

Editor: [Sue Anderson](#)

Just a few words from me this month. We've had a good u3a year with new members, new groups and some excellent speakers at our Open Meeting events. We are pleased to learn that Minsterley Parish Hall has a new committee and the venue seems safe from closure so we can look forward to using it for a range of u3a activities in the future.

We are having a small festive celebration for our u3a members on Wednesday 20 December at 2.00pm in The Pavilion in Pontesbury. Please join us if you are free. If you would like to make a cake or mince pies etc. for the event then we would be delighted to accept – but please let [David Taylor](#), our vice chair (who also seems to be in charge of cakes at such events), know in advance.

We are not having an Open



Meeting in January 2024 but the season will restart in February so look out for details of speakers etc. in the newsletters, on the website, on our notice board in The Pavilion and via the local Facebook pages.

I wish you all a very joyful Christmas and New Year and look forward to plenty of activities and fun in 2024.

Best wishes,
Janet

[Janet Walsh](#) (Chair)

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Dates for your Diary



Christmas
celebration



Ric Morris

u3a Pontesbury
& Rea Valley

**CHRISTMAS
CELEBRATION**

Wednesday
2pm
The Pavilion, Pontesbury
Seasonal refreshments

Please note there will be no January newsletter.



u3a P&RV news



Our final speaker for 2023 on the 15th November was **Anne Whysall** who provided us with an entertaining and informative afternoon on the subject of festive flowers.



We had a full village hall and spent over an hour watching Anne create four amazing arrangements as well as telling us about her floristry journey.

We learnt about the issues facing florists, the challenges and the joys of working in a creative industry – all told from a very personal perspective – and all while seeming to just stick bits of twig, flowers and decorations – in a random fashion into pots, with moss and wire – but ending up with beautiful displays. In seconds she took a piece of ribbon, twisted it a few times and turned it into a lovely bow – telling us ‘there, it’s as easy as that’ followed by the full audience collectively muttering – I’ll never be able to do that! We were all captivated by the demonstration and presentation – the time just flew by.

The arrangements were raffled off and the session ended with refreshments and an opportunity to catch up and swap news with u3a friends.



We are pleased to welcome Kay Legg as a new members this month.

Please could you give her a warm welcome to our u3a (as well as all our newer members) as you meet them in the Interest Groups.

Membership secretary

[Steve Anderson](#)



learn, laugh, live



u3a P&RV news

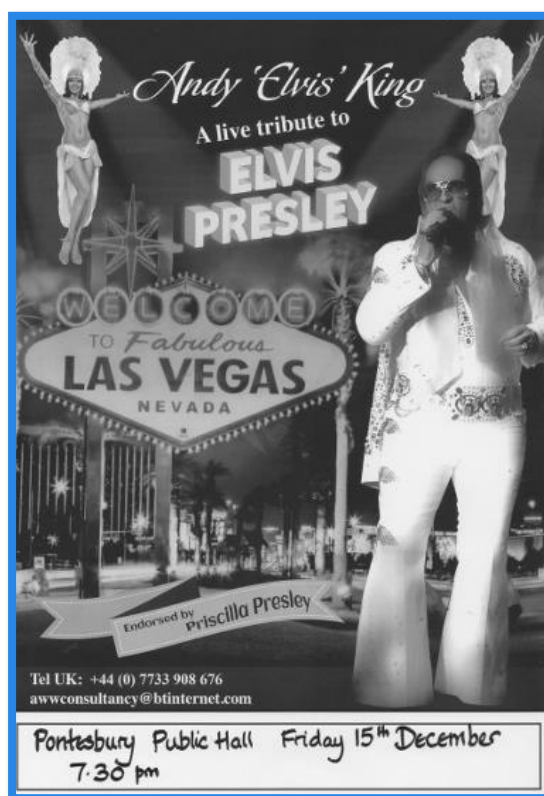


Just a reminder that the 'Elvis Tribute Concert' to raise funds for Pontesbury Library will be taking place on Friday 15 December at The Public Hall and tickets are on sale at the library and at Hignett's.

Janet will be running the raffle on the evening so would be very grateful for any suitable raffle prizes you would like to donate. These can be dropped off at the library or by contacting Janet. Thanks in advance for your support.

