



TETBURY & DISTRICT U3A

NEWSLETTER November 2019

REMEMBRANCE

Remembrance Day: Romance and Dust by Jeremy North

Arras lay in ruin by October 1918 but the battle of Cambrai had broken the German front with over 200 allied tanks rampaging through France. The end was very near. Imagine, then, this ray of sunlight striking the steeple of a half-ruined church in the main square, filtering down through the dust and piles of rubble all around. In front, an attractive brunette is sitting on a racing motor bike, waiting for the army car that will bring her future husband to her. She is thinking of how they met in battle when, as his corporal driver, they were both nearly killed by shell fire. Today they would leave the church with him in the sidecar, she driving as usual, for a short honeymoon on the coast.



Her thoughts dwell on life after the war together, now that it is clear the war would be over soon... after all that appalling 4 years of wasted life and destruction. How lucky they were to have survived and could they just get through a few more months?

Her thoughts are interrupted by a battered army car coming around the corner and her heart leaps! There is her

handsome engineer captain, whom she last saw helping to clear the roads just after the battles around Amiens a month ago, just after he had suddenly proposed to her in that funny bar behind the lines thus giving her a few weeks to get used to the idea...With him is the army chaplain, who will marry them on the ruins of the altar, using the cloth and chattels that chaplains carry with them into battle. ...how many brides can experience such a wedding as this? Suddenly this all seems so symbolic. She knows that this will be the start of new things rising out of the dust and rubble, just as France will rise. Yet sadness overwhelms hope. Tears well up as she remembers dead friends and fellow women drivers and she vows that this must be the last war ever.

In memory of my mother and father and all those who were killed or wounded in the "war to end all wars". He was in the engineers and she was his corporal driver. He married her in 1917; I never asked either about their experiences, but there must have been a story here. This account is therefore fictitious. Jeremy North

Bedale's wonderful firework display on the 100th anniversary of the WW1 Armistice [youtube.com/watch?v=7Yk6LWUZfgs](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7Yk6LWUZfgs)

FROM OUR WEBMASTER

Why should I check my Spam/Junk email folder?

One of the big reasons that your emails go to spam is that spam filtering has become more rigorous. Webmail providers are simply cracking down on spam. However, the filters aren't 100% accurate, so sometimes legitimate emails go to spam too.

Most of the major email providers, including Gmail, Yahoo, Hotmail, Apple Mail use engagement-based filtering to help detect spam. If you move legitimate emails out of your spam folder to your Inbox that is a positive indicator and can help to ensure future emails are correctly delivered.

To ensure emails from a specific sender don't get sent to spam, add that sender's email address to your contacts or address book. If you have them as a contact, most email services should know that you want to receive messages from them, and not to mark them as spam.

Please check your Spam/Junk folders and move legitimate emails to your Inbox. Lawrence Moss webmaster@tetburyu3a.org.uk

MONTHLY MEETINGS

U3A member Douglas Looman talked about the work of Wiltshire Air Ambulance for our October meeting. He has been a volunteer for this organisation for several years and so provided much interesting information, with supporting photographs and videos, about the cost of the service, how it is staffed and how it operates. Wiltshire, unusually, is able to fly its helicopters at night. Many were surprised to learn that a flying ambulance service began as long ago as during WWI though it provided just stretchered transportation from the battlefield to hospital at that time. Treatment of injuries was a later addition to the service and now highly sophisticated procedures can be undertaken by the skilled medical personnel on board the helicopter before the patient arrives at the hospital: using the Golden Hour, as Douglas explained. He made no

charge for his talk; a retiring collection for the Helicopter Emergency Medical Service was taken though the total is not yet known.

On Wednesday 20th November, Brigadier Bruce Jackman OBE MC will talk about the Gurkha Welfare Trust and the history of the Gurkhas; he, his father and his son have all served with this regiment. The Goods Shed doors open at 10:00 for a 10:30 start and entry is free for card-carrying members. If your friends would like to attend the talk, they are most welcome and can join our U3A at the door or by downloading a membership form from the web site. It's a bargain at £14.00.

There will be no talk in December. **January's subject, on 16th**, is 'Diving on the Mary Rose' by Colin Fox, a retired oil company worker who helped to explore the ship in his spare time and has now made 240 dives. He came face to face with a skeleton during one of his many descents and has helped bring historical artefacts back to the surface. Time and venue are as before.

