

Editor: [Sue Anderson](#)

## A word from the Chair ...

Dear Members,

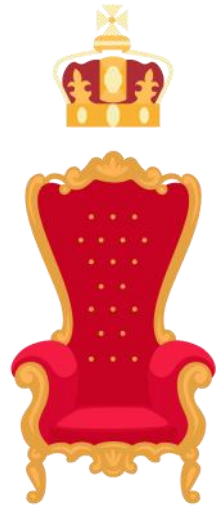
I hope you are all well and, as we step into May, are looking forward to the summer. As well as the prospect of some good/better weather to look forward to, we also have the excitement of the Coronation in just a few days time.

Even if you are not overly keen on the monarchy as a system or particularly fond of King Charles and Queen Camilla, there is something about being part of a historic, national event and so I hope that you enjoy the coming celebrations in whatever way is best for you.

As a u3a we are celebrating the coronation on Wednesday 17 May at

2.00pm in The Pavilion on Hall Bank and so hope that you can join us for a glass of something bubbly and some nibbles and meet up with u3a friends.

Although some of last year's members have not renewed their membership, our numbers are very strong and we have plenty of new members who joined us in the last few months. New members are important for our group as they bring with them new ideas and approaches and help to keep our u3a vibrant and thriving.



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### Date for the Diary

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



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

Mon 1	<b>Table Tennis 1 Pontesbury</b> 1:30pm—3:30pm Congregational Church	Wed 10	<b>Literature</b> 2pm—4pm Pavilion, Pontesbury	Thu 18	<b>Pickleball</b> 5pm—6pm, Meole Brace School, Shrewsbury
	<b>Folk Music</b> 1:30pm—3:30pm Minsterley Parish Hall		<b>Photography</b> 2pm—4pm Coordinators house	Fri 19	<b>Table Tennis 3 Pontesbury</b> 10am—12 noon Congregational Church
Tue 2	<b>Cycling</b> 10am—12 noon Pontesbury School Green	Thu 11	<b>Pickleball</b> 5pm—6pm, Meole Brace School, Shrewsbury	Mon 22	<b>Walking (Short)</b> 10 am Pontesbury School Green
	<b>Painting &amp; Drawing</b> 2pm—4pm Coordinator's house	Fri 12	<b>Table Tennis 3 Pontesbury</b> 10am—12 noon Congregational Church		<b>Table Tennis 1 Pontesbury</b> 1:30pm—3:30pm Congregational Church
Wed 3	<b>Table Tennis 2 Minsterley</b> 10am—12 noon Minsterley Parish Hall		<b>Gardening</b> 2pm to 4pm To be announced		<b>Folk Music</b> 1:30pm—3:30pm Minsterley Parish Hall
	<b>Italian</b> 10:30am—12 noon Coordinator's house	Mon 15	<b>History</b> 10:30am—12:30pm Pavilion, Pontesbury	Tues 23	<b>Cycling</b> 10am— around 1pm Pontesbury School Green
Thu 4	<b>Walking (Long)</b> 10 am As announced		<b>Table Tennis 1 Pontesbury</b> 1:30pm—3:30pm Congregational Church		<b>Painting &amp; Drawing</b> 2pm—4pm Coordinator's house
	<b>Creative writing</b> 10:am —12: noon Pavilion		<b>Art History</b> 2pm—4pm Venue to be advised	Wed 24	<b>Table Tennis 2 Minsterley</b> 10:am—12 noon Minsterley Parish Hall
	<b>Pickleball</b> 5pm—6pm, Meole Brace School, Shrewsbury		<b>Folk Music</b> 1:30pm—3:30pm Minsterley Parish Hall		<b>Italian</b> 10:30am—12 noon Coordinator's house
Mon 8	<b>Walking (Short)</b> 10:am—12 noon Pontesbury School Green	Tue 16	<b>Cycling</b> 10am—12 noon Pontesbury School Green	Thu 25	<b>Pickleball</b> 5pm—6pm, Meole Brace School, Shrewsbury
	<b>Family History</b> 10:30am—12:30pm Pavilion, Pontesbury		<b>Local History</b> 2pm—4pm Minsterley Parish Hall	Fri 26	<b>Table Tennis 3 Pontesbury</b> 10am—12 noon Congregational Church
	<b>Table Tennis 1 Pontesbury</b> 1:30pm—3:30pm Congregational Church		<b>Painting &amp; Drawing</b> 2pm—4pm Coordinator's house	Mon 29	<b>Table Tennis 1 Pontesbury</b> 1:30pm—3:30pm Congregational Church
	<b>Folk Music</b> 1:30pm—3:30pm Minsterley Parish Hall	Wed 17	<b>Table Tennis 2 Minsterley</b> 10:am—12:noon Minsterley Parish Hall		<b>Folk Music</b> 1:30pm—3:30pm Minsterley Parish Hall
Tue 9	<b>Cycling</b> 10am—12 noon Pontesbury School Green		<b>Italian</b> 10:30am — 12: noon Coordinator's house	Tue 30	<b>Cycling</b> 10am— around 1pm Pontesbury School Green
	<b>Geology</b> 2pm—4pm Pavilion, Pontesbury		<b>Open meeting</b> 2pm—4pm Pontesbury Pavilion		<b>Painting &amp; Drawing TBC</b> 2pm—4pm Coordinator's house
	<b>Painting &amp; Drawing</b> 2pm—4pm Coordinator's house			Wed 31	<b>Table Tennis 2 Minsterley</b> 10:am—12 noon Minsterley Parish Hall
Wed 10	<b>Table Tennis 2 Minsterley</b> 10:am—12:noon Minsterley Parish Hall	Thu 18	<b>Walking (Long)</b> 10:am As announced		<b>Italian</b> 10:30am—12 noon Coordinator's house
	<b>Italian</b> 10:30am —12: noon Coordinator's house		<b>Creative writing</b> 10:am —12: noon Pavilion		<b>Café Society</b> 2pm—4pm, Mytton Arms pub, Habberley



