

Editor: [Sue Anderson](#)



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Welcome to a new 'term' of u3a in the Pontesbury area. I hope that you have had a pleasant summer despite the somewhat disappointing weather (those of you who went abroad to somewhere warm please don't gloat too much!).

Our u3a branch continues to grow which is always good to see – new members bring new ideas and ways of doing things and help to keep our u3a fresh and vibrant. The newsletter gives details of the groups and their activities and maybe now is a good time to think about joining a new group. I have recently joined the Pickleball group and although I'm not going to be winning any medals for my efforts (and apologies to all those pickleballers who have had to put up with me), it's been really enjoyable learning how to do something different and using different parts of my brain and body to do so. I can definitely recommend doing something new.

We have some interesting Open Meeting speakers lined up for the next few months and a Christmas celebration planned for our December meeting – attendance at these meetings has been really good of late and it's so nice to meet up with members other than those we see at our interest groups. Details of the Open Meetings are included in the newsletters, on the website, on our noticeboard in The Pavilion and via our Facebook messages.

With fingers crossed for a bit of a heatwave in September.

Best wishes,
Janet

[Janet Walsh](#) (Chair)

Dates for your Diary



THE MANCHESTER SHIP CANAL

THE DANNY

A fascinating talk on the Manchester Ship Canal, referred to as the Channel Tunnel of the Victorian age, a magnificent feat of engineering, 36 miles long, linking Manchester to the sea.

SEPTEMBER 20 Wed 2pm - 4pm
Minsterley Parish Hall
Refreshments available
Free entrance

OPEN MEETING
Members & non-members welcome



u3a P&RV news



We are in for a treat at our next Open Meeting on Wednesday 20th September at 2pm at Minsterley Parish Hall, where we are looking forward to a fascinating talk on the Manchester Ship Canal given by two volunteers of the Daniel Adamson Preservation Society, custodians of a restored

and fully operational 1903 built former Manchester Ship Canal tug tender, called "Danny".

The Manchester Ship Canal is a magnificent feat of engineering, 36 miles long linking the birthplace of the industrial revolution, Manchester to the Mersey Estuary, allowing direct trade to world markets for both import and export of goods of all kinds loaded on ocean going ships. The talk will tell of the history of the building of the canal, the people who worked on it, the ships that sailed up it, some of the incidents that occurred and some strange visitors, all contributing to the fascinating and continuing story of this great Northwest waterway as well as the restoration of the "Danny" to it's former art deco glory.

As always, refreshments are provided and bring along a friend if you want as non-members are welcome.



Membership has continued a steady growth over the summer and our total membership now stands at 192. Please extend a warm welcome to our new members if they are in one of your groups:

Richard Robinson
Rosemary Robinson
Ray Graham
Kim Dillow
Fiona Wilson
Malcolm Dunbar
Andrew Tweed
Eileen Stuart

Membership secretary
[Steve Anderson](#)

