Wed of month 7:30–9.30pm Bog centre, Stiperstones	
<b>Bridge</b>	<b>Under relaunch</b>	
<b>Café Society</b>	Last Wed of month 2pm–4pm Minsterley Parish Hall	
<b>Cinema &amp; Social</b>	As announced	
<b>Creative writing</b>	1st & 3rd Thu 10am–12 noon Pavilion	
<b>Cycling</b>	Every Tue 10am– around 1pm Pontesbury School Green	
<b>Family History</b>	2nd Mon of month 10:15am–12h15pm Pavilion , Pontesbury	
<b>Folk Music</b>	Every Mon 2pm–4pm Minsterley Parish Hall	
<b>Gardening</b>	<b>Under relaunch</b>	
<b>Geology</b>	2nd Tue of month 2pm–4pm Pavilion, Pontesbury	
<b>History</b>	3rd Mon of month 10:30am–12:30pm Pavilion, Pontesbury	
<b>Italian</b>	Every Wed 10:30am–12: noon Coordinator's house	
<b>Literature</b>	2nd Wed in month 2pm–4pm Pavilion, Pontesbury	

<b>Local History</b>	3rd Tue of month 2pm–4pm Minsterley Parish Hall	
<b>Painting &amp; Drawing</b>	Every Tues when in session 2pm–4pm Coordinator's House	
<b>Pickle Ball</b>	Every Thu 4:30pm–6pm Mary Webb, Pontesbury	
<b>Photography</b>	First Wed of month 2pm–4pm Venue to be advised	
<b>Play Reading</b>	<b>Under relaunch</b>	
<b>Recorded Music</b>	1st Wed of month 2pm–4pm Minsterley Parish Hall	
<b>Short Tennis</b>	Every Tues 4:30pm–6pm Mary Webb , Pontesbury	
<b>Table Tennis Minsterley</b>	Every Wed 10am–12 noon Minsterley Parish Hall	
<b>Table Tennis Pontesbury</b>	Every Mon 1:30pm–3:30pm Congregational Church	
<b>Walking (long)</b>	Alternate Thu 10am–12 noon Venue to be advised	
<b>Walking (short)</b>	Alternate Mon 10am–12 noon Pontesbury School Green	

## Potential new groups

- Pilates
- Sunday Lunch
- Scrabble
- Seated Yoga

