



# u3a in Ludlow April 2021

## **A message from the Chairman**

I trust that by now everyone has been offered their first covid vaccination. I had mine in an incredibly efficient process a few weeks ago. Now Boris has agreed that I can meet my tai chi teacher in (what I hope is) my covid-free garden and freedom beckons. It has been a long time coming.

You may remember the television programme, 'That was the week that was'. In many ways, the last twelve months have been 'That was the year that wasn't'. However, it has produced some considerable advances in how our daily lives are conducted, particularly with respect to technology. Whilst face-to-face contact has diminished, the use of online technology such as Zoom and Whatsapp has become part of many people's lives, and the use of platforms such as YouTube and podcasts have made many more educational experiences available at the touch of a button. Technology has increased the opportunities for personal independence and has been embraced by a large number of our groups. I suspect that for many its usage will continue and the committee is looking for ways in which it can be used to enhance the offerings available in u3a in Ludlow.

Now, to pressing matters. I am sorry to say that Peony Carpenter, our Study Group Adviser, is stepping down from that role due to family commitments. We owe Peony a great deal of thanks for her efforts over the last few years. Her decision means we are looking for a volunteer to join the committee and take on the role – don't all hide at once! If you are interested, please give me a call on 01299 270047.

*Dr Robert Hodge*  
Chairman

## **Update from the committee**

The committee is currently meeting every month, because there is a lot to think about. Ludlow u3a has recently started using the Beacon management system provided by national u3a which enables us to manage all our affairs more efficiently. If you want to find out more about Beacon watch this introductory video:

<https://beacon.u3a.org.uk/2021/02/22/watch-a-short-introduction-to-beacon/>

We have also been clarifying our different roles on the committee which has helped us identify some areas where we think more could be done. One decision has been to have the new role of Members' Adviser which you can read about in this monthly News.

We are planning a consultation exercise with some of Ludlow u3a members to help our planning as we come out of lockdown and you may well be hearing from someone on the committee in the next month or two. The next committee meeting is on 12 April. If you have anything you would like to be raised at the committee meeting, please get in touch: [info@u3ainludlow.org.uk](mailto:info@u3ainludlow.org.uk)

*Barbara Ball*  
*Secretary*

## **New committee role – Members' adviser**

We have a new committee role which Janice Haines has offered to fill – Members' Adviser. The Members' Adviser will act as the main point of contact for Ludlow u3a members regarding offerings available and will act as the first point of call for potential members. If you have any inquiries about groups, please contact Janice on 01584 878794, [Janicehaines@clara.co.uk](mailto:Janicehaines@clara.co.uk)

## **Committee**

The current committee is composed as follows:

Chairman – Dr Robert HODGE (01299 270047 – [u3a@rjhodge.com](mailto:u3a@rjhodge.com))

Vice Chair – Janice HAINES (01584 878974 – [janhaines@clara.co.uk](mailto:janhaines@clara.co.uk))

Secretary – Barbara BALL (01584 879180 – [barbara@ludlowballs.forec9.co.uk](mailto:barbara@ludlowballs.forec9.co.uk))

Treasurer – Grace WILKINS (07990 526203 – [gracewilkins@aol.com](mailto:gracewilkins@aol.com))

Study Group Adviser – (pro tem) Robert HODGE (01299 270047 – [u3a@rjhodge.com](mailto:u3a@rjhodge.com))

Members' Adviser – Janice HAINES (01584 878974 – [janhaines@clara.co.uk](mailto:janhaines@clara.co.uk))

Monthly Meeting Organiser – Sue BILLING (07710 756093 – [sueatmill84@yahoo.com](mailto:sueatmill84@yahoo.com))

U3A Network – Stuart McLAREN (01584 874622 – [themclarens@me.com](mailto:themclarens@me.com))

U3A Plus – Peter LAW (01584 877012 – [peter.peterwlaw@gmail.com](mailto:peter.peterwlaw@gmail.com))

Member – Suzanne TAYLOR (07455 367554 - [suzannecaroltaylor@gmail.com](mailto:suzannecaroltaylor@gmail.com))

## **Get to know your committee**

### **Janice Haines: Vice Chair**

I was elected Vice Chair this year, having served on the committee as Treasurer and Membership Secretary in a previous period of office.



I moved to Ludlow from Portsmouth with my husband, Mike, on his retirement in 2000. Before coming to Ludlow I had worked for some years with a firm of Chartered Accountants and I had qualified as an adult education teacher. I enjoyed going to college to get my teaching certificate so, on moving to Ludlow, I decided to do some serious study and get a degree. I chose as my subject Criminal Justice Studies. I had been appointed a magistrate in Portsmouth in 1994 and had transferred to the Ludlow bench, so criminology was of great interest. I loved

formal study, particularly the opportunity to visit academic libraries.

u3a has allowed me to continue to study over the years (though not so formally) a wide variety of subjects from Mathematics to Handicrafts. I have enjoyed them all and made many friends throughout my time with the groups. This is particularly true of the Walking with a Purpose group, of which Mike and I have now been members for over 20 years.

