

### **A message from the Chairman**

An exceptionally good turnout for the November talk – *Albania: the country cut off from the world for 41 years*. Almost 90 of you came to the Assembly rooms to hear John Butterworth. Let's see if we can beat that in January.

And so now another year draws to a close with some doubt as to how things will be. I was very lucky that my trip to Italy was hassle free. Apart from the rain, it was wonderful. I arrived in Rome in the middle of the G20 summit so everything was in chaos (or even more so) and it was a major holiday weekend, so Rome was thronged with Italians. But there were no tourists to speak of and I had the pleasure of the galleries in the Capitoline Museum almost to myself and of being the only person walking through the entrance to Pompeii.

Everywhere I went, restaurants, museums, archaeological sites, long distance trains, I had to show my Covid vaccination status – don't even think of objecting – and it was normal to be peremptorily told to *indossa la mascherina!* But it seems to work – their infection rate is less than one third of ours.

The committee is looking towards 2022 and the first thing we have to organize is subscription renewal. We have taken the decision to keep the subscription at its very long-standing rate of £12, though we will doubtless have to raise it at some time. Those of you with good short-term memories will recall that you have only recently renewed. That is because we delayed renewal this year by six months and only charged half the rate, but it is time to get back to normal.

It would greatly help if as many of you as possible would use the facility to renew online, where you can pay by credit or debit card. This can easily be done by going to the members' portal, logging in and selecting the renewal option. You will receive an email during December with the details. The email will also have a membership form for those of you who prefer to pay by bank transfer, and it will be possible to renew in person at the monthly meeting at the end of January.

I am very pleased to say that my appeal at the November talk resulted in a volunteer coming forward to serve on the committee. Jackie Hodgson has now been co-opted on to the committee and we look forward to working together.

We still have room for more volunteers and particularly someone to volunteer as newsletter editor, a role I currently fill in addition to being chairman (and another couple of roles). It would be good to find someone who has a few hours once a month to put together the newsletter. Copy is supplied and the only skills required are a good eye for detail and some PC skills in word processing. If you are interested in learning more, please give me a call on 01299 270047 or email: [info@u3ainludlow.org.uk](mailto:info@u3ainludlow.org.uk)

*Dr Robert Hodge*  
Chairman

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# Study group update

## Science discussion



The group did not meet during lockdown, but is now ready to start up again and is looking for additional members. Meetings are on the second Tuesday mornings each month and members choose topics to present and discuss science in all its aspects.

## Architecture



For those with an interest in buildings, historic or otherwise. A varied programme of members' presentations takes place at members' houses. No previous knowledge is needed. The group is looking for additional members. Meetings take place on the third Wednesday afternoon monthly.

## Photography



The photography group is starting up again. If you are interested, please contact the members' adviser.

## How do I use my laptop?

One of our u3a in Ludlow members got in touch after the suggestion in last month's Newsletter for a 'How do I use my laptop' study group. He told me that Hands Together Ludlow has a Technology Group to help those with little or no experience of using computers. They run face to face sessions from rooms at Ludlow Methodist Church, in Broad Street.



