



# TETBURY & DISTRICT U3A

## NEWSLETTER JANUARY 2020

### A MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR



First may I wish you all a very happy and prosperous New Year! As part of this I would like to thank all the volunteers who have served on our steering committee and all those leaders who have organised our groups. Good Job!

- We now need to look ahead to our first AGM on 15<sup>th</sup> April, in the Goods Shed, at which it will be important for as many of our members as possible to be present to appoint our first elected committee. Please note the start date and time (10.00am, access 9.30am) in your diaries as we need a quorum to pass any business.
- Individuals appointed to the committee can serve for a maximum of three years. Many of the existing steering committee have done an outstanding job and will stand for election. We need to elect members for the following posts:
  - \*Chair \*Vice Chair \*Treasurer \*Web master \*Business Secretary
  - \*Speakers Secretary \*Publicity Officer \* Groups Co-ordinator
  - \*Membership Secretary \*Newsletter Editor

If you wish to volunteer you will need a member to nominate you and a seconder to support your candidature, all subject to election if there is more than one candidate for any post. Instructions on the nomination procedure will be in our February newsletter. If you would like a job description of any one post please contact me below. Nominations should be sent to me by 7<sup>th</sup> March and a list will be published in the March newsletter, together with an agenda (anyone may request an agenda item or raise a point under "any other business").

Our speaker on 15<sup>th</sup> April will be Dr Mike O`Donnell talking about the changing face of health at work. His talk will start immediately after the AGM at around 11.15. If you really cannot make the AGM you will be able to come for the talk, but I must stress the importance of this first AGM as

it will be setting future policy and membership fees.

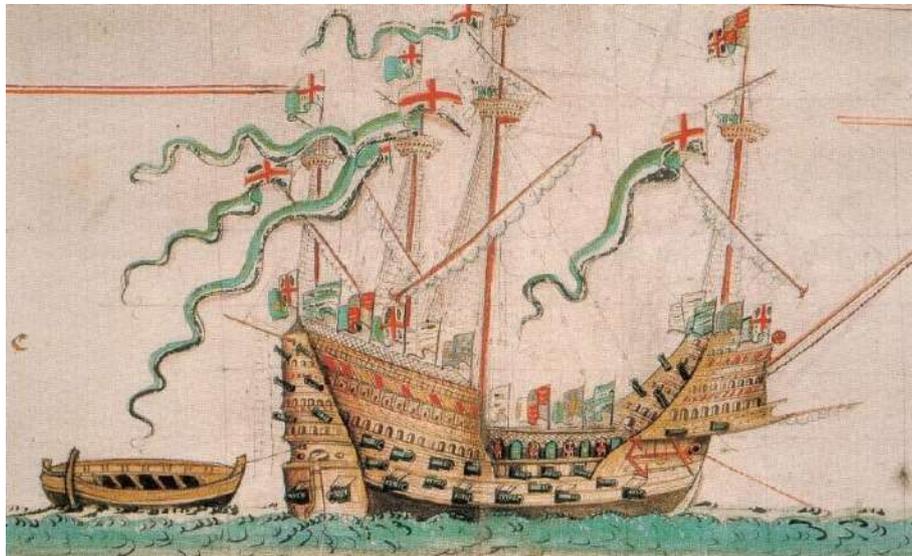
Until then enjoy your groups and we expect the list of activities to continue to grow.

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

## MONTHLY MEETINGS

### "DIVING ON THE MARY ROSE"

Colin Fox: 16<sup>th</sup> January



Colin Fox is a retired oil company worker who helped to explore the Mary Rose (Henry VIII's Flag Ship) in his spare time, even coming face to face with a skeleton in the depths of the wreck!

Colin made 240 trips down to the Mary Rose, spending a total of 173 hours underwater and bringing weapons, pewter pots and other artefacts back to the surface over a period of five years.

This event will be admission free for members at the Goods Shed on the 16<sup>th</sup> January at 10.00 am for a 10.30 start. New members can join at the door. Many of our group leaders will be available after the talk to discuss their activity groups. Visitors may attend our monthly meetings at a cost of £5, which is refundable against annual membership if taken out within 14 days.

Do not miss our next talk by Sharon Stevenson on the 19<sup>th</sup> February: "Flippin' Awesome" about the conservation of whales and dolphins.



Thank you to Paul Carroll for allowing the use of this photo.

**NEWS EXTRA:** a collection was taken after the Air Ambulance talk but admin issues back at base came up with the wrong total. Douglas Looman, the speaker, has confirmed that donations amounted to a very gratifying £220.30.

