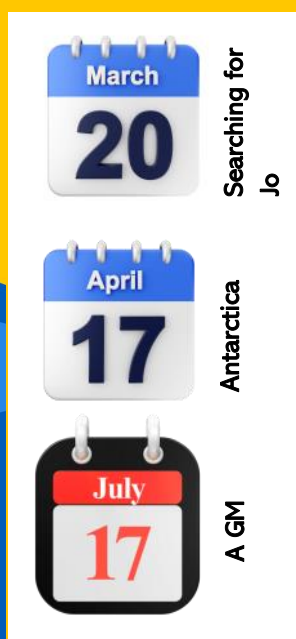


Editor: [Sue Anderson](#)

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## Dates for your Diary



Dear All,

And in the blinking of an eye it's March and Spring and nearly Easter! Ok, it's still a bit damp underfoot and a tad chilly but let's be positive and think of sunny days in the garden.

You may remember, a few months ago, Minsterley Parish Hall trustees send out an SOS for new members as otherwise the hall was in danger of having to close as there was no one to oversee its running. I'm pleased to report that a new committee is just about in place and the threat to the hall appears to have passed. I have joined the committee and Stuart Carter (a u3a member) has offered to be the new chair – one or two existing members are remaining and there are several new members as well.

The Minsterley Parish Hall AGM is being held on Tuesday 16 April 2024 at 7.30pm in the hall. It would be very much appreciated if some of the u3a members were able to attend. As well as having most of our Open Meetings there, several of our interest groups use the hall and would be most welcome at the AGM.

On the subject of Open Meetings – our next one is a bit special – Wednesday 20 March at 2.00pm at



Minsterley Parish Hall – so definitely save the date. Full details are contained in this newsletter.

We are always happy to receive ideas, recommendations or even offers to speak for our Open Meetings. We try to arrange a mix of topics and speakers to cater for all interests so if you have an idea, recommendation or offer – please let me know.

In the meantime, time to get on with that spring cleaning!

Best wishes,

[Janet Walsh](#) (Chair)

# Searching for Jo

A TALK BY VAL SINCLAIR AND JO MORRISON

*Sisters who finally found one another*

Ending with live music by Val Sinclair & Clive Butterworth

Wednesday 2pm  
Minsterley Parish Hall  
A488, Minsterley, SY5 0EH  
Refreshments available after Free entrance

March 20

learn, laugh, live

OPEN MEETING  
Members & non-members welcome

**u3a** Pontesbury & Rea Valley



## u3a P&amp;RV news

DON'T MISS OUT!



This will be one of the most profoundly moving stories you have ever heard. This really is an unmissable talk by local resident and famous singer, Val Sinclair and her sister Jo Morrison; **"Searching for Jo"**.

Val was 7 years old when her sister

Jo was born. She remembers being allowed a quick look at the 'new born' but it was to be over 40 years before the sisters finally met again. For a number of years Val and Jo never 'went public', they spent months getting to know one another, even before meeting each other's husbands and children but they all finally fell together as a happy family.

Eventually they felt able to give their first public talk and were interviewed on the BBC's Woman's Hour programme which was looking at the new Adoption Bill (their real names were withheld). This heart-warming account will be of interest to anyone affected

by adoption, anyone searching for a relative or those who would just like to listen to what Jo and Val describe as "the most momentous thing that ever happened in their lives".

This is a remarkable story of the reasons surrounding Jo's adoption, the search for Jo, the role of NORCAP, finding Jo, the post-reunion path and 'nature versus nurture'.



By popular demand, Val and Clive Butterworth will end with a couple of songs.

Refreshments will be served afterwards for members and visitors, with the chance to catch up.

