
U3A in Ludlow

Newsletter 97

November 2019

Omar Ibn Al-Halif, the second Caliph, is famed for a saying attributed to him: "Four things come not back: the spoken word; the sped arrow; time past; the neglected opportunity". I first became aware of this quote at university and have since been very conscious of how true it is.

The spoken word is powerful and once uttered cannot be taken back, even if we apologise for what we say. I am guilty of having said the wrong thing at times. Much as I would like to fire arrows at certain people (I have a list!), I haven't. But here the arrow is a metaphorical concept. It relates to things we say or do when angry. We may regret some premeditated or random act after the deed is done and wish it had never been accomplished. The past is past and other than learning from it, there is no sense in dwelling on it. Living for the moment is the way to go and research suggests that people who are capable of discarding thoughts about the past and future are generally happier.

Which brings us to the neglected opportunity - loosely translated as "you never know how soon it will be too late". How often have we missed an opportunity to do some small thing for our lives because we have focused on the past or feared for the future.

As I get older, I firmly believe that the future holds less importance and try to 'seize the day' by taking advantage of opportunities to do things. We are very fortunate in *U3A in Ludlow* in that it provides us with the prospect of doing things it would be so easy to neglect - learning, making friends and having fun. So, don't neglect the opportunities! Make friends and have fun in any one of the eighty groups available in Ludlow.

Robert Hodge
Chairman

2 can I just interrupt at this point...?

I am responding to Barbara Ball's fascinating article in the February Newsletter, 'Do women and men communicate?' As a reminder to those who have forgotten or missed it, Barbara was reflecting on the different ways in which men and women communicate. She concluded by asking readers for their views. So here are mine.

But there are some important issues to consider before we can even start to explore how we communicate across the gender boundary. On first thinking about gender equality, I confused 'equality' with 'sameness'. In doing so, I failed to recognise and appreciate the differences between genders in the way we communicate. This can be through the spoken or written word, gestures or other forms of body language. But we are now entering dangerous territory. We run the risk of turning a legitimate generalisation into a stereotype. Women (all women?) weave a tapestry of words whilst men (all men?) play a game of verbal tennis: your turn, my turn, et cetera.

Then comes the danger of ascribing negative or positive attributes to the differences in communication styles. We can agree or disagree with other peoples' points of view and we will all have a preferred way of both communicating and receiving communications, but that doesn't mean other ways are wrong. In fact, there is the opportunity for gaining new insights when views are expressed in a different style to one's own.

And this is just the 'tip of the iceberg' when exploring gender differences in the way we present or receive communications. In our house, for example, most of the television programmes we watch have been recorded for later viewing. My wife's selections are nearly all dramas whilst mine are almost all documentaries. And when it comes to learning to read, how is it that girls (generally) learn much more

quickly than boys, and when they do, why do they usually have a preference for fiction (stories), whilst boys are often searching in vain for non-fiction books.

So, whether it is 'a good old natter' over a cup of coffee, or an informed discussion in, for example, a U3A meeting, might it be instructive to think about, not only 'the what', but also 'the ways' in which we and others are communicating? Barbara's article has opened the door to a very interesting topic.

David Pritchard

Where in Ludlow would you find these?



Email a list of street names to Derek Ball.

On 6th September my wife Barbara and I visited the U3A Photography Group's exhibition at the Ludlow Mascall Centre. Exactly a week before we had called in on a similar exhibition in Hebden Bridge, at which we were invited to choose our best three photographs. When Barbara was sharing her choice with me, she realised that all three of her chosen pictures had people in and that in all three the people were walking away from the camera. Few of the pictures in the U3A exhibition had people in. Notably, there was a jazz trumpeter lost in the emotion of his music, a father and child, and a very small lone fisherman by the sea. There were some intriguing 'abstract' pictures, including a large pile of metal chairs. There was also a collage of street art in Ludlow (see page 3). I am no photographer and so I like pictures where I can engage emotionally. So the jazz trumpeter attracted me, but also a very atmospheric picture of a steam train, entitled 'Road ahead clear'.

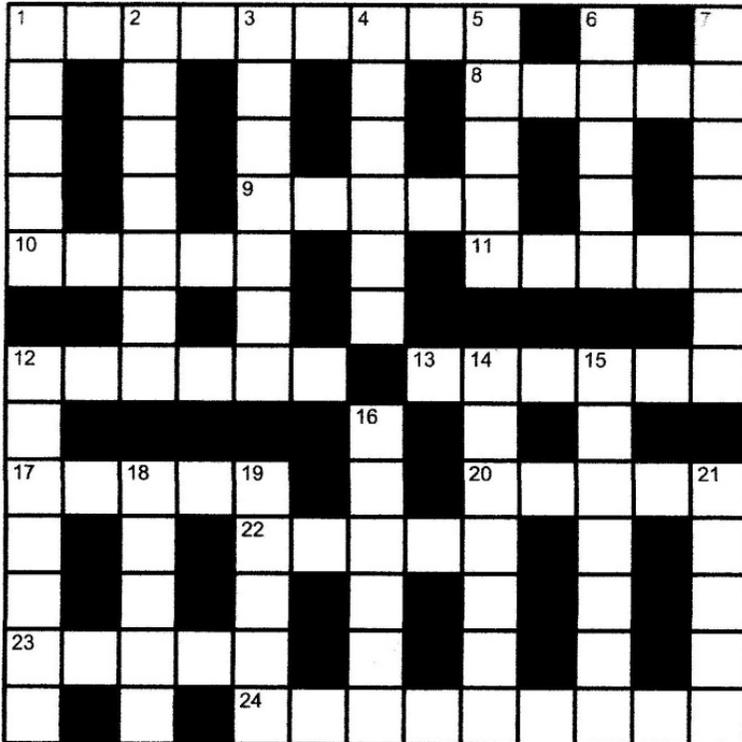
I have more understanding of psychology than of art, and so I was interested in Barbara choosing three photographs of people walking away from the camera. For me, a portrait is often a posed photograph, in which the photographer is in control. People not facing the camera are probably unaware of a picture being taken and are off and away to do their own possibly exciting thing - *they* are in control. Our role as humans is to give others as much control over their own lives as possible: this is the supreme task for parents bringing up children.

