

# Tetbury & District u3a

## Bulletin No 18 - January 2021

The Committee would like to wish all members of Tetbury & District u3a a very Happy New Year. Let us hope 2021 is the year when we can all take advantage of the many ways the u3a offers us to socialise after a year of hunkering down and hoping for the best. This Bulletin contains updates from some of the Groups who have done their best to keep going during the pandemic.

First let me introduce you to another member of your Committee, Anita Stride, who is the Vice Chair, Speakers and Minutes Secretary. Here is a brief summary of Anita's busy life so far:



I come from a seaside town in East Yorkshire - Bridlington - going to school in York. Covid 19 permitting and avoiding the proverbial bus, John and I will celebrate our Diamond Wedding at the end of 2021. We have three children and six grandchildren. I worked in property in London and, later in Sussex and then, in a complete change of career, ran my own care home in Hove, Sussex, for over twenty years where I was privileged to look after some

truly amazing people.

Something I feel strongly about, as Vice Chair of your branch and personally, is that older people have so much to offer and it is easy sometimes for younger people not to see through the outer layer of wrinkles, occasionally to patronise and not always to appreciate the interesting, exciting, productive and, maybe even outrageous, lives they have led.

Upon retiring from my care home, I started a property business in Spain where we eventually lived for some years. I still do not speak Spanish! We bought our little cottage in Tetbury about eight years ago, originally spending three months here and three months in Spain but moved here permanently about four years ago. We love it. I enjoy music of all types - although possibly not Country and Western - I play the piano (badly these days), I like to read,

particularly history, love entertaining friends, cooking (preferably not every day), theatre, and we enjoy cruising holidays.

## Groups

### Discussion Group

The Discussion Group decided to embrace Zoom towards the end of last year.

We were able to discuss:

American Politics featuring Donald Trump,

Whether Religion /Faith is an important part of life today.

On January 21st at 4 pm we'll be discussing Brexit and the consequences.

We still have space for a few new members. We Zoom once a month and the discussion lasts 40 minutes. The group currently represents a broad range of ideals. Everyone is encouraged to participate but you can just listen in if you prefer.

For more information, look at the U3A Groups section of the website.

<mailto:discussion@tetburyu3a.org.uk>

### Wine Tasting Group

The wine tasting group has continued to meet monthly all through 2020; since March this has been on zoom. During these online get togethers we have sometimes had a theme, e.g. a wine which we've enjoyed and wanted to share, a wine with special memories, e.g. a holiday, or simply just the chance to 'meet up' together.

In December we all bought a sweet wine or port and met on Zoom in our party hats and with mince pies or other Christmas fare. In January we will be comparing 2 similar white wines/grapes produced in different continents.

<mailto:winetasting@tetburyu3a.org.uk>

### Short Walks

Given the limitations on walking last year, I think the Short Walk walkers did us proud. We did 20 walks which, given we plan two a month, is pretty good going. We only walked when we were allowed to and, when necessary, in groups of six. Over half the walks were local - that is not requiring a car to get to the start point.

Those further afield included walks around Minchinhampton Common, a walk to Beverston from Chavenage Green, a walk through the Woodchester estate and a lovely walk from the Trouble House to Ashley which included an unscheduled tour around the church. We finished the year with a walk along the track of the old railway from Egypt Mill in Nailsworth.

Our plans for this year include a walk through the Badminton estate, a walk to the Hookhouse Pottery, and a repeat of the best of 2020! Twenty-five u3a members joined us on at least one walk last year. Whilst I am sure they enjoy the exercise, the opportunity to talk to others, particularly after lockdown, is much valued by all. Do join us in 2021!

<mailto:shortwalks@tetburyu3a.org.uk>

## Play Reading

The play reading group remains highly active with 20 members. Not only have we kept going on Zoom once a month, but two members have written ten short plays between them specially designed for Zoom. We have made these available to 66 u3as so far and have raised over £200 for Tetbury u3a with orders coming in still.

