

### A message from the Chairman

We had 576 members at the beginning of 2020 and it is not surprising that a number of those have not renewed for 2021. Some have gone to different destinations and some have simply decided no longer to be a member (I was very touched by the two who sent rather lovely cards to explain). But to those 487 of you who have renewed – and especially those who have joined recently – a big thank-you for your continued support of u3a in Ludlow.

Sadly, 78 of our members have not responded to the three emails we have sent (or two letters for those not on email) and have not renewed. No reason is necessary for non-renewal, but it is sad to see them leave without the opportunity to say goodbye. We thank them for their past support of u3a in Ludlow.

The annual general meeting (delayed from its normal March date) takes place on 27 September. The constitution requires that a new committee be elected so it is time to press-gang some willing volunteers. If you would like to volunteer, or wish to nominate someone (with their agreement), please follow the process detailed by the Secretary on page 2.

I hope you have been able to enjoy the relative freedoms we have been allowed to assume. I have enjoyed very relaxing breaks in Chester, Buxton and York and am looking forward this month to Wales and Orkney – and particularly a girls' night out (I will be proud to be an honorary girl) with my cousins in Stirling whom I have not seen for a very long time.

The garden is looking rather lovely, though it was too hot for me during the recent heatwave. The suspected thistles I mentioned last time turned out to be prickly sow thistle and have been removed before they seed. The wild flower meadow is slowly establishing itself and is becoming a riot of colour. It will give a great deal of pleasure.

I am pleased to say that group activity is picking up as everyone creeps out of isolation and I look forward to seeing you all at the AGM. Don't forget we are having cake!

*Dr Robert Hodge*  
Chairman

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If your email address has changed, please contact: [treasurer@u3ainludlow.org.uk](mailto:treasurer@u3ainludlow.org.uk)

Following our usual practice, there will be no Monday meetings in August.

## ■ Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting of u3a in Ludlow will take place on Monday 27 September at 11am. We hope to be able to meet in person, and we have not yet confirmed the venue. If we cannot, the meeting will take place via Zoom. Full details for that or any venue will be in the September newsletter. Nominations for committee should be advised to Barbara Ball.

## ■ Election of u3a in Ludlow committee for 2021 – 2022

The term of office for all committee members is one year. Under the current constitution people can serve for up to 6 years on the committee and as officers for up to 3 years. At the AGM a new committee and officers will be elected, and each nominee has to be nominated by two members of u3a in Ludlow. In order to simplify the process this year, if you wish to be nominated, please ask two members (who are not on the current committee) to send you an email saying that they are nominating you and stating whether it is for Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary, Treasurer or Committee Member. Both emails should then be forwarded by the nominee to the Secretary at [barbara@ludlowballs.force9.co.uk](mailto:barbara@ludlowballs.force9.co.uk) before Monday 30 August.

Please contact her if you have any questions about this election.

*Barbara Ball*  
Secretary

## ■ u3a Click and Save

The u3a Trust has launched a new scheme that will allow you to accrue savings when shopping. This scheme is free to join for current u3a members. It works by giving you a rebate of say, 2% to 5% when purchasing gift cards for individual stores which can then be used for purchases (or 7% on a One4All multi-retailer card which can be used in 140 retailers). The rebate can then be used towards further gift cards. 10% of your rebates are then given to u3a in Ludlow.

For more information, go to <https://www.u3aclickandsave.co.uk/x/Help.htm>

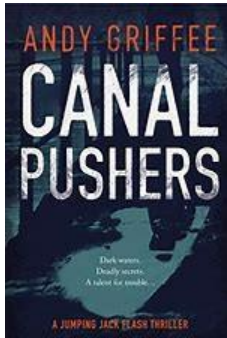
To join, go to <https://www.u3aclickandsave.co.uk/x/> For your ID number, use your membership number if it begins with '1'. If your membership number does not begin with '1', prefix it with '9', '90', or '900' to make a four-digit number.

## ■ Monday meetings later in the year

### 27 September Bessie Blount, of Kinlet: Mistress of Henry VIII Robert Hodge

Elizabeth Blount of Kinlet, who had a reputation as a beauty, was sent to court as a maid-of-honour to Catherine of Aragon. She caught the eye of the King and in 1514 or 1515, at the age of 16 became his mistress. The relationship continued for about eight years, and in 1519 she bore him a son, Henry Fitzroy, later Duke of Richmond, who might just have become Henry IX. Bessie Blount later married twice. Who was she and what happened to Henry?

