

A message from the Chairman



Regularly driving over Clee Hill from my home in Hopton Wafers, the last few weeks have seen some wonderful sunny, though very cold, days. The days are noticeably getting longer and there is a distinct sense that Spring is on its way – though that probably means that it is going to snow. That sense of renewal is heightened by the news that we are beginning to come to terms with Covid and may yet see a return to some semblance of normality.

For those of us who like to travel and have felt very cooped up for the last year or so, it looks as if we may actually be able to see some of our friends and relatives and even – dare I say it – holiday in the sun. Whilst my long-planned trip to Russia has been postponed for the fifth time due to a ‘tit-for-tat’ over vaccine recognition, and China looks set to be closed for the rest of the year, I can look forward to a weekend in Paris.

After the disruption of the last two years, our AGM goes back to its normal end March timetable. At the AGM a new committee has to be elected. I have made appeals fairly regularly for volunteers to join this hard-working group and again I encourage members to give up some of their free time to contributing to making u3a in Ludlow a success. Perhaps among those of you who have recently joined there are one or two who might be interested. At the moment, I fill the roles of chairman (though stepping down in March), newsletter editor, Beacon administrator, website administrator, and study group adviser. It seems unfair that I should hog them all and not allow others to contribute.

Dr Robert Hodge

Chairman

Membership renewal

The quickest way to renew is to use the online facility. Click the link to go to the [Members' Portal](#) and pay with a debit or credit card via PayPal. Members sharing an address can renew together with one payment. Alternatively, payment can be made by bank transfer or by cheque, but we ask you to click the link to download and complete the [membership renewal form](#) to let us know that your details have not changed (or go to the Documents page on the website: www.u3ainludlow.org.uk)

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u3a in Ludlow is a charity, registered in England and Wales, number 1072055 To contact the editor, please email: newsletter@u3ainludlow.org.uk

If your email address has changed, please contact: treasurer@u3ainludlow.org.uk

Study group update

Scottish Country Dancing



This popular group is making a comeback! Starting on Monday 7 March, the group will meet twice a month on the first and third Monday mornings at Ludlow Womens' Centre, under the expert leadership of Jane McIntosh.

Farms, Food and Environment



The Farms and Food study group has been running very successfully for a number of years and over that time has had a number of very diverse meetings. They now plan to widen the scope of speakers, studies and visits by including 'Environment' in their range of activities.

Calligraphy



A suggestion has been raised that there might be some interest in a calligraphy group. Foundational, Roman writing, Italic, Uncial, Gothic, Copperplate are all different 'hands' that can be used for many different projects, including hand-addressing invitations, creating beautiful written artwork or poetry, and enhancing other paper crafts.

Photography



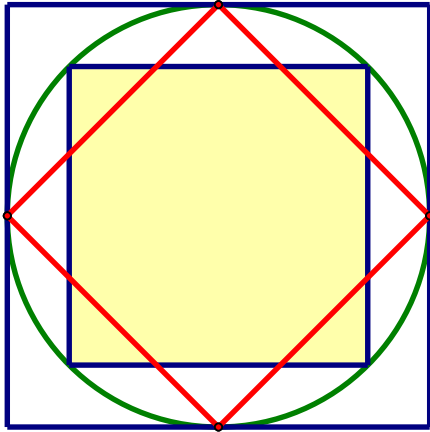
The photography group is starting up again. If you are interested, please contact the members' adviser.

For more information on the above groups please contact: membersadviser@u3ainludlow.org.uk

