

Editor: [Sue Anderson](#)

Dear Members,

I'm looking forward to seeing you at our AGM on Wednesday 19 July at 2.00pm in Minsterley Parish Hall. It will give us a chance to celebrate a very positive year for our u3a group – we may be small in comparison to some groups across the country – but we have plenty of interest groups, increasing membership – and a dynamic, diverse membership.

Although an AGM is maybe not the most exciting thing you will do this summer, we are combining it with an excellent opportunity to find out about 'Life in Brittany' as told by our membership secretary Steve Anderson – along with some appropriate French refreshments (wine and cheese of course!).

We won't be having an Open Meeting



in August; in fact it may be that one or two of our interest groups will be having a break for the summer as holidays and grandchildren tend to feature quite a lot in the lives of our membership at this time of year – check with the group leader or in the newsletter if in doubt. Our 'new term' will start again in September so look out for the September newsletter so as to keep up to date with what is going on and when.

Best wishes,  
Janet

[Janet Walsh](#) (Chair)

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## Dates for your Diary



**AGM & Open  
Meeting**



# Living in Brittany France



**Wed 19 July 2023  
2pm to 4pm  
Minsterley Parish Hall**

**Programme**  
Annual General Meeting  
"Living in Brittany" – Steve Anderson  
Refreshments  
incl. Cheese & Wine

**OPEN MEETING**  
Members & non-members welcome




**u3a** Pontesbury  
& Rea Valley



# u3a P&RV news

## Cycling Hadrian

Congratulations to 6 members of our cycling group who just enjoyed 120 miles of cycling along Hadrian's cycleway/National Cycle Route 72 from Silloth on the west coast of Cumbria to Tynemouth in the east.

A good time was had by all, as you can see!



## Membership



We are delighted to welcome our new members for this month:

**Joy Shaw**  
**Steve Harvey**  
**Liz Drennan**  
**Linda Smith**  
**Andrew Beaumont**

We now have a total of 182 members

**Membership secretary**

Steve Anderson



## Newsletter contributions

The newsletter is for all members to share news from our interest groups or items that may be of interest to our members on an educational level.

If you wish to provide a short article or piece to the newsletter along these lines, please could you let me have any contributions by the 28th of the month for the forthcoming month's publication.

