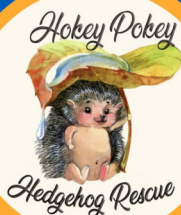




HOKEY POKEY HEDGEHOG RESCUE

A PRICKLY TALE BY HEATHER CHAVE

Discover the fascinating world of one of Britain's best-loved native mammals. Heather Chave, founder of Hokey Pokey Hedgehog Rescue, shares her experiences of rescuing, rehabilitating and caring for sick, injured and orphaned hedgehogs.



OPEN MEETING

Members & non-members welcome



Wednesday

16 September 2026



Time

2.00 PM



Minsterley Parish Hall

A488, Minsterley, SY5 0EH

Free for members • Visitors:
voluntary donations welcome
Refreshments available

pontesbury.u3asite.uk

learn,
laugh,
live

u3a Pontesbury
& Rea Valley

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

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An evening under
the eclipse
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Something for
2027?
Page 6

FROM THE CHAIR

I hope you've had an enjoyable summer and managed to avoid the worst of the heat!

September sees most groups getting back into full swing after a surprisingly busy August, and we hope you'll enjoy the months ahead.

Our 16 September Open Meeting features Heather Chave – join us to hear her story.

Warm regards,

Steve Anderson

COMING UP ...

September

16

Hedgehog
Rescue

October

21

Confessions of a
Teenage Skull
Collector

November

18

Life & Times of
Sherlock
Holmes

December

16

End of Year
Party





CONTRIBUTOR

Sue Anderson

ORGANISER

Neil Bates



[click here to contact](#)

MEETING DETAILS



3rd Wed
each month



2pm



Minsterley
Parish

COMING UP ...



At our next u3a meeting on Wednesday 16 September at 2pm in Minsterley Parish Hall, we welcome Heather Chave from Hokey Pokey Hedgehog Rescue, who will give us a fascinating insight into the work of rescuing and rehabilitating one of Britain's favourite wild animals.

Heather cares for hedgehogs from across the local area,

nursing injured, sick and orphaned animals before returning them to the wild whenever possible. She'll share memorable rescue stories, explain the challenges facing hedgehogs today, and offer practical tips on making our gardens more wildlife-friendly.

This promises to be an enjoyable, informative talk with wonderful photographs and the chance to learn more about these charming but increasingly vulnerable creatures.

Refreshments will be served afterwards, giving everyone an opportunity to catch up. Members and non-members are warmly invited to attend.



VIEW OUR GOOGLE CALENDAR

Scan or click the QR code for the latest updates and changes to events.



HOKEY POKEY HEDGEHOG RESCUE

A PRICKLY TALE BY HEATHER CHAVE

OPEN MEETING
Members & non-members welcome

Discover the fascinating world of one of Britain's best-loved native mammals. Heather Chave, founder of Hokey Pokey Hedgehog Rescue, shares her experiences of rescuing, rehabilitating and caring for sick, injured and orphaned hedgehogs

Free entrance
Refreshments available
pontesbury.u3asite.uk

Wednesday
16 September 2026

Time
2.00 PM

Minsterley Parish Hall
A488, Minsterley, SY5 0EH



CONTRIBUTOR

Roy Forbes

COORDINATOR

Roy Forbes



[click here to
contact](#)

MEETING DETAILS



3rd Thu of
month



2 - 4 pm



To be
advised

THROUGH THE LENS



Summer sunshine

What fantastic weather we have been having. Days when the decisions have to be made as to whether we go out or stay in.

catch with our photo lenses.



Creative challenges

We have a number of subjects on the go at present, one of which is "Signs". Take that whichever way you want!

Get involved

Our group is always pleased to attract more members. It doesn't matter whether you've never thought of taking a photograph before or you're a seasoned photographer—you'll receive a warm welcome. Mind you, we do have one or two criteria: you must enjoy a social group and also like tea, coffee or other refreshments.

We usually meet on the third Thursday of the month at around 2.00pm, although we sometimes change the date.