# Searching for Jo

**A TALK BY VAL SINCLAIR AND JO MORRISON**

**Sisters who finally found one another**

Ending with live music by Val Sinclair & Clive Butterworth

**learn, laugh, live**

**Wednesday 2pm**  
**Minsterley Parish Hall**  
 A488, Minsterley, SY5 OEH

*Refreshments available afterwards*  
*Free entrance*

**OPEN MEETING**

Members & non-members welcome





# u3a P&RV news



## Feedback: A flight in the snow.

A huge thank you to ever-popular Ric Morris for an entertaining and excellently presented show of snowy Shropshire from the air! We were also blessed with a great turnout. Thanks also to Ric for permission to use a few of his photo's here:



From the basket



Long Mynd East

## April 2024 Open Meeting

### Save the date:

In April, we are delighted to have local resident and u3a member, Jonathan Walton, talking all about Antarctica.



Snowman tracking





## u3a P&amp;RV news



### Minsterley Parish Hall Annual General Meeting 7.30 – 8.30pm Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> April 2024



All hall users and members of the local community are invited to come and meet the new committee members, catch up with some of the changes and challenges of the past year and consider some hopes and plans for the future.

#### The meeting will include:

##### Election of officers

(Chair, Secretary & Treasurer, etc.)

##### Annual Report

##### Presentation of Accounts

Light refreshments will be on offer after the meeting  
(To be followed by a short meeting of the new committee)  
For further information contact: [minsterleyparishhall@gmail.com](mailto:minsterleyparishhall@gmail.com)

### Wanted!!

#### Caretaker for Minsterley Parish Hall

The Trustees of Minsterley Parish Hall will shortly be advertising for the position of caretaker and would be keen to speak to anyone, on an informal basis, who may be interested in the post, in advance of the advert being placed.

This position is part-time and currently is for 7 hours a week on a flexible basis – it will be paid above the minimum wage. The role could be undertaken on a job share basis. The key elements of the current role involve cleaning, daily locking of the gate, weekly putting out/taking in of bins and occasional unlocking/locking of the building for users, as well as a number of other aspects of the premises oversight and maintenance.

So, if you think you might be interested and would like a bit of further information then please **contact Stuart Carter** [sccarter5867@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:sccarter5867@hotmail.co.uk) who will be happy to discuss things further on an informal basis.

An initial chat will not influence the recruitment process.



Does modern life seem too frenetic? Does the news fill you with anxiety? If so then this film could be your antidote!

### The Man in the Hat

Cert: 12a - 95 mins



**Fri 15<sup>th</sup> Mar - 7.30 pm**

**Marton Village Hall**

Admission: Adults: £5 Child: £2.50

All Enquiries To: 01743 792790 or 07810 230860

Film only £5. Film and Fish & Chips £10.

(Fish & Chips must be pre-ordered)

Bar and refreshments available from 7.00pm.

The Man in the Hat journeys through France in a Fiat 500 accompanied by a framed photograph of an unknown woman. He is pursued by five angry men in a Citroën Dyane. Why are they chasing him? And how can he shake them off?

Starring: Clavin Hinds, Sylvain Thiolle, Conor Lovett



We are pleased to welcome the following new members to our u3a:

Jackie Ingham  
Nigel Ingham  
Patricia Bates  
John Roulstone  
Peter Fergusson  
Joanne Harrison  
Jonathan Brown  
Jean Garner  
Alan Evans

It has been a great start to the year for new members – a warm welcome to all.

#### Membership fees 2024/5

Please note renewal membership fees are due 1st April. Please do not pay these now—I will be sending out renewal reminders to everyone at the end of March for payment in April.

The good news is that for the 2024/5 year the membership fee will remain at £15 ( or £10 for those members who also belong to another u3a branch ).

#### Membership secretary

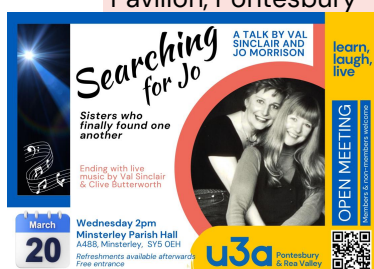
[Steve Anderson](mailto:steve.anderson@u3a.org.uk)