**Editor**

Sue Anderson

**u3a**  
**Pontesbury & Rea Valley**



Mon	3	<b>Walking (Short)</b> 10:am—12 noon Pontesbury School Green  <b>Table Tennis 1 Pontesbury</b> 1:30pm—3:30pm Congregational Church  <b>Folk Music</b> 1:30pm—3:30pm Minsterley Parish Hall  <b>Committee meeting</b> 4pm—6pm Pontesbury Pavilion	Wed	12	<b>Table Tennis 2 Minsterley</b> 10:am—12:noon Minsterley Parish Hall  <b>Italian</b> 10:30am — 12: noon Coordinator's house  <b>Literature</b> 2pm—4pm Pavilion, Pontesbury  <b>Photography</b> 2pm—4pm <b>To be advised</b>	Wed	19	<b>AGM &amp; Open meeting:</b> <b>"Living in Brittany"</b> 2pm—4pm Minsterley Parish Hall  
Tue	4	<b>Cycling</b> 10am—12 noon Pontesbury School Green  <b>Painting &amp; Drawing</b> <b>TO BE CONFIRMED</b>	Thu	13	<b>Walking (Long)</b> 10:am As announced  <b>Pickleball</b> 4:30pm—6pm, Mary Webb School, Pontesbury	Thu	20	<b>Creative writing</b> 10:am —12: noon Pavilion  <b>Pickleball</b> 4:30pm—6pm, Mary Webb School, Pontesbury
Wed	5	<b>Table Tennis 2 Minsterley</b> 10:am—12:noon Minsterley Parish Hall  <b>Italian</b> 10:30am —12: noon Coordinator's house  <b>Astronomy</b> 7:30pm—21:30pm The Bog Centre, Stiperstones	Fri	14	<b>Table Tennis 3 Pontesbury</b> 10am—12 noon Congregational Church  <b>Gardening</b> 5:30pm—7:30pm <b>Offcot NGS outing</b>	Fri	21	<b>Table Tennis 3 Pontesbury</b> 10am—12 noon Congregational Church
Thu	6	<b>Creative writing</b> 10:am —12: noon Pavilion  <b>Pickleball</b> 4:30pm—6pm, Mary Webb School, Pontesbury  <b>Table Tennis 3 Pontesbury</b> 10am—12 noon Congregational Church	Mon	17	<b>Walking (Short)</b> 10 am Pontesbury School Green  <b>History</b> 10:30am—12:30pm Pavilion, Pontesbury  <b>Table Tennis 1 Pontesbury</b> 1:30pm—3:30pm Congregational Church  <b>Folk Music</b> 1:30pm—3:30pm Minsterley Parish Hall	Mon	24	<b>Table Tennis 1 Pontesbury</b> 1:30pm—3:30pm Congregational Church  <b>Folk Music</b> 1:30pm—3:30pm Minsterley Parish Hall
Fri	7	<b>Family History</b> 10:30am—12:30pm Pavilion, Pontesbury  <b>Table Tennis 1 Pontesbury</b> 1:30pm—3:30pm Congregational Church  <b>Folk Music</b> 1:30pm—3:30pm Minsterley Parish Hall	Tues	18	<b>Cycling</b> 10am— around 1pm Pontesbury School Green  <b>Local History</b> 2pm—4pm Minsterley Parish Hall  <b>Painting &amp; Drawing</b> <b>TO BE CONFIRMED</b>	Tue	25	<b>Cycling</b> 10am— around 1pm Pontesbury School Green  <b>Painting &amp; Drawing</b> <b>TO BE CONFIRMED</b>
Mon	10	<b>Table Tennis 1 Pontesbury</b> 1:30pm—3:30pm Congregational Church  <b>Folk Music</b> 1:30pm—3:30pm Minsterley Parish Hall  <b>Cycling</b> 10am—12 noon Pontesbury School Green  <b>Geology</b> 2pm—4pm Pavilion, Pontesbury  <b>Painting &amp; Drawing</b> <b>TO BE CONFIRMED</b>	Fri	28	<b>Table Tennis 3 Pontesbury</b> 10am—12 noon Congregational Church  <b>Walking (Short)</b> 10:am—12 noon Pontesbury School Green  <b>Table Tennis 1 Pontesbury</b> 1:30pm—3:30pm Congregational Church  <b>Folk Music</b> 1:30pm—3:30pm Minsterley Parish Hall	Wed	26	<b>Table Tennis 2 Minsterley</b> 10:am—12 noon Minsterley Parish Hall  <b>Italian</b> 10:30am—12 noon Coordinator's house  <b>Café Society</b> <b>CANCELLED—HOLIDAYS</b>
			Thu	27	<b>Walking (Long)</b> 10 am As announced  <b>Pickleball</b> 4:30pm—6pm, Mary Webb School, Pontesbury	Thu	31	<b>Table Tennis 1 Pontesbury</b> 1:30pm—3:30pm Congregational Church  <b>Folk Music</b> 1:30pm—3:30pm Minsterley Parish Hall



## Interest Group news



At the History Group meeting in June we continued the theme of 'Women in History' – and the group were treated to a presentation by John Rice on the role of **Women in Ancient Rome**. John's extensive knowledge on this period in history provided us with many interesting details. We learnt how 'respectable' girls received the same education as boys, how women could own and run their own business yet their only real involvement in politics or power was through the careful influencing or manipulating of their husbands.

Our next meeting will be on 17<sup>th</sup> July at 10.30am at the Pavilion. This will be our last session on the subject of women where we shall learn about **Charlotte Corday** who assassinated the French Revolutionary and Jacobin leader Jean Paul Marat. Given time, we may also discuss one or two other infamous women in history.