REPORTS FROM THE GROUPS

Wine tasting

The second meeting was a tasting of Spanish wines; the group decides jointly on the topics for future meetings. This group is now full, limited by space in members' homes, but do contact the group leaders if you'd like to be added to a waiting list or, indeed, to start a second group on a different day, as there are members who find it difficult to meet on the second Monday evening of the month. winetasting@tetburyu3a.org.uk

Computing: Windows

This group held its second meeting on 30th October. The agenda included email fraud and spams, together with the files system and the function of browsers. The group has agreed to meet monthly and, with 14 members, is now full. windows@tetburyu3a.org.uk

Computing: Android

We currently have 10 members signed up to the Android group and held our first meeting in October, though only 7 were able to attend as membership of the T&D U3A has created busy calendars! We are a diverse group so agreed that a good way forward was to share issues and seek help and advice, primarily from within the group, mainly on a 1:1 basis. The list of issues is already quite long! Please sign up if you are interested in improving your knowledge and skills, or are willing to help others achieve their goals. Our next meeting is on 28th November at 2pm. We also plan to cover the use of Chromebooks, a laptop that effectively uses Android apps and is an alternative to Windows or iMacs. android@tetburyu3a.org.uk

Computing: Apple

The Apple iPad/iPhones group (an i-Device) continues to flourish with a small core of 8 and others who dip in and out as their commitments allow. The format of the weekly sessions is now falling into a pattern that all seem to like and the interaction between us makes for a lively two-hour Q&A with discussion time. I try to pick one subject a week, usually an Apple core application that runs on an i-Device, and then explain the function of the application, how to use it, how it interacts with other apps and we have a 'hands on' experience with our own devices. We have covered Calendar and Contacts; next will be Notes. Everyone has a different device so different functions emerge but the good news is that individuals are becoming confident enough to help each other. We use Calendar to set up the weekly meetings. We have also discussed how to maximise our cellular airtime contracts and the battery charge life. Everyone is confident to explore their i-Devices and I, too, am finding new things to do with an iPad or iPhone. A big Thank You to my wife, Jane, who frequently helps people in the class and makes a mean cuppa too. Several people have approached me to join, or re-join, the class so, with Lawrence's help, we hope to re-run the classes after Christmas as a beginners' group in parallel to the existing group. Is anyone interested in running this second group? apple@tetburyu3a.org.uk

Creative Writing

Creative Writing Group One is firmly established and is expected to flourish. Unfortunately, Group Two has failed to attract sufficient numbers and so has closed; some who originally expressed an interest in joining that group have other commitments. [This is a comment we have heard several times with T&D U3A offering so many enticing activities. Eds.] creativewriting@tetburyu3a.org.uk

German

The German group has two co-leaders but, so far, only two members; one a complete beginner and the other wishes to brush up previous knowledge. An initial meeting has taken place but the leaders feel that a minimum of 7, including themselves, is necessary to make the group viable. If you are interested in joining this group, please contact the leaders or speak to them at the Goods Shed on 20th November after the monthly meeting. No further meetings will be arranged until the level of interest is better understood. german@tetburyu3a.org.uk

Science and Technology

Unfortunately, this group has closed.

Photography

We held our third meeting at Westonbirt Arboretum to photograph the autumn colours; the weather was cool and overcast so we concentrated on close up work. Nine members of T&D U3A were joined by two from the Malmesbury photo group (one of whom has since joined T&D as well) for a couple of hours shooting followed by coffee, cake and a chat in the restaurant. We discussed the next meeting on 27th November, at which we'll consider our own images, and how we will respond to the 'Cotswolds in Autumn' challenge issued by Malmesbury which is to be judged by Sandie Cox on 28th November. Everyone agreed the time had been enjoyable and worthwhile, and quite a few felt they'd learned more about using their cameras. The group is settling in nicely and looks to have a strong future. photography@tetburyu3a.org.uk

MALMESBURY CHALLENGE OUR PHOTOGRAPHERS!

The Malmesbury U3A photographic group (photo below) have challenged us to produce a portfolio of photographs under the theme "The Cotswolds in Autumn!" This will be judged by Sandie Cox, under rules that have already been circulated to our photographers, on November 28th in the Maltings in Malmesbury Town Hall. Due to the size of the room, entrance will be restricted to both groups of photographers.