Fri 1	10h00	<b>Table Tennis 3</b> Congregational Church, Pontesbury	Wed 13	10h00	<b>Table Tennis 2</b> Minsterley Parish Hall	Thu 21	10h00	<b>Walking (Long)</b> As announced
	14h00	<b>Gardening</b> <b>British Iron Works visit</b>		10h30	<b>Italian</b> Coordinator's house		10h00	<b>Creative writing</b> Pavilion
Mon 4	10h00	<b>Walking (Short)</b> Pontesbury School Green	Thu 14	14h00	<b>Literature</b> Pavilion, Pontesbury	Thu 21	16h30	<b>Pickleball</b> Mary Webb School, Pontesbury
	13h30	<b>Table Tennis 1</b> Congregational Church, Pontesbury		16h30	<b>Pickleball</b> Mary Webb School, Pontesbury		10h00	<b>Table Tennis 3</b> Congregational Church, Pontesbury
Tue 5	14h00	<b>Folk Music</b> Minsterley Parish Hall	Fri 15	10h00	<b>Table Tennis 3</b> <b>CANCELLED</b> Congregational Church, Pontesbury	Fri 22	13h30	<b>Table Tennis 1</b> Congregational Church, Pontesbury
	10h00	<b>Cycling</b> Pontesbury School Green		10h00	<b>Walking (Short)</b> School Green		14h00	<b>Folk Music</b> Minsterley Parish Hall
Wed 6	10h00	<b>Table Tennis 2</b> Minsterley Parish Hall	Mon 18	10h30	<b>History</b> Pavilion, Pontesbury	Mon 25	16h00	<b>Committee meeting</b> Pavilion
	10h30	<b>Italian</b> Coordinator's house		13h30	<b>Table Tennis 1</b> Congregational Church, Pontesbury		10h00	<b>Cycling</b> Pontesbury School Green
Thu 7	14h00	<b>Photography</b> Shrewsbury Abbey shoot	Tue 19	14h00	<b>Art History</b> Venue to be advised	Tue 26	10h00	<b>Table Tennis 2</b> Minsterley Parish Hall
	10h00	<b>Walking (Long)</b> As announced		14h00	<b>Folk Music</b> Minsterley Parish Hall		10h30	<b>Italian</b> Coordinator's house
Fri 8	16h30	<b>Pickleball</b> Mary Webb School, Pontesbury	Wed 20	10h00	<b>Cycling</b> Pontesbury School Green	Wed 27	14h00	<b>Café Society</b> Mytton Arms, Habberley
	10h00	<b>Table Tennis 3</b> Congregational Church, Pontesbury		10h30	<b>Play reading</b> As announced		19h30	<b>Astronomy</b> Bog Visitor Centre, Stiperstones
Mon 11	14h00	<b>Gardening</b> Pavilion & members garden—Snowdrops	Thu 28	14h00	<b>Local History</b> Minsterley Parish Hall	Thu 28	16h30	<b>Pickleball</b> Mary Webb School, Pontesbury
	10h15	<b>Family History</b> Pavilion, Pontesbury		10h00	<b>Table Tennis 2</b> Minsterley Parish Hall		10h00	<b>Table Tennis 3</b> <b>HOLIDAYS</b> Congregational Church, Pontesbury
Tue 12	13h30	<b>Table Tennis 1</b> Congregational Church, Pontesbury	Fri 29	10h30	<b>Italian</b> Coordinator's house	Fri 29		
	14h00	<b>Folk Music</b> Minsterley Parish Hall		14h00	<b>Open Meeting</b> Pavilion, Pontesbury			
	10h00	<b>Cycling</b> Pontesbury School Green						
	14h00	<b>Geology</b> Pavilion, Pontesbury						

**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 proposed Board Games interest group will be having its set up meeting on Thursday 29th February 3pm at the Nags Head in Pontesbury and more news will be distributed in the next newsletter.

If you are interested in joining this group, could you please contact David Taylor by email.

### Contact

[David Taylor](mailto:d.a.taylor@btinternet.com)

[d.a.taylor@btinternet.com](mailto:d.a.taylor@btinternet.com)

07746 567 788



We now have a new play reading group up and running with currently 7 members.