All are welcome to join this popular and interesting group.

**Coordinator**  
David Taylor



*The Death of Marat:*  
Jacques-Louis David

learn,  
laugh,  
live



The Cafe Society discussion group will be taking a break during the summer and so will not be meeting in July or August.

Our next meeting will therefore be on Wednesday 27 September at 2.00pm

in The Mytton Arms at Habberley.

New members always welcome – the cake is lovely!!

**Coordinator**  
Janet Walsh

A lively discussion at May's meeting



## Interest Group news



Everyone who attended our group outing to the magical and enchanting **Windy Ridge** in Little Wenlock had a great time! Blessed with magnificent weather, an inspirational garden (totally worthy of its award), perfect hosts, tasty cakes and great company we couldn't have wished for more.

Our next meeting is on Friday 14 July 5:30pm at **Offcot Garden** where we have again arranged a special group visit to another amazing garden. Offcot, in Kynaston, is part of the National Open Gardens Scheme for charity and the total cost will be £9

per person (£6 for entrance – normal price – and £3 for tea and cakes). For more information:

[findagarden.ngs.org.uk/garden/37228/offcot](http://findagarden.ngs.org.uk/garden/37228/offcot)

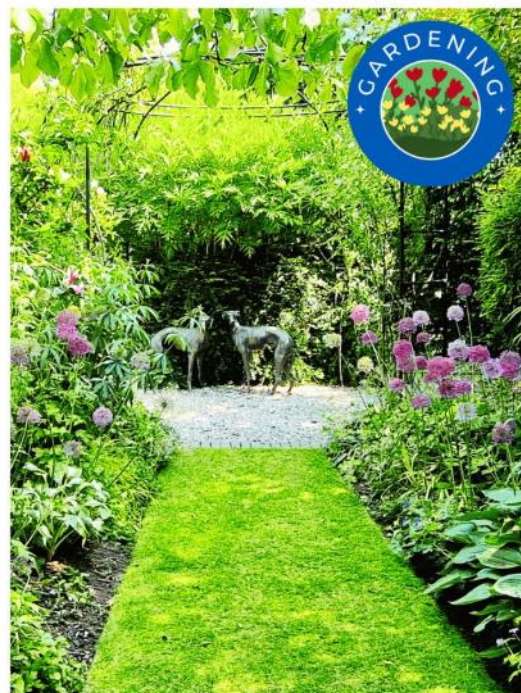
**There are a few spaces still available, so these will be opened up to all P&RV u3a membership on a first-come first-served basis.**

[Please can you let me know if you interested in joining us before Friday 7th July 2023, so we can confirm total numbers to the garden.](#)

**Coordinator**

[Sue Anderson](#)

07762 977 432



## Interest Group news



The Local History group met up at The Bog at the Stiperstones last Tuesday for tea and cake, reading the history, admiring the new outside area and the view. It was lovely to welcome back Pam Wyatt, and her husband Ken.

Next month, having read the suggestion in the recent national u3a magazine, we are going to research our family history re 1st and 2nd world wars. We all have had grandparents, parents, uncles and

aunts who served. We are also compiling the histories of our members and how they got to Rea Valley – very few have lived here all their lives.

We also plan to research the history of the train line that went through Pontesbury to Minsterley.

New members are welcome., If you are interested in joining please contact the coordinator.

**Coordinator**

[Susan Lockwood](#)



The geology group are continuing with their eclectic ramble through various geological topics. So far this year we have looked at sedimentary rock formation, top UK geological highlights, earthquakes and geological map reading.

This month we covered the topic of mountain building (destructive plate

tectonics) using the Himalayas as a case study. Keeping the theme running we will look at the opening of the Atlantic Ocean (constructive plate tectonics) in July and return to Shropshire Geology in August.

**Coordinator**

[Richard Down](#)



## DINOSAURS HAVING TEA

Created by Richard using Chat AI as experts say AI is dangerous and a threat to the human race



## Interest Group news



The Astronomy group have now set to meet up the last Wednesday of every month at 7.30pm at the Bog Centre. However, due to the hay harvest the June meeting will be postponed to Wednesday 05th July 7.30pm at the Bog Centre.