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SEPTEMBER 20

Learning for fun and friendship, for the retired and semi-retired

OPEN MEETING
 Members & non-members welcome

learn,
laugh,
live

u3a
 Pontesbury
 & Rea Valley



Fri 1	Table Tennis 3 Pontesbury 10am—12 noon Congregational Church	Tue 12	Geology 2pm—4pm Pavilion, Pontesbury	Wed 20	Open meeting: "The Manchester Ship Canal" 2pm—4pm Minsterley Parish Hall
Mon 4	Walking (Short) 10:am—12 noon Pontesbury School Green		Painting & Drawing TO BE CONFIRMED		
	Table Tennis 1 Pontesbury 1:30pm—3:30pm Congregational Church	Wed 13	Table Tennis 2 Minsterley 10:am—12:noon Minsterley Parish Hall		
	Folk Music 2pm—4pm Coordinator's House		Italian 10:30am — 12: noon Coordinator's house		
	Committee meeting 4pm—6pm Pontesbury Pavilion		Literature 2pm—4pm Pavilion, Pontesbury	Thu 21	Creative writing 10:am —12: noon Pavilion
Tue 5	Cycling 10am—12 noon Pontesbury School Green		Photography 2pm—4pm Shrewsbury Photoshoot		Walking (Long) 10:am As announced
	Painting & Drawing TO BE CONFIRMED	Thu 14	Pickleball 4:30pm—6pm, Mary Webb School, Pontesbury		Pickleball 4:30pm—6pm, Mary Webb School, Pontesbury
Wed 6	Table Tennis 2 Minsterley 10:am—12:noon Minsterley Parish Hall	Fri 15	Table Tennis 3 Pontesbury 10am—12 noon Congregational Church	Fri 22	Table Tennis 3 Pontesbury 10am—12 noon Congregational Church
	Italian 10:30am —12: noon Coordinator's house	Mon 18	Walking (Short) 10 am Pontesbury School Green	Mon 25	Table Tennis 1 Pontesbury 1:30pm—3:30pm Congregational Church
Thu 7	Creative writing 10:am —12: noon Pavilion		History 10:30am—12:30pm Peoples Museum MANC		Folk Music 2pm—4pm Minsterley Parish Hall
	Walking (Long) 10:am As announced		Table Tennis 1 Pontesbury 1:30pm—3:30pm Congregational Church	Tue 26	Cycling 10am— around 1pm Pontesbury School Green
	Pickleball 4:30pm—6pm, Mary Webb School, Pontesbury		Folk Music 2pm—4pm Minsterley Parish Hall		Painting & Drawing TO BE CONFIRMED
Fri 8	Table Tennis 3 Pontesbury 10am—12 noon Congregational Church		Art History 14:00—16:00 Venue to be advised	Wed 27	Table Tennis 2 Minsterley 10:am—12 noon Minsterley Parish Hall
	Gardening 5:30pm—7:30pm John's Garden outing	Tues 19	Cycling 10am— around 1pm Pontesbury School Green		Italian 10:30am—12 noon Coordinator's house
Mon 11	Family History 10:30am—12:30pm Pavilion, Pontesbury		Local History 2pm—4pm Minsterley Parish Hall		Café Society 14:00—16:00 Mytton Arms, Habberley
	Table Tennis 1 Pontesbury 1:30pm—3:30pm Congregational Church		Painting & Drawing TO BE CONFIRMED		Astronomy 19:30 — 21:30 Bog Visitor Centre
	Folk Music 2pm—4pm Minsterley Parish Hall	Wed 20	Table Tennis 2 Minsterley 10:am—12 noon Minsterley Parish Hall	Thu 28	Pickleball 4:30pm—6pm, Mary Webb School, Pontesbury
Tue 12	Cycling 10am—12 noon Pontesbury School Green		Italian 10:30am—12 noon Coordinator's house	Fri 29	Table Tennis 3 Pontesbury 10am—12 noon Congregational Church



Interest Group news



Pontesbury u3a have some very successful sports groups running which cater for all abilities. So, whether you think of yourself as a bit 'rusty' having not played sport for a number of years or if you now have the time to take up a brand new sporting activity, don't hesitate any longer!

Come on down to Mary Webb school one late afternoon in September (date to be confirmed) and we will give you a taster session in Badminton, Short Tennis and Pickle Ball.

Using all three courts, you can take the opportunity of having a short tuition period on each of these sports, the aim being to see if you

would like to take any of these sports further by joining one of our groups.

This will be provided for free by three of our enthusiastic members. It might be a bit chaotic but it will be fun!

We will provide equipment – just turn up, but please inform me if you are coming and also if you would like a further chat.

Thank you.

Jane

Email: veronicajane@hotmail.co.uk

Tel: 01743792500

Coordinator
[Jane Simms](#)



The Local History Group will meet at Minsterley Parish Hall on Tuesday, 19 September at 2pm.

In July some members shared stories of their parents/grandparents World War I and II memories, so many different experiences, it was amazing.

In September we hope to have a speaker instruct us on how to research the railways stations that used to be active in Pontesbury and Minsterley, otherwise we will plan for the rest of the year. We would appreciate any historical photos members may have that they could share, by email to Susan, please.

After 19 Sept we may be visiting the

Shrewsbury Railway Heritage Trust, the Abbey Station headquarters in Shrewsbury and then be ready to display our research.

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

Coordinator
[Susan Lockwood](#)

Email:
susanlockwood345@btinternet.com



Interest Group news



Pickleball resumes at Mary Webb School on Thursday 7th September from 4.30 – 6.00 pm.

