

# Tetbury & District U3A

Bulletin No. 11 August 2020

As we start to come out of lockdown and begin to get our groups going again, National Office is receiving many questions about protocols so has sent guidance to all Chairs. It is correct as at 7<sup>th</sup> August. Some guidance is activity-specific, especially for sport and craft groups, and so should be checked on the national website. All guidance should be read in conjunction with the current government position which is available on our own website: <https://tetburyu3a.org.uk>

In summary:

- All groups must inform the committee before restarting
- In order to be covered by U3A insurance, leaders should undertake a risk assessment; all rules must be explained to, and followed by, group members
- Group leaders must have a form of 'track and trace' in place and hold that data for 21 days
- Anyone attending a group should do a personal assessment and be comfortable with what is arranged
- No meeting can take place in a private house
- A maximum of 6 may meet outdoors, or two households
- A maximum of 30 may meet in a Covid-secure enclosed space
- There must be no sharing of cars, equipment, food etc
- All items touched by others must be wiped
- Social distancing, handwashing and sanitising remain in place
- Bring your own mask, sanitiser and gloves if using a venue

SHOULD A LOCAL LOCKDOWN BE NECESSARY,

THIS WILL TAKE PRECEDENCE OVER ALL OF THE ABOVE

**RENEWALS.** Gail, Membership Secretary, has now processed 113 renewals; the new membership cards will be printed and available in a few

weeks' time. Both the renewal form and a new member's form, with payment details, are downloadable from the website or can be completed on line for which Adobe PDF Reader is required: <https://tetburyu3a.org.uk> Forms will not be available from the Town Hall, as in the past, as it is not always open and may result in wasted journeys. If you have any difficulty in accessing either form, please contact Gail who is happy to deliver or post one to you, or you may collect one from her in Long Newnton. Telephone: 07708 128382 or email her: <mailto:membership@tetburyu3a.org.uk>

**MONTHLY MEETINGS** will soon be back on the calendar. It seems unlikely that we will all be able to meet for quite a while and so Anita, Speaker Secretary, has talks arranged for October and November which can be delivered by Zoom. This is a very satisfactory way of delivering a talk and allows for slides or other visual aids to be used as if the speaker were present. The audience is unseen and mute, and there can be a facility for question and answer at the end.

On **Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> October**, Caroline Lowsley-Williams will talk about Filming at Chavenage, promising all the gossip. On **Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> November**, Howard Robinson will talk on Optical Illusions, a very suitable subject for Zoom.

Don't worry if you have never used Zoom; there will be all the help you need to get started. Put the dates in your diary for now and we'll be in touch with more detail later.

## **GROUPS**

First, we have to say "Thank you and bon voyage" to Mike and Liz O'Donnell who are moving from Tetbury to live near family in north Wales. Mike led the Microsoft Windows group and so leaves behind some very grateful and now proficient Windows users.

We welcome Dr Chris Loscombe to the role of Windows leader in Mike's place.

SHORT WALKS are going well. They are popular and have attracted new members. The limit on 6 per group for outside activities remains in force so the leader has experimented with two groups of 6, about two minutes apart, with instructions not to mix and to observe distancing. This has been very successful and means 12 can now walk on the scheduled days: the first Thursday morning and third Friday afternoon of each month. The most recent walk was circular, starting from the Goods Shed, then to Bath Road, The Berrells and Longfurlong Lane, along the back of Highgrove and returning along the Beverston road. Now that The Trouble House has re-opened, it will be included on a future walk.

PHOTOGRAPHY has come out of lockdown! In late July, and after a safety briefing, five members looked for the special places that make Tetbury what it is. Observation is the key to photography and we were all struck by the little details that we do not normally notice, which shows in the results. We are very lucky to live in such a friendly, lovely town which helps alleviate the strange days still with us. The other current group activity is an open photo competition which includes the Malmesbury group - some members belong to both groups. Fifty images were submitted and the result will be revealed at the end of August with a prize for the winner. Responsible outdoor trips will be resumed from September. If you'd like to join this group, contact: <mailto:photography@tetburyu3a.org.uk>

HISTORIC BUILDINGS is attempting to restart visits later this month with a small group of 6 and no car-pooling. We hope lockdown will have eased even more by September and October, though none of our selected properties has yet set re-opening dates. A visit to Malmesbury Abbey Gardens is planned for 20<sup>th</sup> August with two slots, for 6 members each, at 11am and 2pm. Entry is £5, payable at the entrance where we will meet. Social distancing must be observed. If you would like to book a slot, contact: <mailto:jeremy@jeremynorth.com>

MAHJONG is not able to meet as a U3A group at the moment because of safety issues surrounding shared tiles but a few members are meeting as friends in pairs in their gardens for coffee and to keep skills up to scratch.

FRENCH CONVERSATION continues to thrive online, as does WINE TASTING.

CHANGES AFOOT. After setting up and running four groups since T&D U3A began, Jeremy North now wishes to take a well-deserved back seat so new leaders are required to ensure the continuity of these groups. Further information is available from him via the email links below. Or telephone Jeremy on 01666 502974 for an informal chat.

*Bridge* will continue for another month but will then fold if a new leader has not come forward by mid-September. Casual Bridge will continue.  
<mailto:bridge@tetburyu3a.org.uk>

*Classical Music* began only days before lockdown so could be restarted as a new group as it did not have time to gather members or plan a programme. It, too, will close in September but could be an opportunity for a 'phoenix'!  
<mailto:classicalmusic@tetburyu3a.org.uk>

*Play Reading* has been popular but will also close in September without a new leader. <mailto:playreading@tetburyu3a.org.uk>

A REMINDER ABOUT PANDEMIC PROJECTS. This is an initiative from the Keep In Contact (KIC) group - see Bulletin No.9. KIC hopes to create an archive of these activities and has already collected some so, if you have a contribution, please send it to Gail, the group leader, for the KIT page on the website: <mailto:gailmariemoss@icloud.com>

Thank you for all contributions. Please keep in touch. Fortnightly, approx, bulletins will continue until groups are up and running again and more news is available. <mailto:newsletter@tetburyu3a.org.uk>

Caroline and Judith