Chair
Janet

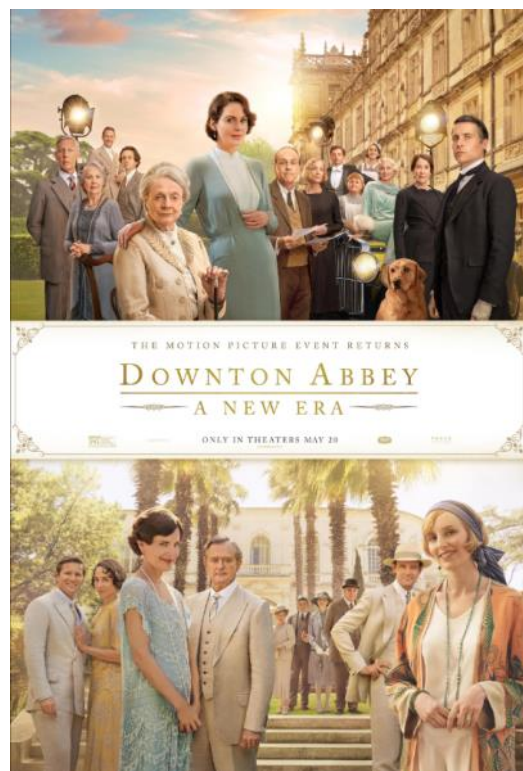
japa.walsh1@btinternet.com




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The next film in Marton will be *Downton Abbey - A New Era* on the 15th December at 7.30 p.m. If you would like fish & chips beforehand they must be pre-ordered by contacting John Rice on 07810230860 or john47rice@outlook.com.

For details of all future films at Marton and other village halls search for the Arts Alive website.



Fri 1	10h00	Table Tennis 3 Congregational Church, Pontesbury	Tue 12	16h30	Badminton Mary Webb School, Pontesbury	Thu 21	16h30	Pickleball Mary Webb School, Pontesbury
Mon 4	13h30	Table Tennis 1 Congregational Church, Pontesbury	Wed 13	10h00	Table Tennis 2 Minsterley Parish Hall	Fri 22	10h00	Table Tennis 3 Congregational Church, Pontesbury
	14h00	Folk Music Minsterley Parish Hall		10h30	Italian Coordinator's house	Mon 25	10h00	Walking (Short) School Green - CANCELLED
	16h00	Committee meeting Pavilion	Thu 14	14h00	Literature Pavilion, Pontesbury		13h30	Table Tennis 1 Congregational Church, Pontesbury - CANCELLED
Tue 5	10h00	Cycling Pontesbury School Green	Fri 15	10h00	Walking (Long) As announced	Tue 26	14h00	Folk Music Minsterley Parish Hall - CANCELLED
	16h30	Badminton Mary Webb School, Pontesbury - CANCELLED	Mon 18	16h30	Pickleball Mary Webb School, Pontesbury		10h00	Cycling Pontesbury School Green - CANCELLED
Wed 6	10h00	Table Tennis 2 Minsterley Parish Hall		10h00	Table Tennis 3 Congregational Church, Pontesbury		16h30	Badminton Mary Webb School, Pontesbury - CANCELLED
	10h30	Italian Coordinator's house		10h30	History Pavilion, Pontesbury	Wed 27	10h00	Table Tennis 2 Minsterley Parish Hall
	14h00	Photography Venue to be advised		13h30	Table Tennis 1 Congregational Church, Pontesbury		10h30	Italian Coordinator's house - CANCELLED
Thu 7	10h00	Creative writing Pavilion		14h00	Art History Venue to be advised		14h00	Café Society Mytton Arms, Habberley - CANCELLED
	16h30	Pickleball Mary Webb School, Pontesbury	Tue 19	14h00	Folk Music Minsterley Parish Hall		19h30	Astronomy Bog Visitor Centre, Stiperstones
Fri 8	10h00	Table Tennis 3 Congregational Church, Pontesbury		10h00	Cycling Pontesbury School Green	Thu 28	10h00	Walking (Long) As announced - CANCELLED
	14h00	Gardening Minsterley Parish Hall Alan Tirrell presentation		14h00	Local History Minsterley Parish Hall - CANCELLED		16h30	Pickleball Mary Webb School, Pontesbury - CANCELLED
Mon 11	10h00	Walking (Short) Pontesbury School Green	Tue 19	16h30	Badminton Mary Webb School, Pontesbury	Fri 29	10h00	Table Tennis 3 Congregational Church, Pontesbury - CANCELLED
	10h15	Family History Pavilion, Pontesbury	Wed 20	10h00	Table Tennis 2 Minsterley Parish Hall			
	13h30	Table Tennis 1 Congregational Church, Pontesbury		10h30	Italian Coordinator's house			
Mon 11	14h00	Folk Music Minsterley Parish Hall - CANCELLED		14h00	Christmas Celebration Pavilion, Pontesbury			
Tue 12	10h00	Cycling Pontesbury School Green						
	14h00	Geology Pavilion, Pontesbury	Thu 21	10h00	Creative writing Pavilion			

Notes:

- Changes from last month are marked in red.
- Please check in advance with the coordinator if a session is to go ahead.
- Details of the Interest Groups are on the last page of the newsletter or website.