Over the summer some of our members assisted at The All England Open Tournament which, this year, was held in Telford. It was a huge event with over 1000 competitors from more than 25 countries. Seeing Pickleball being played by world-class competitors has really inspired these members who are buzzing with new coaching ideas and tactics which they are keen to share. This is of great

benefit to the whole club, so many thanks to Judy, Julie, Carol and Ray. Who knows – one day some of us may feel proficient enough to enter the competition ourselves!

Meanwhile – we'll keep playing for enjoyment – so 'no pressure' – and if anyone would like to join us, with or without previous experience, you'll be more than welcome. Please contact me if you are interested in joining.

Coordinator
[Helen Critchley](#)



Interest Group news



The September history group meeting normally held on the 3rd Monday of the month, will not take place.

Instead, 7 of the group will be visiting the Peoples History Museum in Manchester. The Museum tells the story of the past, present and future of democracy in Britain.

Coordinator

David Taylor



Day Trip



The next Short Walking dates are:

Monday 4th September 10h to 12h

Monday 18th September 10am to 12h

Monday 2nd October 10h to 12h

Coordinator

Irene Windows

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laugh,
live



The Cafe Society group will be meeting on Wednesday 27 September at 2.00pm in The Mytton Arms at Habberley.

It's a wonderful opportunity to have a discussion about current events, moral matters and other important

and sometimes trivial issues. All done in a friendly atmosphere with drinks and cake available to buy from the bar.

New members are always welcome.

Coordinator

Janet Walsh



The geology group will meet as usual in September on the 12th from 2-4pm at The Pavilion in Pontesbury.

However, there will be no meeting in October. So, the next meeting will be the 14th November 2-4pm.

Coordinator

Richard Down



Interest Group news



The gardening group has had two meetings since the last newsletter.

Weather saw our trip to **Offcot Garden** postponed to Monday 24th July. Another truly amazing garden with the best man shed ever (with 3 TV's!). Tom, the owner, also won the best in show at Shrewsbury Flower Show this year – and one can understand why.

We were then spoilt to a great visit to **Nadine and Tom's garden**—with excellent cake and tea!

Our next outing on Friday 8th September 2pm is to **John's**

Garden run by Ashwood Nurseries in Kingswinford.

There are spaces still available so if any other non-gardening group u3a members would like to attend, please contact Sue. You are most welcome to join. The cost for entrance is £10 and the plan is to have tea and cake in the Tea Room afterwards. For more information: www.ashwoodnurseries.com/visit-us/johns-garden/

Coordinator

[Sue Anderson](#)

Tel: 07762 977 432

Outing



Interest Group news



Over recent months the Literature group has been sampling the poetry of Seamus Heaney – reading a few selected poems during their discussion of other Irish writers.

A more detailed consideration of Heaney's work was on the menu for the group's July meeting.

Using CD recordings of the poet reading his own work, the group worked through each of Heaney's twelve collections of poetry, enjoying his thoughts on Family, Farming and Rural Life and The Troubles (in Northern Ireland).

His translations of historic works of literature were acknowledged but not explored.

In a concluding series of poems, the group also shared the poet's appreciation of our place in life throughout the generations – those that came before and those that will come after us.

The session ended with the poem 'In Time', Heaney's last poem, which he wrote a few days before his death in August 2013.

Coordinator
[Doreen Thomas](#)

IN TIME

Energy, balance, outbreak:
Listening to Bach
I saw you years from now
(More years than I'll be allowed)
Your toddler wobbles gone,
A sure and grown woman.

Your bare foot on the floor
Keeps me in step; the power
I first felt come up through
Our cement floor long ago
Palps your sole and heel
And earths you here for real.

An oratorio
Would be just the thing for you:
Energy, balance, outbreak
At play for their own sake
But for now we foot it lightly
In time, and silently.

A joyful prayer written for his granddaughter Siofra.

