



Ludlow u3a Newsletter April 2024

We look forward to seeing you in Ludlow Assembly Rooms on 29th Apr for the next Monday Meeting.

Coffee, tea and biscuits are available from 10:30 in Oscars. The talk starts in the Auditorium at 11:00.

29 April 2024

America - As time goes by

Ian & Hilary Templeton

An Audio/Visual tour of aspects of America, from the Revolution to the present day, chosen to inform, entertain and amuse. Ian and Hilary have raised over £44,000 for the Air Ambulance service through their presentations. Here they return to take us on a trip which includes: Lewis & Clark; Lincoln; Freedom's Frontier; All aboard and The White House - but it might not be what you think!

News from the Committee Meeting on 8th April 2024

At the AGM on 25th March, 6 new committee members were elected, plus four members of the previous committee, who stood for re-election. The committee meeting on 8th April was the first time that all the members had been together and the chair welcomed them.

Stuart Knight has volunteered to produce future Newsletters and, as Newsletter Editor is a committee role, he was co-opted onto the committee for this year. Grace Wilkins, our past Treasurer/Membership Secretary, was also co-opted onto the committee so that handover to her successors can be completed. The first task of this meeting was to allocate roles to the committee members. The chair explained that committee members were also Trustees of *u3a in Ludlow* (our official title) and that this carried responsibilities determined by the Charities Commission. The list of committee members with their roles appears in this Newsletter.

A couple of study group matters were on the agenda, namely the use of tutors and the control of study group monies. Both matters were the responsibility of the committee members as Trustees and careful consideration was given to the matters. **Two documents for Study Group co-ordinators, namely *Coordinating Study Groups Guidelines* and *Maintaining Study Group Finances* have been amended following the meeting and are to be found on the website Documents page.**

A third study group matter regarding people attending meetings for taster sessions without pre-arrangement was reported to the committee. After discussion by the committee, it was agreed that members would be reminded in the Newsletter of the procedures that must be followed when attending a study group of which one is not a member.

It was agreed that another New Members' meeting would be arranged and everyone who has joined Ludlow u3a since 1st January will be invited to the meeting once room-hire has been arranged.

** New Study Groups **

Jigsaw Puzzles; Do you enjoy jigsaw puzzles? This could be the group for you. Ian Nicholas has suggested this group and would love you to give it a try. Primarily this would be a social group where people meet, make friends and do puzzles together while chatting, no previous jigsaw experience is required and there are a number of puzzles of differing difficulty available.

An Introduction to English Music: Richard Westwood-Brookes, who you may remember from his interesting Elgar talk in February 2023, would like to set up this group. He is one of the founders of the British Music Society, and spends most weekends at the Elgar Museum near Worcester talking about Elgar and his music, and English music has long been a passion of his. He would like to introduce you to the lives and music of various English composers - most of whom are hardly known.

If you are interested in either of the above contact: cathy.beardes@hotmail.co.uk for more information.

Study Group Taster Sessions.

The committee has been made aware of individuals going along to try new study groups and being upset when they were not given a free taster session due to misunderstanding on arrival. This is concerning and to avoid this happening in the future, please note the following:

- **All taster sessions MUST be pre-arranged** before attending a meeting.
- **Members of Ludlow u3a** can attend one taster session of any number of study groups before deciding whether to be added to the group's membership list, or added to the waiting list if no places are immediately available. You will not be expected to pay the group's regular costs of the meeting at this taster session, though if it is normal practice of the group to pay for refreshments, you will need to do this. **To arrange a Taster session, you need to contact the Study Group Adviser (cathy.beardes@hotmail.co.uk) who will ask the group's coordinator to arrange a suitable date with you.**
- **Non-members of Ludlow u3a** CANNOT be invited to go along to study group meetings by Ludlow u3a members, without first arranging a Taster Session for them. **Non-members can attend one taster session in up to three different study groups, but before attending a meeting the Chair (info@u3ainludlow.org.uk) MUST have been contacted.** The Chair will in turn, advise the study group coordinator that a non-member of Ludlow u3a wants to arrange a Taster Session.

Radio Advertising Campaign

As part of a plan to raise awareness of the u3a movement at a national level, the Third Age Trust are working with Boom Radio on an advertising campaign. The campaign has started this month and features u3a members sharing their stories. Why not listen-in and see what you think?

Monday Meetings – May & June

20 May 2024

Full Steam Ahead

Jenny Mallin

The opening up of a country, which, before the introduction of the railway was only possible by bullock cart due to the varied landscape, climate, and conditions of the roads. Jenny Mallin, author of *A Grandmother's Legacy*, draws on her considerable research of her ancestors in India during the Raj to bring us this illustrated presentation highlighting the major obstacles that were overcome, through civil engineering achievements, to bring steam trains to India. Jenny will also tell us about the lives of the people who worked on and for the railways

24 June 2024

Charles Augustus Howell – The Worst Man in London?

Stuart Currie

Howell acted as agent, secretary, and general factotum to some of the principal artists in and around the Pre-Raphaelite Brotherhood including John Ruskin, Gabriel Rossetti, and Edward Burne-Jones. Described contemporaneously as 'the vilest wretch I ever came across' and 'the wonderful man, the genius, the superb liar...the Robinson Crusoe hero', whatever one's experience, all agreed Howell was the best imaginable company, even at an exhumation. Recently retired university lecturer, Stuart, attempts to unravel some of Howell's tangled dealings and offers a unique view of the private lives of the PRB and the rapidly changing Victorian art market.

Your New Committee:

Chair: Janice Haines,

Secretary: Sue Curthoys

Treasurer: Clare Edwards

Membership: Michael Cooke

Study Groups Adviser: Cathy Beardes

Beacon Admin: Chris Lee

Beacon Support: Pat Doble

Newsletter Editor & Webmaster: Stuart Knight

Monthly Meetings: Richard Westwood-Brookes & Suzie Bennett,

Shropshire Network Representative: Richard Vaughan