



Ludlow u3a Newsletter April 2023

We look forward to seeing you in Ludlow Assembly Rooms on 24th April 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.

24 April 2023

Fêteing the Finns

Christopher Massy-Beresford

1918-2018 – a hundred years of intrepid independence! Along with Iceland, Finland prefers to be classified as a Nordic country rather than as part of Scandinavia.

From its struggle to express its early independence from the clutches of Russia and the former dominance of Sweden, this talk, by linguist and professional translator Christopher, highlights the outstanding achievements of this remote country with its vast terrain, terrible winters, and relatively small population – along with some of its loveable oddities.

Details of the Monday meetings in May and June are at the end of this newsletter

News from the Committee - AGM 27th March 2023

The AGM was well attended, thank you to all who came.

Reports were received from the Chair (Janice Haines) and Treasurer (Grace Wilkins). It was good to hear from the Chair that membership numbers are recovering after the setback of the Covid pandemic. The number of new members who have joined in the first three months of 2023 could make it a bumper year.

The Treasurer accompanied her report with a pie chart, which illustrated clearly the way that our yearly subscription is divided. There were a number of questions about the expenditure which kept Grace on her toes.

Before the election of Officers and Committee members, the Chair explained that at present the Vice Chair holds an Officer role on the committee. This causes difficulty if a Vice Chair is to take over as Chair, as under the Ludlow u3a Constitution, an Officer cannot move immediately from one officer role to another. She asked for a vote on the motion that the Vice Chair ceases to be an Officer role to overcome this difficulty. This motion was carried unanimously.

Barbara Ball has completed three years as Secretary of u3a in Ludlow, the maximum allowed under our constitution in that role. The meeting agreed unanimously that Sue Curthoys take on the role of Secretary, with Janice Haines and Grace Wilkins carrying on for a further year as Chair and Treasurer, respectively.

The election of committee members was also taken 'en bloc'. Four members of the previous committee; Barbara Ball, Michael Cooke, Sue Billing and Peter Law agreed to stand again, and two new members; Cath Beardes and Deborah Tillsley, joined the committee for the first time. *Please find Committee contact details at the end of the newsletter.*

During her report, the Treasurer pointed out that we no longer have an examiner for the yearly accounts. Though it is not a requirement that the accounts are examined, the Treasurer asked if a Ludlow u3a member would be willing to take on the task. After the meeting Ian Crosskell came forward and said that he would be willing to act as examiner for the accounts in 2023. The committee is very grateful to him.

Study Groups Update

New Study Group Adviser

Barbara Ball is the new Study Group Adviser. While she was Secretary, she had been helping Derek with the role because it is a big job. Derek decided that he would prefer to stand down from the Ludlow u3a Committee, but continue to help with the work, so their roles are now reversed. Barbara can be contacted at barbara@ludlowballs.force9.co.uk and on 07538 080942.

Which study group might you want to join?

Don't forget that you can find out all about Ludlow u3a's study groups by going to our website <https://u3ainludlow.weebly.com/> and clicking on Study Groups. When you find a group you are interested in, contact Barbara who will put you in touch with the Study Group Coordinator for that group. Even if a group is currently full you are entitled to a taster session and then if you are still interested you can ask for your name to be put on the waiting list.

What other study groups would you like u3a to have?

Although Ludlow u3a has nearly 60 study groups there are many areas of interest that are not addressed. What are you interested in that is not currently on offer? Let us know. Or you might like to start a study group yourself. Ludlow u3a is keen to meet its members' needs and so if you have any ideas, please contact Barbara.

Classical Greek

The Classical Greek group would welcome new members. If you are interested please contact the coordinator, Mike Beazley [<mike.beazley@hotmail.co.uk>](mailto:mike.beazley@hotmail.co.uk), or Graham Asher [<graham@cartotype.com>](mailto:graham@cartotype.com). The group meets fortnightly on Tuesdays in central Ludlow for a session of about one and a half hours, with a break for coffee and biscuits. They use the reading and translation method, with some discussion of grammar. The classes require one or two hours of preparation each week. The group is not suitable for beginners, but if you have studied Greek to O Level or GCSE standard you might well enjoy it.

Study Groups Update (cont.)

Military History

This small group is having a first meeting at 11:00 on Monday 15 May at the Helena Lane Community Centre. The topic is the American Civil War. If you think you might be interested in joining this group contact Barbara on barbara@ludlowball.force9.co.uk

Refresher Driving Courses

Hereford Advanced Drivers hold Refresher Days for licenced drivers of all ages, who need to update their knowledge and skills and for those who have lost confidence whilst driving in today's traffic.

Would any members of Ludlow u3a be interested in going on a Refresher Day with Hereford Advanced Drivers?

Refresher Days are held at various sites in Hereford and last from 10:00-15:00. The cost is £30 per person or £25pp for couples. They are designed to help drivers feel more confident and to learn skills in a friendly, practical – and enjoyable- way. The day includes an update on rules and regulations, discussion about driving locally and a drive in your own car, accompanied by a friendly adviser, who will give you constructive advice which will prove invaluable for years. There is no testing involved. If you would like to attend a course, please record your name with me, Janice Haines, either by email – janhaines88@gmail.com or by telephone – 01584 878794.

Any articles for the newsletter?

If you have any articles or comments regarding Ludlow u3a, wider u3a or other relevant local news items then please send them to the editor: cathy.beardes@hotmail.co.uk

Email addresses

Does the Treasurer have your email address? We are posting (at some cost) newsletters to members without email addresses. If you have a new or changed email address please let the treasurer know:

treasurer@u3ainludlow.org.uk

Monday Meetings – May and June

22 May 2023

Passports, Assassins, Traitors and Spies

Martin Lloyd

Writer and broadcaster Martin's dramatic account of how three passports have played an influential role in changing the course of history: an attempted assassination which altered the regulations for issuing passports; how the unmasking of a spy caused a modification in passport design and how, for one man, the passport itself turned into a killer.

26 June 2023

Aggie

Alison Utting

Dame Agnes Hunt was a phenomenal woman who established the practice of orthopaedic nursing and co-founded the world-renowned orthopaedic hospital at Oswestry. She also set up an award-winning specialist college to provide further education for students with special educational needs and disabilities. Severely disabled herself, Agnes overcame huge obstacles in her mission to help others. Her indomitable personality and self-deprecating humour are woven through her remarkable autobiography, which forms the basis of this dramatic monologue, performed by Alison Utting.

Committee Contact Details

Chair: Janice Haines info@u3ainludlow.org.uk 01584 878794

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