

Editor: [Sue Anderson](#)

## Local History: Shrewsbury Flaxmill Maltings

**Speaker:** Penny Ward

**Date:** Tuesday 21 March

**Time:** 2pm

**Venue:** Minsterley Parish Hall

**Cost:** £6 incl. refreshments

The **Local History** interest group welcomes all Pontesbury & Rea Valley u3a members to a talk by Penny Ward on Shrewsbury Flaxmill Maltings; the first iron framed building and blueprint for the skyscrapers that followed, at Minsterley Parish Hall on Tuesday 21st March 2023 at 2pm with a cost of £6 maximum, but this could reduce to £5, depending on numbers, to cover costs, hall hire and refreshments.

Penny Ward studied Archaeology at Cardiff in the 1970s and managed the Shropshire Historic Environment Record for several decades until her retirement in 2016. She has been involved with the Shrewsbury Flaxmill Maltings since 2005, when English Heritage (now Historic England) took over the site and asked for volunteers to assist on Heritage Open Days. Her talk will tell the story of the site, from the revolutionary use of cast iron in its construction at the end of the eighteenth century up to the latest phase in its existence which began in September last year when the ground floor of the now restored Main Mill building opened to the public. It will also give some account of the Flax Mill's Bleach Works at Hanwood.

**Please contact Susan Lockwood if you wish to attend so she knows how many people to cater for.** The larger hall may need to be hired if she receives more than 5 responses from the wider membership. If a high turnout is expected, there will be cake as well!

**Coordinator**

[Susan Lockwood](#)

Phone: 01743791082


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Please check in advance with the coordinator if a session is to go ahead.

Wed 1	<b>Table Tennis Minsterley</b> 10:am—12 noon Minsterley Parish Hall	Mon 13	<b>Table Tennis Pontesbury</b> 1:30pm—3:30pm Congregational Church	Tue 21	<b>Local History</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		
	<b>Photography</b> 2pm—4pm Coordinators house	Tue 14	<b>Cycling</b> 10am—12 noon Pontesbury School Green		
Thu 2	<b>Creative writing</b> 10:am —12: noon Pavilion		<b>Geology</b> 2pm—4pm Pavilion, Pontesbury		<b>Painting &amp; Drawing</b> 2pm—4pm Coordinator's house
Mon 6	<b>Walking (Short)</b> 10:am—12 noon Pontesbury School Green		<b>Painting &amp; Drawing</b> 2pm—4pm Coordinator's house		<b>Short Tennis</b> 4:30pm—6pm Mary Webb School
	<b>Table Tennis Pontesbury</b> 1:30pm—3:30pm Congregational Church		<b>Short Tennis</b> 4:30pm—6pm Mary Webb School	Wed 22	<b>Table Tennis Minsterley</b> 10:am—12:noon Minsterley Parish Hall
	<b>Folk Music</b> 2pm—4pm Minsterley Parish Hall	Wed 15	<b>Table Tennis Minsterley</b> 10:am—12:noon Minsterley Parish Hall		<b>Italian</b> 10:30am — 12: noon Coordinator's house
	<b>u3a committee meeting</b> 3pm—5pm Pontesbury Pavilion		<b>Italian</b> 10:30am —12: noon Coordinator's house	Thu 23	<b>Walking (Long)</b> 10:am As announced
Tue 7	<b>Cycling</b> 10am—12 noon Pontesbury School Green		<b>Coordinators meeting</b> 2pm—4pm Minsterley Parish Hall		<b>Pickle Ball</b> 4:30pm—6pm Mary Webb School
	<b>Painting &amp; Drawing</b> 2pm—4pm Coordinator's house	Thu 16	<b>Creative writing</b> 10 am —12: noon Pavilion	Mon 27	<b>Table Tennis Pontesbury</b> 1:30pm—3:30pm Congregational Church
	<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 8	<b>Table Tennis Minsterley</b> 10am—12 noon Minsterley Parish Hall	Fri 17	<b>Cinema &amp; Social</b> 7:00pm Marton Village Hall "Mrs Harris goes to Paris"	Tues 28	<b>Cycling</b> 10am— around 1pm Pontesbury School Green
	<b>Italian</b> 10:30am—12 noon Coordinator's house	Mon 20	<b>Walking (Short)</b> 10 am Pontesbury School Green		<b>Painting &amp; Drawing</b> 2pm—4pm Coordinator's house
	<b>Literature</b> 2pm—4pm Pavilion, Pontesbury		<b>History</b> 10:30am—12:30pm Pavilion, Pontesbury		<b>Short Tennis</b> 4:30pm—6pm Mary Webb School
Thu 9	<b>Walking (Long)</b> 10 am As announced		<b>Table Tennis Pontesbury</b> 1:30pm—3:30pm Congregational Church	Wed 29	<b>Table Tennis Minsterley</b> 10:am—12 noon Minsterley Parish Hall
	<b>Pickle Ball</b> 4:30pm—6pm Mary Webb School		<b>Art History</b> 2pm—4pm Venue to be advised		<b>Italian</b> 10:30am—12 noon Coordinator's house
Fri 10	<b>Gardening</b> 2pm to 4pm As announced		<b>Folk Music</b> 2pm—4pm Minsterley Parish Hall		<b>Café Society</b> 2pm—4pm Mytton Arms pub, Habberley
Mon 13	<b>Family History</b> 10:15am—12:15pm Pavilion, Pontesbury	Tue 21	<b>Cycling</b> 10am—12 noon Pontesbury School Green	Thu 30	<b>Pickle Ball</b> 4:30pm—6pm Mary Webb School



