

# Tetbury & District U3A

Bulletin No. 3 April 2020

As we enter the third week of lockdown, I am struck by how adaptable life is. Outside, spring flowers bloom and, it may be my imagination, there seem to be more birds, singing more loudly.

We are becoming ever more resourceful as we find new ways to keep in touch, mastering technology that many of us would never have thought possible: Zoom, FaceTime and WhatsApp to name but three. If you would like help to use these, do contact any of the computing group leaders or the Webmaster: [tetburyu3a.org.uk](http://tetburyu3a.org.uk)

Many thanks to our group leaders who are managing to keep many of our groups going in some form or another, and many thanks to all of you for the messages of support and the support you are giving each other. If you need any help or just someone to chat to, let Gail, Membership Secretary, know.

For me personally, my third grandchild is due any day now. What a time to be born, was my initial thought but my reflection now is that new life gives new hope.

Look after yourselves, stay safe and well.  
Carmel Burton, Chair.

## MEMBERSHIP

The committee continues to meet regularly via Zoom; a recent discussion concerned membership fees. The standing committee has the authority to make decisions in the current circumstances and so it has been decided that the renewal fees for next year (1<sup>st</sup> August 2020 - 31<sup>st</sup> July 2021) will be £12 pp. The 'special offer' reduction was only ever intended to last for one year but this remains excellent value at £1 per month though instalments are not, regrettably, an option! This is not a request for payment as renewal forms will be issued. Since we are able to offer very little 'activity value' at the moment, any new member joining now will have membership extended to 31<sup>st</sup> July 2021.

## GROUPS

Three members of the PLAYREADING group have made a start on their play, set in a Gloucestershire manor house in 1347 during the Black Death.

The Lord bears an uncanny resemblance to Boris and his advisory monk could pass for Dominic Cummings in a cowl. There may soon be available a taster from the first act..... If you would like to be involved, especially with research, contact Jeremy North: [playreading@tetburyu3a.org.uk](mailto:playreading@tetburyu3a.org.uk)

HISTORIC HOUSES has sent its first report to group members; this featured the wartime codebreaking centre at Bletchley Park. Whilst all visits are on hold, provisional plans for visits to Salisbury Cathedral on 22<sup>nd</sup> July and to the Mary Rose in Portsmouth on 9<sup>th</sup> September remain on the calendar. Join now to receive the reports. Maggie & David Smith, Jeremy North: [historicbuildings@tetburyu3a.org.uk](mailto:historicbuildings@tetburyu3a.org.uk)

BEGINNERS' BRIDGE. There will be 8 modules available for distance learning. They are:

Introduction to the game (Ready)

Assessing your hand (Ready)

Bidding a balanced hand (Being prepared)

Bidding an unbalanced hand

Responses to an opening bid

Overcalling

Playing your hand

Defensive tactics

Whilst you can dip into these, they do follow sequentially and are aimed at absolute beginners so not suitable for refreshing lapsed players unless they are really rusty! They are designed to get a beginner ready to play with other beginners. This is your chance to give it a try while you are locked down. Jeremy North: [bridge@tetburyu3a.org.uk](mailto:bridge@tetburyu3a.org.uk)

The APPLE computing group is clearly being well taught as an 80 year old iPad user who joins the video lesson on Wednesdays is now instructing her daughter how to use Zoom to communicate with the whole family.

GLASS group member Jackie Cleaver has been busy in her new workshop putting into practice the skills she has learnt and sent photos of her work.



### CALLING ALL GARDENERS

If you have spent the past few weeks in your garden and now have a surplus of plants after carefully dividing large clumps of perennials or taking lots of cuttings, there is a home waiting for them. Maggie and David Smith have been clearing a newish garden to create planting areas and would welcome offers of plants to fill the gaps. They will collect by arrangement so that social distancing is maintained. Please email Maggie on: <mailto:gardenplants@tetburyu3a.org.uk>

KEEP IN TOUCH is a new initiative on the T&D web site to share items of interest, amusement, information. For example, other plant swappers could post on it, or perhaps some more quizzes to pass the time, poems to keep us cheerful, maybe some haikus. Please be aware that your personal details will need to be published if you require a response to your post. All contributions will be filtered to avoid inappropriate items as our website is a public vehicle.

MISSING THE THEATRE? National Theatre Live is showing a recorded performance on YouTube at 7pm every Thursday evening in April and May, and it's free! Each show will be available for 7 days so there is just time

to catch last week's excellent 'One Man, Two Guvnors' starring James Corden. 'Jane Eyre' is on 9<sup>th</sup> April, 'Treasure Island' on 16<sup>th</sup> and 'Twelfth Night' on 23<sup>rd</sup>. May's programme is not yet available. Google NTL online screening for further information about post-show interviews and podcasts.

Look also at offerings from The Globe Theatre which is releasing 6 free films from 6<sup>th</sup> April, The Show Must Go On (a new YouTube channel showing Lloyd Webber musicals), The Metropolitan Opera (be aware of time differences), and The Royal Opera House. The National Gallery and The Tate are going 'behind the scenes' at some exhibitions. The tech savvy can probably set up YouTube on their smart TVs and so be able to watch a proper sized screen.

SHOPPING. Hobbs Bakery is open and selling fresh yeast for the bread makers. The Grocer on Church Street, opposite Hobbs, has a website - [thegroceronchurchstreet.co.uk](http://thegroceronchurchstreet.co.uk); he suggests sending him a list of your requirements and he'll let you know what he has. His stock deliveries are unpredictable at the moment. He is receiving great bags of flour from Shipton Mill which line the floor and revive memories of a grocer's shop of old. The shop is a veritable Aladdin's Cave of ingredients so do call in if you pass on your daily walk. Fruit and veg are also available.

Please keep your contributions coming and we'll keep sharing them.

Caroline and Judith: [newsletter@tetburyu3a.org.uk](mailto:newsletter@tetburyu3a.org.uk)