### 25 October Canals and Crime Fiction Andy Griffiee



Canals: idyllic inland waterways or sinister crime settings? To Andy Griffiee they are both.

Former BBC journalist and producer, Andy Griffiee, was inspired to launch into crime writing by the real-life story of Manchester's 'Canal Pusher', the widely reported theory that a spike in deaths by drowning was no accident.

Andy is enthusiastic about narrow boating along some of our 2200 miles of canals which provide him with ample background material for his writing. Andy enjoys using canals as settings for contemporary crime fiction. His talk includes reference to other authors writing in this genre together with insights into the Midlands setting, plots and characters of his own novel *Canal Pushers*.

### 29 November Albania – cut off from the world for 41 years John Butterworth



**Albania – the Country Cut off from the World for 41 Years:** 'I met an Albanian army captain and avid communist, Berti Dosti, who told me about life under one of the cruellest dictators of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, the amazing history of this isolated state and the story of his totally different new life today.'

John Butterworth MBE, former journalist and newspaper editor, will draw on his conversations with Dosti to give an illustrated talk on Albania then and now.

## ■ On Line Talks and Learning Events

### Ancient Greek myths

Robert Hodge will conclude his series of talks on the ancient Greek myths. The seventh in the series will take place on Wednesday 4 August at 4pm (Odysseus and Achilles), followed by the last on 18 August, also at 4pm (Theseus, and the tales of the tragic heroes).

To join, click the following link:

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

or go to [www.zoom.us/join](http://www.zoom.us/join) and enter meeting ID: 935 0866 2192 and passcode: 327034

The talks are being recorded. If you have missed one, or would like to listen again, please contact: [info@u3ainludlow.org.uk](mailto:info@u3ainludlow.org.uk). A 'family tree' of the Greek gods and heroes in the talks is also available, as is a list of the artworks used in the talk

## **Upcoming Online Talks: Organised by the Third Age Trust**

From the u3a national website a range of events is available, some of which attract a fee.

Here is a sample below, arranged by the Third Age Trust, which *are* free to access: [u3a.org.uk/events](https://u3a.org.uk/events)

### **Friday Watercolour Painters**

**Fridays from 20<sup>th</sup> August to 10<sup>th</sup> September from 2pm to 3.15pm**

Tony Burke, who runs watercolour classes with Huddersfield u3a, is presenting a series of interactive painting sessions. Would you like to take up the art? Or do you want to develop new skills? Four sessions. Recommendations for painting equipment and other details can be found through [u3a.org.uk/events](https://u3a.org.uk/events).

### **An Introduction to Linguistics**

**Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> August at 10am.**

An introductory talk on the science of words by linguistics expert Mark Newbrook of Furness u3a. How do languages convey meaning? How are they learned? Why do they vary and change? Mark surveys the discipline and how it is pursued, including 'folk linguistics', popular ideas about language. Following this introduction, listeners will be ready to look more closely at the various branches of the discipline. [u3a.org.uk/events](https://u3a.org.uk/events).

### **What philosophers say about life and how to live it well** (final talk of a series arranged by the Third Age Trust)

Join Shri Sharma, u3a Philosophy Subject Adviser, for this series of 30-minute talks followed by discussion on life experiences with the audience and some questions.

The talks and discussion by Shri Sharma, u3a Philosophy Subject Adviser, concern different philosophers' approaches to life and how to live it well. Shri will invite comments and observations about particular philosophies, how these ideas relate to life, or what the audience makes of, and takes out of, the ideas presented.

**The final 30 minute talk is on Friday 6 August at 2pm.**

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/what-philosophers-say-about-life-and-how-to-live-it-well-tickets-156074999525>

### **Wellbeing in Nature – repeat talk**

Join Susan Collini, Subject Adviser for Wellbeing with Nature, for this interactive talk and discussion.

The benefits of awareness of the drama and beauty of the dynamic natural world we inhabit are indeed precious, as we are becoming increasingly aware.

This may be a repeat talk, but the conversation is guaranteed to be new.

**Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> August at 2pm. Free online via Zoom. [u3a.org.uk/events](https://u3a.org.uk/events)**

# Committee update

■ The Committee members are currently as follows:

Chairman	Dr Robert HODGE (01299 270047)	<a href="mailto:chair@u3ainludlow.org.uk">chair@u3ainludlow.org.uk</a>
Vice Chair	Janice HAINES (01584 878794)	<a href="mailto:janhaines88@gmail.com">janhaines88@gmail.com</a>
Secretary	Barbara BALL (01584 879180)	<a href="mailto:barbara@ludlowballs.forec9.co.uk">barbara@ludlowballs.forec9.co.uk</a>
Treasurer	Grace WILKINS (07990 526203)	<a href="mailto:treasurer@u3ainludlow.org.uk">treasurer@u3ainludlow.org.uk</a>
Study Group Adviser	Robert HODGE (01299 270047)	<a href="mailto:u3a@rjhodge.com">u3a@rjhodge.com</a>
Members' Adviser	Janice HAINES (878794)	<a href="mailto:membersadviser@u3ainludlow.org.uk">membersadviser@u3ainludlow.org.uk</a>
Monthly Meeting		
Organiser	Sue BILLING (07710 756093)	<a href="mailto:sueatmill84@yahoo.com">sueatmill84@yahoo.com</a>
u3A Network	Stuart McLAREN (01584 874622)	<a href="mailto:themclarens@me.com">themclarens@me.com</a>
u3A Plus	Peter LAW (01584 877012)	<a href="mailto:peter.peterwlaw@gmail.com">peter.peterwlaw@gmail.com</a>
Communications and marketing	Suzanne TAYLOR (07455 367554)	<a href="mailto:suzannecaroltaylor@gmail.com">suzannecaroltaylor@gmail.com</a>

All the members of the committee are Trustees of the registered charity, u3a in Ludlow. A description of each role, along with a description of the role of Trustee, is available on the Committee page on the website.

If you are interested in serving on the Committee, please contact Robert Hodge:

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

## ■ Update from the committee

The committee has not met in July but has been working by email on a new constitution which will be presented to the Annual General Meeting on 27 September for approval. A copy of this constitution and the other documents for the AGM will be available with the September newsletter.

At the AGM a new committee has to be elected as well as the officers: Chairman, Vice Chair, Secretary and Treasurer. Elsewhere in this newsletter\* you can find how to access a nomination form.

The committee is always looking for new people to join it and, in particular, we are keen to identify a Study Group Adviser. If you want to find out more about how the committee works and any of the roles involved please contact any member of the current committee.

*Barbara Ball*  
*Secretary*

\* Details of the nomination process can be found in the 'Noticeboard' section above, under the heading 'Election of u3a in Ludlow committee for 2021 – 2022'

# Study group update

## **Architecture, Art, Bridge, Chinese Mandarin, Cinema.... through to Scrabble, Walking and Welsh...**

...read about all the Study Groups on the Ludlow u3a website: <https://u3ainludlow.weebly.com> There is a very wide range of areas of interest there. Although some of the existing groups have yet to find their feet, many will be back on form by September.

For information on any study group contact the Members' Adviser [Jan Haines](#) [janhaines88@gmail.com](mailto:janhaines88@gmail.com) who will be delighted to help.

### ■ **Latin for Beginners**

Robert Hodge is hoping to set up a new group for those anyone who is interested in learning Latin. Those who are completely new to Latin and those who have a little knowledge from schooldays are welcome. Sessions will be held fortnightly on Mondays, Thursdays or Fridays (depending on which day is most convenient for members). The group will use a combination of a Latin primer (which members will have to buy) and material that Robert will provide. Grammar will rear its ugly head, but the group will focus on translation and reading Latin texts. To help keep everything in context there will be discussion about the Ancient World, classical Latin authors and occasional visits to read inscriptions and get a taste of life in Roman Britain.

Contact: Robert Hodge

[u3a@rjhodge.com](mailto:u3a@rjhodge.com)

01299 270047

### ■ **Music for Pleasure**

Peter Law writes: The group was launched by Mavis Wilson in 2003, and I recently took over as its 3rd coordinator, following on from Geoff Neden. We normally meet monthly at members' homes on a rota basis. Two members each month select a 45 minute program based on their CDs. The meetings last 2 hrs, with a 30 minute refreshment and socialising break between the two selections. We are not 'highbrow', and generally try to ensure a mixture of well known and rarely heard classical music, with some more popular pieces (such as the Swedish Rhapsody or songs by the Spinners) and some jazz items. We currently have several vacancies in the group, and membership should suit anyone who enjoys listening to the Proms or Classic FM (except we don't have irritating ads).

