

### A message from the Chairman

A very warm welcome to the eighteen new members who joined us during August. Clearly there is a desire to be 'joining in', and it is heartening to hope that with our current 524 members we shall see an increase in activity now that restrictions have eased.

I have just come back from Orkney where I had a wonderful week, with very good weather, managing to cycle all over the main island. Although in many ways bleak, the landscape is stunning and it is amazing to note that, although sparsely populated now, there are significant traces of Neolithic, Iron Age, early and mediaeval settlements all over the islands.



Some of you were kind to wish me a good time on my 'girls' night out'. My cousins and I had a great evening reminiscing, with some tears and lots of laughter. A very good evening indeed.

Don't forget - the delayed Annual General Meeting will take place on Monday 27 September at 11am in St Laurence's Church. The AGM, which we will keep as short as possible, will be followed by a talk – given by me – on "Bessie Blount, mistress of Henry VIII". I hope to see many of you there.

*Dr Robert Hodge*  
Chairman

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u3a in Ludlow is a charity, registered in England and Wales, number  
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If your email address has changed, please contact: [treasurer@u3ainludlow.org.uk](mailto:treasurer@u3ainludlow.org.uk) .

# Noticeboard

## ■ Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting of u3a in Ludlow will take place on Monday 27 September at 11am in St Laurence's Church. Formal notice will be sent out shortly and the agenda and reports will be available on the website - on the Documents page.

## ■ Proposed new constitution

Another consequence of the pandemic was the sudden need to conduct many meetings electronically, usually through the Zoom platform. National u3a suggested that all u3a branches should consider amending their constitution to put such arrangements on a proper footing. National u3a produced a model constitution which the committee felt was an improvement on our current constitution in several ways. It clarified, for example, how the trustees (the members of the committee) are required to operate in order to meet their obligations as trustees of a charity.

You can click [here](#) to find a copy of the proposed constitution on our website. We hope this constitution will be adopted at the AGM on 27 September. It is in two parts.

**Part 1** covers the purposes of the charity and how its money and other property can be used. It also contains the powers to change the constitution and to wind the charity up

**Part 2** sets out the administrative provisions, concerning membership, the appointment of charity trustees, members' and trustees' meetings and the powers available to the trustees in running the charity.

### **Main changes from our current constitution**

**Clause 9** Membership ceases two months after the due date for renewing membership (currently one month)

**Clause 10** AGMs and any other special meetings may be held electronically and the committee may also allow members to attend face-to-face meetings electronically instead of in person if they so wish.

**Clause 11** Nominations for the committee currently have to be received 28 days before the AGM. In the new constitution requests for nominations will go out 28 days before the AGM and will have to be returned 21 days later.

**Clause 12** A quorum for the AGM is ten percent of the membership (currently fifteen percent)

**Clauses 16 & 17** These clarify the terms of office for the committee but these are no different to those in the current constitution.

**Clauses 18-29** These clarify the powers of the trustees.

**Clause 30** Allows the trustees to communicate electronically with the members of *u3a in Ludlow*.

*Barbara Ball*  
Secretary

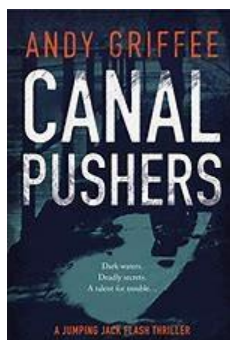
## Monday meetings for the remainder of 2021

**27 September Bessie Blount, of Kinlet: Mistress of Henry VIII Robert Hodge**



Elizabeth Blount of Kinlet, who had a reputation as a beauty, was sent to court as a maid-of-honour to Catherine of Aragon. She caught the eye of the King and in 1514 or 1515, at the age of 16 became his mistress. The relationship continued for about eight years, and in 1519 she bore him a son, Henry Fitzroy, later Duke of Richmond, who might just have become Henry IX. Bessie Blount later married twice. Who was she and what happened to Henry?

**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

### 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](mailto: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](https://u3a.org.uk/events)

### **Cryptic crosswords for beginners**

A six week course with Henry Howarth, subject adviser - cryptic crosswords. Tuesday 2, 9, 16, 23 and 30 September and 7 October at 10 am. Free – online via Zoom. To register click [here](#).

### **Laughter Yoga workshop series**

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

### **Mathematical surprises – a curious maths quiz**

Join mathematician and author Rob Eastaway for a talk followed by a Q&A. Thursday 9 September at 2pm. To register, click [here](#).

### **Elizabeth and Mary – Royal cousins, rival queens**

With the British Library. Wednesday 29 September at 1030 am. To register, click [here](#).

## ■ Theatre trip

Suzanne Taylor is planning a trip to London to see a matinee performance of “A Number” by Caryl Churchill at The Old Vic on 23 February 2022.

Suzanne will arrange transport and tickets, but needs to have an idea of likely numbers before making any arrangements. If you are interested, please contact Suzanne at [suzannecaroltaylor@gmail.com](mailto:suzannecaroltaylor@gmail.com) by 21 September.

## ■ Ludlow Food Festival

The organisers of the Food Festival are looking for volunteers to help with the Food Festival which takes place on 10 - 12 September. They also need volunteers to help with setting up and breaking down on 8 - 9 September and again on 13 September. If you can spare one or more half days, please get in touch with [admin@foodfestival.co.uk](mailto:admin@foodfestival.co.uk). In return for your time you get a free ticket!