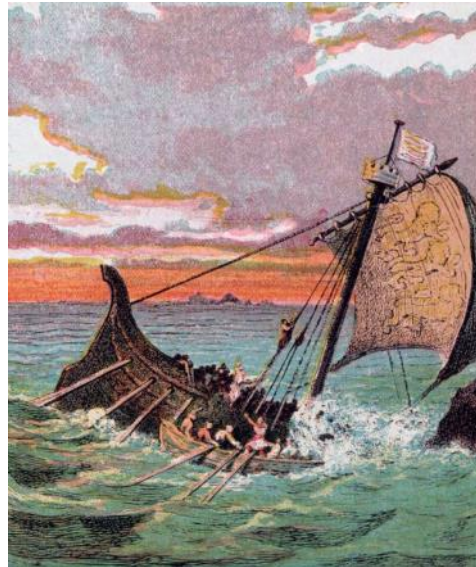


Interest Group news



The History Group's latest theme of 'Decisions that could have gone either way' got off to an entertaining and informative start in November with three very varied presentations.

White Ship—1120



From Sue Piggott-Forster we heard about the White Ship that sailed from France in 1120 and became one of the greatest tragedies to ever hit England when it sank, killing William, the only legitimate heir to the throne. His decision to sail on that ship and the decision of Stephen of Blois not to, changed the course of British History.

Beaufighter crash—WWII 1942



Colin Stegeman then told us about a tragic accident during WWII when the pilot of a Beaufighter aircraft decided to continue flying despite having concerns regarding one engine

during take-off. It crashed near Richmond killing both men on board.

John Lennon & Paul McCartney meeting—1957



Finally, there was a presentation covering the meeting of a very young Paul and John in July 1957 at a church fete in Woolton, Liverpool. After a meeting lasting just one hour John asked Paul to join his band (The Quarrymen), resulting in the birth of the Beatles who became the most successful and influential band of all time. Not only did they put Liverpool on the map and influence the music business but helped to grow the economy and change the British class system.

The group meets every 3rd Monday at 10.30am at the Pavilion. All welcome

Coordinator
David Taylor

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u3a
Pontesbury
& Rea Valley



Interest Group news



The newly formed Badminton Group meets on a Tuesday evening at the Sports Hall at Mary Webb school 4.30pm-6.00pm. We have room for a few new members and are very much a mixed ability group so don't worry if you haven't ever played, we can accommodate you and help you to learn.

We have two sessions in December – 12th and 19th then a break for Christmas and return on Tuesday 9 January 2024.

Contact Janet Walsh if you are interested..

Coordinator

[Janet Walsh](#)

Email: japa.walsh1@btinternet.com



Pickleball dates and locations for the forthcoming months are as follows:

On November 30th the session is from 5-6 pm at Meole Brace due to School Exams. Please note this is for one week only.

Sessions are then back at Mary Webb from 4.30 – 6pm for Dec 7th, 14th and 21st before a 2 week Christmas break recommencing on Jan 11th.

Coordinator

[Helen Critchley](#)



Are you enthusiastic about classical music and would like to share your choices with others?

If so then please contact John Rice on 07810230860 or email at john47rice@outlook.com. The

first meeting will be on Wednesday, 7th February.

Coordinator

[John Rice](#)



The next Short Walking dates are:

Monday 11th December 10h to 12h

Monday 25th December—NO WALK

Monday 8th January 10h to 12h

Monday 22nd January 10h to 12h

Coordinator

[Irene Windows](#)



Interest Group news



We had eleven attendees at our Local History Group meeting last Tuesday 21st November.

Myra Davies, who now lives in Hanwood, gave us a talk with pictures of her father's role as Signaller at the Cruckmeole Signal box. That prompted others in the group to give historical info ranging from the mines at Snailbeach, to Minsterley station to Flaxmill at Hanwood, all of which required access to the railway.

We will not meet in December but

January 2024's date is Tuesday 16. The plan is to divide the group into four, so that research can be done of the four stations by people who live near the sites. Here are two of the photos sent to me by one of the Trustees at the Abbey Station in Shrewsbury.

Please contact Susan Lockwood at susanlockwood345@btinternet.com, if you are interested in joining the local history group.