Interested? Contact Roy to find out more.



Powis Castle

Needless to say, our friendly u3a Photography Group has remained active. In July, some of us went to Powis Castle for an afternoon. As you might expect, the gardens there have suffered, as ours have, with wilting flowers and dried grasses. However, we still found plenty of interest to





CONTRIBUTOR

Jean Garner

COORDINATOR

Noel Evans



[click here to
contact](#)

MEETING DETAILS



Last Wed of
month



7.30–9.30 pm



Bog Centre

AN EVENING UNDER THE ECLIPSE

Eclipse Watchers Gather

Seven members and guests gathered on the evening of Wednesday 12th August to observe the solar eclipse, at The Bog Visitor Centre.

A Little Trial and Error



Rather than technical equipment we had a collection of home-made efforts, with pin hole cameras and cullenders. Noel kindly bought along two welding masks, whose screens proved best for clearly observing the Moon moving across the face of the Sun. The screens block ultra-violet light, making the Sun appear yellow-green.



Science behind the Eclipse



This was a special, world-wide event because a total solar eclipse was last seen over mainland Europe in 1999. In the UK we didn't get totality, but up to 96% of the Sun was covered by the Moon. A solar eclipse occurs when the Moon





CONTRIBUTOR

Jean Garner

COORDINATOR

Noel Evans



[click here to
contact](#)

MEETING DETAILS



Last Wed of
month



7.30–9.30 pm



Bog Centre

AN EVENING UNDER THE ECLIPSE CONT.

passes between Earth and the Sun. Although this happens at every new Moon, the Moon usually passes above or below the Sun from our perspective. Occasionally, all three bodies align and we see the Moon's silhouette against the Sun.

After all our recent brilliantly clear skies we did get some clouds come over at the key time, 7.15pm, of the near total eclipse.

Clouds & A Close Call



Our group managed to take some photographs, with some trial and error, through the welders' mask screens. One seemed to capture the Sun's corona, but turned out to be dust on the screen! Some glasses wipes helped.



However, there was a great community atmosphere at the Centre as other local people had come to view this rare event and it was a joy to share the experience together.

Join the Astronomy Group

The Astronomy Group meets at 7pm the first Wednesday of the month at The Bog Visitor Centre. The Group has telescopes that can be used by members and is a great place for dark skies.

Next meeting

Wednesday 2nd September 2026.





CONTRIBUTOR

Sue Anderson

COORDINATOR

Sue Anderson



[click here to contact](#)

MEETING DETAILS



2nd Fri/month



2 - 4pm



As advised



CONTRIBUTOR

Neil Bates

COORDINATOR

Neil Bates



[click here to contact](#)

MEETING DETAILS



1st Wed each month



12 noon



To be
advised

COACH TRIP

Gardening, food and good company – Thursday 17 June 2027

Following a great response from our Gardening, Dining and Wine Clubs, we have provisionally secured a coach and group allocation of tickets for a day out to **BBC Gardeners' World Live and the Good Food Festival** at its new home, **Packington Estate** near Coventry.

The historic estate offers a wonderful setting, with Capability Brown's Pleasure Grounds, a serpentine lake, walled garden, rose garden, orchard and extensive parkland, alongside the Gardeners' World show, specialist nurseries, plants, talks and demonstrations.

The **Good Food Festival** is included in the admission ticket, so there should be something for everyone. We are hoping to arrange an option for a group lunch.

Estimated Cost

The current estimate is around £50 per person for the coach and admission ticket combined. The final cost may be slightly more

BBC

Gardeners' WorldLive

or less, depending on the final numbers travelling.

Interested in coming?

Around 35 members have already expressed an interest and we have provisionally reserved a 53 seater bus as well as group admission tickets. Final attendance and costs will be confirmed around January 2027. If you would like to come, please contact Sue or Neil to be added to the list – there is no commitment at this stage.