## ■ u3a diaries

Diaries can now be ordered by contacting the Secretary, Barbara Ball at [secretary@u3ainludlow.org.uk](mailto:secretary@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>
Vice Chair	Janice HAINES (01584 878794)	<a href="mailto:janhaines88@gmail.com">janhaines88@gmail.com</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 Network	Stuart McLAREN (01584 874622)	<a href="mailto:themclarens@me.com">themclarens@me.com</a>
u3A Plus	Peter LAW (01584 877012)	<a href="mailto:peter.peterwlaw@gmail.com">peter.peterwlaw@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

The committee has not met during August but has been busy working on two projects – the constitution above and:

## ■ Talking to Study Group Coordinators

As we emerge from lockdowns and hopefully return to a 'new normal' life the committee thought it was a good time to reflect on the current practices of u3a in Ludlow. We decided to contact every Study Group Coordinator and ask them about their experiences of u3a in Ludlow and discuss their ideas for its future. We divided the coordinators into groups and allocated each group to a member of the committee who spoke to them either by phone or in face-to face meetings. Two of the groups that met face-to face said that they would like more such small meetings with other Study Group Coordinators at which they could share experiences and discuss strategies for managing their groups. This is one of several suggested ideas that the committee will be considering putting into practice. The next meeting of the committee is on Thursday 9 September.

Another issue that emerged was the key role the Study Group Adviser plays in supporting the work of study groups. Currently we have no Study Group Adviser and we are struggling to find anyone who is interested in this role. If you want to know more about the role I, or any other member of the committee, would be delighted to talk to you about what it involves.

*Barbara Ball*  
*Secretary*

# Study group update

## ■ Groups in Yarpole?

We have had a query from a local charitable group in Yarpole who would like to add to their offerings for their extensive local community. They wondered whether anyone might be interested in helping set up u3a study groups in Yarpole for those residents who find it difficult to get to Ludlow. They have great facilities and are keen to consider any group activities that might be offered. Contact: [info@u3ainludlow.org.uk](mailto:info@u3ainludlow.org.uk)

## ■ Latin for Beginners

Robert Hodge is hoping to set up a new group for those anyone who is interested in learning Latin. Those who are completely new to Latin and those who have a little knowledge from schooldays are welcome. Sessions will be held fortnightly on Mondays, Thursdays or Fridays (depending on which day is most convenient for members). The group will use a combination of a Latin primer (which members will have to buy) and material that Robert will provide. Grammar will rear its ugly head, but the group will focus on translation and reading Latin texts. To help keep everything in context there will be discussion about the Ancient World, classical Latin authors and occasional visits to read inscriptions and get a taste of life in Roman Britain.

Contact: Robert Hodge

[u3a@rjhodge.com](mailto:u3a@rjhodge.com)

01299 270047

## ■ Exploring Mathematics

Why not try your hand at the cross number puzzles below? If you enjoy them come along to Exploring Mathematics to solve similar problems and to discuss the mathematics that lies behind them: in this case, patterns in squares and cubes.

We meet in Ludlow on a Monday afternoon, usually on the second Monday of the month, but this month the meeting is on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> September. If you are interested or want to know more contact Derek Ball [derek@ludlowballs.force9.co.uk](mailto:derek@ludlowballs.force9.co.uk) 01584 879180

	1	2
3		
4		

### Across

- 1 A square
- 4 An odd square

### Down

- 2 A square
- 3 A third of 1 across



	1	2
3		
4		

**Across**

- 1 A square
- 3 A palindrome 10 more than a square
- 4 A square

**Down**

- 1 A square palindrome
- 2 A square
- 3 A cube

**Intermediate French**



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

Contact: [info@u3ainludlow.org.uk](mailto:info@u3ainludlow.org.uk)

**Walking with a purpose.**



This group is active again after some disruption due to the pandemic. Although it was sometimes limited to just two groups of six, it is an outdoors activity and now without constraints. However, on two occasions on recent walks, we have experienced walkers collapsing; fortunately no major dramas ensued, but they were still sobering.

With this in mind, and conscious that our annual HF holiday voted unanimously to go to “gentle guided walking” a couple of years back, we feel an easing of pace is desirable, but we are also conscious that younger and fitter members are joining.

That being the case, we are proposing two walking groups:

- a) **Strolling with a purpose**, on the first Friday of each month, to cover walks of 5 miles or so with only gradual ascents/descents (with the purpose being lunch after!), and
- b) **Walking with a purpose**, on the third Friday of each month, to cover more vigorous walks of 6-7 miles or so, with greater ascents/descents.

Walkers can participate in either or both groups, depending on inclination and availability at the time as they are not intended to be mutually exclusive. Details are still to be worked out, but it is proposed to commence a programme for both in the new year. As currently, this will require walkers to volunteer to survey then lead an appropriate walk each month to keep the groups going and requests will be coming out later this year for such volunteers. Each group will be separately organised so all current members will have their email addresses passed on to a second organiser unless they request otherwise.

So, lots of fresh air and exercise is in prospect. Enjoy! Contact: [info@u3ainludlow.org.uk](mailto:info@u3ainludlow.org.uk)



# Useful links

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)

The links previously on this page are now on the website: [u3ainludlow.weebly.com/useful-links.html](http://u3ainludlow.weebly.com/useful-links.html)