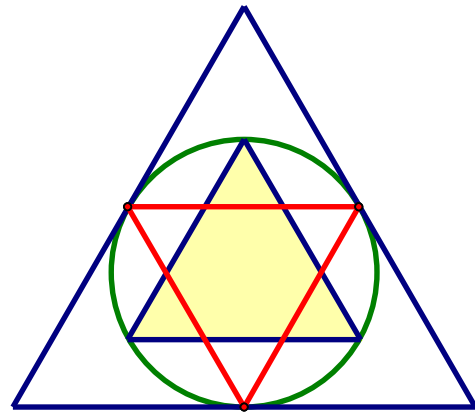
Exploring Mathematics

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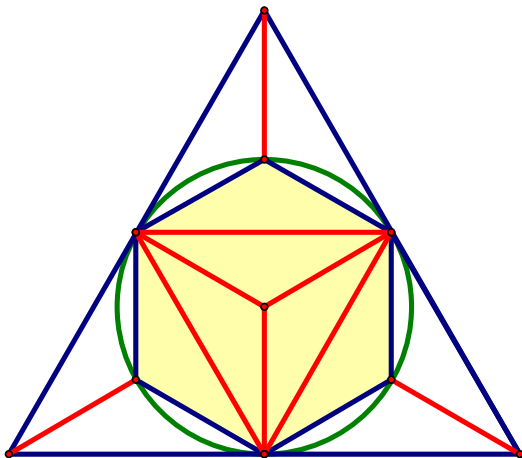
Answer to *New Year puzzle* (from January's Newsletter)



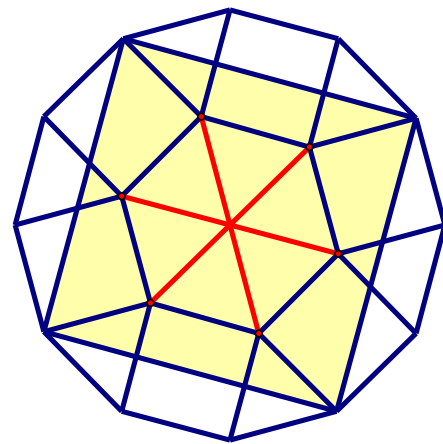
1/2 of the big square is yellow



1/4 of the big triangle is yellow



1/2 of the triangle is yellow



There are 2 squares and 4 triangles outside the yellow square and 6 squares and 12 triangles in the dodecagon. So 2/3 of the decagon is yellow.



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 or 01584 879180)

Derek Ball

Noticeboard

■ Study Group Survey

u3a in Ludlow is a registered charity whose objectives are *“the advancement of education, and in particular the education of older people and those retired from full time work, by all means including associated activities conducive to learning and personal development in Ludlow and its surrounding locality”*. The committee, as trustees of the charity, has a legal obligation to meet those objectives.

For the last couple of months, we have been discussing how we can ensure that we are meeting those obligations and that the range of study groups offered are in line with the needs and interests of our members. In order to do that we need information.

Are there groups you are interested in but have been told they are full? Are there groups you would like join but they don't meet on a convenient day? Are there topics you are interested in but for which there is no group? If it sumo wrestling you may continue to be disappointed, but you never know!

You will shortly receive a request to complete a short questionnaire. It will take only a couple of minutes. We'd love to get nearly six hundred replies – it will really help us determine how to move forward. Please respond if you can.

■ Monday meetings

28 February 2022

The Gardens and Houses of E L Lutyens

Richard Railings



One of the leading architects of his time, Lutyens is renowned for his wide range of iconic buildings and memorials. Lutyens' professional interests also extended to gardens through his collaboration with influential horticulturist Gertrude Jekyll who was herself responsible for designing over 400 gardens.

A splendidly illustrated talk presented by horticulturists Richard and Jill Railings who took

over the plant nursery and display garden at Delbury Hall Walled Garden almost a decade ago and created their nursery Mynd Hardy Plants.

28 March 2022

AGM and Quiz

The March meeting will be the Annual General Meeting. We also plan to hold a quiz – allowing us to socialise and compete. Come prepared in teams of four, or join with others you might not know and make new friends.

The books mentioned by Alison Utting during her talk were:

Mulley, Clare (2009) *The woman who saved the children, A Biography of Eglantyne Jebb: Founder of Save the Children*, London: OneWorld Publications (available in hardback, paperback and for Kindle)

Jebb, Louisa (1909) *By desert ways to Baghdad*, London: T Fisher Unwin (out of print, but available for download in different forms: <https://www.gutenberg.org/ebooks/38319>)

“Hurler on the ditch” (1925) *The trail of the Black and Tans*, Dublin: Talbot Press (out of print)

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

From the u3a national website a range of events is available, some of which may attract a fee. Here is a sample, arranged by the Third Age Trust, which are free to access: u3a.org.uk/events

Rembrandt and the Third Age



Learn about Rembrandt and his interesting perception of people in their third age of life. Through some of his self-portraits, we'll trace what views he had of himself in his third age, and, using portraits he painted of other people, we'll get a bigger picture of what third age meant to him.

