

Tetbury & District U3A

Bulletin No. 9 July 2020

GOOD NEWS! Our Tetbury & District U3A is approaching its first anniversary with next year's (2020-2021) membership renewals due on 1st August, but read on before reaching for your cheque book. The Coronavirus Covid-19 Pandemic and UK Government legislation have stopped our planned AGM, group meetings and monthly speaker talks at the Goods Shed. We anticipate that this situation will continue until Government guidance advises otherwise.

Several of our groups are meeting virtually using video conferencing technologies and telephone calls. Our committee has continued to function with monthly Zoom virtual meetings; a summary of meeting minutes is available on our website 'Policies' page, once each has been ratified. <https://tetburyu3a.org.uk/policies>

We have trimmed expenses to the bare minimum and our Treasurer has registered our U3A with HMRC to receive Gift Aid. Therefore, we propose to reduce all membership renewals to a nominal £5.00, as a Covid-19 concession for this year only, until 31st July 2021. The renewal form can be filled in online or downloaded from the website and, as an extra bonus, payment is due by 1st October, please.

We hope to resume group meetings and monthly speaker talks at the Goods Shed as soon as possible and thereby normalise next year's membership renewals and new member applications from 1st August 2021.

For the latest Government advice and its implications for us, please refer to <https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus>

GROUPS

Groups which, almost inevitably, comprise "several households" are still not allowed to meet face-to-face; a maximum group size of 6 remains in force but that has allowed two groups with outdoor activities to get going again.

SHORT WALKS is well and truly back up to speed. We have done four walks in groups of 6 since lockdown eased. Our most pleasant walk was last week when we met at the recreation ground car park and walked down Chavenage Lane, through Hermit's Cave Wood, across the fields up to Chavenage House and back down the lane. Due to demand and the limited group size, we did the walk on both 2nd and 3rd of July. We are encouraging those who haven't ventured out with us since lockdown began to join us for our next walk on 17th July at 1.30pm from the Goods Shed. From August, we will be back to our normal arrangements, albeit with a limit of 6, walking on the first Thursday morning of the month and the third Friday afternoon. Details: <mailto:shortwalks@tetburyu3a.org.uk>

BOULES is also back in business within the confines of the maximum 6 players. Contact: <mailto:boules@tetburyu3a.org.uk>

The QUIZ group generously continues to provide erudite entertainment for all members. A new quiz, with answers, is now available on the website's KIT page. <https://tetburyu3a.org.uk>

PLAYREADING has successfully 'performed' The Black Pit, written by three members, about the Black Death. This triggered much discussion, looking at the similarities with the current situation, the striking differences being the death rates, communications and the lockdown approach. For a copy to read at home, contact the group leader, details below. We have been asked to read the play at the Goods Shed near Christmas.

Group members who wish to participate have been set the task of writing a 15-20 minutes long playlet for reading on 13th July. Members who are not part of the play reading group are welcome to attend the Zoom meeting as guests or new members. Contact Jeremy North on 01666 502974 or <mailto:playreading@tetburyu3a.org.uk>

PHOTOGRAPHY. Four members, three of whom are also members of Malmesbury's photographic group, have jointly developed a distance learning package of modules to help less experienced photographers. This is especially relevant during lockdown which is a good time to pursue indoor activities. These are available to **all members** to download and will, I hope,

encourage more members to join the very successful Tetbury group led by Steve Hammond. The modules are:

1. Basics and equipment
2. Camera controls
3. Exposure
4. Composition
5. Landscape
6. Portraits
7. Wildlife
8. Basic editing

Each module comes with an offer of a personal tutorial by a more experienced member of the joint group by phone, email, Skype or Zoom. For more details of the modules, contact <mailto:jeremy@jeremynorth.com>
To learn more about the group: <mailto:photography@tetburyu3a.org.uk>

PANDEMIC PROJECTS. This is an initiative from the Keep In Contact (KIC) group. How have you been spending the lockdown? Have you embarked on learning a new skill, making scrubs, sorting out the bookcase, tidying the garage, devising quizzes for those Christmas parties, keeping fit, writing a book, redesigning your garden, building a kit car? KIC hopes to create an archive of these activities so, if you have a contribution, please send it to Gail, the group leader: <mailto:gailmariemoss@icloud.com>

TECHNOLOGY is likely to play a part in our lives for some time to come, and not always as a 'second best' option. The committee would like to explore the wider use of Zoom and asks anyone with relevant expertise in running Zoom meetings to contact <mailto:lawrencedmoss@icloud.com>

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