



# TETBURY & DISTRICT U3A

## NEWSLETTER October 2019

### Letter from our Webmaster

I do hope you are finding the Tetbury & District website a useful tool for keeping up to date with our U3A activities. I have purposely made it simple so all members are comfortable using it.

However, some members are experiencing difficulties contacting Group Leaders through the website <https://tetburyu3a.org.uk/groups>.

Group leader links are the **blue underlined** text, in the last column. They change to **red** when hovered over with your computer mouse. When you click on them a pop-up window allows you to email the group leader. Similarly, when you hover over the name of an **Interest Group** in the first column it changes to **red** and a summary of the group's activities pops up.

The above describes what should happen. Some Windows 10 users are unable to use the active links on our website. As a temporary workaround I have inserted each Group Leader's email address under the Group Contact(s) entries on the website. You copy and paste this email address into your email application. Then send as normal.

If you need a more permanent solution please contact the Windows 10 group leader Dr Mike O'Donnell. His email is [windows@tetburyu3a.org.uk](mailto:windows@tetburyu3a.org.uk)

Also, please note you may need to refresh your internet browser to see the latest <https://tetburyu3a.org.uk/> website updates. Remember to click the  refresh symbol on your web browser or close and re-start your browser before accessing the website.

Clickable links work correctly on Apple devices (iPad, iPhone, Mac) and Android tablets & smartphones.

If you have any problems accessing the website do not hesitate to email me [webmaster@tetburyu3a.org.uk](mailto:webmaster@tetburyu3a.org.uk).

## MONTHLY MEETINGS

Our first monthly meeting was a huge success. Thank you to Sandie Cox for a wonderful talk in September on Wildlife Photography. We enjoyed a highly professional and entertaining presentation of an outstanding body of work together with helpful hints on composition, technique and the key importance of lighting. This has set the standard for all future monthly meetings. Sandie will be working with our photography group and is now a member of our U3A.

There is just time to remind you of **October's talk**, on Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> at the Goods Shed at 10.00am for 10.30am. Our speaker is Douglas Looman who has been a volunteer with Wiltshire Air Ambulance for several years and will talk about the Helicopter Emergency Medical Service (HEMS) in Wilts and surrounding counties. You may be very surprised by some of the information you will hear. Entry is free for members but a collection box will be available for donations to HEMS. Non-members may join at the door.

**November's talk** on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> will be given by Brigadier Bruce Jackman OBE MC who will talk about the Gurkha Welfare Trust and the history of the Gurkhas. He is the third generation of his family to have served with the Gurkhas, mostly in the Far East. Venue: the Goods Shed. Time: 10.am for 10.30am.

## REPORTS FROM THE GROUPS

### Play reading

This group has really taken off, splitting into two readings of the same play each month. We have read "Separate Tables" (Terence Rattigan), much enjoyed by all with some excellent interpretation of the key roles. We will read "The Winslow Boy", another Rattigan, on 16<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> October at 2.00pm. If you would like to join the group, there is room for one or two more members before we'll have to split into three readings!

Jeremy North [playreading@tetburyu3a.org.uk](mailto:playreading@tetburyu3a.org.uk)

### Boules

Meetings have been arranged at the Red Bull, London Road, Malmesbury for 18<sup>th</sup> October and 1<sup>st</sup> November at 10.00am. Potential members are welcome to come along and have a go. We have spare boules so you do not need to bring any. Keith Hodgson, [boules@tetburyu3a.org.uk](mailto:boules@tetburyu3a.org.uk)

## Discussion group

The next meeting is on Tuesday, 15<sup>th</sup> October at 4.00pm. The topic for discussion is: Artificial Intelligence - should we fear it or welcome it? Details from the group leader: [discussion@tetburyu3a.org.uk](mailto:discussion@tetburyu3a.org.uk)

## Mah Jong

Mah Jong is going great guns meeting in private homes around three times a week! Members are getting to grips with the basics but are beginning to think about the special hands!



**“MAH JONG ! ALL PAIR HONOURS !”**

Seven pairs of honour tiles (ones, nines, winds or dragons) which scores 500!! All concealed but the last tile can be picked up from a discard!

Join us: Anne Osborne [mahjong@tetburyu3a.org.uk](mailto:mahjong@tetburyu3a.org.uk)

## Apple iPad and iPhone



With much trepidation, we gathered for our first meeting, devices in hand but troubled that we wouldn't even understand the starter discussion. However, Neil did a great job of putting us at our ease with teaching aids, screens and amusing stories and those of us less experienced were helped by the more confident.