**Days:** 1st and 3rd Tuesday of every month

**Time:** 10.30am – 12.30pm

**Venue:** to be advised

The first meeting will be on the 19th March.

Jane has kindly agreed to coordinate the group and if you would like to join, please contact her. There are still a couple of places.

### Coordinator

[Jane Simms](mailto:veronicajane@hotmail.co.uk)

[veronicajane@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:veronicajane@hotmail.co.uk)

Exercising the brain and connecting in a relaxed, friendly and fun environment

**u3a** Pontesbury & Rea Valley  
learn, laugh, live

Want to join a new board games group?

Please contact David at [d.a.taylor@btinternet.com](mailto:d.a.taylor@btinternet.com)

# learn, laugh, live

Bringing the written word to life in a relaxed, friendly and fun environment

**u3a** Pontesbury & Rea Valley  
learn, laugh, live

Want to join a new play reading group?

Please contact Jane at [veronicajane@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:veronicajane@hotmail.co.uk)





## Interest Group news



In the spirit of cooperation and sharing with other u3a's, our folk music group was fortunate to host a group of nine musicians and singers from the Gloucester u3a, in February for an extended session.

Everyone who attended, 20 in all, contributed to a varied and very enjoyable musical event. There was a wide range of instruments including guitars, clarinet, flute, accordion, banjo, penny whistle, harmonica, bass guitar and even a harp!

Thank you to the whole team for providing an excellent lunch.

We are delighted to have been invited to a 'rematch' at Gloucester u3a. Organisation for this is underway and will take place some time later in the year.

We meet every Monday 2pm - 4pm in the Committee Room, Minsterley Parish Hall. Membership is currently full but, if anyone would like to visit, please do.

**Coordinator**  
Mal Brown



Table tennis 3 normally meets on Friday mornings at the Congregational Church in Pontesbury. Please note that due to a funeral on 15th March, there will be no table tennis that day, as well as Good Friday on the 29th March.

But all other Fridays in March will be in service as usual! We look forward to seeing you there for some fun table tennis, as well as refreshments and time to chat.

**Coordinator**  
Steve Anderson



The next Short Walking dates are:

Monday 4th March 10h to 12h

Monday 18th March 10h to 12h

**Coordinator**  
Irene Windows



## Interest Group news



## Children Act 1948

Act of Parliament



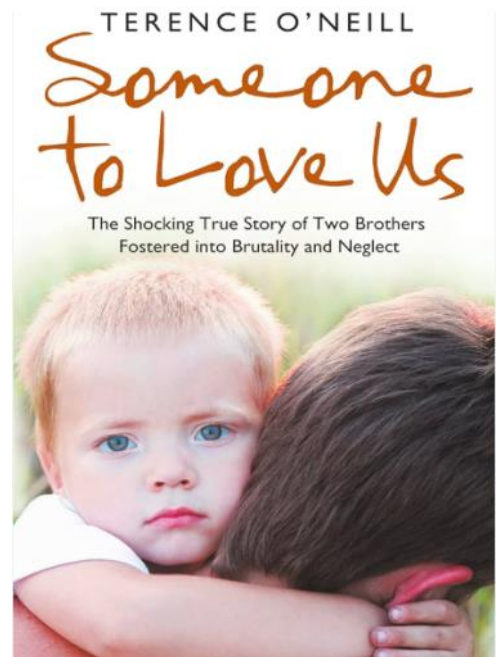
Parliament of the United Kingdom

Continuing our topic of decisions that changed history, Paul Kelly presented the fascinating and moving account of Dennis O'Neill, a 12-year-old Welsh boy whose death at the hands of his foster parents led to an enquiry into and the overhaul of child fostering provisions in Great Britain.

The presentation led to much debate, aided by Paul's vast experience working in the 'Social Care' environment.

We meet every third Monday of the month, 10.30am at the Pavilion.

**Coordinator**  
David Taylor



Book written by Dennis O'Neill's brother

# learn, laugh, live



Unfortunately we have to close the Tuesday night Badminton group (and just when I was starting to be able to hit the shuttlecock more times than miss it!).

