



# Ludlow u3a Newsletter January 2023

We look forward to seeing you in Ludlow Assembly Rooms on 30<sup>th</sup> January  
for the first Monday Meeting of 2023

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

Unfortunately, our scheduled speaker for January, Sharon Magrath, is unable to join us on 30<sup>th</sup> January to tell us about her row across the Atlantic. We hope she will be able to come and give her presentation at a later date. In place of taking to the ocean in a rowing boat, we shall instead be transported to a different type of sailing: wassailing.

**30 January 2023**

**The Heritage of Song**

**Robin Burton**

Before radio, TV and the internet, we used to make our own entertainment. Usually this meant singing... Robin's talk charts the history of our shared songs and how knowledge of them has survived to the present day. He also explores the link between folk songs and local and national custom and identity. Robin will give us examples along the way.

Robin Burton, amongst having many other roles, is Chair of Stroud Wassail.

**Details of the Monday meetings in February and March are at the end of this newsletter**

## Newsletter Editor

As you will see in the News from the Committee column, we have vacancies for committee members. Most critically we need a Newsletter editor. Can you help?

The main role of the Newsletter Editor would be to gather information, photographs and articles relevant to **Ludlow u3a** in particular, but also including wider u3a issues as appropriate.

The Newsletter Editor is a member of the Ludlow u3a committee and would report on matters discussed at the committee for the newsletter.

Do you have publishing or word processing skills that you could use for the good of your u3a?

The Newsletter has three issues a year in January, April and September. It is sent to all Ludlow u3a members, by email and by Royal Mail where members do not have an email address.

At present the Newsletter is put together by the Chair. Please contact her (details at the end of this Newsletter) if you would like to get involved.

## News from the Committee

Two major topics were discussed at the first committee meeting of 2023 on 5<sup>th</sup> January. They were changes to the Ludlow u3a subscription for 2024 and the need for more committee members.

The News from the Committee in the September Newsletter reported the decision not to raise the subscription to Ludlow u3a for 2023, but that this would require careful budgeting. This subscription level will not be sustainable for 2024. The committee has decided to raise the subscription for 2024 onwards to £16, and the reasons for this decision will be set out in the Treasurer's Report. This will be sent to all members at the end of February.

Seven of the present eight committee members are putting themselves forward for re-election at the AGM. One potential new member has expressed an interest. We will have two further vacancies, the role of Newsletter Editor being the most critical.

The meetings for new members that were held during 2022 proved to be popular. Another meeting is being arranged for 16<sup>th</sup> February. Invitations will be sent out soon.

## Email addresses

Does the Treasurer have your email address? We are posting (at some cost) newsletters to members without email addresses. Can you save us that cost by sending the Treasurer an email address:

[treasurer@u3ainludlow.org.uk](mailto:treasurer@u3ainludlow.org.uk)

### A message from the chair

A very warm welcome to a new Ludlow u3a year to all our members, whether long-term or one of the many who have joined recently. I hope you are enjoying all that Ludlow u3a has to offer.

At our AGM in March, we will be discussing roles that need to be filled within Ludlow u3a.

u3a is a UK-wide network of learning groups run by and for its members. Everyone is a volunteer. It is the responsibility of all of us to keep the organisation and its groups running. This means thinking about whether we can play a part in the running of groups or in the running of Ludlow u3a as a whole.

### u3a National Learning Programme

With this Newsletter you will have received a list of all the study groups offered by Ludlow u3a. As we start a new year, you may want to consider which new activity or new subject you would like to study.

Learning in u3a doesn't stop with Ludlow u3a. There is a National Learning Programme to help you make the most of being part of u3a. A range of free online events are available to all members via Zoom. Subjects addressed over the next few months include *Laughter Yoga for 2023*, *The climate Crisis – and some solutions*, *Highlights of the Royal Collection – Coins and Medals* and many more.

For more information and to book a place visit [www.u3a.org.uk/learning](http://www.u3a.org.uk/learning)

### Message from our Ludlow u3a+ committee member

*'Recent cold spells have made me think that some members may have felt isolated for most of the freezing weather. A few phone calls from other members and from the coordinators of the groups they belong to, are often welcomed, particularly by older members or those suffering from disabilities'*

Peter Law

The monthly Monday meetings are an ideal time to meet other u3a members in a warm environment. There are also South Shropshire warm weather centres at the Hands Together Ludlow lunch club and Ludlow Library.

### Ludlow u3a Website

<https://u3ainludlow.weebly.com>

The Ludlow u3a website is the source of all information about Ludlow u3a and beyond.

Have you noticed in the 'Useful links' section of the Links page that Shropshire Libraries is setting up much needed digital support for people aged over 65 They are also looking for volunteers to help provide this service. Further details are on the Ludlow u3a Links page under 'Useful links'

## Monday Meetings – February and March

### 27 February 2023 Elgar: The Composer You May Not Know Richard Westwood-Brooks

As a boy Richard met Elgar's daughter and was inspired to devote much of his time, over the past 40 years, to studying the man and his music. Richard is now the author of two biographies of Elgar and many articles published worldwide. In 1988 he assisted composer Anthony Payne in his reconstruction of Elgar's Third Symphony. However, Richard, who now gives regular talks at the Elgar Birthplace Museum, is a radical voice in the Elgar world – hence his lively, but down-to-earth talk, including aspects of Elgar that might surprise you.

### 27 March 2023 AGM followed by A forgotten Naturalist, Explorer and Eccentric Bernard North

Bernard's illustrated lecture will inform us about the extraordinary life of a 19th century prolific explorer and naturalist. Almost forgotten, or remembered solely for his eccentric escapades and antics, this gentleman naturalist, an inspiration to Charles Darwin and Alfred Russel Wallace, deserves acknowledgement for his pioneering conservation work.

### Committee Contact Details

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