CONTRIBUTOR

Diana Bailey

COORDINATOR

Diana Bailey



MEETING DETAILS



1st Wed of month



2 - 4.30 pm



Coordinators

STITCHING, CHATTING AND LAUGHTER

A Year of Stitching

The embroidery group has now been going for over a year. It is a small but beautifully sociable group, with equal parts of stitching, chatter and laughter – and a cuppa 'thrown' in.

As the photograph shows, we now have some finished and framed three-dimensional designs, demonstrating skill, patience and commitment – and some of the members hadn't picked up a needle since school days!

Fancy Having a Stitch?

Interested in joining us? Please contact Diana. We normally meet on the first Wednesday of each month, but this month's meeting is Wednesday 9th September, 2–4.30pm.



CONTRIBUTOR

Ray Atherton

COORDINATOR

Ray Atherton



MEETING DETAILS



Last Mon of month



10.30am – 12 noon



Pavilion, Pontesbury

REMEMBER TO RESERVE YOUR PLACE

A Flexible Group for all u3a members

Tech Made Easy is a flexible group open to all members—whether you've attended before or are coming for the first time! But to ensure the room remains comfortable and everyone gets as much individual support as possible, sessions are **strictly limited to 10 people**.

Booking is Essential

Places must be reserved in advance for every meeting.

Next Session

The next session is on **Monday 28 Sept**. Given the recent data compromises, Ray will cover a reminder on basic security as well a bit about Artificial Intelligence (AI). There will also be the opportunity to resolve any tech issues you may have. Contact the coordinator beforehand to reserve your place.





CONTRIBUTOR

Phil Bradshaw

COORDINATOR

Phil Bradshaw

 [click here to contact](#)

MEETING DETAILS



2nd Tues of month



2 - 4 pm



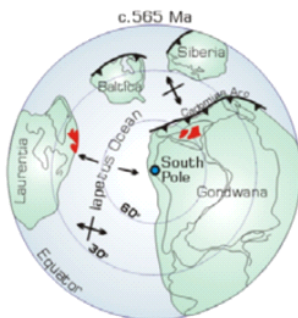
Pavilion,
Pontesbury

EXPLORING OUR ANCIENT PAST

A Change of Scene

For our August meeting, we took our learning outdoors with a geological walk around **Pontesford Hill**, joined by members from across the wider u3a.

600 Million Years of History



Pontesford and Earl's Hill, together with hills such as the Wrekin, began to form towards the end of the Precambrian Eon, **around 600–550 million years ago**. These hills are the visible fragments of an ancient continent formed

near the South Pole – a remarkable story hidden in the landscape around us.

Reading the Rocks

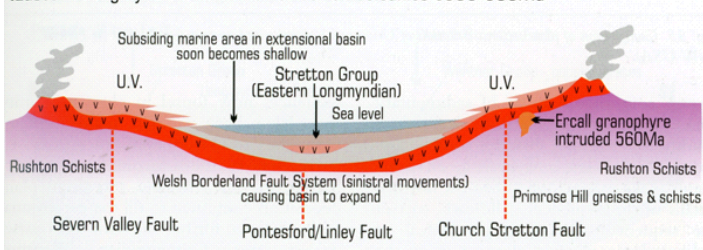
During the walk we explored how the rocks were formed and their relationship to other rocks of a similar age in the surrounding area. We also looked at the faults in the Earth's crust which define the shoreline of this ancient continent (see diagram below from Peter Toghill's – *Geology of Shropshire*).

A Fault That Is Still Active

One particularly fascinating feature is the **Pontesford–Linley Fault**, which surrounds the Hill. Although formed hundreds of millions of years ago, it is still active today and was responsible for the **Bishop's Castle earthquake in 1990**.



Formation of Stretton Group (Eastern Longmyndian) and later Uriconian volcanics c565-560Ma





CONTRIBUTOR

Phil Bradshaw

COORDINATOR

Phil Bradshaw



MEETING DETAILS



2nd Tues of month



2 - 4 pm



Pavilion,
Pontesbury

EXPLORING OUR ANCIENT PAST

An Amazing Variety of Rocks



On the walk we discussed the amazing variety of rocks that make up the Hill and saw a few of them as outcrops as well as many samples. There was plenty to discuss, and everyone joined in with questions and observations.