As with all such closed groups – we will continue to monitor demand and

if it looks like the group will be viable in the future we'll open it up again.

**Coordinator**  
Janet Walsh



For the February meeting, we were asked to relate a story of a family ancestor, aided, if possible, by a photograph. With new members having recently joined this ever-popular group we are never short of interesting and fascinating subjects

to discuss. We meet every second Monday of the month, 10.15am at the Pavilion.

**Deputy Coordinator**  
David Taylor





## Interest Group news



The Photography group met up on the 7th February to explore and photograph Shrewsbury Abbey. On the theme of Abbeys, Jane has done this magnificently eerie photo of Haughmond Abbey.

For our next meeting we will discuss some of our ongoing projects, including Portraiture and Abbeys.

Coordinator  
[Roy Forbes](#)



Jane – Haughmond Abbey



The latest research the Local History group is concentrating on is Alan Rowson's memoir of Pontesbury – with many thanks to Bob Boden, who kept what may be the last remaining photocopy of Alan Rowson's original hand-written account safe.

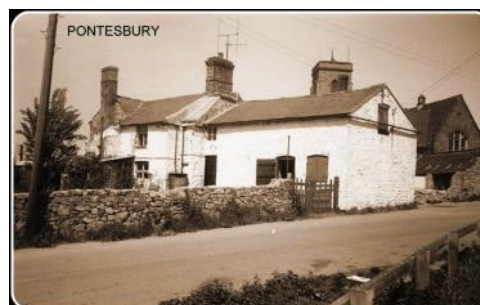
We also plan to produce a booklet, accompanied with photos that we have acquired from local residents. Please could you let Susan know if you have any photos and memories. We would like to include as many

people in this research as possible, and have the finished article available for people to view in the Pavilion.

We meet on the third Tuesday of each month at Minsterley Parish Hall Committee Room from 2-4pm.

If you would like to join or have any information on this latest project please could you contact:  
[susanlockwood345@btinternet.com](mailto:susanlockwood345@btinternet.com).

Coordinator  
[Susan Lockwood](#)



**Pontesbury in the Past**  
photos courtesy of Colin Middleton



## Interest Group news



If you fancy a bit of a discussion/ debate about issues of the day then come and join our Cafe Society group. We meet on the last Wednesday of the month at the Mytton Arms in Habberley at 2.00pm for a couple of hours. There is no charge for the room but members are expected to buy a drink and maybe some of the lovely cake that's usually

available. We're a friendly group with a range of life experiences and interests so we always leave the meetings with a new take on life. The next meeting is Wednesday 27 March.

New members always welcome.

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



Another great turnout for February's meeting when we were spoiled by Caroline Wright, who gave an excellent presentation on "Snowdrops" followed by a visit to her garden.

March's meeting is a visit on the 1st March (not the 8th) to the British Ironworks in Oswestry for sculpture ideas for our gardens ... and tea and cake, of course.

**Coordinator**

[Sue Anderson](#)

Tel: 07762 977 432



**U3A Gardeners**  
**9 February 2024**

**Becoming a  
Galanthophile!**

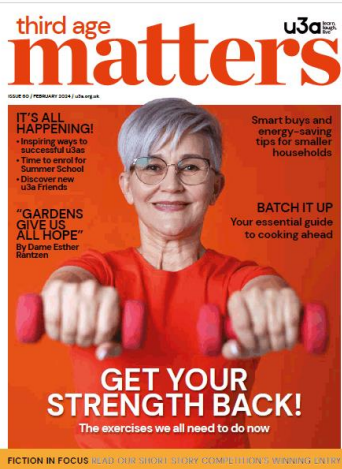
**Caroline Wright**





## u3a national news

## Third Age Matters



learn, laugh, live

February TAM is now out and copies are available in the library (on the u3a board) for you to borrow and return when finished, so others can enjoy. There will also shortly be an online version available on the u3a website: [www.u3a.org.uk/news/publications](http://www.u3a.org.uk/news/publications)

The group coordinators also get a copy that you can borrow. If group co-ordinators are not receiving a copy, could they please let [Steve Anderson](#) know.

