

# Tetbury & District U3A

Bulletin No. 4 April 2020

As we enter an extended period of lockdown, I hope you are all keeping well. I want to share with you a phrase I heard used in one of the daily briefings: "By staying at home we are depriving the virus of the means to spread". I was struck by how positive this is; our inaction is the action which is needed. I hope you are finding some positives, too: sunshine and beautiful blossom, maybe the best for some while. I am very blessed by the arrival on April 8<sup>th</sup> of Sebastian James, my third grandchild who is (not that I'm biased) delightful!

Keep safe, keep in touch.  
Carmel Burton, Chair.

## MEMBERSHIP

One of our members with a dry sense of humour wrote to the editors to suggest that, far from receiving insufficient value for his subs (Edition No 3.), he'd be happy to pay three times as much for the invaluable support he is currently enjoying from his group leaders. His identity remains a well-guarded secret lest he be lynched by others!

## GROUPS

HISTORIC BUILDINGS' member Dr Patrick Tierney has written a piece about the Jenner Museum in Berkeley which looks as though it should be on the list for a future visit. Group members will have received it by email by now. If anyone else would like a copy, please alert the joint leaders or perhaps join the group! Maggie & David Smith, Jeremy North: <mailto:historicbuildings@tetburyu3a.org.uk>

SOCIAL BRIDGE GOES ONLINE. Your leader has tested Bridge Base and found it easy and needing little computer expertise. It is ideal for the current situation as all four players can be in different households. It is no longer very social, of course, but it will see us through for a couple of months or so. Eight couples have signed up for it already, including one or two who are not Social Bridge members, so it is open to

all members of course. Full instructions have been prepared for anyone interested and we recommend you play with Jeremy and Anne first as they can talk you through any problems on the phone, before turning you loose on the other couples.

NB This is not for absolute beginners who have a specially designed distance learning package available and which assumes you have played whist in the past.

Jeremy North: <mailto:bridge@tetburyu3a.org.uk> or ring 01666 502974

POP UP GROUPS, rather like pop up restaurants, are temporary groups set up for, maybe, three months for members stuck at home and using technology to communicate, specifically by email, Skype and Zoom as appropriate. Of course, a pop up might morph into a regular group after lockdown if the demand remains.

*Creative writing and Storytelling:* the current group is full and this one adds storytelling to its brief, an activity which pre-dates the written word. Creative writing can be organised via email but storytelling will require video conferencing which the leader will organise. He has written one book, has two more in preparation and introduced storytelling with Robert Smith to Malmesbury U3A.

*Do Something New;* this pop up offers a unique opportunity to try something fresh in our lives, provided it can be done at home. The leader proposes that each member commits to a new activity and then reports on progress online. He would like to explore the structure of poetry, having written extensively but avoided verse, before going on to try and write it. Alternatively, this pop up could be directed entirely at poetry, a subject of which the leader knows nothing and would welcome help to research. It could be merged with *Creative Writing* as above.

If enough people are interested, Jeremy will start either or both groups. Let him know - no commitment till all have been consulted. Please note you will be asked to share your contact details with other group members.  
Jeremy North: <mailto:jeremy@jeremynorth.com>

The GARDENING GROUP leader has received details of online plant sales from the organiser of the Rare Plant Sale at Ampney Crucis <https://www.thegenerousgardener.co.uk/>. Many companies are snowed under right now so patience is required but they are glad of support.

Please sign up for their newsletter and you will get details of the plant specialists they support. Members also recommend online purchases from Hayloft Plants <https://hayloft.co.uk/> and Border Alpines in North Devon <https://www.borderalpines.co.uk/>.

KIC has received another 'tree' story from member David Hollister: *Davidia involucrata*, the handkerchief tree, so called because of its white papery bracts which resemble handkerchiefs, is named after a French missionary who discovered the plant in China in 1869 but took no seeds. Sir Harry Veitch, a nurseryman in Exeter, sponsored a collector to travel to China in search of those seeds but he found the tree had been cut down to build a house! He did find more trees but had to wait several months for the seed season. Eventually seeds were sent to Veitch who passed them to Kew where they proved impossible to germinate so were thrown on a compost heap, so the story goes. A year later, saplings appeared, identified as *dauidias*, and so many of the species growing today originated from that compost heap. Westonbirt Arboretum has some beautiful examples on Main Avenue which will just be producing their 'handkerchiefs' but, sadly, they will not be seen this year.

Some members of the KIC group are busy making the paired hearts, as mentioned in No3, and have also begun sewing scrubs for local hospitals. There is also a demand for face masks, with patterns and instructions available online.

The QUIZ GROUP offers its latest quiz to all members. It is available [HERE](#) and on the "Keep In Touch" page of the website <https://tetburyu3a.org.uk/> together with the answers.

#### **AND YET MORE....**

A new website called GREYSNET has recently been launched with funding from the National Lottery Community Fund; its purpose is to help elderly people all over the country stay connected and keep mind and body active. It is looking for chatty volunteers to initiate conversations by logging in on a regular basis. It is accessible [HERE](#) and on the "Keep In Touch" page of the website <https://tetburyu3a.org.uk/>

Nikki Ind, one of the Town Councillors and also a District Councillor, is happy to answer questions for anyone struggling to find information. Her Town Council email is: <mailto:nikkiind@tetbury.gov.uk> Tel: 07847 605502. If you live outside Tetbury, her Tetbury East and Rural Ward District email is: <mailto:nikki.ind@cotswold.gov.uk> Tel: 07847 605502. If she doesn't know the answer, she'll know someone who does.

And on a much lighter note, if you should feel you might be losing touch with reality, look at the piece on KIT ("Keep In Touch") page of the website <https://tetburyu3a.org.uk/> about conversations with household appliances.

Please keep your contributions coming and we'll keep sharing them.  
Caroline and Judith: <mailto:newsletter@tetburyu3a.org.uk>