



# Tetbury & District U3A

Bulletin No. 1 March 2020

## From the Chair

I would like to introduce myself as the new Chair of T&D U3A. I was elected at the committee meeting on 16<sup>th</sup> March when the previous Chair and the Groups' Co-ordinator stood down, both for personal reasons. We thank them for their outstanding contributions. Audrey Hateley has agreed to become Groups' Co-ordinator and we welcome her to the committee.

As we are unable to hold the AGM planned for April, the current steering committee will continue to manage our U3A until the meeting can be safely rescheduled. This includes the flexibility to change roles to best use talents.

I feel privileged, daunted and excited to take on the role of Chair, following Jeremy's excellent work in getting things going. I look forward, even at this difficult time, to working with you to build on our very promising start, to explore new ways to learn and, most importantly, to support each other.

You can contact me on <mailto:carmel.burton@gmail.com> and Audrey on <mailto:audrey@wah.me.uk>. Although no longer in post, Pat sends her thanks to the leaders and remains willing to help anyone with queries: <mailto:pat2019u3a@gmail.com>

You will note this is described as a Bulletin rather than a newsletter. We feel it important to keep in frequent and informal touch with members.

Best wishes from Carmel Burton

## New Ways to Learn

PLAYREADING is about to become Play Writing! Three volunteers will write an Act each with only Act 3's author knowing how it ends. Other volunteers will edit, check historical facts and maybe write a prologue or an epilogue. It will be set in 1347 when the Black Death ravaged Gloucestershire and will include topical situations and parodies of present day personalities. Jeremy North: <mailto:playreading@tetburyu3a.org.uk>

SHORT WALKS is confining itself to local outings so that no car sharing is required. The 2m rule will be observed until official advice decrees otherwise. Judith Richardson: <mailto:shortwalks@tetburyu3a.org.uk>

CLASSICAL MUSIC hopes there will be some concerts on the radio to which members will be alerted; a discussion by email could follow <mailto:classicalmusic@tetburyu3a.org.uk>.

FRENCH CONVERSATION is connecting online with members who have been given lots of puzzles and poetry challenges to be completed in French. If you would like to do this too, in French or another language, contact: <mailto:frenchconversation@tetburyu3a.org.uk> for the suggestion sheet.

GLASS GROUP member Jackie Cleaver thanks Alison Hesketh for the skills passed on in earlier meetings. She is now able to set up her own small workshop to practise all she has learned in anticipation of the group restarting in due course.

The COMPUTER GROUPS have been experimenting with alternative forms of communication: Facetime, Skype and Skype for Business, Microsoft Teams (which offers a free trial for 6 months. Contact Mike O'Donnell for help: <mailto:windows@tetburyu3a.org.uk>), Zoom video conferencing Neil Cook <mailto:apple@tetburyu3a.org.uk>, Google Hangouts, WhatsApp video David Smith <mailto:android@tetburyu3a.org.uk> and Facebook Messenger. There may be more which we'll mention as they come to our notice. The experts warn that bandwidth access may become more difficult as demand increases. For advice on any of the above, contact the leaders through the website: <https://tetburyu3a.org.uk/>

MEMBERS OUT TOGETHER, MOT, is on ice but the leaders have come up with an alternative, KEEPING IN CONTACT, KIC. If you would like to keep in contact with others by phone or email, get in touch with Gail, <mailto:membership@tetburyu3a.org.uk>, and she will circulate your details to others who also want to keep in contact.

BRIDGE FOR BEGINNERS is just the thing for being stuck at home. Tutorials for complete beginners will be offered on a one-to-one basis through emails. The programme assumes you know nothing about Bridge but are prepared to spend the next 3 months getting to a standard to be able to play in the Social Bridge group. A couple could learn together using the modules which require an hour of your time once a week, a bit longer for practice sessions and quizzes. Contact Jeremy North and tell him whether you have ever played whist: <mailto:bridge@tetburyu3a.org.uk>

HISTORIC BUILDINGS is asking members to contribute an appreciation of the best historic building they have visited, to be published over the next few weeks/months until normal service is resumed. Already in the pipe-line is an article about Bletchley Park, and a spoof about Hampton Brewery and raconteur Sir Peregrine Bolsover-Jones. Learn more from Maggie & David Smith, and Jeremy North: <mailto:historicbuildings@tetburyu3a.org.uk>

Keep your imaginative ideas coming and together we can find interesting things to do for as long as it takes. Email items to the editors at any time and we'll send out another bulletin as soon as we have something to tell you. Keep safe and well, and ask for help if you need it.