

# Tetbury & District U3A

Bulletin No. 7 May 2020

I hope that you are all keeping well and managing to enjoy the beautiful sunshine. As I write, we have no change to government guidance that will affect our ability to get together in groups. That may alter and, as soon as it does, we will make sure that you are kept informed. In the meantime, we continue to offer a range of opportunities to keep in touch and to keep learning. Look after yourselves and each other and stay in contact. Website details: <https://tetburyu3a.org.uk>

Carmel Burton, Chair

## GROUPS

PLAY READING has enjoyed a successful 'reading' of "The Importance of Being Earnest" and plans a regular reading on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of the month, the next being on 15<sup>th</sup> June at 2pm. Three members of the group have nearly finished what we believe is the first play written specifically for reading at a Zoom conference; it is based on the Black Death in 1348 with an epilogue set in current times. We hope to read this on 15<sup>th</sup> June. Copies are available on request and new group members are welcome. Contact: <mailto:jeremy@jeremynorth.com>

The PHOTOGRAPHY group has produced a distance learning package to introduce editing skills to inexperienced photographers. This is offered to the wider membership as many of you have archived photographs which you might like to work on during lockdown. The package provides written instructions and an offer of tutorial help via email, phone or Zoom. View the author's photo website at [www.jeremynorth.com](http://www.jeremynorth.com) To receive a copy of the material contact him at <mailto:jeremy@jeremynorth.com>

BRIDGE now has 15 members playing each other on excellent software called Bridgebase. Ten are playing regularly in a round robin competition while 5 more play casually. Bridgebase enables players to be in different

locations and offers practice sessions against robots! It is easy to use so do not be put off; the group leader will happily get you up and running. New members are always welcome and there is a learning package for beginners. Contact: <mailto:bridge@tetburyu3a.org.uk>

HISTORIC BUILDINGS is looking forward to tackling a long list of places to visit once we are out of lockdown, some based on car sharing and others further afield by coach. High on my list would be the National Trust's Palladian house at Stourhead in its world-famous landscape with the lake as a centre piece. A visit is mainly about the Italianate gardens so a lot of walking is involved, especially the lovely stroll out to King Alfred's Tower. The house, meanwhile, is known for its unique Regency library, Chippendale furniture and inspirational paintings. I remember seeing, more than 20 years ago, a performance of "Swan Lake" staged at the edge of the water, merging the magical musical experience with a glorious and highly appropriate setting. Perhaps we could research the possibility of a similar experience.... Your contributions about buildings you have visited are still very welcome. David and Maggie Smith and Jeremy can be reached at: <mailto:historicbuildings@tetburyu3a.org.uk>

STORY TELLING harnesses the ancient art of "word of mouth" communication. Imagine being in a cave, in front of a log fire, with your family, locked down for the night. It is an ideal scenario for today's situation as it can be delivered via Zoom video conferencing. Here is the start of a story for you to finish:

*Shivering with cold and anticipation tinged with fear, Steve Cobbold eased his battered Bermuda rigged sloop into the faint signs of dawn. Ever since the call from the Admiralty, he had been steadily timing his arrival for just this moment. He sensed other craft around him - it was good not to feel alone as the sounds of heavy explosions reached him. Raising his binoculars and searching for land, he brought into focus an appalling scene ahead.*

The challenge is to finish this is no more than 500 words, or you can ask for the group's version. You might like to join the group just for the rest of lockdown. Send your story to: <mailto:jeremy@jeremynorth.com>

Chris Green, a seasoned quizzer, draws your attention to a 'Bonus Quiz' to be found on the KIT button on the TetburyU3A website. The answers will be provided by the setter sometime in June.

The GARDENING GROUP leader would like to remind members to keep taking photographs of their gardens during the lockdown. Everything is welcome - successes and failures alike - so that we can compile a photobook of the 2020 season once we can all meet together.

AND MORE: Tetbury is slowly coming back to life. The Post Office is now open from 10-3, Mon-Friday. The market is getting going again in a small and careful way. Jesse Smith, butcher, is open Thurs-Sat. Blue Zucchini will serve you an al fresco coffee.

Keep your news coming.

Caroline and Judith: <mailto:newsletter@tetburyu3a.org.uk>

Tetbury Bulletin 7.docx