



U3A in Ludlow April 2020 News

What U3A is doing

It's only been a couple of weeks since my last study group meeting but it feels a lot longer. We'll all be approaching the changes imposed on us by COVID-19 differently but I'm embracing the change of pace and using the time freed up in my diary (which is now gloriously empty) to catch up on reading, study and home projects. I expect many of you will be doing the same thing.

That is not to say that everything has come to a standstill. Many groups are continuing with their learning and members remain in communication with each other, often through email or Skype or some other tool. There are lots of different ways to remain in touch on line, if you want to experiment, and some of you have contacted me to say you are trying them out. This in itself is a useful form of learning – how many of us (I include myself) have put off having a go at WhatsApp, Instagram, Zoom, WhyPay ... and there are more! This may be the push some of us need.

Of course, not everyone is happy to go down this path. Many coordinators have emailed activities to their members to encourage exchange of ideas and discussion. These include members emailing contributions written in French on a different subject every week (French Conversation); crosswords for members to complete and discuss answers (Cryptic Crosswords); voice recordings e.g. describing the symptoms of an (imaginary!) hangover for diagnosis and recommended treatment (Get By in Spanish); a painting emailed with prompt questions (Art History Appreciation); sharing responses to mathematics problems (Exploring Mathematics). I am aware of many more examples of ways in which coordinators are working with their groups to maintain opportunities for learning and social interaction.

Some of you may also wish to use this time to try something new. You could try some of the online units offered by FutureLearn. These are produced by universities, usually free (always check), self-paced and typically last for between three and six weeks, and between three and four hours per week. Subjects include Literature, Languages (eg Irish, Norwegian, German, Catalan), History (eg Working Lives on Britain's Railways, Genealogy), Politics and Society, Science, Engineering and Maths, Creative Arts, Nature and the Environment, to name but a few. I have tried some of these in the past and can recommend them. The full list for you to browse is at

www.futurelearn.com/courses

Finally, it is worth repeating the advice we are being given about staying healthy: keep in touch with friends and relatives; exercise every day, if possible – get out in the fresh air and see spring happening; learn something new. And we might take inspiration from these words of John F Kennedy: 'When written in Chinese the word 'crisis' is composed of two characters – one represents danger and the other represents opportunity'

Keep well

Peony

Puzzles

Peony has suggested that I send a couple of puzzles with April News. So here are some maths puzzles attached. Do feel free to respond to me if you want.

Derek

If you change your email address please remember to let us know, so that you can continue to receive the *U3A in Ludlow* monthly news.

Further Information about *U3A in Ludlow* is always available on our website:

www.u3ainludlow.org.uk

If you would like to submit an item for the next monthly news please contact us.

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