

A message from the Chairman

It was such a pleasure to see so many people – 80 of you – at the AGM and in such lovely surroundings. Next month we should be back at the Assembly Rooms for the first time in three years. It will be nice to have the space and to be able to socialize beforehand.

The delayed AGM passed uneventfully and I should say thank you for being re-elected as chairman, although only for another six months as my three years will be up by the time we have our next AGM at its normal time of the end of March 2022 (if all goes according to plan).



I spent a very wet week just down from Kilchurn Castle on the shores of Loch Awe. I'd forgotten just how remote parts of Scotland are. I decided to 'pop over' to Iona (drive, walk, ferry, bus, ferry, walk) but was stymied at the first attempt as the Inn at Taynuilt burned down and the road was closed. THE road that is – the alternative being a two and a half hour detour. How on earth would we cope down here if we didn't have all the alternative routes available to us?

Groups are starting to meet face-to-face and this is giving great pleasure to many members. I'd love to hear stories of how the groups are going and what your plans are. Please get in touch: info@u3ainludlow.org.uk.

Dr Robert Hodge
Chairman

Contents:

Study Group Update: pp2-3

Noticeboard: pp 4-5

Committee Update: p 6-7

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

■ 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.

■ Beginners' German



This group has not met for some time, but there is some interest from new members. The idea is to learn the language from the first principles of structure, grammar, vocabulary and pronunciation. If you would like to learn German, please get in touch.

■ 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.

■ Intermediate French



The group is looking for new members. This group is for those at an intermediate level who want to improve their understanding and fluency in an informal and enjoyable way. The group meets weekly on Wednesday mornings.

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

Exploring Mathematics



A few people have asked for solutions to the crossnumber puzzles in September's Newsletter. I think they are unique, but if you have a different solution that works please let me know. 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

	1	2
3		
4		

Across

- 1 A square **81**
- 4 An odd square **729**

Down

- 2 A square **169**
- 3 A third of 1 across **27**

	1	2
3		
4		

Across

- 1 A square **49**
- 3 A palindrome 10 more than a square **686**
- 4 A square **441**

Down

- 1 A square palindrome **484**
- 2 A square **961**
- 3 A cube **64**

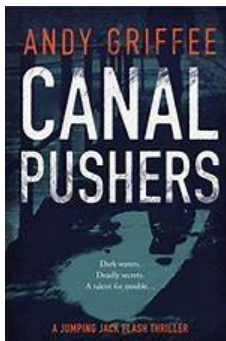
Monday meetings for the remainder of 2021

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

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



'I met an Albanian army captain and avid communist, Berti Dosti, who told me about life under one of the cruellest dictators of the twentieth 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

Bessie Blount of Kinlet – mistress of Henry VIII

A number of members have asked if the talk at the AGM in St Laurence's on 27 September had been recorded. Unfortunately facilities weren't available. However, Robert Hodge has offered to give the talk again online via Zoom, on Wednesday 13 October at 3.30pm, for those who might be interested. Please contact info@u3ainludlow.org.uk for the link.

Ancient Greek myths

The series of talks on the ancient Greek myths has finished. The talks were recorded. If you have missed one, or would like to listen again, please contact: 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 talks.

■ **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

Laughter Yoga workshop series

Join Judith Walker of Edinburgh u3a on the second Wednesday of every month for a Laughter Yoga Workshop. 13 October, 10 November and 8 December at 10am. To register, click [here](#).

Egyptology series – Pottery in Ancient Egypt

Join Neal Stevenson, u3a subject adviser for Egyptology, for the remaining two talks exploring ancient Egypt – 8 October and 12 November at 2pm. To register, click [here](#).

The Geology of Sedimentary Rocks

John Martin Eales of Sutton u3a will give a series of talks with Q&A. Part 1 – Continental Rocks on 7 October (register [here](#)), part 2 – Marine Rocks on 4 November (register [here](#)), and part 3 – Limestones, Coals, Oils and Evaporites on 2 December (register [here](#)) all at 2pm.

The Tomb of the Unknown Soldier

A talk by the National Army Museum – 10 November at 10.30am. Register [here](#).

The numbers you Eat: nature's favourite numbers in fruit & veg

An illustrated talk with Q&A by Dr Ron Knott. 9 November at 2pm. Register [here](#).

Maths Activities and Games

Join David Martin, subject adviser for maths and statistics, for an interactive workshop on 11 November at 2pm. Register [here](#).

■ **u3a diaries**

Diaries can now be ordered by contacting the Secretary, Barbara Ball at barbara@ludlowballs.force9.co.uk

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

Committee update

■ The Committee members are currently as follows:

Chairman	Dr Robert HODGE (01299 270047)	chair@u3ainludlow.org.uk
Vice Chair	Janice HAINES (01584 878794)	janhaines88@gmail.com
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

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

Committee Update October 2021

Almost 80 of you attended the AGM on 27 September which was our first face-to-face meeting for nineteen months. Another 60 members sent their apologies, so the meeting was well supported. u3a in Ludlow has never met before in St. Laurence's Church though while the venue was magnificent the acoustics were not as good as some members would have liked.

The Chairman, Robert Hodge, reported that u3a in Ludlow had successfully coped with the pandemic with many groups embracing Zoom for their meetings. Only a handful of groups had not survived the crisis.

The accounts were approved and the Treasurer, Grace Wilkins, pointed out that the sharp increase in the surplus for 2020 was because the subscriptions were paid before the lockdown in March and money was saved since the Monday morning meetings were no longer held face-to-face. The surplus meant that subscriptions for 2021 could be reduced.

The new committee was elected with no change to members and officers apart from the departure of Stuart McLaren. The Chairman thanked Stuart for his valued contribution to u3a in Ludlow over the last six years. In that time he has been study group adviser, vice chairman and chairman.

Finally, the new constitution was approved. This and the other AGM papers are available on the website on the Documents page <https://u3ainludlow.weebly.com/agm-september-2021.html>

Study Group Coordinators Consultation

When the committee met on 9th September they spent most of the meeting discussing the results of their meetings with study group coordinators. Most coordinators felt that u3a in Ludlow was a successful organisation and little needed to change. However, they appreciated being consulted and agreed it was appropriate to examine practice and look for possible improvements. Discussion in committee centred round support for coordinators, study groups that are full, Monday morning meetings and promoting u3a in Ludlow. A sub committee has been set up to consider how to take these issues forward.

New Members

The committee agreed that more needs to be done to welcome new members to u3a in Ludlow and another sub committee has been set up to pursue this.

Barbara Ball
Secretary