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# U3A in Ludlow

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Newsletter 94

February 2018

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Daffodils are above ground, the cherry tree is showing signs of life again and, although there is plenty of scope for a bit more Winter, we may well be on our way to Spring. So, all in all, it must be time for the bi-annual Newsletter. I want to touch on a subject, which, in one way or another, is likely to affect all of us in U3A and even those unfortunate enough not to be members! I refer to the effects of ageing. Whether it is the inability to remember where we left the door key, the poor quality of sound on TV dramas nowadays or the fact that those stairs seem be getting steeper, it's a road we all find ourselves travelling. The question is how to make the most of it and that's where U3A comes in, or should do, or would like to. To quote Bette Davis: 'Old age is no place for sissies'.

Of course, people needing a bit more help as they get older is a timeless challenge. In the context of U3A in Ludlow this has traditionally been addressed at group level. When group members need a bit of extra assistance to get to meetings as they become less mobile, other members generally chip in with lifts to get them there. Or they arrange for a member with hearing difficulties to get a seat close to the front or on their 'good side'. That will continue. But as the numbers of older people increase, so do those facing problems and just sometimes the youngsters (in U3A this is a relative term!) are unclear about what to look for, how to react, and how to help. And with many study groups rotating around members' homes, nobody would expect to have a wheelchair access built or hearing loops installed. But I feel sure we can make life a little easier. In Ludlow the subject has been raised at each of the recent September coordinators' lunches, and group coordinators could perhaps be offered more advice and help with this issue. This is also a matter which has exercised the minds of the people at U3A HQ, who have now come up with their own thoughts and indeed their own website. They have announced the launch of [plus.U3A.org.uk](http://plus.U3A.org.uk) Do give it a try to see what they've produced. And as if you didn't already know, we just need to keep doing what we are doing and look after any group members who begin to struggle.

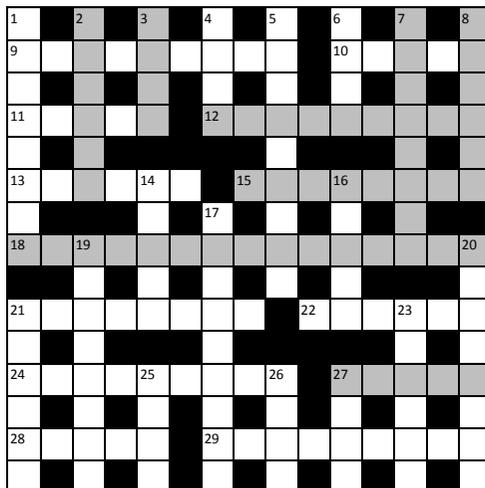
Our new committee member, Peter Law, has agreed to take on responsibility for Plus U3A developments, while freely admitting that he has no background in such matters. Peter will follow developments in this area and will offer his thoughts in due course.

And I cannot close without mentioning our AGM on Monday 26 March. The committee is hoping for a good turnout and perhaps a nomination or two for new committee members. The nomination form is available on the U3A Ludlow website. See you there!

*Stuart McLaren*  
Chairman

**U3A in Ludlow - Registered Charity No. 1072055**

This crossword is contributed by the Wednesday Cryptic Crosswords group. Clues with local references are shaded on the grid. Answers will be given in the next printed Newsletter.



### Across

- 9 Delirious oyster consumed backward  
wildebeest and produced juvenile (9)
- 10 Some serene magic for a cleansing (5)
- 11 Prows of patrolboats, uboats, lifeboats,  
liners, steamboats and tugs (5)
- 12 American woman beats runner to deli (5,4)
- 13 Geordie tail movement with eastern  
philosophical movement (3,3)
- 15 Short man and another for architectural  
style (8)
- 18 After a thousand years, Lincoln became  
place of recreation (10,5)
- 21 Release a French cheese by the sound of  
it (8)
- 22 It's a bore - you need it like a hole in the  
head! (6)
- 24 Matter of wrecked bus getting into  
position (9)
- 27 Local representative maybe, but finished  
reportedly (5)
- 28 Uncommon tact, I understood (5)
- 29 Completion of entire loch (9)

### Down

- 1 Drum put my man in a tizz (8)
- 2 Place where game involves losers and winners (6)
- 3 Goes out to ex-café (3'1)
- 4 Crazy upward thrust (4)
- 5 Mistake singular zero? We could be wrong (9)
- 6 Honoured lady mixes drink (4)
- 7 One eleven reportedly, with another eleven by  
the river (8)
- 8 Old banger in square tin gets French refusal (6)
- 14 Wonderful, but shows meagre attributes (5)
- 16 OK Rabbit? (5)
- 17 International organisation is recognized for  
being unrecognized (9)
- 19 Abandoned support for defender (4,4)
- 20 No awareness? Rubbish (8)
- 21 At university, groups are likely to cause  
disturbances (6)
- 23 Criticise the German? No, indulge (6)
- 25 Archbishop in a skirt! (4)
- 26 Write up a school (4)
- 27 It's a contract whichever way you look at it (4)

