

A message from the Chairman

There it was, nestling in the grass on the bank, a single primrose flower – its head nodding gently in the wind. Soon there will be hundreds of them in my garden and in the hedgerows which surround us. “The primrose banks, how fair” said Burns. For me, they have to be by far the most joyful flowers – a herald of spring, lengthening days and sunlight. I can almost hear the cuckoo – although to be truthful it is some time since I have heard one.



“Spring, the sweet Spring, is the year’s pleasant king” wrote Thomas Nashe (1600). Now that restrictions are being lifted will we now be able to look forward to a return of that gentle cycle of predictable seasons and ‘normal’ life? I hope so.

Speaking of gentle cycles, it will soon be time for our Annual General Meeting which returns to its normal end-March timing – details are in the Noticeboard section – and it will be time to say so long, farewell, auf wiedersehen, goodbye. My three-year term as chairman is up. It has been a pleasure and a privilege, though I am not sure yet what I shall do with the free time.

Thank you to those of you who have completed the study group survey – the responses have given us some very useful information and results will be published in the next newsletter.

Dr Robert Hodge
Chairman

Membership renewal

If you have not renewed, your membership has now lapsed, and you will no longer be able to participate in groups or attend monthly meetings. You may still renew until the end of March after which you will need to rejoin. 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

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.

For those interested, an initial meeting will be held on March 29 at 1030am. Contact the members' adviser for details if you would like to attend.

Russian for beginners



Ever thought of learning Russian? You never know – it might be useful and it's not as difficult as you might think. Yes, the alphabet is different but pronunciation is mostly as seen, word order doesn't matter as in English and there are only three tenses for verbs. Learning and studying Russian will open up the wonderful world of Russian literature and poetry and help understand the old joke, 'в "Правде" нет известий, а в "Известиях" нет правды'. This group is geared towards complete beginners and anyone who has had a look at Russian but been deterred. Meetings are initially planned for the first and third Tuesday morning of each month. We will use a Russian grammar which participants will need to purchase.

Etymology



The Etymology group is starting up again and is looking for new members. Meetings take place on the third Thursday morning of each month. If you are interested, please contact the members' adviser.

Learn Ukrainian



For those who enjoy a – challenge! An east Slavic language with some similarities to Polish, it shares most of the Cyrillic alphabet with Russian. This new group has been suggested with timing, location and frequency of meetings to be agreed. Members may use a grammar, or make use of some online resources.

Scottish country dancing – a reminder that this group starts up again on Monday 7 March at the Women's Centre

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

Noticeboard

■ Monday meetings

28 March 2022 Annual General Meeting and Quiz

The Annual General Meeting of u3a in Ludlow will take place in Oscar's, The Assembly Rooms at 1030 on 28 March (**note change of start time**).

The AGM will be followed by a quiz. Here is your opportunity to show off your general knowledge and even win a prize. Come along in teams of four, or make up a team on the spot and make some new friends.

Refreshments (free) will be available from 1000 – 1030 and again from 1100 – 1130.

25 April 2022

The History of Jazz Piano

Roger Browne



From Blues, Ragtime, Boogie to Swing, Be Bop, Free Form and Avant Garde, the story of jazz piano has been one of exciting and rapid evolution influenced by creative talents such as Scott Joplin, Fats Waller, Count Basie and more. Pianist, with internationally renowned Manchester Jazz, Roger Browne's talk is illustrated with live musical examples in the style of the great jazz masters and punctuated with hilarious anecdotes about the people, places and events that fuelled the development of this remarkable genre. Tea and coffee in Oscars from 1030 – meeting at 1100 in the auditorium.

■ Upcoming Online Talks: Organised by the Third Age Trust

The national u3a organisation offers a variety of courses and events – take a look you might find something of interest.

In the past 12 months I have taken an 8-week Genealogy course, listened to a couple of lectures about Ancient Egypt and I'm currently part way through a 6 week Cryptic Crossword course – all from the comfort of my own home! And for free as I am a member of Ludlow u3a.

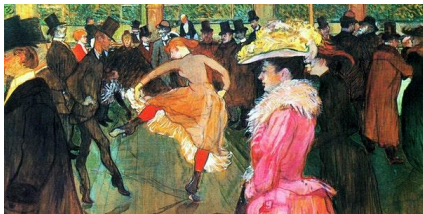
Although I've been attempting cryptic crosswords for more years than I care to remember and although the current course is billed as 'for beginners' there's still plenty to learn about wordplay and tackling

trickier clues. For anyone interested - The Cryptic Crosswords for Beginners course will be repeated in May. The course book Learn How to Solve Cryptic Crosswords costs around £14 from Amazon and is written by the course tutor Henry Howarth.