Coordinator
[Susan Lockwood](mailto:susanlockwood345@btinternet.com)

Date of Weighing : - 6 SEP 1965		USE BLOCK LETTERS 28/7 19	
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Seller and Place of Weighing : NATIONAL COAL BOARD West Midlands Division, No. 2 (Cannock Chase) Area LITTLETON COLLIERY		From SHREWSBURY	
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Consignee			



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Interest Group news



We've had some delightful photographs taken with our three ongoing subjects. Contributions were 'Autumn Colours', 'Days Out' and 'Shrewsbury's Shuts and Passages' all of which highlighted different perspectives of similar subjects.

Due to a number of clashes with other interests it has been decided to change our meeting days from the Second Wednesday of each month. to the first Wednesday of each month commencing 6th December 2023 when we will be choosing the "Best of the Bunch", "Photograph of the Month", together with the new projects going forward.

We also welcome Clarissa to our group.

Keep Snapping".

Coordinator
[Roy Forbes](#)



Congratulations to our own Val Sinclair for winning a photo competition with this excellent portrayal. The theme was 'stringed instruments'. It won from 1,300 entrants! Val took this at the Woo Fest in Worcester where she was also performing.



Pat Fear has kindly volunteered to take over the coordination of Table Tennis 1—a big thank you to Jane Simms who has run this group for many years.

With the holiday season approaching there will be no table tennis groups run between Christmas and New year.

The venues and normal times for the table tennis groups are:

Table Tennis 1:

Pontesbury Congregational Church
13h30 to 15h30

Table Tennis 2:

Minsterley Parish Hall
10h00 to 12h00

Table Tennis 3:

Pontesbury Congregational
10h00 to 12h00

If you are interested in joining please contact the coordinators via our website or clicking on the coordinators name to email:

Coordinators

[Pat Fear](#) (TT1)

[Sue Lambert](#) (TT2)

[Steve Anderson](#) (TT3)



Interest Group news



We won't be having a meeting in December so our next meeting will be on Wednesday 31 January at 2.00pm in The Mytton Arms in Habberley.

Our meetings are informal and we discuss a varied range of issues – not

all serious – and enjoy cake, coffee or even some beer or a glass of wine.

Coordinator

[Janet Walsh](#)



Luckily, the weather gods were with us this month for our trip on the 10th November to Glansevern near Newtown—a wonderful lakeside walk and explore through the autumnal gardens and grotto!

For our next meeting on Friday 8th December at Minsterley Parish Hall

(2pm to 4pm) we are very lucky to have Alan Terrill and his wife Claire joining us for our end of year drinks and Alan's talk on his sculpture garden (which will be followed by a visit in the new year).

Coordinator

[Sue Anderson](#)

Tel: 07762 977 432



u3a national news

Third Age Matters

The winter 2023 issue of the Third Age Matters magazine is now out and there are numerous copies now available to borrow in the library in The Pavilion in Pontesbury – if you could please return these to the library when finished so others may borrow them.

The coordinators will also circulate the magazine to those in their interest groups who would like to read it.

You can also get a screen reader version online. Click here for the latest magazine:



www.u3a.org.uk/news/publications

Poetry Competition

The u3a national poetry competition is back for its fourth year, and the judges are looking forward to seeing what talents members have to offer. The theme for this year's competition is: **'What If'**.

The competition opened on Wednesday 8 November 2023 and the deadline for submission is 12pm on Friday 26 January 2024. You must read the competition rules before submitting your poem.

For more information:

www.u3a.org.uk/learning/poetry-competition



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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** – Wed 13 Dec 10am
- **The story of Eva Urbach and Ulli Adler** Fri 1 Dec 2pm
- **When Art and Literature meet at Christmastide** Tue 5 Dec 10am
- **Live Cookery Demonstration – Christmas special** Thu 7 Dec 10.30am
- **The Art of William Morris** Wed 6 Dec 2pm
- **Climate Change and the Oceans** Fri 15 Dec 10am
- **Exploring World Faiths: Christmas** Mon 11 Dec 10am
- **Family History: Where all is not as it seems** Wed 13 Dec 2pm
- **u3a Radio Podcast 17th of every month**
- **Mindfulness and Meditation Continuation Sessions: Dec-May** Thu 21 Dec 10am

Festival 2024

For more information on the u3a Festival 2024 on the 18 to 20 July 2024 in the beautiful city of York:

www.u3a.org.uk/events/festival-2024



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.

Groups Facilitator Support:

Pat Frost 07971 751978

David Taylor 07746567788

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