## u3a P&amp;RV

## A word from the Chair ...

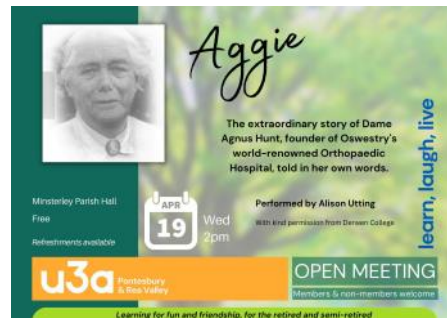
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A u3a relies on its members both to participate and help in the organising of groups – as a committee we just tend to keep an eye on finances and administration and the organisation of our Open meetings – the real work is done at group meeting level, so please try to support and help your group coordinators – or even consider running a group yourself. It's not an onerous task and there is plenty of support available.

We have taken the decision to reduce the number of Third Age Matters magazines being distributed to our members and from now on the magazine will be available from group coordinators, committee members and also to look at in the library. The distribution of the magazine has not always been reliable and as several members couldn't remember if they had had it

delivered or not we felt that it was perhaps best to reduce the numbers coming to us and save some money – enabling us to keep our yearly subscription rate at £15.00 which is the same as it has been since our u3a was founded in 2017.

And finally – what a wonderful presentation by Alison Utting last month in role as Dame Agnes Hunt at our April Open Meeting. What talented ladies they both were.



Best wishes, Janet

[Janet Walsh](#) (Chair)

## Membership



**T**hank you to all members who have renewed your membership.

For the few who have not yet paid, please could you complete the renewal membership form sent to you on the 7th March 2023, together with your payment for the annual fee as soon as possible.