The discussion and practice exercises got us all chatting and exchanging ideas and a general 'light bulb' moment rose over the group. There's that U3A buzz in the air again! The pleasure of being able to understand and achieve something is palpable. We may not be digital natives but we aren't afraid any more to have a go. We were ready for tea and biscuits by the end. Roving Eye [apple@tetburyu3a.org.uk](mailto:apple@tetburyu3a.org.uk)

## Cinema Group

This is for like-minded people to go to the cinema and car share to keep the costs low. I would like to suggest Tuesdays at the Empire Cinema in Swindon Greenbridge as there is ample free parking nearby and tickets are £5 on Tuesdays for all standard showings. 3D and Imax will be more expensive. If group members will email me the films they would like to see and who is prepared drive, a plan will evolve. This group will cater for all tastes, including the live events streamed directly from other venues. Upcoming films include: *Zombieland - Double Tap*, *Bolshoi Ballet - Raymonda (Live)*, *Terminator - Dark Fate*. Peter Leech: [cinema@tetburyu3a.org.uk](mailto:cinema@tetburyu3a.org.uk)

## Wine tasting



By the time I arrived at the group leader's home it was already half way through the session; the white wine had been tasted and they were on to the cheese and biscuits. There was a lovely warm atmosphere of enjoyment in the air in spite of the keen striving to identify the wine being tasted. Then on to the red wines. It did make me regret that I'm not a wine drinker. As one member said,

"Another successful U3A group hits the spot." The next meeting is on Monday, 14th October at 7.00pm when the theme will be Spanish wines. The most popular wine from September's blind tasting was a Sauvignon Blanc. Further details of meetings from either of the group leaders:

[winetasting@tetburyu3a.org.uk](mailto:winetasting@tetburyu3a.org.uk)

Roving Eye

## Short walks



Another glorious autumn day and the Short Walkers set off full of energy. Why is it I don't manage to get everyone in the photograph? Maybe I need to join the Photography group.

[shortwalks@tetburyu3a.org.uk](mailto:shortwalks@tetburyu3a.org.uk)

## French Conversation



What can be more agreeable than enjoying a bring-and-share lunch with others while all speaking French? All members agreed that the approach the group leader, Anne, had designed was spot on. Beginners and more proficient speakers all had their say and thoroughly enjoyed the experience. November's meeting will be on the theme of Festivals so

homework will be done and there'll be fireworks next time!  
[frenchconversation@tetburyu3a.org.uk](mailto:frenchconversation@tetburyu3a.org.uk)

## Quiz Nights



The Tetbury and District U3A Quiz Team is up and running and growing in popularity and we now have seventeen members and been able to field two teams to take part in the pub quiz at

the Greyhound in Tetbury. We have dealt with questions on all types of subject ranging from postcodes to geography, history and television, not to mention our downfall - the picture round !

We haven't won yet , but we have really enjoyed the opportunity to be part of this popular quiz. Who knows, our first win could be just around the corner! Carmel Burton [quiznights@tetburyu3a.org.uk](mailto:quiznights@tetburyu3a.org.uk)

## Bridge Quiz

Some teasers to see if you are up to speed and ready to join us!

Your opponent (North) opens with 2 hearts and when you ask South what they understand by that, they reply "it's a weak two". Without looking at your cue sheet what do you think this bid means?

Your opponent North bids 1 Heart and you as East pass. Your opponent South goes 1 NT (Dustbin Bid) and your partner West calls "double". Is this for penalties or is it a weakness take out?

You are playing a weak no trump (12-14 HCP). You are opening the bidding and you have 17 HCP and your distribution is 2 spades, 3 hearts, 4 diamonds, and 4 clubs. What are you going to call?

To see if you are right you are going to have to join!

Jeremy North: [bridge@tetburyu3a.org.uk](mailto:bridge@tetburyu3a.org.uk)

### **Gardening Group**



The Gardening Group met on a rather damp morning in the beautiful Tetbury garden belonging to Caroline and Philip Langston. Despite

being barely a year old, the garden is a riot of colour and wonderful planting. The group were bowled over by the effect generated by clever design and use of colour. Philip and Caroline have designed and planted everything themselves from scratch and the result is truly stunning. We are very grateful to Philip and Caroline for giving us the opportunity to visit their garden and for their kind hospitality.

The next meeting will be on 4<sup>th</sup> November at 10am in the Railway Carriage behind the Tetbury Goods Shed. The Granny Gardener [gardening@tetburyu3a.org.uk](mailto:gardening@tetburyu3a.org.uk)

## Photography



The photography group met on 18th September to photograph Malmesbury Abbey and Gardens. On a lovely sunny day with beautiful cross - lighting all the detail stood out well. To prove that a good way

to sum up a lot of pictures is in one collage, we show two examples, one of the Abbey itself and the other of the gardens with its sculpture. These collages were produced on the computer using two different methods.

### **Gargoyle above by courtesy of Sandra Gratrix**

Our next shoot is on 30<sup>th</sup> October at Westonbirt and our leader, Steve Hammond, will be sending out instructions on how to join us later on in October.

