



Tetbury & District u3a Newsletter

August 2021

A Message from the Chair

On Tuesday 10th August , we are holding an Open Morning. I do hope that you will be able to come and bring a friend too!

During the morning, you will have the opportunity to find out about our existing 23 interest groups, tell us about new ones you would like to see and, most importantly, socialise with each other.

I am looking forward to meeting as many of you as possible. It's been a long wait.

Many thanks to everyone , who has helped us prepare for the Open Morning . We do appreciate it. There will be other opportunities to be involved.

Watch this space!

Monthly Speakers

Our monthly speaker programme is on the website so please do check and see if there is anything that may be of interest. The Talks are free to members, but if you want to bring a friend who is not a u3a member the cost is £5.



On Monday, 20th September at 10:30 am in the Goods Shed, Ashley Jones MBE, Regional Fraud Protect Advisor S.W. Regional Organised Crime Unit, will give a talk on how to protect yourself from fraudsters and scammers. Are you receiving emails from Nigerian princes or unannounced visitors who wish to advise you on finances?

Ash is going to talk about case studies, awareness of economic crime and hopes to both educate, empower and, in case it sounds too serious, entertain us also.

<https://tetburyu3a.org.uk/events/>

Group News

Historic Buildings Group

The group enjoyed a real treat in July: a private visit to Owlpen Manor, a romantic Tudor manor house dating to 1450, set in a beautiful valley in the depth of the Cotswolds. Members were introduced to the gardens and house by Sir Nicholas Mander himself, before enjoying a cream tea in the newly designed barn.



Photograph courtesy of Jeremy North.

The interior contains unique painted textiles and family portraits, as well as a famous collection of Cotswold Arts and Crafts furniture and fittings, the latter due to the influence of William Morris and Norman Jewson, the architect who "rescued" the house in 1926.

The garden has been admired for its very "old English" style by many of the foremost garden designers of the 20th century, including Gertrude Jekyll, Sir Geoffrey Jellicoe and Vita Sackville West.

The group will visit Longford Castle on 31 August so if you are interested in joining this group, please contact the Group Leader:

<mailto:historicbuildings@tetburyu3a.org.uk>

The French Group

In normal times the Group met in St Michael's Church Hall once a month for the 6 months between September 2019 and February 2020 when the Corona Virus epidemic meant we could no longer meet face to face. The members met for a simple bring and share lunch followed by games and conversation around tables, all in French. We

built up resources like a French Song Book and card games, fun ways to practice useful phrases and vocabulary. Above all we aim for a relaxed, supportive, friendly place to practice French, communicate and make mistakes without having to worry about it.

During the epidemic group members have been meeting every 2 weeks on Zoom and more recently we've been delighted to be able to meet in pub gardens.

In the future, what will be possible is as yet unclear. Even if meeting indoors in large numbers is possible, members may not want to take the risk and so no plans have been made for the autumn.

Anne Cox, who leads the group, will be canvassing members in late August to find out what they would like to do. If you are interested in joining the group please get in touch through the Tetbury u3a website, you'll be very welcome.

<mailto:frenchconversation@tetburyu3a.org.uk>

Spanish Conversation ~ Language & Laughter Learning Together

Bienvenidos

We are a small, friendly group of people at various stages of learning and improving spoken Spanish, from beginners to more advanced. The sessions meet on alternate Monday mornings from 10am to noon, currently at Long Newnton. Lifts can usually be arranged from Tetbury.

A typical session might include:

Chat in pairs about what we have done since we last met, using the past tense, or present tense for beginners; revision of what we covered last session; one member will then talk through a learning point, possibly having distributed notes beforehand, such as the

difference between 'ser' and 'estar', when to use 'conocer' or 'saber' or the use of a particular tense. We may watch a short DVD or listen to a CD in Spanish and talk about it afterwards. We then agree what we will cover for the next session and who will lead the learning point.

It is light-hearted with plenty of laughter. Do come and join us.

<mailto:spanish@tetburyu3a.org.uk>

The Gardening Group

We are a thriving group, with varying levels of gardening expertise, who meet together to chat and swap ideas and, sometimes, plants. We aim to expand our horticultural knowledge through visiting members' gardens and trips to interesting local gardens open to the public. Before the pandemic we managed visits to Colesborne to see the amazing variety of snowdrops, a private visit to Painswick Rococo Garden in winter and to Highfield Garden World at Whitminster.



Since getting together again in June we have visited two gardens belonging to Tetbury members and we have a group of us going to tour Rodmarton Manor Garden later in August.

This group is very popular, so we are hoping to start a second group if there is more interest. <mailto:gardening@tetburyu3a.org.uk>

Play Reading Group

This is a very popular group that kept going through the pandemic, even writing 12 short plays designed for reading on Zoom, which have been used by over 50 other u3as.

The idea behind the play reading group is to read, in one session, a complete play obtained from the local library. Those attending each session take parts in turn, usually changing over at the beginning of the act. Thus, at any one time, depending on the number of participants, some are reading, and some are listening, every one sitting comfortably. There is no acting involved though you are free to use accents if you wish and of course to put expression in your voice (acting with the voice if you will)

The group will meet in the leader's apartment on the last Monday of the month at 2pm. However, as there are now 22 members, we may need to offer a second reading, depending on numbers in any one month. Members are asked to book in so the leader can control numbers. Allow 3 hours plus time for a cup of tea and biscuits!