### **Barbara Ball: Secretary**



For nearly forty years I taught mathematics in comprehensive schools in Leicestershire. I enjoyed the challenge of finding ways to help teenagers realise they could enjoy and understand mathematics. I am still involved with the education of young people through my work as Vice Chair of governors at the secondary school in Ludlow.

I retired to Ludlow in 2004 and joined Ludlow u3a soon after. I met Janice Haines in a u3a photography study group and she suggested I joined the committee. I started as Study Group Adviser and became Vice Chair and then Chair. During the six years I was on the committee we put time and energy into moving Ludlow u3a from paper-based and telephone communication to the email and online communication we have today. The present committee was elected only three months ago and we are busy redefining our roles and discussing how we can improve communication with members of Ludlow u3a as we come out of lockdown.

### **Looking for a pianist to work with opera singer**

Hilary Malcolm is a singer of wide and long experience as a soloist in opera, oratorio and song. She would like to find a pianist/vocal coach with similar interests, who would be interested in exploring the vocal repertoire, mainly for fun and interest. She has been living in Ludlow for eighteen months, but the lockdown has severely curtailed her search for such a person. She lives in Ludlow but is happy to drive a reasonable distance. Telephone 07712 589432

### **Exploring World Faiths – West Midlands u3a Special Subject Week**

For five days, 12-16 April, a series of talks, covering two world faiths each day, will be given via Zoom. These will take place from 10.00-11.30 each day. There will be plenty of opportunity to discuss and ask questions.

Talks will cover Christianity; Islam and Christian Science; Hinduism and Buddhism; the Baha'i and Sikh faiths; Scientology and Judaism.

For more information, and to register, please go to: <https://u3asites.org.uk/west-midlands/events>

### **u3a learning events**

National Office continues to put together a programme of online talks. For information and to book, go to <https://www.u3a.org.uk/events/educational-events>

### **Recording of last Monday's u3a talk available now**

A recording is available, via Zoom, of Ian and Hilary Templeton's talk on Monday 29 March, in which they took us on a virtual tour of Britain. To watch, please contact [info@u3ainludlow.org.uk](mailto:info@u3ainludlow.org.uk) for the link. The recording will be available until 25 April.

## Monday Meetings 2021

### **26 April at 11 am on Zoom      My Death My Decision      Phil Cheatle**

MDMD (My Death, My Decision) is a group which campaigns for a change in the law that currently prevents 'Assisted Dying' in the UK. Phil is their Lead Campaign Commentator. He will explore some of the complex ethical questions regarding how much choice we should have in deciding the manner and timing of our death. This will be an interactive session, so bring along your questions.

### **24 May at 11am on Zoom    Dad's Army: The Nation's Favourite Comedy    Charles Garland**

This is a change to the previously advertised programme.

What sets Dad's Army apart from the rest of the TV comedy archive? Charles Garland, himself an actor, writer, composer and producer, was, for over 20 years, assistant to the writers of the Dad's Army series, David Croft and Jimmy Perry. Sitcom production at the BBC became a large part of Charles' life and he also re-edited most of the classic comedy archive for the BBC. Charles now presents a fascinating and amusing talk with anecdotes and personal insights about the writers and cast of the series, and even takes us into the studio.

### **Zoom presentations**

To join the meeting click:

<https://zoom.us/j/93508662192?pwd=eC9McjVrRkcxc3BETUNjWmtuZlV5dz09>

Alternatively, go to [www.zoom.us/join](http://www.zoom.us/join) (or use the Zoom app to join) and enter

Meeting ID: 935 0866 2192

Passcode: 327034

If you are unable to use Zoom, you can listen in by telephone. Call one of the following numbers and enter the meeting ID and passcode above.

0330 088 5830

0131 460 1196

0203 481 5237

0203 481 5240

0203 901 7895

## Monday meetings later in the year

### **28 June                      Rolls of Rolls Royce:**

Bruce Lawson, the biographer of Charles Rolls, will speak enthusiastically about Mr Rolls – 'a brilliant man'; 'the Richard Branson and James Dyson of the Edwardian Age'.

### **27 September              Annual General Meeting followed by Bessie Blount, of Kinlet**

Bessie was the teenage mistress of Henry VIII and mother of his son Henry. Who was she and what happened to their son? Dr Robert Hodge will reveal all.

**25 October                      Canals and Crime Fiction**

The backdrop of author Andy Griffiee's talk is our 2200 miles of canals and how they can be the perfect setting for the crime novel.

**29 November                      Albania – 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.

**Monday Talks in future years**

We receive many offers of talks but recommendations from our own members are always welcome too. If you know of a speaker, or you yourself are a speaker who can offer a topic which you think may be of interest to our members, please contact Sue Billing at [sueatmill84@yahoo.com](mailto:sueatmill84@yahoo.com)

**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](http://www.u3ainludlow.org.uk)**

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

**Telephone Contact: 01584 879180**

**Email Contact: [derek@ludlowballs.force9.co.uk](mailto:derek@ludlowballs.force9.co.uk)**