New members are very welcome. If you are interested in joining, please contact the coordinator.

**Coordinators**

[Noel Evans](#)



The Friday Table Tennis 3 group now has a total of 18 members who have played or regularly play which is very encouraging for a start up group. It is great fun as well as being good exercise.

engaged. We revert to normal from the following Friday, 7th July. Naturally, not everyone can make it each week, so new members are very welcome.

We look forward to seeing you !

**Coordinator**

[Steve Anderson](#)

Please note there will be no session on Friday 30th June as many members are on holiday or otherwise

learn, laugh, live



## Interest Group news



**S**hort Walking dates for July are:

Monday 3rd July 10am to 12 noon

Monday 17th July 10am to 12 noon

**Coordinator**

[Irene Windows](#)



**P**ickleball will be back at Mary Webb School on Thursdays at 4.30 – 6.00 pm from Thurs June 29th. New members welcome.

Please contact me if you are interested in joining.

**Coordinator**

[Helen Critchley](#)



## Interest Group news



Taking advantage of the good weather, the photographers have had two recent outings, one to **Montgomery** and the **Stiperstones**, starting from the Bog Centre. Our next meeting will be an analysis of the photos from these two sessions on the 12th July.

In the meantime, here are some

photo's of the Photographers in action as well as Jane's amazing photo which was awarded cover photo of the week by the "For the Love of Shropshire" Facebook page..

New members are very welcome to join.

**Coordinator**  
[Roy Forbes](#)



"For the Love of Shropshire"  
Facebook page awards Cover photo  
of the week to our Jane Simms for  
her stunning photo – Bravo, Jane !



## Interest Group news

### New Groups?



### Backgammon

Backgammon is a popular ancient board game for two players played with counters and dice on tables boards.

Please contact Val directly if you have any queries or would like to join..

**Backgammon Coordinator**

[Val Sinclair](#)

[valsinclair500@gmail.com](mailto:valsinclair500@gmail.com)

### Railway Modellers

Two people, Roy Forbes and Ray Graham, are so far very interested in Model Railways and in forming a u3a Model Railway Group. It's not necessary to have your own layout or even be a collector but if you do have some interest in modelling especially related to railways, even if it is just watching trains running around a layout, then you will be made most welcome.

Roy has his own OO gauge layout, which he is in the process of rebuilding after a house move 3 years ago, housed in a purpose built 'shed' (20feet by 10feet). His previous layout was 30 feet by 6 feet. So at present the new layout is a bit of a mess as the work is still 'in progress'.

Ray however is still looking for new inspiration. He is currently thinking of using the Snailbeach mine as inspiration for a narrow gauge layout. In the meantime he is also looking towards rekindling his interests in collecting model railways.

On the 10th of June 2023 Ray and Roy attended a Model Railway Exhibition held at St Mary's Church in Shrewsbury. Both were amazed at the quality and quantity of the exhibitions. There was something for everyone ranging from miniscule small gauges to the larger ones intended for Garden use.

In order to minimise costs the new Pontesbury and Rea Valley u3a Railway Modellers Group is intending that meetings take place at various members own locations and also (with the landlords permission) at The Mytton Arms in Habberley, with occasional trips out as required.

Please contact Roy if you have any queries or are interested.

**Railway Coordinator**

[Roy Forbes](#)

07803707465

[roynrita.forbes@btinternet.com](mailto:roynrita.forbes@btinternet.com)



## u3a national news

### Third Age Matters magazine

The coordinators will circulate a copy of the latest Third Age Matters for those who might be interested. There are also copies available in the Library to loan. Please note that there is also an online version available on the national website. Click here for the latest magazine:

[www.u3a.org.uk/news/publications](http://www.u3a.org.uk/news/publications)



### U3a Off the Wall video



Click on the video above to see the new u3a film, u3a off the wall—be part of something bigger, launched as part of Volunteers' Week, filmed at the national u3a event at Hadrian's Wall

### Southport Flower Show Ticket deal



Just a reminder that u3a members can secure cut-price tickets for this year's Southport Flower Show. Advanced tickets for the event on 17–20 August are available for £19, down from £28. Simply add 'SFSU3A' in the promo code section when you book online at [southportflowershow.co.uk](http://southportflowershow.co.uk).