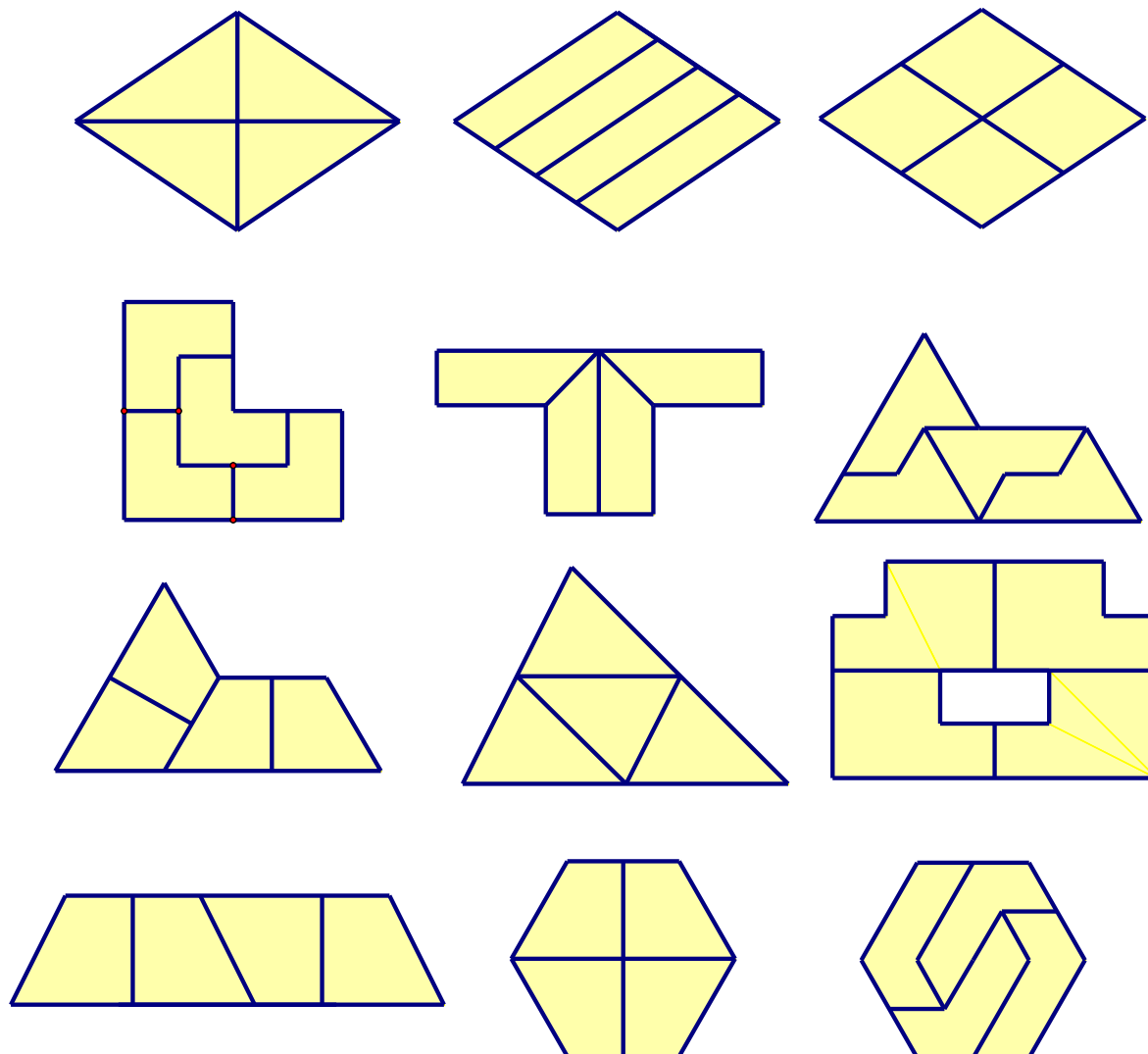
Hands Together Ludlow is a registered charity and one of the aims of the Technology Group is to make access to on-line services easy, routine and 'fear-free'.

I am told that if anyone wants to bring their device to one of the sessions to have specific tuition and advice, they are most welcome. Hands Together Ludlow can also do some 'home visits' for people with mobility issues. Initial contact should be made through the helpline on 01584 890160.

For more information on the above groups please contact: [membersadviser@u3ainludlow.org.uk](mailto:membersadviser@u3ainludlow.org.uk)

## Exploring Mathematics

Answers to *Exploring shapes* (from November's Newsletter)



### Christmas puzzle

Most people know *The Twelve Days of Christmas* song, where I receive a large number of presents from my true love, very large if they are all counted separately. For example, over the first three days I receive 10 (3 partridges, 4 turtle doves and 3 French hens). How many presents do I receive over the twelve days? A lot! A calculator might be needed to help me discover the answer. So here is a different question. The following year my true love is going off me a bit and so sends me the same presents as last year on the odd days, but sends the presents to my sister on the even days. Who receives more presents this year? How many more? Can you answer this *without* using a calculator?



