



NEWSLETTER FEBRUARY 2020

A message from the Chair

Please look out for three important documents that will be winging your way on 21st February, all to do with our upcoming first AGM on 15th April. You will receive nomination instructions, a form for you to name yourself or to propose someone else for election to the committee, and an agenda. Obviously, we would like as many of our members as possible to be present to appoint our first elected committee.

A job description for each committee role will be posted on the website but you can also obtain a copy from me, see below. 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.

Our U3A continues to go from strength to strength with 235 members as we go to press, after only 7 months of activity, so the group leaders are clearly doing a good job.

Jeremy North: chair@tetburyu3a.org.uk

MONTHLY MEETINGS

January's talk, "Diving on the Mary Rose" by Colin Fox, attracted a large audience, some of whom are already planning trips to Portsmouth to see the real thing, such was Colin's enthusiasm for the project. He explained how the newly discovered artefacts have added to historians' knowledge of life in Tudor times and supported his talk with plenty of pictures.

This month's talk on 19th February, "The Conservation of Dolphins and Whales", will be given by Sharon Stevenson who is the Community and Events Fundraising Manager for Whale and Dolphin Conservation (WDC)

which is the leading global charity dedicated to defending these remarkable creatures. The remit of WDC is to protect all whales and



dolphins from the many threats they face, through campaigning, advising governments, establishing conservation projects, providing research and undertaking rescues. The talk will take place in the Goods Shed at 10am for 10.30am and is free for all members. New members may join at the door and guests are welcome to attend for £5 which is refundable if translated into membership within 14 days. Membership forms are downloadable from the website or can be collected from Tetbury Town Hall Reception. tetburyu3a.org.uk

For your diary: on Thursday 19th March, the Wordsmiths at Gorsemere might be visiting Tetbury, or maybe one or two of the Gloombsbury Set will pass by, or perhaps Dulcie Domum will put in a brief appearance, all with their creator, **Sue Limb**, a well-known and talented writer of fiction and biography as well as parodies and scripts. More information next month.....

GROUPS

New groups: an informal **BADMINTON** group has recently been established and already has 6 participants so is almost full. It meets at

Westonbirt Sports Centre and costs depend on the number of courts used.
badminton@tetburyu3a.org.uk

MOT, Members Out Together, is still at the pre-launch stage so has no website email yet. It is hoped members will get together informally once a month over refreshments to get to know each other - perhaps those new to the area or newly on their own. The original **CINEMA** group has been incorporated in MOT now that its leader is in better health. There could be outings, cinema trips, journeys using bus passes or shared taxis. Keep an eye on your email inbox and the website for further details of this group.

A **MUSIC** group is also on the way. Details will be listed on the website in due course.

WINE TASTING's Monday evening group is full due to the practicalities of meeting in members' homes. Anyone wanting to establish or join another group on a different day/time should contact Pat, the Groups' Co-ordinator:
groups@tetburyu3a.org.uk

Existing groups: **BRIDGE** group will meet at the leader's apartment on 5th April at 3.30pm for tea and biscuits and to set the programme for the early summer. "Inverted minors", a technique for achieving "no trumps", will be discussed. New members are welcome but numbers are limited so contact the leader: bridge@tetburyu3a.org.uk

PLAY READING's next title is to be "Lady Windermere`s Fan" by Oscar Wilde on both 6th March and 23rd March at 2pm in the leader's apartment. There are four places remaining for new readers who should allow 3 hours for this activity; acting ability is not required though a skill with accents makes it more fun! The play is read twice a month, usually on a Monday pm, because this gives members with busy calendars two options:
playreading@tetburyu3a.org.uk

HISTORIC BUILDINGS has hibernated over the winter as most houses are closed but will meet again on 26th February at 10.30am at The Royal Oak pub on Cirencester Road where there is easy parking off Herd Lane. We will plan the programme for 2020. New members are welcome but please contact the leaders first: historicbuildings@tetburyu3a.org.uk

MAH JONG is going great guns, meeting once a week on a Friday pm though individuals are also meeting in each other's homes on an ad hoc basis. You are welcome to drop into The Greyhound pub on a Friday between 2pm and 4pm to see how it is played. It is easy to learn and we have lots of fun. One-to-one sessions are available to help any new members master the basics.



This is a wiggly snake and it's worth 1000 points if you are lucky enough to find one. Want to know more? Contact: mahjong@tetburyu3a.org.uk

WINE TASTING will be sampling South American wines this month. Previous bottles have come from Hungary, Crete, the Lebanon and Macedonia, as well as French reds and German whites. The leader will set up a waiting list if others wish to join this group rather than one running on a different day. Cheers! winetasting@tetburyu3aq.org.uk

BOULES, weather permitting, will restart on 6th March at the Red Bull pub just outside Malmesbury, on the Chipping Sodbury road, at 10.30am. New members and beginners are welcome, with sets of boules available to borrow if you do not have your own. The Boules piste is large enough to be



playing up to 10 matches at the same time and the cost is £2 per person. It's a light-hearted sport which ends with a drink in the pub. We do our best to encourage carpooling. Please let the leader know if you are coming. boules@tetburyu3a.org.uk

Wow!

The **APPLE iPad** computer group is running again with 11 members attending 2-hour sessions every 2 weeks. This is the second beginners' course and has been refined based on feedback from the first course. It covers how best to use your iPad including wireless connectivity, security, the free productivity apps that come with these devices, and iCloud for backup and sharing. The leader has written a course manual which will be a user guide once the course has finished. The meetings are fun with many questions and discussions about iPad 'discoveries'. This course is full but there will be another in the autumn of 2020; details will appear on the website and in the newsletter apple@tetburyu3a.org.uk

The **GARDENING GROUP** will be visiting The Colesbourne Snowdrop Garden on 13th Feb. A visit to the Coach House Garden at Ampney Crucis is planned for 6th March where we will have the opportunity to see and buy rare plants as well as looking round the lovely garden. Meet at 09:30 am in the car park at the Tetbury Goods Shed to car share to the venue.

gardening@tetburyu3a.org.uk

The deadline for items for the next newsletter is noon on **Friday 6th March**.