Horticulture enthusiasts are also encouraged to design a 6m by square garden suitable for u3a members. Contact [Southportu3aflowershow@gmail.com](mailto:Southportu3aflowershow@gmail.com) for details and an entry form.

### Recyclers and hoarders wanted?

David Halley, from Richmond upon Thames u3a, has made sculptures from scrap metal, wood and junk often pulled from skips for years. He has now started an online u3a Found Art Group to encourage others to join him. David always glues his creations together, so there is no welding involved.

To find out more or to join the Found Art Group, email David at [dbhalley@aol.com](mailto:dbhalley@aol.com)

### Online Learning Events

As always, there are lots of great free u3a online courses this month: [Click here for this month's events](#) and to book your place:

- **Meditation & Mindfulness** Series – 6 weeks from Tue 27 June 10am
- **Laughter Yoga** Wed 5 July 10am
- **Richborough Roman fort** Thu 6 Jul 10am
- **Cryptic Crosswords** Wed 12 Jul 10am
- **Exploring World Faiths: Faith and the environment** Mon 17 July 10am
- **Into the mind of an artist: Van Gogh Part 2** Tue 18 July 10am
- **Mindfulness & Meditation Continuation** Thur 20 July 10am
- **Expedition Cruising: The scattered Islands** Thu 20 July 2pm
- **Philosophy & Travel** Thu 20 July 2pm
- **History of US Military Aviation in East Anglia** Tue 25 July 10am
- **Maths Activities and Games workshop** Thur 27 July 10am



# Interest Groups Listing

There are a wide range of 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>Painting &amp; Drawing</b>	Every Tues when in session 2pm–4pm Coordinator's House	
<b>Astronomy</b>	Last Wed of month 7:30–9.30pm Bog centre, Stiperstones		<b>Pickle Ball</b>	Every Thu 4:30pm–6pm Mary Webb school	
<b>Café Society</b>	Last Wed of month 2pm–4pm Mytton Arms Pub, Habberley		<b>Photography</b>	Second Wed of month 2pm–4pm Venue to be advised	
<b>Creative writing</b>	1st & 3rd Thu 10am–12 noon Pavilion		<b>Recorded Music</b>	To be started in January 2024 as Classical music appreciation	
<b>Cycling</b>	Every Tue 10am– around 1pm Pontesbury School Green		<b>Short Tennis</b>	Every Tues (closed until Sept) 4:30pm–6pm Mary Webb , Pontesbury	
<b>Family History</b>	2nd Mon of month 10:15am–12h15pm Pavilion , Pontesbury		<b>Table Tennis 1 Pontesbury</b>	Every Mon 1:30pm–3:30pm Congregational Church	
<b>Folk Music</b>	Every Mon 1:30pm–3:30pm Minsterley Parish Hall		<b>Table Tennis 2 Minsterley</b>	Every Wed 10am–12 noon Minsterley Parish Hall	
<b>Gardening</b>	Second Fri of month 2pm–4pm As announced		<b>Table Tennis 3 Pontesbury</b>	Every Fri 10 am–12 noon 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		<div>Potential groups under investigation</div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pilates</li> <li>• Backgammon</li> <li>• Board games</li> <li>• Bridge</li> <li>• Play reading</li> <li>• Railway Modelling</li> <li>• Sunday Lunch</li> <li>• Seated Yoga</li> </ul>		
<b>Literature</b>	2nd Wed in month 2pm–4pm Pavilion, Pontesbury				
<b>Local History</b>	3rd Tue of month 2pm–4pm Minsterley Parish Hall				