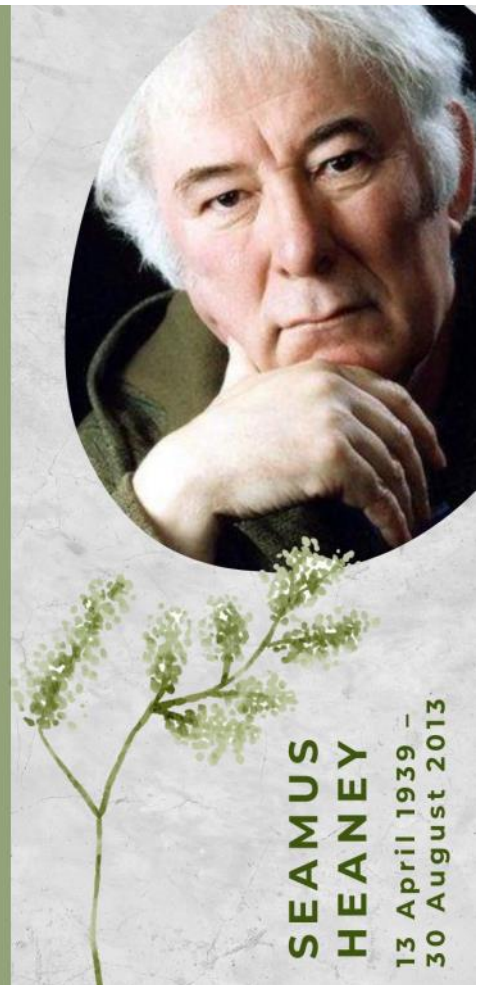
MOTHER OF THE GROOM

What she remembers
Is his glistening back
In the bath, his small boots
In the ring of boots at her feet.

Hands in her voided lap,
She hears a daughter welcomed.
It's as if he kicked when lifted
And slipped her soapy hold.

Once soap would ease off
The wedding ring
That's bedded forever now
In her clapping hand.

The recollection of precious feelings of a mother on the day of her son's wedding.



Interest Group news



Table Tennis 3 are now 20 members for the Friday's Table Tennis group in Pontesbury but are always looking to welcome new members. Please feel free to come along to the Congregational Church

Hall Friday mornings from 10am – noon. We are of diverse abilities, so everyone is welcome.

Coordinator
[Steve Anderson](#)



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Interest Group news



Outing

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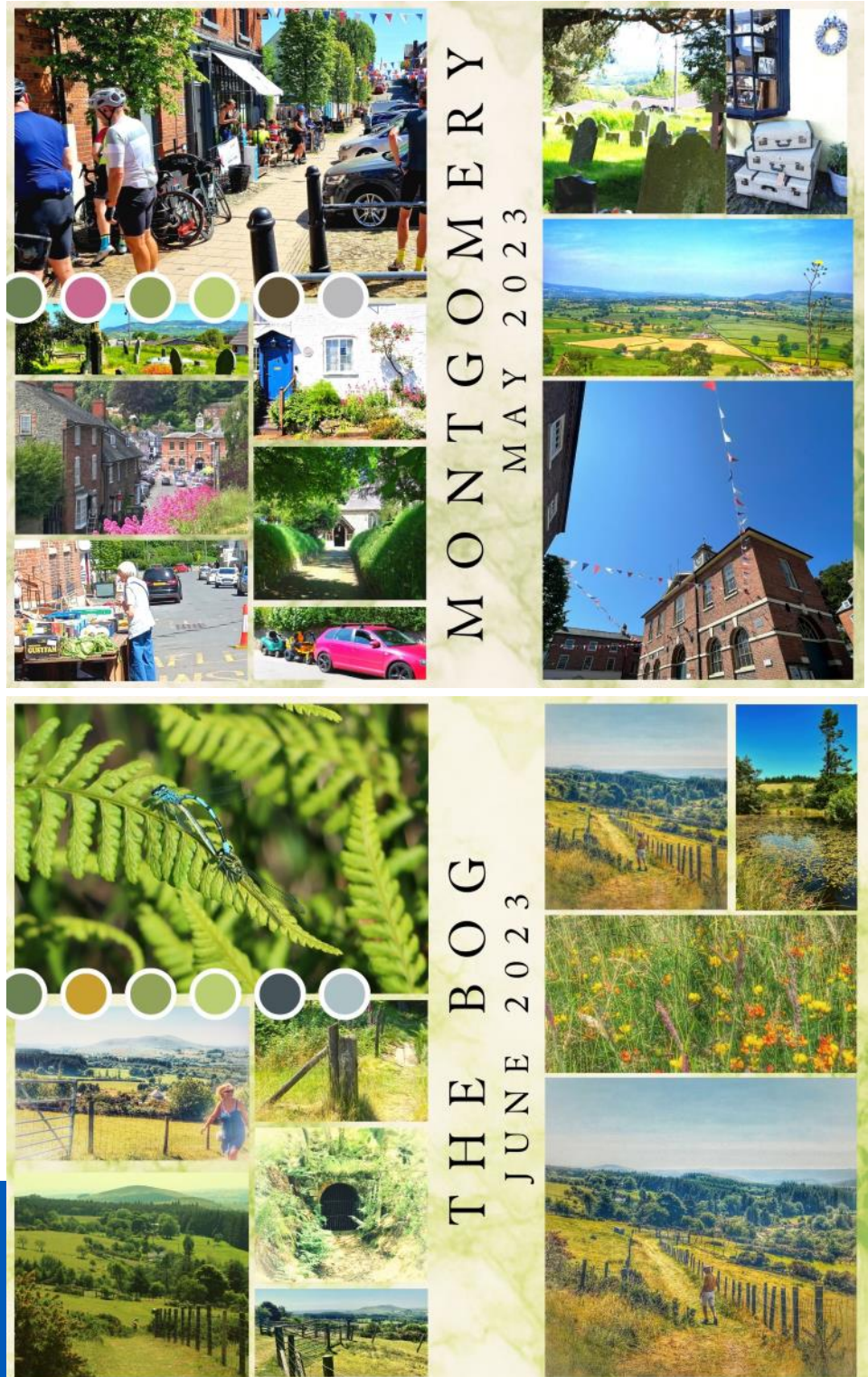
In August we had a review session of our two photoshoot outings to Montgomery and Stiperstones, with some excellent photos taken by all.