Spanish Conversation

The focus of this group is 'beginner' Spanish. It meets fortnightly and members are invited to do their own vocabulary research on specified topics for the following meeting. We will recap previous learning points of greetings, introductions, asking how someone is, where they are from, their present or previous occupations, hobbies, the weather, and giving and receiving directions to a location. The book we use is Pasos 1 Spanish, ISBN 9781 1473 6106 82. The next meeting is on 18th November from 10:00 till noon. Please contact the course leader for more information. spanish@tetburyu3a.org.uk

Play reading

The group will be reading "Ladies Who Lunch" by Tudor Gates on Monday 18 November, a comedy about three of the richest women in the world who attempt to raise a hundred million pounds for their favourite charity by playing the stock market, using illegal insider trading. But things turn

nasty when the mafia get involved as well as the regulatory authorities and then their husbands.

The play reading group will take a rest in December. If you would like to join this group for the January reading (selected play not yet known) contact Jeremy North: playreading@tetburyu3a.org.uk

Discussion group

This group will next meet on 21st November at 4:15pm when the topic will be '*Forgiveness - is it ever possible?*' New members are always welcome. If you like to talk through a subject that interests you, this could be the group for you. More details are available from the group leader. discussion@tetburyu3a.org.uk

Glass Group



The photo shows some of the 8 people regularly attending the weekly classes - and seemingly all enjoying learning something completely new. The first learning point was to cut accurately glass of various thicknesses and textures into a multitude of different shapes, some being much harder than others. Various projects are now being undertaken, using the cut pieces together with copper foil and solder; designs are fused in the kiln with left over pieces being turned into beautiful mosaic pictures. The group is enthusiastic and willing to have a go at anything and, if only the

leader can get her act and the kiln together, there will be wonderful things to show in a future newsletter. Until then, this fun group will continue to meet on a Monday morning. glass@tetburyu3a.org.uk

Climate change

We met in September and October, primarily for discussion and to explore issues of interest chosen by members. We will consider implications for action as appropriate. [The *Greening Tetbury* initiative is action-focused and we will be linking with them through attending their meetings.] We have heard members' experiences and interests, and discussed arising issues such as how building regulations do not stipulate more environmental responsibility, and what holds such conventions in place. For future meetings, people are volunteering to offer prompts for discussion from their expertise and interests to take up part of the session. In October we considered '*Why act in the face of despair when there seems no hope?*' November's meeting will include a discussion of '*Systemic thinking*' including how, sometimes, attempts at change - personal, organisational, social - inadvertently become 'more of the same'. We are also sharing links to books, websites and other resources to inform our discussions and learning. We meet on the first Thursday of the month from 2:00 till 4:00, usually in The Royal Oak. New members are welcome. Contact the leader for more information or talk to her after the monthly meetings. climatechange@tetburyu3a.org.uk

French conversation

October's meeting found us enjoying food, each other's company and the fun of communicating in French. The feedback is that we like the venue and the format so we will continue with a monthly session there for the foreseeable future; we meet again on Thursday 28th November, our usual 4th Thursday of the month. The topic will be '*Christmases I Have Known*' and, as songs are a great way to learn a language, we're going to use the chorus of a traditional French carol as a warm up:

Il est né, le divin enfant,
Jouez hautbois, résonnez musettes!

Il est né, le divin enfant
Chantons tous son avènement!

In case you're not familiar with the tune and would like to learn it beforehand, you can find it at:

youtube.com/watch?v=Tx2HAMDKe5o

Don't worry if you don't usually sing, or think you can't hold a note, it's just for fun and you have the choice to just listen instead.

Recommendations for French immersion: Duolingo is online free bitesize French practice; a free French quiz site at french.kwiziq.com; the current BBC 4 *Spiral* is a great crime thriller in French with English subtitles.

Please let me know if you are unable to attend a meeting. There will be no meeting in December. frenchconversation@tetburyu3a.org.uk

Mah Jong

The group is going strong and has settled down to a regular session once a week on Friday afternoons at the Greyhound pub. It is helpful if group members book in for this if possible, but feel free to come at the last moment.

Now that the basics have been established based on the U3A Mah Jong handbook, members are playing at home as and when they want to do so.



If you would like to join this group please contact our leader below. She is happy to give one to one help for those who have not played for some time or for beginners. Anne Osborne mahjong@tetburyu3a.org.uk

AND FINALLY, from Roving Eye

A Christmas gift for the retired person who has everything

Why not give a year's membership of Tetbury & District U3A to someone you know? They can enjoy meeting new people in the area with similar interests: history, gardening, boules, improving computer skills, learning a language, short walks, play reading, photography - to name but a few of the groups already meeting regularly. Contact the membership secretary through the website for more information: tetburyu3a.org.uk or email membership@tetburyu3a.org.uk

The last date for receipt of copy for the **January newsletter** is Monday 6th 2020.