More to Discover

We thoroughly enjoyed the

walk, although we ran out of time before we could visit all the geological outcrops. The enthusiasm generated by the day even resulted in some new members joining the Geology Group.

The Story Continues

So, there is unfinished business! We are already planning another geological walk to explore the remaining outcrops and complete our picture of the fascinating geological history of Pontesford Hill.



CONTRIBUTOR

Irene Windows

COORDINATOR

Irene Windows



MEETING DETAILS



Alternate Mondays



10am - 12 noon



Pontesbury
School Green

SEPTEMBER STROLLS

September's Short Walking dates are:

- Monday 14th September
- Monday 28th September

If you would like to come along please contact Irene.

learn,
laugh,
live





CONTRIBUTOR

Jean Garner

COORDINATOR

Jean Garner



[click here to
contact](#)

MEETING DETAILS



4th Wed/
month



2pm – 4pm



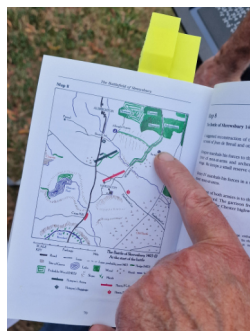
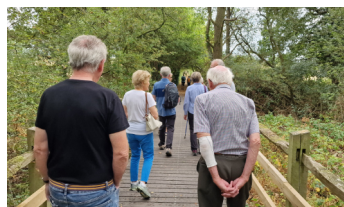
Minsterley
Parish Hall

SUMMER FIELD TRIPS AND AUTUMN PLANS

A Battle to see Battle: August's outing

Following July's inspiring talk by David Taylor on the Battle of Shrewsbury, our 26 August visit to **Battlefield 1403** didn't go entirely to plan. Upon arrival at the battlefield site, a local power outage had closed both the exhibition centre and nearby cafés, while falling masonry meant Battlefield Church was also locked

Unfazed, our members stepped up and shared their own fascinating source material, ensuring an enjoyable and educational visit despite the unexpected obstacles.





CONTRIBUTOR

Jean Garner

COORDINATOR

Jean Garner



[click here to contact](#)

MEETING DETAILS



4th Wed/
month



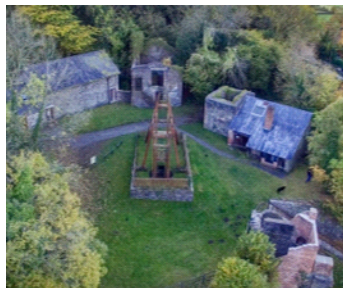
2pm – 4pm



Minsterley
Parish Hall

SUMMER FIELD TRIPS AND AUTUMN PLANS

*Wednesday 23 September –
Snailbeach Mine private visit*



Our next outing on the **23 September** is a private tour of **Snailbeach Lead Mine** with the Shropshire Mines Trust. We will explore the remaining

outside buildings—including remnants of the narrow-gauge railway—and the small visitor centre run by the Mines Trust, before taking a guided tour inside the mine.

Access into the mine is on the level and does not involve going down as most of the lower levels are now flooded. There is a £10 per person charge. Spaces are limited, but **other u3a members are very welcome to join; please contact Jean by Saturday 5 Sept to reserve a place.**



CONTRIBUTOR

John Williams

COORDINATOR

John & Daphne Williams



[click here to contact](#)

MEETING DETAILS



2nd (winter) &
4th Wed/
month



2pm – 4pm



Coordinator's

GAMES, TEA & COMPANY

Next Meeting Date

The next Board Games meeting will be on Thursday 24th September at 2pm. We would warmly welcome a few more members to the group, especially now the holiday season is over and you may have a little more time to spare.

Learn and Play Together

Please don't feel intimidated if you don't know the games. We learn all sorts of new games together in a relaxed and friendly atmosphere, with plenty of conversation over

tea and cake during the afternoon.