## A word from the Chair ...

Dear Members,

**A**s I write, spring seems to have sprung with daffodils coming up all over the place. Obviously it will probably be snowing when this newsletter gets sent out but I'm certainly enjoying the fresh air and the spring flowers at the moment. Our walking and cycling groups will have benefited from the fine weather and I expect our newly set up gardening group has been inspired by the sights and signs of spring.

Ric Morris gave an excellent presentation last month showing the photographs taken from a number of hot air balloon flights in the past over the Stiperstones and around and about Pontesbury and Minsterley. It was fascinating to see our villages and countryside from such a height – and to see how they have changed over the years. Nothing he said, however, would convince me to take a trip in a hot air balloon – I like to keep my feet firmly on the ground!

We have a full schedule of upcoming events over the next few months for your diary:

- The coordinators and deputy coordinators will be having a workshop and get-together on the 15th March
- The Local History Group is hosting a talk on the Shrewsbury Flaxmill on Tuesday 21st March at 2pm

- our next Open Meeting on the 19th April is about Dame Agnes Hunt, first orthopaedic nurse and founder of the internationally renowned Robert Jones and Agnes Hunt Orthopaedic Hospital at Gobowen, near Oswestry, Details will follow in next months edition, but reserve a space in your diary now for what will be a fascinating talk
- and details will follow about our special Coronation celebration on Wednesday 17 May at 2.00pm in The Pavilion.

We welcome Joan Lee who will be taking over as treasurer on 1 April 2023 and pass on our thanks and good wishes to John Rice who will be stepping down from the role and leaving the committee.

Look out for an email from our membership secretary Steve Anderson regarding next year's subscription (23/24) and keep up to date with latest news and events via our website.

See you there.

Best wishes, Janet

Janet Walsh  
(Chair)



## New members



**T**his last month our membership has now increased by 9 more new members to 184, with more planning to join. We are delighted to welcome:

**Richard Carpenter**  
**Keith Tabner**  
**Andy Hopkins**  
**Brendan O'Donnell**  
**Sally Russell**  
**Margaret Marsden**  
**Allen Marsden**  
**Peter Napier**  
**Rosanne Napier**

**Membership secretary**  
[Steve Anderson](#)

## Dates for the Diary

**15 March 2023 @2pm**  
**Coordinators meeting**  
(coordinators and deputy coordinators only)  
Minsterley Parish Hall

**21 March 2023 @2pm**  
Local History  
**Penny Ward: Shrewsbury Flaxmill**  
Minsterley Parish Hall

**19 Apr 2023 @2pm**  
Open meeting  
**Alison Nutting: Agnes Hunt**  
Minsterley Parish Hall

**17 May 2023 @2pm**  
Open meeting  
**Coronation celebration**  
The Pavilion, Pontesbury



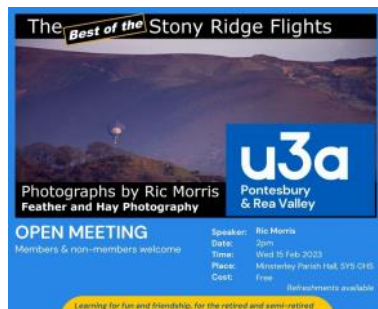


## u3a P&RV

### Feedback from February's Open meeting

What an amazing turnout for Ric Morris's excellent photography presentation of an aerial view of the Stiperstones area on the 15th February from a hot air balloon.