During the pandemic we have circulated Spotify playlists lasting up to 1 hour, with 2 members selections each month. We hope to resume face to face meetings in September, when the meeting is scheduled at my house.

Contact: Peter Law

01584 877012

### ■ **Recorder Ensemble**

The existing group has been the victim of its own success, spawning a separate group in lockdown operating from Presteigne. The remaining group now has room for new members. It is a group of able players who can manage instruments in F & C:

If you are not sure, do ring Bettina for advice.

Contact: Bettina Selby

[bettina.selby@gmail.com](mailto:bettina.selby@gmail.com)

01584 872 208

## ■ **New u3a group : Creative Piano**

This a new kind of group, already flagged up in the June Newsletter. It all starts on 4<sup>th</sup> August in St Lawrence's Church in Ludlow. Preferred days (Fortnightly on Tuesday or Thursday) will be discussed. Indeed, lively discussion and mutual support will be the cornerstones around which the learning will happen. This is a very interesting approach to a major topic . Whether you are new to the piano, played as a child or have maintained practice through thick and thin, you will be very welcome in this group. David Gaukroger, who will be leading the group, has a lifetime's experience of teaching at all levels and has found group learning to be by far the most productive and enjoyable environment in which to make progress.

**Initial meeting 2pm on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> August in St Lawrence's Church in Ludlow.**

## ■ **Armchair Travel Group**

The Armchair Travel Group is looking for new members. Travel the world from the comfort of your armchair meeting in members' homes on the first Monday mornings monthly. Learn about different places or countries that members have visited. Discussions ensue, not only of the places themselves, but also, we learn a little of the customs, geography and people that live there. Sometimes we have power point presentations, or screen pictures on the television. Other times we use books, postcards and maps to help with the talk.

If you are interested, please contact: [info@u3ainludlow.org.uk](mailto:info@u3ainludlow.org.uk)

## ■ **Social History**

This group is actively looking for new members , ideally five, to share studies and knowledge of our wide history, from Anglo Saxon to Victorian times. Led by Penny Robinson, members choose a topic for presentation and discussion. Third monday of the month, meeting in the morning.

Contact Penny for more details: [peneloperobinson21@gmail.com](mailto:peneloperobinson21@gmail.com)

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# Useful links

If you have any useful links that would help advance the education of other members, please get in touch: [info@u3ainludlow.org.uk](mailto:info@u3ainludlow.org.uk)

## ■ Did you know? – we have a website!

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

The website has details of monthly talks, including times and joining details. There is a page with details of the committee, full details of groups and an archive of monthly newsletters, along with a wealth of other interesting and useful information. If you would like to see something added, please get in touch: [info@u3ainludlow.org.uk](mailto:info@u3ainludlow.org.uk)

## ■ What's a MOOC?

A MOOC is a 'massive open online course'. MOOCs are free and many are run by leading organizations, including top universities around the world. A MOOC is an opportunity to undertake a short course of study in a topic that interests you. There is no one central repository, though [www.mooc.org](http://www.mooc.org) is a good start. Try a web search for 'mooc uk' to find more – many UK universities offer MOOCs.

## ■ TED talks

Not interested in a course of study but would like to listen to a short talk, sometimes by a world-renowned authority on a favourite subject? TED talks could be the answer. These are free, online talks – usually in video form – lasting from a few minutes anywhere to an hour or so. Go [www.ted.com](http://www.ted.com) for more information.

## ■ The Open University - OpenLearn

The Open University offers nearly 1000 free courses, from introductory to advanced level, in eight different topic areas: Health, Sports and Psychology; Education and Development; History and the Arts; Languages; Money and Business; Nature and Environment; Science, Maths and Technology; and Society, Politics and Law. For more information and to sign up, go to <https://www.open.edu/openlearn/free-courses>.

## ■ FutureLearn

Future learn offers hundreds of free courses lasting typically from six to eight weeks ([www.futurelearn.com](http://www.futurelearn.com)).

## ■ 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>