## **GROUPS**

**SHORT WALKS.** A programme for 2020 is being drawn up with several members offering to lead. Cars are sometimes required to vary the starting points. Walks are usually 2.5 - 3.5 miles with a minimum number of stiles. New details will specify length, time required and number of stiles. We meet on the first Thursday morning and the third Friday afternoon each month; future walks include the Estcourt Estate, Badminton, Hawkesbury Upton, Uley Bury, Minchinhampton and Tetbury.  
[shortwalks@tetburyu3a.org.uk](mailto:shortwalks@tetburyu3a.org.uk)

**FRENCH CONVERSATION** has new members but does not yet need to create another group. It manages various levels of fluency with everyone benefitting. The format of a shared lunch and conversation is proving very successful. Note that an earlier start time of 12.30pm has been implemented to make it easier for members to attend the whole session.

The venue remains St Michael's Hall on the fourth Thursday so the next meeting will be on Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> January when the topic will be New Year Experiences and Resolutions. [frenchconversation@tetburyu3a.org.uk](mailto:frenchconversation@tetburyu3a.org.uk)

**PHOTOGRAPHY.** A core group is forming nicely, reflecting the inclusive nature of the group with support for less experienced members. In 2020 we will be available to photograph any groups which ask and we will also be looking at ways to support local good causes. Our programme for the year will be discussed at the next meeting on 29<sup>th</sup> January; it is likely to include studio photography, landscapes, file management, image editing to name a few. Special thanks to Jeremy North who stands in when Steve Hammond is unable to attend. [photography@tetburyu3a.org.uk](mailto:photography@tetburyu3a.org.uk)

**HISTORIC BUILDINGS** has gone into hibernation for the winter as most historic houses are shut. The sub-committee is busy putting together a proposed programme for late March onwards and a draft will be circulated shortly. We will meet on 28<sup>th</sup> February at 10.30am at The Royal Oak to discuss the programme and take further suggestions. The Royal Oak provides the room free of charge so it would be good if we bought a coffee or two to show our thanks. If you would like to join this group, please come along but alert me soon as we need to control numbers. [historicbuildings@teburyu3a.org.uk](mailto:historicbuildings@teburyu3a.org.uk)

**TABLE TENNIS** finally took off at the end of October once a venue with suitable equipment and storage had been sourced. Initially, interest was high but attendance has been low so more players are needed to sustain the viability and vitality of the group. The standard of play is exceptionally good. We play at Malmesbury Leisure Centre on alternate Friday afternoons at 1.30pm for two hours and our next dates are 17<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> January. The cost is likely to be £3.00 per session depending on numbers attending. [tabletennis@tetburyu3a.org.uk](mailto:tabletennis@tetburyu3a.org.uk)

**GARDENING** has a full programme for 2020. We plan to visit the Colesborne Estate near North Cerney for their inaugural Garden Club Day on 13<sup>th</sup> February. Colesborne is famous for its wonderful snowdrop display.

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

## BRIDGE QUIZ

A teaser for those of you who have not joined our group already but who may want to join us.

As North you are dealt:

### NORTH OPENER

♠ 8   ♥ 6, 3   ♦ A, 10, 9   ♣ A, K, Q, J, 10, 4, 2

Clearly a strong hand with 14 high card points. If played in clubs you have five potential losers unless one of your opponents has a least six clubs....a very unlikely event. Playing standard Acol what would you bid?

To see if you are right you are going to have to join our very social group playing in each other`s homes. We have just started a new round robin in January...it is not too late to join us.

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

## CLIMATE CHANGE

Our Chair has received the following email from U3A in Kennet:

Climate Change has become a major news item affecting all age GROUPS. ISSUES in 2019 included Extinction Rebellion, Greta Thunberg shouting at the UN, commitments to make the UK carbon neutral by specific dates in the recent election campaigns, Sir David Attenborough's documentary "Seven worlds, one planet", and the recently announced Earthshot Prize. So what are the facts, what are the future options, how will we cope and adapt on a personal level to what could be radical changes to the way we live in the future?

U3A in Kennet, on behalf of the Bath and Wiltshire Network of U3As, has organised a Special Interest Day, "Climate Change and future Sustainability", on 5<sup>th</sup> May at Marlborough College. This event is generously subsidised by the college and will be attended by students. Four talks by experts in the various fields will address specific aspects touched on above. The day is for U3A members only so do encourage others to join if they would like to attend. Further details are on Tetbury U3A website or are available from [climatechange@tetburyu3a.org.uk](mailto:climatechange@tetburyu3a.org.uk)

**A REMINDER** as you book your holidays for 2020 that any booking made directly with Riviera Travel will generate a donation for our U3A worth 10% of the cost of your holiday. For this to happen, you must mention your Tetbury & District U3A membership when you book the holiday.

**COPY DATE** for February is noon on Friday 7<sup>th</sup> February

