Robin Pagan has given many talks on John Malcolm Ludlow, (1821 – 1911) one of the founders of the Christian Socialist movement, which began in 1848.

Many (generally, the wealthier élite) considered the period 1815 – 1914 to be a century of peace and prosperity but they were turning a blind eye to the widespread poverty across Britain. Robin Pagan defines this situation as ‘Repression, Revolution and Reform’, his alternative to the 3Rs.

JML was born in India but his father, who worked in the East India Company, died when he was very young and he moved to Paris, then to London, to study Law at Lincoln’s Inn Fields. While in Paris, he witnessed much of the poverty and violence and was influenced by French Socialism.

Once in England, JML met Charles Kingsley, author of the Water Babies and a less well-known novel, Alton Locke, (1849). He also met the theologian, Frederick D. Maurice and, together, the three men founded the Christian Socialist movement at the time when the Chartists were organising their final meeting on Kennington Common. This meeting fizzled out due to large quantities of rain!

In 1850 Ludlow founded the Christian Socialist newspaper. He promoted mutual cooperation via ‘friendly societies’. The three men were dedicated to bringing fairness and equality to the masses and Ludlow succeeded in getting a bill through parliament that recognized the legal status of co-operatives.

Our speaker emphasised that, although the Christian Socialist movement was short-lived, it paved the way for the beginning of the welfare state and women’s suffrage.

Next meeting of Diss U3A
Thursday 4th January 2018
10.30 am in the United Reform Church, Diss.

The guest speaker will be Jason Middleton whose talk will be about:

Gemstones – Part II - PEARLS

Tea and coffee are provided before the talk.
For further information on Diss U3A please visit the website: www.dissu3a.org.uk