Winter timings from October

From October, we will meet in Yockleton, twice a month, on the second and fourth Thursday afternoons, from 2–4pm.

Why Not Give It a Go?

Come along and meet us — you'll be very welcome!





CONTRIBUTOR

Anne Yeeles

COORDINATOR

Dave Greetham



[click here too](#)
[contact](#)

MEETING DETAILS



Every Tues



Summer: 9.30am+
Winter: 10.00am+



Pontesbury School
Green

CYCLING, CAKES AND FAREWELL

Another busy month on two wheels!

It's been another active month for the u3a Cycling group with rides to Ruyton X1 Towns, Church Stretton and Elsie's at Coedway.

Au Revoir, Sally and Chris



But this month we also said Au Revoir to Sally and Chris before their move to Yorkshire. After a ride to Snailbeach VH incorporating some off-road

tracks in Eastridge Woods, a first for many of us, we feasted on a bring and share lunch followed by Chris's delicious cake and enjoyed a slideshow of various cycling holidays enjoyed over the past couple of years....all inspirational! Yorkshire is already pencilled in for next year!

Summer Rides

During summer we continue to meet at 9.30am at School Green and welcome any newcomers.





CONTRIBUTOR
Steve Anderson

COORDINATOR
Steve Anderson

 [click here to contact](#)

MEETING DETAILS



Every
Monday



2-4pm



Minsterley
Parish Hall

HARMONY, STORIES, AND SONG

Diverse Notes

Guitars, violins, accordions, ukuleles, and banjos fill the room each week, but don't let the name fool you.

While we are the u3a Folk Group, our repertoire ranges from traditional tunes and country to Americana and classic pop.

We are a balanced group of men and women united by a passion for exploring an eclectic mix of musical styles.

Beyond Folk: The Stories Behind the Music

This season, we are launching **Backstory**—a new series where members kick off each session with a 5- to 10-minute snapshot of their personal musical origins.

With a collective lifetime of experiences in the room—ranging from relative beginners to a musician who has spent 70 years in and around the music scene—these short talks offer a fascinating glimpse into the influences and memories that shaped us.

Maximum Capacity

We gather every Monday afternoon in the Committee Room at Minsterley, a long-standing tradition for our group.

We are currently at our full capacity of 16 members, but if you would like to go on the waiting list, please contact the coordinator.

learn, laugh, live





CONTRIBUTOR

Sue & Neil

COORDINATOR

Neil Bates



[click here to
contact](#)

MEETING DETAILS



1st Wed each
month



12 noon



To be
advised

TABLE TALK

A Final Farewell



Our August meeting was held at **Rhubarb** in Shrewsbury. Sadly, this was a final opportunity to dine there before they close on 7th September. A beautiful venue and great company.

Coming up

Our next meeting is on Wed 2nd September when we will visit CSons in Shrewsbury.

Members have chosen Cornish Hake, Shropshire Lamb, Chicken Swarma and Smoked Salmon from the excellent and varied menu. Forks are already at the ready!

Future visits will include a range of pubs and restaurants from around Shropshire.

New Waiting List

The Group is currently closed to new members but if you like the idea of dining in a relaxed atmosphere with friends old and new, why not ask to be placed on the waiting list for a new group?





CONTRIBUTOR

Doreen Thomas

COORDINATOR

Doreen Thomas



[click here to
contact](#)

MEETING DETAILS



2nd Wed/
month



2pm – 4pm



Pavilion,
Pontesbury

LITERARY JOURNEYS

Exploring Lives Through Diaries and Literature

Our August meeting provided a trip through the lives of some of Britain's most celebrated literary figures. Meeting in the welcome coolness of Merle's home, members enjoyed an afternoon of discussion, as well as welcoming Pam to the group.

Virginia Woolf and Vita Sackville-West



Louise gave fascinating revelations on the relationship between novelist Virginia Woolf and writer Vita Sackville-West and deeply significant friendship.