<b>U3A in Ludlow Monthly Meetings 2018</b>		
26.02.2018	<b>Storytelling</b> <i>Simon's neuroscience informs his light-hearted stories; you are left to draw your own morals.</i>	Simon Martin
26.03.2018	<b>AGM and Thirty Days hath September</b> <i>Our vice-chairman asks 'Why do some months have thirty days?' and explores related questions.</i>	Robert Hodge
30.4.2018	<b>Foundations of Meditation</b> <i>Rob, a hypnotist, will introduce his audience to meditation, providing ideas for immediate use.</i>	Rob Chapman
21.5.2018	<b>Neutrals at War</b> <i>Christopher, will talk about neutrality during the Second World War in four different countries.</i>	Christopher Massey Beresford
25.6.2018	<b>The big clock and the bells of Westminster</b> <i>Chris has a longstanding interest in turret clocks, and has been involved in their restoration.</i>	Chris McKay
24.9.2018	<b>The Cathedral Builders</b> <i>Keith, an architectural historian, will talk about the methods they used, the problems overcome.</i>	Keith Cattell
29.10.2018	<b>The Mayflower Children</b> <i>Phil, journalist and author, will tell of Katherine More from Shropshire, whose children were transported to America with the Pilgrim Fathers.</i>	Phil Revell
26.11.2018	<b>A Career in Antiques</b> <i>Philip will describe his personal journey, which demonstrates the training, daily routines and workings within the world of auction houses.</i>	Philip Duckworth

## Chess

If the white queen is placed on one of the four centre squares of an empty chess board, how many squares can the queen move to in its first move?

A bishop and a knight are each placed on one of the centre squares. Which of these pieces can reach more squares in up to four moves?

Peter Law

When I joined U3A Ludlow I was given a list of the study groups available. I was particularly interested in the French Literature group; I liked the idea of reading modern French novels and discussing them - a reading club with a difference! So I joined a circle of about ten people. I was the only French person there, but found all the participants excellent French speakers and with a deep knowledge of French literature and culture, some more so than me, as I have not lived in France for over fifty years.

Here is a flavour of our recent reading matter. On the menu in *Une Vie Française* are rock, sex and politics from the sixties onwards. *No et Moi* describes an experiment to save a young girl from homelessness: will it work? *Au Coeur des Forêts* is about how trees work their magic on humans. *Désert* involved us in the adventures of a young girl, who is heir to the Blue Men of the Sahara Desert. *Petit Pays* recounts how an idyllic and exotic childhood in Burundi is shattered by civil war and violence.

Each month we travel through time and space, first a solitary journey, as we read and savour the selected book, then sharing our experience with the group. Of course, not everybody enjoys the book being discussed but, strangely enough, the ones not liked so much seem to engender the most discussion, which is good because, apart from discussing the literary merit of the book, the important thing is to speak French and enjoy our time together.

Ludlow's connection with France goes back a long way. After the Norman Conquest, some of William the Conqueror's knights were rewarded with lands in the Welsh Marches, and so the Mortimers, the De Lacys, the Montgomerys became local landowners and built castles, such as Ludlow Castle in 1086. Then during the Napoleonic Wars Lucien Bonaparte was captured and sent to Ludlow as a prisoner of parole in 1810. He resided with his family in Dinham House and one can well imagine musical and literary soirées taking place there.

I came on the scene in 1983 when I was posted here for a year as the 'French Mam'zelle' at the then Ludlow Grammar School and High School. I learnt a lot about the local culture from George Merchant, the French Master, by being taken 'pub crawling' around some of the numerous drinking establishments of the town. Ludlow is where I met my Ludlow-born and Ludlow-bred husband. And now in retirement I am enjoying reading and speaking my mother tongue in the company of a great bunch of people. Sylvia Duffy, the group coordinator, makes it easy for us all. Merci Sylvia!

To complete this story, let's not forget the Ludlow Town Twinning Association with the Norman town of La Ferté Macé; this has been going for 30 years with annual visits between the two market towns. This closes the circle, from Normandy to Normandy over 900 years. That's not a bad story!

*Ros Sargeant*

## Looking at the roots and origins of the English language

What's in a word? Often the answer to that question is more than one might expect initially. Just choosing one English word can highlight the huge and fascinating diversity of the English language and our group has fun exploring this and the links to other languages. Some of us accept that language is constantly evolving, whether we like it or not; others are less appreciative of this and mourn the 'correct' use of English. This results in lively discussions. Often the choice of a single word leads us in all sorts of different and entertaining directions. We make liberal use of on-line etymological dictionaries in addition to standard ones.

For example, as someone who enjoys walking, I began with the vague notion that I might explore words related to that subject. So first, let us consider the word walk, which may, of course, be either a noun or a verb. I decided to restrict myself to the verb, with the sense of 'to go on foot', there being several other definitions of the verb as, for example, cricketers will know. One of my first discoveries was that we are plantigrades. That was news to me. Next, through a cursory glance in a dictionary I was delighted to find well over thirty synonyms. The word walk originated around 1200, from Middle English 'walken' and 'walkien'. These come respectively from Anglo Saxon 'wealcan', to roll or toss, and 'wealcian', to roll up, muffle up. Cognates (from Latin cognatus with 'co' meaning 'same' and 'gnatus', 'born', so that cognates are words having a common root) include Old Dutch 'walcken', to press, full cloth, Swedish 'valka', also to full, Danish 'valke' (the same) and German 'walken'. The shift in sense is perhaps from a colloquial use of the Old English word or via the sense of 'to full cloth' (by treading on it), though this sense does not appear until after the change in meaning.