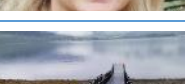




A huge thank you to Ric and all those involved in making this such a successful event, with a record attendance level, accolades from other visiting u3a's and many new members signing up to our vibrant u3a.





## National u3a Online learning events

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

	Climate Change - a narrow path away	Wed 1 Mar 10pm
	Introduction to Pilates	Thur 2 Mar 10am
	Brain Pain and anaesthetics	Mon 6 Feb 2pm
	Mindfulness & Meditation	Tues 7 Feb for 6 weeks 10am
	Genetic Genealogy	Wed 8 Feb 2pm
	Laughter Yoga	Wed 8 Feb 10am
	Radio Podcast of the month	March
	For the Love of a Woman	Thur 9 Mar 10am
	The Climate Crisis— and some solutions	Fri 10 Mar 10am
	Gently Active Yoga — a3 session course	Mondays at 2pm 13 Mar to 27 Mar
	Mindfulness & Meditation continuation sessions	Third Thur every month 10am
	Cryptic crosswords— 6 session course	Thurs 10am from 16 Mar to 20 Apr
	Life of the Edge: Dawn of quantum biology	Fri 17 Mar 12pm
	The Joe Lyons Story— Food for thought	Thur 23 Mar 2pm
	The Future of Aging	Fri 24 Mar 2pm

## Hadrian's Wall: 10 May



The national [u3a off the wall](#) day is on Wednesday 10th May 2023, which is a festival of learning and fun on Wednesday 10 May 2023: with a formal and fringe programme of speakers at the Sill site in Northumberland. More can be found by clicking the link above.

There is also a schedule of free [online events](#) leading up to the 10th May, which may be of interest to many of our groups.. You need to book via the link above:

- **Searching the Internet for Hadrian's Wall Information** ([History](#)) – Tue 2 May 10am
- **The Power of 3 and Other Mysteries** ([Art](#)) – Wed 3 May 2pm
- **The Unification of the British Isles** ([Geology](#)) – Thur 4 May 10am
- **Roman Influence on British Cuisine: A Culinary Journey**—Thur 4 May 2pm
- **Creating a Convincing Evocation of Celtic Britain** ([Creative writing](#)) – Fri 5 May 10 am
- **Wall Flowers: Create a Roman-style Floral Crown**—Tue 9 May 10am
- **Creative Writing: On the Edge of Empire** (Session 1) ([Creative Writing](#)) – Tue 9 May 2pm
- **Creative Writing: On the Edge of Empire** (Session 2) ([Creative Writing](#)) – Wed 10 May 10am



## Interest Groups

### Gardening

The new gardening group had its set-up meeting in February and I have taken on the mantle of coordinator, with a very brave new member, Peter Napier, volunteering to be deputy coordinator.



Sessions will be held monthly on the second Friday of each month at 2pm to 4pm, or adjusted as required to ad-hoc dates for garden visits.

We now have several years worth of ideas for sessions and I've already

learnt that any gardening group needs ample tea and cake to survive!

The first session will be a visit to Peter and Rosanne's garden on Friday 10th March.

If you are interested in gardening and wish to join, please contact me for more information.

**Gardening Coordinator**  
[Sue Anderson](#)

### GARDENING SET-UP MEETING

Friday  
 24 Feb 2023  
 2:00 - 4:00 pm



### Café Society

Our Cafe Society group met for its first meeting of 2023 in a new venue - The Mytton Arms at Habberley.



roaring fire. We discussed several topics including television trends, the problems with social media, whether abstinence is good for us and whether narcissism is a new phenomenon.

New members are welcome. There is no charge as such and members purchase the refreshment of their choice from the bar.

With a couple of new members - and a few from the original group we had coffee and cake and even a drop of wine in front of a wonderful

We will be meeting again on Wednesday 29 March 2023 and Wednesday 26 April 2023 - at the same venue starting at 2.00pm.