Sue Billing

Here is a sample of available events, arranged by the Third Age Trust, which are free to access: u3a.org.uk/events

Toulouse-Lautrec and the Cabarets of Paris



This lecture discusses the night world of Paris in the eighteen nineties. It centres on Toulouse-Lautrec and his friendships with the dancers and singers of the Moulin Rouge, the Folies Bergere, and the Moulin de la Galette, including Jane Avril and La Goulue.

Join Peter Webb on a journey through 19th century Paris by night and revel in the performances of the time, as well as later artists March 2 at 2pm. Join [here](#).

The Geology of Igneous Rocks: their plate tectonic setting and formation



Igneous rocks were once liquid magma and consists of granitic rocks common throughout northern & western Britain and volcanic rocks widespread in Wales and Scotland. Their genesis is linked with the movement of tectonic plates

A discussion by Martin Eales of the the geology of igneous rocks (part 1) - their plate tectonic setting and formation from volcanoes to granites. Thursday March 3 at 2pm. For more information, click [here](#).

Ancient civilisations of the Americas – The Inca



What could someone from the future understand about our civilization by exploring our empty cities? Is it enough to read what is carved in stone? What do we now know about the Inca people, the 'Children of the Sun' and their way of life? Join Maria Chester on a 4-week course exploring Inca culture, society, economy, architecture and sacred texts. Mondays in

March at 4pm. For more information, click [here](#)

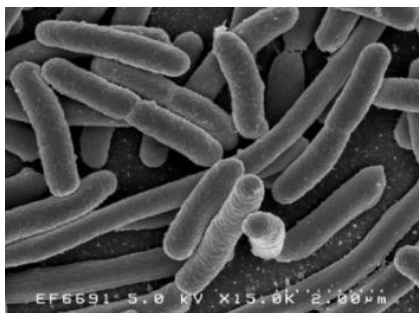
Pastels with Pete (repeat event)



Join Pete Akers from Sherborne u3a for a demonstration and informal conversation about making a start in art with soft pastels. Friday March 4 at 2pm.

For more information, click [here](#)

The human microbiome



Join Leigh Edwards, subject adviser for science, for a talk on microorganisms and the relationship they have with our wellbeing. March 9 at 2pm.

For more information, click [here](#).

Live cookery demonstration – recipes to celebrate spring



Chef Alex from 'Vegetarian for Life' demos his delicious spring recipes. Thursday 31 March at 1030am.

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

■ Trust u3a

Did you know that there is a national u3a (akin to a local group) which organises different groups and short series of meetings which meet via Zoom. There are almost 100 different groups available. Membership of Trust u3a for members of u3a in Ludlow is only £5 per year.

If you cannot find what you are looking for in u3a in Ludlow, or find it difficult to attend face to face meetings, this might be for you. For more information, visit <https://u3asites.org.uk/trustu3a/groups>

■ Feedback from the new members' coffee morning

Thank you so much for the invitation to attend the new members coffee morning on Monday. Although it is a while since I joined U3A Ludlow (August 2021) under COVID restrictions, I was slightly apprehensive in accepting the opportunity to meet up with 'real people', now rules are being eased. I needn't have worried; it was a really genuine meeting of friendly people who were prepared to listen as well as talk. It was an informal gathering of enthusiastic novices as well experts in a variety of fields. It was great to talk over good coffee in a pleasant venue. I got the opportunity to ask if there were a few specific groups and could also explain to others how I had found the two study groups I have already joined.

With so many groups to choose from, it helps to be able to attend as a guest, before you join. I have thoroughly enjoyed the social contact as well as keeping the mind actively engaged! Thank you to all involved in facilitating groups and events in Ludlow.

Helen Whitely

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

New member coffee morning

The committee meeting on 21 February was followed by a new members' coffee morning at the Blue Boar in Mill Street. Around 25 of those who have joined in the last year came and were able to meet each other and the committee. It was deemed a great success and the new members' meeting will become a regular feature. A further meeting will be held on 11 April and all members who have joined since the beginning of the year will be invited.

u3a in Ludlow Committee Members 2022 - 2023

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?