Next time you set out to walk somewhere consider if you amble, dander, perambulate, roam, swan, slink, wade, footslog, trudge, mince, traipse, saunter, mosey, sashay, strut, swagger, hobble, lollop, waddle, galumph, dawdle, creep (I guess many of us are familiar with the quote from Shakespeare's *As You Like It*: 'the whining school-boy, with his satchel and shining morning face, creeping like snail unwillingly to school') loiter, lope, thump, stride, pace, shamble, flounce, toddle, tramp, lumber, and I dare say you can think of others. I nearly forgot ramble.

Now that last word has an interesting origin and I suspect that whoever named the Ramblers Association may not have realized this!

If you are interested in joining our group and exploring our mother tongue, we meet on the third Thursday of the month at 10am. Contact me on 01584 823475 or preferably use e-mail [liz.ince49@gmail.com](mailto:liz.ince49@gmail.com)

*Liz Ince*

As a relatively new member of both the U3A Photography and Photo Editing groups, I am sometimes asked how these two groups differ from each other. First, I would like to suggest how they are in fact much the same. Neither group is structured to actually teach anything yet they are both rich sources of information and learning. Both groups have enthusiastic, like-minded people keen to share their ideas, their knowledge and assist with some of the technical problems we all encounter from time to time. I feel there is a great sense of nurture; honest opinions are both given and received and I always come away from the meetings not only having learnt something but keen to embrace the next topic.

So what happens in each of the groups? What do we do?

### Photography

Each month we have a topic which members interpret as they choose and then present two photographs at the next meeting. These are briefly introduced by the photographer and then passed among the group inviting comments on both the idea and the execution. For the most part the photographs are not manipulated, a little digital enhancement, a little cropping to improve the composition but rarely much more than that.



The emphasis is on the photograph as it is presented and the idea behind it. Examples of recent topics have been 'Feast' and 'Layers'.

Also during the year there is an outing, usually to an interesting town, where members roam freely simply taking whatever they see that interests them. Subsequently each member presents a few images to illustrate their day. Such was the variety of subject matter last year that I do remember one comment being, "Did we go to the same place?" Also, an exhibition of members work is held in September.

## Photo Editing

With laptops at the ready, this group also meets monthly. The topics revolve around the features of photo editing found in Adobe Photoshop Elements. The emphasis here is in what you can do with photographs, usually to make them into something else, such as cards, collages, calendars, photo books and illustrations.

The meetings are less structured but there is always lots of conversation, with members gathering round a screen to see what someone has done and with that all-important sharing of ideas and solving problems together. The sessions are more practical and this time the results are definitely all about manipulating images. Recently we have covered such things as collages, inserting text, improving the quality of old images, and using clipping masks. A clipping mask was used with the photograph on the left to create the image on the right.



*Jude Beutement*

## 2018 Membership

With this Newsletter comes your 2018 Membership Card if you have paid your subscription. If you have not yet paid there is a Pink Renewal Form which please complete and return to me with your £12. Membership cards for outstanding subscriptions will be posted once payment is received. Your Group Coordinator will be asking to see your Membership Card in the next few weeks.

If you do not intend to continue your membership please let me know and I will stop pestering you.

Remember to complete the Gift Aid Declaration if you are able. Gift Aid provides about one sixth of our income and is important to us maintaining our subscription at £12.

*David Hatchell*

Treasurer/Membership Secretary

U3A in Ludlow Committee for 2017/2018			
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New Members Host	Penny Robinson	01584-856242	peneloperobinson@btinternet.com
Plus U3A	Peter Law	01584-877012	peter.peterwlaw@gmail.com

There will be changes to the above at the AGM, to be held on 26 March 2018.

For up-to-date information please see the web site: [www.u3ainludlow.org.uk](http://www.u3ainludlow.org.uk)

#### Answers to the crossword in the October 2017 Newsletter

Across: 1 note 3 prepared 9 warrant 10 nosed 11 electrolysis 14 him 16 dough 17 day 18 chimney sweep 21 thorn 22 delight 23 regional 24 prey

Down: 1 New Delhi 2 three 4 rot 5 penny whistle 6 rescind 7 dado 8 Santo Domingo 12 ovule 13 sympathy 15 mahjong 19 Edgar 20 star 22 DNA

### Numbers in Ludlow U3A's Europe

What is the same about 40 in London, 2, 5, 10 and 100 in Paris, and 1 and 8 in Berlin? When you have decided about that, you could email me and tell me what the numbers are in Madrid, Cardiff and Rome? Rome *might* present a dilemma. Athens is perhaps too problematic, but you may think otherwise - I would need to be educated. And there are, of course, other places not yet on U3A's map.

The most informative, most interesting and wittiest response sent me will be published in the next printed Newsletter.

*Derek Ball*

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