



TETBURY & DISTRICT U3A

Newsletter December 2019

MONTHLY MEETINGS

Brigadier Bruce Jackman OBE MC gave an informative talk about the history of The Gurkha Welfare Trust for our November meeting which was well attended and attracted new members. The Welfare Trust was established to support Gurkhas who have lost their jobs through redundancy and so lose pension rights too. Many return to Nepal and a subsistence economy. Brigadier Jackman has written to say that he enjoyed his morning at "the magnificent Goods Shed Arts Centre" and that donations, on the day and afterwards, will have amounted to £716 once Gift Aid has been claimed from HMRC. Every penny raised is used directly to help Gurkhas as the UK government provides and pays for the 22 welfare centres in Nepal. Brigadier Jackman put this sum into context by saying that, in Nepal, £762 would provide a Welfare Pension for one Gurkha veteran or widow for 9 months, or pay for 15 cataract operations, or buy 14 sets of desks and chairs for a school. He ended his letter with sincere thanks and "Jai Gurkha!"

There will be no talk in December.

For your new diary: 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. The Goods Shed doors open at 10.00am for a 10.30am start. Non-members may attend and pay £5 which is refundable if converted to membership within 14 days so do encourage your friends to come, too.

The committee is aware that a few members would be grateful for a lift to the monthly meetings. If you are able to help, please contact the Chairman at jeremy@jeremynorth.com

PIANO CLUB, an apology as I missed this submission last month - Ed.

If you're an amateur pianist and would like to get together with others, say once a month, why not give the Piano Club a try? It is an opportunity to play, or listen to, music; you can share a work in progress or play a piano solo. You'll be part of a friendly and mutually supportive group. Contact Susan at pianoclub@tetburyu3a.org.uk

CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL, ST SAVIOUR'S CHURCH

This is the third year the event has been staged and U3A has been invited to take part; we have a tree in the church, decorated by Gail and Lawrence. On Monday 2nd December, the lights were switched on and the trees will be available for public viewing until 3rd January 2020.

A multi-denominational carol service, led by the Reverend Rob Church, Assistant Curate to the Tetbury Benefice, will be held at St Saviour's, near the Dolphins Hall, on Saturday 7th December at 5.30pm, followed by mulled wine and mince pies. This is a magical start to the Christmas festivities arranged by Tetbury Town Council. The U3A Steering Committee hopes you'll be able to go along and enjoy it.

We wish you all a very Merry Christmas and look forward to a Happy New Year of U3A activities.

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