September will be a visit to

Shrewsbury to photo the "shuts".

New members are very welcome to join.

Coordinator
Roy Forbes



u3a national news

Interested in Aviation?



There's a new Online UK-wide Aviation Interest Group being set up. The East of England region recently decided to set up an aviation group. It now has 80+ members and they are opening this up to u3a members across the UK.

They meet monthly on Zoom for a presentation and discussion and are also looking into arranging visits to airfields and museums. Join them on this flight of interest by emailing barbara.cordina@u3a.org.uk
Barbara Cordina, Trustee for the East of England

Interest Groups Online Fair



Interest Groups Online is hosting an online fair where people can try taster sessions for free. Between **2 and 6 October**, a selection of our group leaders will deliver 30 minute taster sessions, from Laughter Yoga to British Cemeteries, to give prospective members a flavour of what you can enjoy if you decide to join.

IGO is an online community of learners, who meet mostly via Zoom. From October, membership is just £6 for 6 months and you will have access to over 75 different groups across a wide range of topics, visit the [interest groups online groups page](#) to browse all groups.

Taster sessions are open to everyone, including non-u3a members, so please make note of the date and share this with your friends. You can find out more on the [Interest Groups Online page](#).

u3a National newsletter



If you have not already done so, sign up for the u3a National newsletter which is emailed monthly, with lots of news and information on the wider u3a movement. Click on the link here: to sign up—it's the box at the end of the page:

<https://u3a.org.uk/news/newsletter>

You can also find the newsletter archive here for previous articles.

Online Learning Events

There's something for everyone this month with lots of interesting free u3a online zoom courses: [Click here for this months events](#) and to book your place:

- **Laughter Yoga**
 - **Judith's** Wed 13 Sep 10am
 - **Maggie's** Tues 26 Sep 3:30pm
- **Heritage Open Days** Fri 1st Sep 2pm
- **Electing the President in 2024—a 3 part series** Tues 12,19 & 26 Sep 2pm
- **Platonic Activities: Maths Activities Day for All:** Thurs 14 Sep 10am
- **Climate Modelling** Tue 19 Sep 10am
- **Future Lives—Working for Wales where older people are valued..** Tue 19 Sep 3pm
- **Woodland Trust—Trees, woods, climate & nature—what's all the fuss about** Wed 20 Sep 10am
- **Bolder—How to age Better, and Feel Better About Ageing** Thur 21 Sep 10am
- **Mindfulness & Meditation Continuation** Thur 21 Sep 10am
- **History of the British Secret Intelligence Services** Fri 22 Sep 2pm
- **Setting up and Running an Exploring World Faiths Group:** Mon 25 Sep 10am
- **The Scottish Colourists, 1900–1930** Wed 27 Sep 2pm
- **Hidden Histories: Tales of Cycling, Invention and Rebellion** Thur 28 Sep 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:
[Doreen Thomas](#) 01743 790 332

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