Catherine Stevenson, Chair of Newcastle u3a, will explore relevant references to the historical background of Rembrandt's life and works. February 15 at 10am. Join [here](#).

Egyptology: The Valley of the Queens



In this talk Neil Stevenson, subject advisor for Egyptology, will take you on a journey around the Valley of the Queens. He will explore some of the wonderful tombs of princes and queens. This will include the magnificent tomb of Queen Nefertari, the Great Royal Wife of pharaoh Ramses II.

This presentation is intended for any u3a member interested in Egyptology. No prior knowledge is required. For more information, click [here](#).

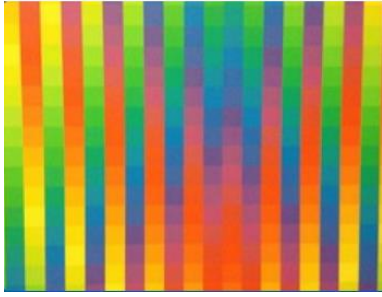
UK Marine Wildlife



Join the Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust for this talk presenting the wonders of the UK seas and how to protect them.

For more information, click [here](#)

Geometric Abstraction



Irene Kyffin, u3a in London, explores the birth of the art form, Geometric Abstraction, from its roots in Constructivism.

For more information, 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

■ Things native English speakers know but don't know they know

Adjectives in English absolutely have to be in this order:

opinion-size-age-shape-colour-origin-material-purpose Noun.

So you can have a lovely little old rectangular green French silver whittling knife. But, as size comes before colour, green great dragons can't exist. It's an odd thing that every English speaker uses that list, but almost none of us could write it out.

Committee update

■ The Committee members are currently as follows:

Chairman	Dr Robert HODGE (01299 270047)	chair@u3ainludlow.org.uk
Secretary	Barbara BALL (01584 879180)	barbara@ludlowballs.forec9.co.uk
Treasurer	Grace WILKINS (07990 526203)	treasurer@u3ainludlow.org.uk
Study Group Adviser	Robert HODGE (01299 270047)	info@u3ainludlow.org.uk
Members' Adviser	Janice HAINES (01584 878794)	membersadviser@u3ainludlow.org.uk
Monthly Meeting Organiser	Sue BILLING (07710 756093)	sueatmill84@yahoo.com
Communications and Marketing	Suzanne TAYLOR (07455 367554)	suzannecaroltaylor@gmail.com
u3A Plus	Peter LAW (01584 877012)	peter.peterwlaw@gmail.com
Committee member	Jackie HODGSON (07792 644093)	jackiehodgson2401@gmail.com

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.

■ Committee update

Study Groups Subcommittee

The Study Groups Subcommittee met in January to discuss the way forward. The following proposals will be followed up at the full committee meeting on 21st February:

- The committee to carry out an email survey of all members to find out how many members cannot join a study group because it is full and also to ask what new study groups they would like and if they would be happy to coordinate it.
- The committee to communicate to study group coordinators information about suitable venues for study group meetings.
- The committee to set up meetings for new members together with members of the committee.
- The committee to organise a meeting for study group coordinators prior to the AGM on Monday 28 March.

u3a in Ludlow Committee Members 2022 - 2023

Members of the committee met informally on 24 January to discuss the membership of the committee in the future. Our Chair completes his term of office at the AGM on 28 March. The committee believes it can fill the posts of Chair, Secretary and Treasurer for 2022 - 2023 but it needs to find a Newsletter Editor. There is also a need for someone with confident IT skills to support the work of the committee. Our constitution allows us to have 12 committee members but currently there are only 8 which makes more work for each of us.

Some members of the committee have served on the committee before. One is nearly 80 and hopes that she will soon be replaced by younger members of u3a! Believe it or not it is fun being on the committee and without it we would not have u3a in Ludlow. So why don't you contact the Chairman, or another member of the committee to find out more?

WE NEED YOU!

Barbara Ball
Secretary