Derek Ball

<p>Scrabble (from Newsletter 96): Eileen Russell and Chris Moodie both suggested 'HADJES' (O5 down), scoring 58. There is also 'EYELASH' (E11 across), scoring 78.</p>

27.01.2020	Easter Island - Navel of the Earth: Brian Anderson's stunning photography will illustrate his fascinating talk about the history and culture of the inhabitants of this remote South Pacific island.
24.02.2020	Bees and their Importance in the Environment: Professional beekeeper and multi-award-winning educator Alison Wakeman will share her knowledge and experience of bees and their by-products.
30.03.2020	U3A Fair and AGM
27.04.2020	Canals and Crime Fiction: The backdrop of author Andy Griffie's talk is our 2200 miles of canals and how they can be the perfect setting for the crime novel.
18.05.2020	Music in Art: Professional musician Sophie Matthews will explore the links between the visual and the aural, drawing on the works of great painters.
29.06.2020	The Work of a Practising Homeopath: Jeremy Derrick will talk about his personal and professional experience of homeopathy, explaining and illustrating how its approach may help and why it is valid for the 21 st century.
28.09.2020	Barrow to Baghdad and Back Again: Author of the Jack Castle series of novels, Philip Caine, will tell us about his adventurous life in the oil industry in distant places, which provided the inspiration for his adventure/thriller novels.
26.10.2020	Albania - the Country Cut off from the World for 41 Years: John Butterworth will give an illustrated talk on the amazing history of this isolated state and compare life under a dictator to the freedoms of today.
30.11.2020	Rolls of Rolls Royce: The biographer of Charles Rolls, Bruce Lawson, will tell us of Mr Rolls - 'a brilliant man'; 'the Richard Branson or James Dyson of the Edwardian Age'.

This crossword is supplied by Geoff Tutt's Cryptic Crossword group.



ACROSS

1. Fire idiot with first head for symbol of penitence. (9)
8. A charge for a ring of coral. (5)
9. Declare without former papers, (5)
10. Omphalos with changing e for a for seafaring. (5)
11. Earth possibly for a beating organ. (5)
12. Egotism, selflove. (6)
13. Lustre broadcast in Ireland. (6)
17. Caretaker holds printers symbol. (5)
20. R enough without a unit of measure can be wild. (5)
22. Occupied and employed. (2,3)
23. Note cheeky and dirty. (5)
24. Pirate Lin is snake-like. (9)

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What is the connection? (from Newsletter 96) Steve Binns offered: cows in clover; ants in pants; pigs in shit; and pig in a poke. Geoff Wright offered: pigs in clover; pigs in muck; canary in a coalmine; wolf in sheep's clothing; ants in pants; rat in a trap; hamster on a wheel; and fox in a box.

DOWN

1. Father lives in sin in this country. (5)
2. Two vehicles and a place to sleep. (7)
3. A pair and a shirt in verse. (7)
4. Torn that is broadcast from the east. (6)
5. Husband with rash is wild. (5)
6. A corgi perhaps rising around university in Holland. (5)
7. Made up of famous top performers. (3,4)
12. A job to be filled. (7)
14. A part mixed with a garland gives a siren. (7)
15. I am nuts over this wave. (7)
16. Keep quiet! (4,2)
18. Reportedly to examine again the entertainment. (5)
19. Merit perhaps this metre. (5)
21. Honour loses nothing to change to water. (5)

Subscriptions for 2020

Your **U3A in Ludlow** subscription for 2020 is still £12 and is due by 2nd January. A pink renewal slip is included with this newsletter which should be completed and returned to the Treasurer, together with a cheque or cash. Alternatively, you can download the Renewal form from the website (see 'Documents'); then complete it on line, email it to the Treasurer (me) and make a direct bank transfer. It is necessary that I again have your permission to give the distributors of the Third Age Matters magazine your address. **If you are happy to be added to the direct mailing list for the Third Age Trust magazine, Third Age Matters, please mark the renewal slip with a Y: if you do not want it, please mark N.**

In addition, if you are in a position to complete the Gift Aid Declaration I would be grateful if you would do so **even if you have done it before**. Gift Aid is an important part of our income; so do please complete the gift aid section if you are able. If you are not able to Gift Aid your subscription please cross through this section. If you pay by direct payment to our bank, do please return the pink slip electronically or by post since I need to know your response regarding the Third Age Trust magazine and Gift Aid.

Your subscription which is still £12, gives you access not only to all our study groups, but also to the monthly meetings usually held on the last Monday of each month in the Assembly Rooms.

2020 Membership Cards will be posted to members during February.

David Hatchell

Thank you to Dido Blench, Peony Carpenter and David Hatchell for helpful suggestions about the Newsletter. Please send me your comments, criticisms, and even contributions! *Derek Ball*