**Coordinator**  
[Janet Walsh](#)

## learn, laugh, live



## Interest Groups

### History

At the February meeting Sue Piggott-Forster gave a presentation of two remarkable women; Rosalind Franklin and Elsie Widdowson.

Our next meeting is on Monday 20th March at 10.30 at the Pavilion, the theme of remarkable women will continue with a presentation on the Women of the Special Operations Executive (SOE) who affected the outcome of WWII.

If you enjoy history, please come along and join us.

**Coordinator**  
David Taylor



### Rosalind Franklin

Rosalind (1920–1958) was a British chemist whose work was central to the understanding of the molecular structures of DNA.

Although her works on viruses were appreciated in her lifetime, her enormous contributions to the discovery of the structure of DNA were largely unrecognized during her life, for which she has been variously referred to as the 'forgotten heroine'.

Much of her work was used by others who then received the credit.

In 2021 the Rosalind Franklin laboratory was opened and became the largest laboratory for Covid testing in the UK.



Rosalind Franklin

### Elsie Widdowson

Elsie Widdowson (1906–2000), was a British dietitian and nutritionist who was largely responsible for overseeing the government-mandated addition of vitamins to food and wartime rationing in Britain during World War II. In 2020, she was included in a list of seven important but little-known British female scientists.



Elsie Widdowson

**u3a**  
Pontesbury  
& Rea Valley

**learn, laugh, live**



## Interest Groups

### Cinema & Social



The next film on the 17th March is **"Mrs Harris Goes to Paris"**.

Mrs Harris Goes to Paris tells the story of a widowed cleaning lady in 1950s London who falls madly in love with a couture Dior dress, and decides that she must have one of her own.

It will be shown at Marton Village Hall. Bar opens at 7 pm. Film starts at 7:30pm. Cost: £5.00 pp. Refreshments available in the interval.

#### Coordinator

[John Rice](#)

01743 792 790



### Family History



At the February meeting members brought along interesting family artefacts and memorabilia.

We were shown a grandfather's beautiful portrait of a bird and an ebony penny whistle from the early 1900's which was possibly used to signal the retrieval of empty railway carriages pulled from the sidings by a team of horses.

We heard about a great-aunt and saw her 1904 school hymn book, wedding photograph and beautiful diamond engagement ring in its original box.

Another member passed around some loving letters from her father who spent three years away in the Far East during WW2.

We were then treated to an interesting story about a father's Harrison watch from the 1940's and a salt-glazed jug which had been in the family from the mid-19thC.

There were also some poignant photographs of a great-grandmother.

Finally, a group member showed us some amazing results from a recent DNA search which identified their hereditary origins. Another interesting session for this ever-popular group.

#### Deputy Coordinator

[David Taylor](#)

### Painting & Drawing



Painting & Drawing is resuming all the Tuesdays in March (7, 14, 21, 28) before we run into the complications of Easter holidays.

There is a nominated theme each week so just bring along your medium of choice and maybe a few objects related to the theme.

Please contact the coordinators for more information.

#### Coordinators

Hugh & Gill Scriven

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

### Photography



In February, we spent an enjoyable photoshoot in Shrewsbury Market Hall, followed by very civilised tea/coffee and cake at Palmer's Coffee Shop. Great fun!

At our next meeting on the 1st of March at Steve and Sue's house, Paul Maddocks will be giving us a fascinating presentation of wildlife photos taken on his recent trip to Botswana. Then if we have any spare time, we will review the photos taken by our members in Shrewsbury and learn from each others talents. We look forward to welcoming everyone.

From April, we're changing to the 2nd Wednesday of each month, starting on 12th April.

#### Coordinator

[Steve Anderson](#)





# 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 Mytton Arms Pub, Habberley	
<b>Cinema &amp; Social</b>	Mid–month on Fri 7pm Marton Village Hall	
<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>Second Fri of month</b> <b>2pm–4pm</b> <b>As announced</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>	<b>Every Tues when in session</b> 2pm–4pm Coordinator's House	
<b>Pickle Ball</b>	Every Thu 4:30pm–6pm Mary Webb, Pontesbury	
<b>Photography</b>	Second Wed of month 2pm–4pm Venue to be advised	
<b>Play Reading</b>	<b>Under relaunch</b>	
<b>Recorded Music</b>	To be started in January 2024 as Classical music appreciation	
<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
- Scrabble
- Sunday Lunch
- Seated Yoga

