

Tetbury & District U3A

Bulletin No. 2 March 2020

Very few of us will have seen each other recently but that certainly doesn't mean contacts have stopped. Keeping in touch in tricky times is more important than ever and we seem to be doing well in this respect. Emails are flying about, groups are talking via Skype, Zoom, Microsoft Teams and other means, and the committee is planning an e-conference meeting to make sure all is going as well as it can at the moment.

The newspapers are full of 'corona' stories, some more edifying than others. The community spirit in all parts of the country is keeping lots of people safe so it is sad to read of scammers and profiteers taking advantage of people's anxieties at such a vulnerable time. Criticism of, and praise for, the government's strategies seem to be about equally balanced (depends which paper you read!), and we'll probably never know who got it right.

I'm guessing you aren't yet bored if you are self-isolating. People are finding jobs to do in house and garden which have been on the domestic agenda for years: unfinished craft projects, books unread, a musical instrument or foreign language to learn, a quiz to construct ready for Christmas, and then there is the decorating..... We'll all have gardens fit to open to the public with so much time to preen and prune! And there is much to find online for entertainment and education: the videos and walk-throughs provided by galleries and museums, for example.

U3A's National Office provides a monthly newsletter which can be accessed by a direct link: <https://mailchi.mp/u3a/newsletter-express-latest-advice-on-coronavirus-2231397>

GROUPS. There is, unsurprisingly, very little news at the moment.

SOCIAL BRIDGE's leader is proposing to keep his members' hands in with topics, quizzes and challenges at least twice a month. The first one is imminent and will cover a useful variant of the rule of twenty called the rule of twenty plus two. If you would like to join in and are not currently

a member of this group, then sign up now!
<mailto:bridge@tetburyu3a.org.uk>

The QUIZ TEAM offers its latest brainteasers to all members:
<https://tetburyu3a.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/quiz.pdf>

These are the answers: <https://tetburyu3a.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/quiz-answers.pdf>

Gail, Membership Secretary, has received details of a web site which might appeal to seasoned puzzlers. This is normally a charity fundraising site but is currently offering bonus puzzles as thanks for past support. Look at <https://christmaspuzzle.uk/>

MEMBERS OUT TOGETHER is better described as Members In Isolation at the moment but all this will pass. David Hollister has sent a 'keeping in touch' message, describing how he is passing the days. In good times, he is a guide at Westonbirt and he relates a tale he tells the visitors, particularly relevant now. *"There is an oak tree on the Downs known as The Plague Tree. During the plague, the people of Westonbirt were forced into self-isolation but the folk living in Leighterton were not affected and so brought provisions which they left under the oak tree with a jar of vinegar. Westonbirt residents collected the food and left payment in the vinegar which acted as a disinfectant."* What goes around, comes around - it's as true today as it was then.

NEWS FROM TETBURY TOWN

The Post Office is now open only on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday mornings. Service by the mobile bank is currently suspended.

The Priory Inn, London Road, is providing fruit, vegetable and meat boxes. All details are on their website:
<https://www.orderfrom.co.uk/prioryinntetbury>.

If you prefer to telephone, then call 01666 502251 from 9am till 9pm. Deliveries are made Mon-Fri and payment is taken over the phone.

Butcher Jesse Smith is now closed to protect staff but is offering a Click & Collect service from the farm shop in Love Lane, Cirencester, or an online delivery service. Contact: 01285 653352.

An item in the WI's newsletter advises that the green **garden waste** collection has been suspended pro tem as CDC is short-staffed at the moment.

Anita Stride, Speaker Finder, sent a poem to the committee to lighten our day and, with her permission, we think it should be shared:

"I've washed my curtains, swept the floors,

Cleaned under beds and tops of doors,

I've dug the garden, mowed the lawn,

Laundered clothes I've never worn.

I emailed friends and read Mantell,

Wrote a novel - it'll never sell.

Brushed the dog, annoyed the cat,

Tried Salman Rushdie, where's that at?

Tidied drawers, washed my hair,

Can't go out, it isn't fair.

What I need to keep busy,

It isn't wine or something fizzy,

What I want, my elusive goal,

A slot at Tesco and a toilet roll."

Please send any snippets, good ideas, news items, Group news to the Editors <mailto:newsletter@tetburyu3a.org.uk> at any time and we can produce a bulletin at short notice.