



U3A in Ludlow September 2020 News

Ludlow U3A Committee welcomes your questions

The Committee will be meeting on 15 September. If you have any questions you would like to put to the Committee about U3A in Ludlow, please send them to info@u3ainludlow.org.uk
Responses will be published in October News.

Monday Meetings

At the time of writing the Ludlow Assembly Rooms remain closed and even if they were open we would find it incredibly difficult to operate in Oscars with respect to the social distancing guidelines. We have, therefore, decided to cancel the remainder of the 2020 Monday meetings and talks programme now, so as to give members and speakers plenty of notice. The renovations to the auditorium at the Assembly Rooms continue and we are optimistic that we will be able to resume there in the future. In the meantime the Committee will consider any contingencies thought necessary and will keep you informed.

Study Groups Update

When our U3A groups were suspended in March, many coordinators, rightly guessing that Covid-19 wouldn't go away any time soon, said they would review the situation in September. As the months have passed, some have feared that U3A in Ludlow would disappear. However, I am pleased to report that this is far from the case. Currently about a third of the groups are active with more restarting every week. Many of these have continued in some way since March, using email or Zoom. With email, a group member (usually the coordinator) sends out a task or activity which is completed by each member who is then invited to comment on it by email. This approach has worked for several groups, including Cinema, Cryptic Crosswords and French Conversation (who, of course, wrote instead of conversing). My own Latin group has been hard at it throughout these months. Some groups (and individuals) have used the time to study Future Learn units and the Bridge group has been playing regularly using a Bridge website. Zoom has enabled some of the language groups to continue practising speaking. While I don't think anyone would say email or Zoom are satisfactory replacements for face-to-face meetings, they have certainly enabled some of our groups to continue their activities, albeit in a different way.

A number of groups have been taking advantage of the good weather and meeting out of doors in gardens or village halls. They have been doing this while adhering to the government guidelines on using these areas. These include Croquet, Garden Visits, both of the Popular Music Bands (which

have been serenading the Shropshire countryside for most of the summer) and Classical Greek. The Walking group is restarting in September as are Art History Appreciation and Handicrafts, the last two in a village hall. And the icing on the cake is that I have had a steady trickle of people inquiring about joining our U3A or, indeed, existing members wanting to try out different groups.

Many of the remaining groups are not yet in a position to meet again because of the restrictions, or feel that the rules would detract too much from their enjoyment of the activity. Some feel there is still a real risk to health. It is frustrating for these groups to have to wait until they feel the conditions are right and we all hope that we can soon get back to the 'old normal'. In the meantime, if anyone would like any help or advice about restarting their group or about other learning or interest activities offered by U3A (you might want to glance at the national U3A website for ideas at <https://www.u3a.org.uk/>) please contact me, Peony, at peonycarpenter@hotmail.co.uk.

Peony Carpenter

30% discount for U3A members on Bloomsbury books

Members of U3A can claim a 30% site-wide discount on Bloomsbury books by entering the code U3A30 at the checkout when ordering online. Bloomsbury is an independent British publishing house.

If you change your email address please remember to let us know, so that you can continue to receive the *U3A in Ludlow* monthly news.

Further Information about *U3A in Ludlow* is always available on our website:

www.u3ainludlow.org.uk

If you would like to submit an item for the next monthly news please contact us.

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