Meanwhile Malmesbury U3A have challenged us to produce a portfolio of



12 photographs with the theme "The Cotswolds in the Autumn" by 20th November to be judged by Sandie Cox on 26th Nov. We have not accepted this challenge yet as we need to consult about the idea, theme and timing

Join our group...its going places: [photography@tetburyu3a.org.uk](mailto:photography@tetburyu3a.org.uk) Steve Hammond

## Historic Buildings



Our first visit was to Chavenage House on 3rd October. It is an Elizabethan house of mellow Cotswold stone which is a family home as well as often being used as a location for TV & film productions. Many of you will know this wonderful house has featured in the Poldark TV

serial as "Trenwith" ...but clearly not in Cornwall! Twenty members of the group had an excellent private tour of this house escorted by the son of the current owner, George Lowsley-Williams. At a short meeting afterwards it was agreed to circulate some ideas for future visits with an emphasis on spring, summer and autumn months.

The next trip is to Gigg Mill in Nailsworth on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> November starting at 10.30. The visit should last about two hours and there will be demonstrations of handloom and power loom weaving and a chance for hands on experience! There are no more places free on this tour.

[historicbuildings@tetburyu3a.org.uk](mailto:historicbuildings@tetburyu3a.org.uk)

**Creative writing group** [creativewriting@tetburyu3a.org.uk](mailto:creativewriting@tetburyu3a.org.uk)

Robert Smith, group leader, has submitted one of his own short stories.

### GRANDDAD'S LIST

Granddad came to live with us when I was ten. There was no option after Gran died. For me it was marvellous, Granddad was fun to be with, but I used to hear Mum and Dad talking about him when I was supposed to be asleep and Mum used to complain about the extra washing.

Mum didn't like it when Granddad gave me a puff on his pipe or a swig of his beer. When he gave me a pen knife, she put it away 'for later' and I never saw it again. She especially hated it when Granddad helped me with my homework. "They're supposed to do it on their own!" she would say. Mum didn't like Granddad taking her place, especially after he helped me with my Biology homework and used a word that wasn't in the textbook.

Mr. Thomas, our teacher, set the class a project. "You are to make a list," he said, "of real heroes. And I shall ask you why you think they were heroes." Mr Thomas was strict, you got the slipper if homework wasn't done and I struggled with my list. Mum was busy, as usual, so I showed it to Granddad.

It seemed alright to me: Superman...

"He won't do" interrupted Granddad, "He's nothing but a bit of nonsense out of one of our comic books. You'll be getting the slipper for sure."

"What about Robin Hood, King Arthur and the Knights of the Round Table?"

"No!" said Granddad, "They're just made up people; your teacher said real heroes."

"Sherlock Holmes?"

Granddad shook his head, "It won't do at all," he said, "None of them are real."

"Not even Sherlock Holmes?" I asked. "He's on television."

"I'm afraid not," Granddad said. I bit my lip. It was getting late.

Granddad smiled. "You go on to bed and I'll make up a list, put in an envelope, and slip it under your door. Your Mother doesn't have to know." And he rubbed the side of his nose. Come morning my list was there; "John Barter, Jack Hood, Bernard Morgan, Stanley Snowden... the list went on."

I pushed the list into my school-bag as Mum came in. She had her serious face on and Dad was standing behind her. "We've something to tell you," she said, "Your Granddad... during the night."

The homework never did get handed in.

Granddad had no money, he only left a cheap watch and a few photographs that Mum stuffed in a drawer. My only souvenir was that list of names so I hid it away carefully. I came across it years later and wondered who they were: John Barter, Jack Hood, Bernard Morgan, Stanley Snowden...

I looked them up in an encyclopaedia, tried reference books, asked around, nobody knew. I tried putting the names one at a time into Google and searching the internet but I never discovered anything.

It was our family's little mystery.

Mum went suddenly at the end, she hadn't been well for years, and Dad never got over the loss. It wasn't long before they were reunited and I was down at the churchyard for the second time in a twelve-month. I took my little grand-daughter; she was too young to understand but I wanted to take her, to show her to relatives that I only meet at funerals. After the service was all over, I followed her as she skipped around the churchyard.

She picked up a fallen poppy and held it to her nose. She turned it over and gazed at it, the way little ones do when they've made a find.

As I smiled at her my eyes fell on the war-memorial, and its list of those who had fallen in the Great War. It was a long list but they were all there; John Barter, Jack Hood, Bernard Morgan, Stanley Snowden... Young men, sent to their deaths in defence of an uncaring accident of history.

All of them, they were real heroes.

## **AND FINALLY....**

### **Waving our magic wand!**

A delighted T&D U3A member recently reported that she and a friend were offered student entry reductions on presentation of their membership cards. What a good job your steering committee printed them through the National U3A Beacon Database so that every member has a unique barcode, nationally recognised. Use it, don't lose it. Happy savings.  
Roving Eye

**From the editors:** we are grateful for all contributions. It would be particularly helpful if they could be sent as attachments and include your group leader's email address for members to contact you. Special thanks to our Roving Eye reporter who hasn't received all due credit here in case extra lines upset the text formatting!

Copy date for November is Friday 8<sup>th</sup>.