If you have been inspired to join this dynamic group, which intends to continue a creative approach to drama, maybe even theatre visiting and writing more plays, why not listen in as an observer to our next meeting at 2 pm on 18 January when we shall be reading Pygmalion by Bernard Shaw? Just ask for a link below. Alternatively, any member can send for a list of plays we have written and ask to read anyone of them at home.

We are also scheduled to do a live reading in the Goods Shed (delayed from last year) on 28 March at 5pm. Check the Goods Shed Website for more details.

<mailto:playreading@tetburyu3a.org.uk>

## Bridge Group

Clearly, the bridge group could not continue to play a monthly round robin tournament in each other`s houses, so very early on switched to using an excellent online system called Bridgebase. Members sitting in different locations can play with a partner against other remote partners or individuals can just play against the computer. The computer awards you points for your play, comparing you with others playing the same hand.

The group leader has developed a tutorial package for those wanting to learn bridge and could also undertake to show anyone how to use Bridgebase. He can also introduce new players to the other players so they can find opponents to play on Bridgebase - <https://www.bridgebase.com>  
<mailto:bridge@tetburyu3a.org.uk>

## Quiz Group

The Quiz Group has not met since last March, but quizzes have been sent out to members on a regular basis. These quizzes are also available to all members on our website.

<mailto:quiznights@tetburyu3a.org.uk>

## Spanish Group

Spanish is going on through Zoom and through phone calls. We were able to meet in Steph's stables for a couple of sessions, much to the bemusement of her horses. We are now meeting fortnightly on Zoom which is working well. We focus on conversation using specific grammar and around a topic chosen in advance. Our intention is to continue via Zoom until we can meet in person.

<mailto:spanish@tetburyu3a.org.uk>

## Computing Groups

Android: our face-to-face meetings were understandably curtailed by Covid lockdown. - a shame since they provided an invaluable opportunity to share experiences and learn from each other. Group members have been helped on an individual basis, either face to face when permitted, or via electronic means. It will be good to recommence our group meetings when we have all had our jobs and guidance permits!

<mailto:android@tetburyu3a.org.uk>

Windows Computing Group: During 2020 the Windows Computing group held several virtual meetings using the Zoom conferencing software. During these meetings it was agreed that a series of "how to" documents would be prepared to address common issues that people using the Windows operating system might experience. These documents will shortly be available via the Tetbury U3A web page. The group is happy to receive any requests for additional documents and will be reviewing progress in virtual meetings during 2021"

<mailto:windows@tetburyu3a.org.uk>

## Photography

Last year we managed to carry on despite the pandemic, albeit in a somewhat limited way.

In February six of us went to Arnos Vale cemetery in Bristol - a photographer's paradise. After the pandemic hit we held meetings, competitions, tutorials, and quizzes over the Internet and during the easing of restrictions we managed a socially distanced wander-and-shoot around Tetbury.

For 2021, whilst we will be restricted by the lockdown, we have some ideas, and a questionnaire will be sent out to help the group leader build a programme for the year that is both interesting and relevant to what the group members want. This is likely to include aspects of cameracraft, image editing, competitions, external speakers and, when possible, trips out. We hope it will also include some meetings open other members of Tetbury U3A.

<mailto:photography@tetburyu3a.org.uk>

## Keeping in Contact (KIC)

With the success of the 'Keep in Contact' group in the first lockdown Gail wondered if any other members would like to join us. We email or phone each other with interesting, funny, and topical subjects. When you join the group, you give the leader, Gail, permission to pass your contact details to the others in the group.

It is intended to be a way to get to know members you haven't met as well as those you have. So, as soon as we can mix freely again we can meet as Members Out Together (MOT). Please go to the website to find the Keep in Touch button and read all about it.

<mailto:keepintouch@tetburyu3a.org.uk>

And finally:

On Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> January Dr. Phil. Yates - will talk via Zoom about his experience as medical doctor on various expeditions, including to base camp at Everest. Details of how to join the talk will be emailed to all members, in early January 2021.