The costs are minimal: £8.00 script hire charges divided by those present plus contributions to tea and biscuits so probably around £3 per head.

At the end of each reading the play for the next month will be announced and members can give their ideas of what they would like to read after that, though we are limited to what Gloucester Libraries can offer. They have a stock of over 1000 plays but many are out on loan at any one time.

Why not join? We have room for more members, we just put on more readings! <mailto:playreading@tetburyu3a.org.uk>

Tetbury & District u3a Members Out Together (MOT)

is a chance for members to meet monthly over refreshments and get to know each other. You will find others with similar interests and arrange outings between yourselves. You may want to go to a Garden Centre, the Cinema, on a dog walk, or simply to a café for coffee and a chat. Pat Jackson and Gail Moss are group facilitators.

The group is open to all members but will possibly be most attractive to members new to the area and those on their own who wish to meet others. You can share cars and taxis or learn how our free bus passes help us explore the area.

Lockdown stopped our activities, but we are reforming and meeting at the OPEN MORNING on the 10th August in the Goods Shed. Bring your 'wish list' of suggested outings to the Open Morning and to monthly meetings thereafter. As a member of the group, you will shape how it develops.

If you are interested in joining the group but cannot make meetings, please email Membership Secretary through the website. Pat and Gail look forward to meeting you all.

<mailto:membership@tetburyu3a.org.uk>

The Short Walks Group

There are over 30 u3a members in the short walks group. We walk on the first Thursday of the month leaving at 10.30 am, and on the third Friday of the month leaving at 1.30pm. We usually meet at the Goods Shed, but this does vary depending on the walk.

Our walks are between 2.5 - 4.0 miles in length. We aim to minimise stiles and I let walkers know in advance if there are stiles to be negotiated. We usually have between 9-13 walkers.

Recent walks have included:

- Along the railway track from the Goods Shed to the Trouble House
- A lovely walk to the Hookshouse Pottery to see the bluebells



- A walk along the rail track from Egypt Mill
- A walk from Chavenage Green to Beverston Castle and back
- A walk from the Trouble House to Ashley.

A key feature of our walks is the opportunity to talk to other walkers. The exercise is great, but so is the camaraderie. We are a lovely bunch! <mailto:shortwalks@tetburyu3a.org.uk>

Creative Writing Group

The Creative Writing Group meets on the first Tuesday of the month at 10:30 for two to two and a half hours. We are now meeting either outside in the Royal Oak Garden or in the Goods Shed, to give air and space. Group members do not want to meet via Zoom or similar, but some do occasionally send round contributions by email.

Each month there is an agreed topic that people can write about, or they can choose their own topic. Some people write personal or family histories, for example, or thought pieces on issues they are pondering. Some people write prose, others poetry.

At the meetings, members read out their writing and there is then some discussion - of the content and the writing approach.

The group leader cannot be at the Open Morning, but two Group members are attending, if you would like to talk to someone. They are Neil Cuthbert and Mary Chancellor.

If you are interested to know more about the Group, please leave your name, email and phone number with either Neil or Mary at the Open Morning. If you cannot attend the Open Morning and would like to know more you can contact the group leader using the email under "groups" on the website. <https://tetburyu3a.org.uk/>

The Wine Tasting Group

The Wine Tasting Group generally meets on the 2nd Monday of each month in members' homes.



In August we were invited to one member for a BBQ and tasted an Alvarinho white from Portugal, a white and red Rioja from Spain a Primitivo from Puglia, Italy and the group's favourite of the evening, a Rosé from Woodchester Valley.

Future planned evenings include comparing a couple of reds which are room temperature, from the fridge or allowed to breathe beforehand, comparing the same

grapes from different continents, and a selection of French wines local to a region in France.

During lockdown, we continued to meet via zoom and shared our favourite wines, reminiscent of holidays and special occasions, wines from varying countries and grapes, etc.

This group is currently full, but it is hoped that a second group will open, and we may sometimes join together for special events or visits. <mailto:winetasting@tetburyu3a.org.uk>

A message from our very hardworking Membership Secretary:

Thank you to all of you who offered to spread publicity material around Tetbury and District. Your help is greatly appreciated by the committee and the new Publicity Secretary. We are hoping to call on you again when monthly talks begin.

So, in case you've missed the bright yellow and blue posters: Tuesday 10th August 9.30am onwards at the Goods Shed our Open Morning. We welcome you all, particularly our new members, to sign up for the interest groups already running and suggest and form new groups. Committee members and group facilitators will be there. Lively discussion fuelled by free refreshments is expected! If you are unable to come you will be pleased to know there will be time for refreshment and socialising after our monthly talks from September onwards.

If any members would like to join the 'refreshment pool' please alert me by email. <mailto:membership@tetburyu3a.org.uk>

And finally....

A plea from your Newsletter Editor. Please, please can you submit your articles/reports for the Newsletter in 'Word Document' form. I am not a computer or publishing expert, and it would save me a great deal of staring at the computer and pulling my hair out if you could help me in this way. Having got that off my chest, please keep sending your group information to the Groups Secretary. She loves to hear from you, as do I. Thank you.

See you on the 10th August... Don't forget!