Derek Ball

Send comments if you have any. If you want to do more puzzling why not come to Exploring Mathematics. We meet in Ludlow on a Monday afternoon once a month. If you are interested or want to know more contact me ([derek@ludlowballs.force9.co.uk](mailto:derek@ludlowballs.force9.co.uk) or 01584 879180)

# Noticeboard

## Monday meetings

**Back at the Assembly Rooms – 1030 for tea and coffee – 1100 start.**

**There is no talk in December.**

**31 January 2022**

**Eglantyne and Ellesmere**

**Alison Utting**



Eglantyne Jebb was born in 1876 in Ellesmere and spent her early life there. She was a member of a fascinating family who worked to improve social conditions nationally and internationally. Eglantyne and her sister Dorothy created Save the Children to help children impoverished and displaced by the Great War. Eglantyne also wrote 'The Declaration of the Rights of the Child' which was adopted by the League of Nations. Her work changed the lives of millions.

Alison Utting's illustrated talk will explore Eglantyne's life and achievements and celebrate her links with Shropshire. Alison, who lives in Ellesmere, is a teacher with a love of public speaking, theatre, amateur dramatics and history.

## Advent calendar

A u3a Advent Calendar has been produced this year, partly as a bit of fun and partly to help dispel a few myths about the u3a movement.

Like all good advent calendars, you can only open one door at a time. The link for the calendar is [u3a Advent Calendar](#)

## 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)

### The Aztecs - 'Warriors of the Eagle'

2nd of 3 series' presented by Maria Chester, u3a Subject Advisor for American Archaeology. This is the 2nd of 3 series which Maria is offering, exploring ancient civilisations of the Americas. The final series on Inca civilizations will take place in March. 13 and 20 December, 17 and 24 January. All at 4pm. Join [here](#).

### **Astronomy – what’s out there**

Join u3a subject adviser for astronomy, Martin Willock, for a virtual exploration of our solar system. 7 December at 2pm. To register, click [here](#).

### **A talk from Holocaust survivor – Steven Frank**

Join Steven and hear his family’s remarkable story to freedom. 9 December at 2pm. To register, click [here](#).

### **Live Cookery Demonstration – Vegetarian Christmas Special**

Join chef Alex for a live cookery feast demonstration. To register, click [here](#).

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)

# 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>
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:info@u3ainludlow.org.uk">info@u3ainludlow.org.uk</a>
Members' Adviser	Janice HAINES (01584 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>
Communications and Marketing	Suzanne TAYLOR (07455 367554)	<a href="mailto:suzannecaroltaylor@gmail.com">suzannecaroltaylor@gmail.com</a>
u3A Plus	Peter LAW (01584 877012)	<a href="mailto:peter.peterwlaw@gmail.com">peter.peterwlaw@gmail.com</a>
Committee member	Jackie HODGSON (07792 644093)	<a href="mailto:jackiehodgson2401@gmail.com">jackiehodgson2401@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).

## ■ Committee

### Committee Update December 2021

#### New Committee Member

Jackie Hodgson responded to our Chair's appeal at last month's meeting for more of you to volunteer to join the committee. She has been co-opted on to the committee and has joined the Study Groups Subcommittee.

#### Study Groups Subcommittee

The subcommittee has collated information about all the study groups and is particularly concerned that almost two thirds of study groups cannot take any more members. This is usually because of space and so the committee is currently collecting information about all the meeting rooms available in Ludlow. The subcommittee is also exploring ways of supporting those Study Group Coordinators who would like more help and guidance.

### **Study Group Coordinators access to Beacon**

Giving access to Beacon for our Study Group Coordinators is proving to be a much bigger task than we had anticipated, but we hope to have completed the task before the end of 2021. This means they will be able to keep their membership list up to date and monitor their waiting list. Once the waiting list is big enough the Study Group Coordinator will be contacted to discuss the formation of a second group. Study Group Coordinators are reminded that anyone wanting to join a group should be invited to a taster session even if there is not currently enough room for any more members.

### **Safeguarding Policy**

At our meeting on 22 November the committee looked at safeguarding and bullying policies from other u3a s. Suzanne Taylor is going to use these as a starting point from which to write a suitable policy for u3a in Ludlow and also draw on her experiences of having worked in a number of different settings with such policies.

### **U3a in Ludlow Committee 2022 and beyond**

Our Chairman completes his term of office at the next AGM which is scheduled for March 2022. Hence the committee needs to plan for a new Chair and find people to fill the key posts of Study Group Adviser and Newsletter Editor. We are holding a special committee meeting in January to discuss the membership of the committee for 2022 and beyond.

Now is your chance to make a difference and think about joining the committee!

*Barbara Ball*  
*Secretary*