Dorothy & William Wordsworth



Gill's contribution about the

diaries of Dorothy and William Wordsworth transported our minds to Dove Cottage and Rydal Mount in the heart of the Lake District and it was Dorothy who wrote extensive journals about their rural life, the beauty of their natural surroundings and the inspiration and encouragement she gave to William to write his ever moving, romantic poetry.

Barbara Pym

Val talked about Barbara Pam, a Shropshire writer whose letters and journals



detailed everyday life, her time at Oxford and her romantic liaisons, all of which gave her inspiration for most of her novels.

Looking Ahead

The group will continue its literary explorations in September with a discussion led by Merle on **Alan Bennett's *The Uncommon Reader***, a witty novella about Queen Elizabeth coming across the library van in the grounds of the Palace and what it led to.





CONTRIBUTOR
Sue Anderson

COORDINATOR
David Taylor

 [click here to contact](#)

MEETING DETAILS

 3rd Mon/
month
 10.30am -
12noon
 Pavilion,
Pontesbury

AUTUMN SCHEDULE

Over the coming months we're in transition from our old theme to our new theme of Empires & Dynasties:

September – The Life of Edith Cavell



Val Jones will tell us about the remarkable life of **Edith Cavell**. A pioneering nurse whose

courage and compassion became legendary during the First World War, Cavell's story is one of bravery, humanity and the ultimate sacrifice.

October – Overview of Empires & Dynasties of Asia



In October, **Jackie and Nigel** will introduce our new theme: **Empires and Dynasties** in Asia. This overview will set the scene for exploring some of the great powers, rulers and

cultures that have shaped the history of this vast and diverse continent

November – Forgotten Civilisations of North America – Part 3



Sue Anderson returns in November with **Part 3 of Forgotten Civilisations of North America**, finishing up our exploration of societies and cultures that have left their mark on the continent but are often overlooked in conventional histories.

And Beyond...

Following November's meeting, we will continue our new theme of **Empires and Dynasties**, uncovering the stories, personalities and events behind some of history's most intriguing empires and dynasties.

Interested?

If you would like to join us for any of the meetings, please contact David.





CONTRIBUTOR

Neil Bates

COORDINATOR

Neil Bates

 [click here to contact](#)

MEETING DETAILS

 Bi-monthly
 pm
 To be advised

WINE CIRCLE

Kerry Vale Vineyard Tour

Our next meeting on September 1st is a self guided tour of the **Kerry Vale Vineyard** in Monmouth. This will be followed by a tasting of the wines produced there.

Next dates

Our meeting in November will be a "blind" tasting provided by one of our members in their home (not a requirement of joining the group).

Join us

We are a small, friendly group who enjoy a glass of wine (or two) amongst friends. We are open to new members..



CONTRIBUTOR

Steve Anderson

COORDINATORS

Helen Critchley

JudyScopes

 [click here to contact](#)

MEETING DETAILS

	Tues	Thur
	4.50 pm	4.50 pm
	Mary Webb School, Pontesbury	

NO PICKLEBALL JUST YET...

Mary Webb School bookings are temporarily unavailable



Normally at this time of year we would be looking forward to recommencing Pickleball sessions at Mary Webb School. However, we have received the following communication from the school which is self-explanatory:

"Unfortunately, due to staffing circumstances beyond our control, we are unable to accept any facility hire bookings during the first half of the Autumn Term. We will continue to monitor the situation closely and will contact you should this position change."

This is disappointing news for our Pickleballers. Helen and Judy have tried to source alternative venues but sadly these are not available for the times we require.

For now, Pickleball is on hold while Helen and I discuss the future with Mary Webb. Hopefully we will have some more positive news in the coming weeks.



CONTRIBUTOR

Sue Anderson

COORDINATOR

Sue Anderson



[click here to contact](#)

MEETING DETAILS



2nd Fri/month



2 – 4pm



As advised

SUMMER HEAT

Garden Visit: 1 Church Bank

Friday 4 Sept 2026, 2pm

Please note this is a change from our usual second Friday of the month to the 1st Friday.