Please also give a warm welcome to our new members this month:

**Jane Morris**  
**Pat Carr**  
**Ingrid Dalglish**  
**Ivor Dalglish**

**Membership secretary**

[Steve Anderson](#)

## A new Table Tennis group!

We are delighted to confirm that we are now implementing a third Table Tennis group which will take place every Friday morning at the Congregational Church Hall in Pontesbury from 10am – noon. **Our inaugural session will be on Friday 12th May.** There will be a small charge per person (circa £2.50 per person per session) to cover the hall hire. There will be no refreshments, so please bring water – as well as appropriate footwear and your bats.

We are very pleased with the response from members and look forward to seeing you all there. Any other members who have not yet expressed an interest would be very welcome too.

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

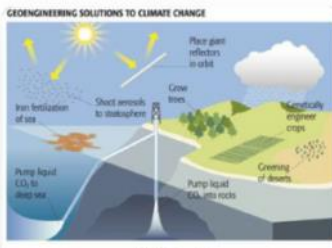




u3a national

## 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 and Geo-Engineering

Ian Hawker of East Suffolk u3a asks what radical solutions are available to avoid climate disaster as the Earth warms?

Tues 2 May at 10am  
Free – online via zoom



### Philosophy and Sport

This talk by Shri Sharma, Subject Adviser for Philosophy, will introduce you to some philosophical aspects of sport.

Thurs 11 May at 2pm  
Free – online via zoom



### Exploring World Faiths: Meditation in Faith

We get outlooks on how meditation is incorporated into different faiths, from a Buddhist, Christian and Hindu perspective.

Mon 15 May at 10am  
Free – Online via Zoom



### Don't Leave Me This Way: Neglected Historic Buildings and How to Help

Liz Fuller from SAVE Britain's Heritage, a charity that campaigns for historic buildings, leads this talk on neglected historic buildings

Mon 15 May at 2.30pm  
Free – Online via Zoom

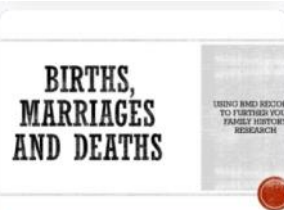
## learn, laugh, live



### Bletchley Park and the UK World War II Codebreakers

Science Subject Adviser for the u3a Leigh Edwards hosts a talk about Bletchley Park and the UK World War II Codebreakers – their story.

Tues 16 May at 2pm  
Free – Online via Zoom



### Family History: Births, Deaths and Marriages

A look at the history of civil registration and the use of BMD data in family history, hosted by Julie Johnson of Syston & District u3a.

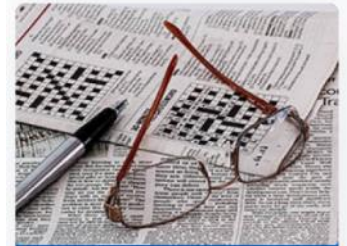
Wed 17 May at 2pm  
Free – Online via Zoom



### Energy management & savings in the domestic situation

Tony Book gives us a case study of a house that was recently refurbished to a high specification of insulation and windows.

Thurs 18 May at 2pm  
Free – online via zoom



### Cryptic Crosswords in Context

Their history, how they work, who does them and why – a talk by subject adviser Henry Howarth.

Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> May at 10am  
Free – Online via Zoom

## Online Learning Events

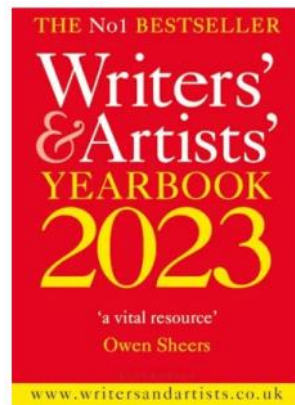
[www.u3a.org.uk/events/educational-events](http://www.u3a.org.uk/events/educational-events)

## Short Story Competition 2023

You may wish to enter the u3a 2023 Short Story Competition – full details can be found here: <https://www.u3a.org.uk/learning/short-story-competition-2023>

The theme for this year's competition is: **'Decision(s)'**.