## 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 March 10am
- **Laughter Yoga** Merrie Maggie - Tues 26 March 3.30pm
- **Aviation Network Meeting: Time is money, Concorde was Prestige:** Tues 5 March 10am
- **Artificial Intelligence News** Thur 7 March 3.30pm
- **Exploring World Faiths: Women in Faith** Mon 11 March 10am
- **Mindfulness and Meditation Series:** Feb—Mar Wed 10am
- **An introduction to influencing and Social Change** Wed 13 March 10am
- **Using AI to Fight Climate Change** Tues 19 March 10am
- **John Snow and the hunt for the source of cholera in Victorian London** Wed 20 Mar 10am
- **Mindfulness and Meditation continuation sessions** Dec 23 to May 24—Thursday 21 March 10 am
- **Secrets of the Human Brain: Talk Three: Sleep and Dreams** Wed 27th March 2pm
- **Introduction to Cryptic Crosswords** Thur 28 March 10am
- **Suffering and hope in Tolstoy's Anna Karenina** Thur 28th March 2pm
- **u3a Radio Podcast** 17th of every month

learn,  
laugh,  
live

## Maths Challenge



Take part in the u3a weekly maths challenge, with problems and puzzles :

[www.u3a.org.uk/learning/national-programmes/maths-challenge](http://www.u3a.org.uk/learning/national-programmes/maths-challenge)

## u3a Eye



Space to sit and think

Karen  
Balsall Common u3a

Cornish Engine House

Nick  
Newquay u3au3a  
Pontesbury  
& Rea Valley

# 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

<b>Art History</b>	3rd Mon of month 2pm—4pm Venue to be advised		<b>Local History</b>	3rd Tue of month 2pm—4pm Minsterley Parish Hall	
<b>Astronomy</b>	Last Wed of month 7:30—9.30pm Bog centre, Stiperstones		<b>Painting &amp; Drawing</b>	Every Tues when in session 2pm—4pm Coordinator's House	
<b>Board Games</b>	Under set up To be advised		<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>	1st Wed of month 2pm—4pm Venue to be advised	
<b>Creative writing</b>	1st & 3rd Thu 10am—12 noon Pavilion		<b>Play reading</b>	1st & 3rd Tues of month 10:30am—12:30pm Venue to be advised	
<b>Cycling</b>	Every Tue 10am— around 1pm Pontesbury School Green		<b>Table Tennis 1 Pontesbury</b>	Every Mon 1:30pm—3:30pm Congregational Church	
<b>Family History</b>	2nd Mon of month 10:15am—12:15pm Pavilion , Pontesbury		<b>Table Tennis 2 Minsterley</b>	Every Wed 10am—12 noon Minsterley Parish Hall	
<b>Folk Music</b>	Every Mon 2pm—4pm Minsterley Parish Hall		<b>Table Tennis 3 Pontesbury</b>	Every Fri 10 am—12 noon Congregational Church	
<b>Gardening</b>	Second Fri of month 2pm—4pm As announced		<b>Walking (long)</b>	Alternate Thu 10am—12 noon Venue to be advised	
<b>Geology</b>	2nd Tue of month 2pm—4pm Pavilion, Pontesbury		<b>Walking (short)</b>	Alternate Mon 10am—12 noon Pontesbury School Green	
<b>History</b>	3rd Mon of month 10:30am—12:30pm Pavilion, Pontesbury		<div>Potential groups under investigation</div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pilates</li> <li>• Backgammon</li> <li>• Bridge</li> <li>• Railway Modelling</li> <li>• Sunday Lunch</li> <li>• Seated Yoga</li> </ul>		
<b>Italian</b>	Every Wed 10:30am—12: noon Coordinator's house				
<b>Literature</b>	2nd Wed in month 2pm—4pm Pavilion, Pontesbury				