This NGS garden is an intimate one full of unusual plants and features, where the sound of water creates a wonderfully tranquil atmosphere. Explore the densely planted garden, Gothic arch and zig-zag path leading to a shell grotto, bonsai garden and fernery. The fascinating Barrel Maker's House is also part of the visit..

A Garden, a Gathering and a Lot of Hard Work

At our August meeting we were treated to a wonderful afternoon at Roz and Greg's beautiful garden, which was a resounding success.

Despite the challenging summer weather and extreme heat, the garden was looking fabulous, with colourful borders providing a welcome reminder of what can be achieved with plenty of hard work, dedication and, no doubt, watering! Greg's informative posters gave us an insight into the garden's development, while Roz's wonderful sense of humour provided plenty of laughs along the way.

It was also a lovely social occasion, with members enjoying the garden, catching up and, of course, indulging in a splendid tea and an impressive selection of homemade cakes.

A huge thank you to Roz and Greg for opening their garden and to all the helpers who made the afternoon such a success. And thanks to everyone who brought cakes and contributed to the occasion.

GARDENING MEETING ONLY



1 CHURCH BANK

NGS GARDEN

pontesbury u3a site.uk

Friday

4th September 2026

Time

2.00 PM

1 Church Bank, [Welshpool](#),
Powys, SY21 7DR

Entrance: £7.50

Tea/Coffee & Cake incl.

learn,
laugh,
live

u3a Pontesbury & Rea Valley

www.pontesbury.u3asite.uk

Page 18



CONTRIBUTOR

Sue Anderson

COORDINATOR

Sue Anderson



[click here to contact](#)

MEETING DETAILS



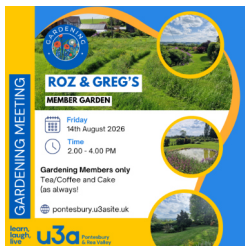
2nd Fri/month



2 – 4pm



As advised





The u3a Trust provides many fascinating online courses via Zoom. All events are **FREE** to attend. To reserve a place, click below:



**Online
learning
events**

FEATURED SPOTLIGHTS



**REACHING
FOR THE
STARS:
NASA'S**

EARLY DAYS

**Tuesday 1 September at
10:00am**

Discover how NASA's formative years and the Cold War Space Race led to the Moon landing, transforming science and technology along the way.



**PROMOTING
BRAIN
HEALTH**

Thursday 24

September at 2:00pm

Researchers explore the lifestyle, behavioural and environmental factors associated with brain health, together with practical ways research is being turned into positive action.

ALSO AVAILABLE IN SEPTEMBER

**Wed 2 Sep (13:00) | Email Hosting & Generic Email
Addresses**

Fri 4 Sep (10:00) | Wild, Edible Autumn Seeds

Mon 7 Sep (14:00) | Triumph to Trauma

Wed 9 Sep (10:00) | Laughter Yoga with Judith

Fri 11 Sep (14:00) | Drones: What Are They Good For?

Mon 14 Sep (10:00) | Faith and Gratitude

Tue 15 Sep (14:00) | Introduction to Cryptic Crosswords

Wed 16 Sep (10:00) | Life in Your Smallest Rooms

Wed 16 Sep (10:00) | Mindfulness and Meditation Series

Thu 17 Sep (10:00) | Titanic Sails at Dawn: Punk in 1970s

Thu 17 Sep (10:00) | Mindfulness & Meditation Continue

**Mon 21 Sep (14:00) | Secrets of the Human Brain: Sleep
and Dreams**

Tue 22 Sep (14:00) | The Enchanted Archipelago

**Fri 25 Sep (10:00) | AI News September: Four Years of AI
Chatbots**

Fri 25 Sep (10:00) | Live Cookery Demonstration

Tue 29 Sep (11:00) | Experimental Brain Research

Tue 29 Sep (15:30) | Laughter Yoga with Merrie Maggie



Sign up for the
u3a Friends
newsletter



u3a.org.uk

friends news

... from Chair, Allan Walmsley

At its last meeting in June, the Board approved the Trust's new marketing strategy. This is based on member feedback and insights from the latest member survey, recent brand awareness research and audience and market analysis. The core issue that the strategy addresses is to improve awareness of the u3a brand and promote the benefits of membership.