The form to submit your entry will be on this webpage above on Tuesday 2 May 2023, and the deadline to enter is Monday 26 June 2023.



## Hadrian's Wall: 10 May Update of events



The national [u3a off the wall](#) day on Wednesday 10th May 2023, is a festival of learning and fun 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:

- **At the Edge of the Empire** with Author Adrian Goldsworthy ([History](#)) – Tue 2 May 2pm
- **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

## Design a garden competition

Southport u3a, after their show garden submission and win at the Southport Flower Show, will be returning to this years show on Thursday 17 August—Sunday 20 August, but in the Societies Tent.

They will be running a Design a Garden Competition for the u3a to design a small 6 x 6 metre garden suitable for u3a Members. The winner receives the much coveted u3a Watering Can Trophy plus two VIP tickets to the 100th Anniversary Southport 1920's Gala Flower Show in 2024. Tickets are worth £240 and include dinner, afternoon tea, meet the celebrities and much, much more. For information on the Design a Garden Competition please contact [Southportu3aflowershow@gmail.com](mailto:Southportu3aflowershow@gmail.com) to receive your free entry form. More information can be found here: <https://sources.u3a.org.uk/southport-u3a-return-to-southport-flower-show>



Southport u3a have also worked with Southport Flower Show to offer u3a Members a reduced advanced ticket price of £19 when using the code SFSU3A in the Promo code section to book online at [www.southportflowershow.co.uk](http://www.southportflowershow.co.uk).

## Interest Groups

### History & Family History

Following to the Easter holidays we combined History and Family History into one very interesting meeting continuing our theme of Women in History.

Stephen gave an excellent presentation on the remarkable Helen Keller which was very informative and gave us much food for thought. Born in 1880, Helen, despite losing her sight and hearing at the age of nineteen months, became a celebrated author, disability rights advocate, political and environmental activist.



Learning to read braille and to write, and with the help of her life long companion, she toured 35 countries advocating for those with vision loss and giving lectures on women's suffrage and

world peace. A truly remarkable woman.

Merle then treated us to a wonderful and very personal reading from an account of her St. Lucian grandmother who saw many of her children and grandchildren leave home to seek a new life in England and Bob and Polly gave presentations on the 'power' of DNA and some interesting family artefacts.

The next **History** meeting will be on Monday 15th May at 10.30 am where Sue will be presenting on the changing role of women in ancient times. All welcome.

The next **Family History** meeting will be Monday June 12th at 10.15am

**Coordinator**  
David Taylor



### Photography



Unfortunately our April meeting had to be cancelled due to a plumbing leak at the Coordinators house! So the agenda planned for the 12th April – a review of members photos of Canva by Sue Anderson – will now take place on 10th May from 2–4pm at the Coordinator's house.

If anyone is interest in attending please contact me.

**Coordinator**  
Steve Anderson

### Painting & Drawing



Painting & Drawing will be held on Tuesdays until the 23rd May.. The 30th May may be possible but will be confirmed.

Please contact the coordinators for more information if interested.

**Coordinators**  
Hugh & Gill Scriven

### Cinema & Social



Cinema & Social will now be having a break for the summer but we shall be starting again in September.

**Coordinator**  
John Rice

# 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 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–12:15pm Pavilion, Pontesbury	
<b>Folk Music</b>	Every Mon 1:30pm–3:30pm Minsterley Parish Hall	
<b>Gardening</b>	Second Fri of month 2pm–4pm As announced	
<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 Meole Brace school	
<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 ( <b>closed until Sept</b> ) 4:30pm–6pm Mary Webb, Pontesbury	
<b>Table Tennis 1 Pontesbury</b>	Every Mon 1:30pm–3:30pm Congregational Church	
<b>Table Tennis 2 Minsterley</b>	Every Wed 10am–12 noon Minsterley Parish Hall	
<b>Table Tennis 3 Pontesbury</b>	Every Fri 10 am–12 noon 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 under investigation

- Pilates
- Sunday Lunch
- Board games
- Seated Yoga