In July, Trustees, Council Representatives and senior staff held an away day to look at ways of improving working effectiveness across the Trust.

The Board has also been preparing for the October AGM. Trustees recognise the need to clarify the Trust's Vision and Mission, and to explain the current marketing strategy.

Looking further into the future, the Board will be looking at various strategic challenges facing the movement. Whilst overall membership numbers are increasing, the number of u3as is falling and many others find themselves in a fragile position.

Finally, elections open next week to elect one new Trustee to join the Third Age Trust Board. u3a committees have been given details on how to register to vote. Information on the candidates will be shared on the elections page.

friends learning

Revisit u3a Festival 26 with the u3a Radio Podcast

The latest u3a Radio Podcast takes you back to u3a Festival 26, with interviews from roving reporter Maggie Dee, including Johnny Ball, a u3a steel band musician and a member who swapped building for shoe design.

Listen on your favourite podcast platform – just search “u3a Radio Podcast” – or on the u3a website.





FACILITATORS

EXISTING – Pat Frost
NEW – Nigel Ingham



[click here to
contact](#)

COORDINATORS



[click here to
contact via
our website](#)

Find
something
you'll love!



THINKING OF A NEW GROUP?

We'd love to hear
your ideas! If you'd
like to start a new
interest group or help
revive a dormant one,
please contact Nigel
Ingham, our New
Groups Co-ordinator.



EXPLORE OUR INTEREST GROUPS



ARTS & CREATIVITY

Art History	3rd Mon • 2–4.pm • TBA
Creative Writing	1st & 3rd Thu • 10 am–12 pm • Pavilion
Embroidery	1st Wed • 2–4.30 pm • Coordinator's
Folk Music	Every Mon • 2–4 pm • Minsterley Parish Hall
Photography	3rd Thu • 2–4 pm • TBA
Poetry	2nd & 4th Thu • 10 am–12 pm • Coordinator's
Wood Carving	Every Thu • 7–9 pm • Minsterley Parish Hall



HISTORY, LEARNING & LANGUAGES

Astronomy	Last Wed • 7.30–9.30 pm • Bog Centre
Family History	2nd Mon • 10.15 am–12.15 pm • Pavilion
French Conversation	Alt. Mon • 10 am–12 pm • Coordinator's
Geology	2nd Tue • 2–4 pm • Pavilion
History	3rd Mon • 10.30 am–12.30 pm • Pavilion
Literature	2nd Wed • 2–4 pm • Pavilion
Local History	4th Wed • 2–4 pm • Minsterley Parish Hall
Tech Made Easy	Last Mon • 10.30 am–12 noon • Pavilion



SPORT & OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES

Cycling	Every Tue • 9.30 am • Pontesbury School Green
Pickleball (Tue)	Every Tue • 4.50–6 pm • Mary Webb School
Pickleball (Thu)	Every Thu • 4.50–6 pm • Mary Webb School
Table Tennis 1	Every Mon • 1.30–3.30 pm • Congregational Church
Table Tennis 2	Every Wed • 10 am–12 pm • Minsterley Parish Hall
Table Tennis 3	Every Fri • 10 am–12 pm • Congregational Church
Walking (Long)	Alt. Thu • 10 am–12 pm • TBA
Walking (Short)	Alt. Mon • 10 am–12 pm • Pontesbury School Green



SOCIAL & LEISURE

Board Games	2nd (winter) & 4th Thu • 2–4.pm • Coordinator's
Dining Club	1st Wed • TBA
Gardening	2nd Fri • 2–4 pm • TBA
Play Reading	1st & 3rd Tue • 10.30 am–12.30 pm • TBA
Wine Tasting	Quarterly • TBA