



## Tetbury & District u3a Newsletter

**September 2022**

### **A Message from the Chair**

I am sure we were all entranced, and maybe moved, by the ceremony we have watched over the last few days and wondered at the organisation involved, the precision of the troops, the good nature of the crowds and possibly felt a little pride in being British. As the official mourning ended on Tuesday 20 September, we were able to hold our monthly meeting as planned. I would like to claim that considerable foresight went into planning this date but have to confess that it was just luck. We certainly had a morning of laughing and learning as Roger Browne's musical talk not only showed his considerable knowledge on the history of music from jazz to musical theatre but raised some interesting points - I had never considered the connection between the verse of a song and the recitative of an opera - and treated us to some wonderful piano playing.

Some groups have limited room for some extra Members and there may be some new groups in the pipeline, so keep an eye on the website.

Tuesday, 13 December is our Chavenage House lunch, and we hope to have details by the beginning of October.

(This message is from the Vice Chair in Carmel's absence.)

[chair@tetburyu3a.org.uk](mailto:chair@tetburyu3a.org.uk)

## Monthly Speakers

Our next meeting is on Monday, 17 October at 10:30 in the Tetbury Goods Shed, when Chris Witts will talk about his life on the River Severn.

## Group News

### History Group



(1943) Towards a New Britain, London, The Architectural Press. Front Cover and P35. / (1944) Ideal Home August 1945, London, Odhams, inside cover. / (1951) The Architectural Review Jul-Dec 1951, London, The Architectural Review, P113. / (1948) Daily Mail Ideal Home Book 1948-49, London, Daily Mail Ideal Home, P171

The History Group meets at 14:00 in the Goods Shed on the day of the main U3A meeting. On 20 September we had a presentation of 'A

New Look for post-War Britain' . Starting with wartime dreams and planning for rebuilding the future, it covered the period up to the 1951 Festival of Britain using pictures and extracts from contemporary documents. It was followed by a very lively discussion on the issues involved.

Our current programme is

17th Oct	Murder of Portsmouth Sailor by David Smith
15th Nov	Devil's Milk, the Social History of Rubber by David Walker
December	Xmas Quiz (date and venue to be agreed)
16th Jan	5 Minute Stories about Historical Artefacts by various group members

### **Gardening Group**

The group were fortunate to be offered a walk round two of our members' gardens in Tetbury. One in Springfields and one in Park Close. The Springfields garden was a delightful riot of colour and a clever arrangement of pots and shrubs so that even though the garden was quite small there was something to look at everywhere. The Park Close garden was much bigger with plenty of space to sit and enjoy the lovely trees and flowers from different parts of the garden. A beautiful summer house completed the scene. Many thanks to both lady gardeners for their hospitality.

[gardening@tetburyu3a.org.uk](mailto:gardening@tetburyu3a.org.uk)







## Historic Buildings

### Historic Buildings Group visit to Bath



Why is the Royal Crescent not a crescent?

What does The Circus in Bath have in common with Stonehenge?

What's the connection between the acorn finials on the parapet of The Circus and leprosy? Why "Bath Oliver" biscuits?

The answer to these questions and lots of other interesting facts were provided to us by Peter, our Mayor of Bath Guide, during our 2hr walking tour of Bath.

We started with the Roman era (including the famous Roman Baths), then more or less jumped 1300 years to the Palladian style city that we now see today, but with a fascinating explanation of the façade of the medieval Abbey. There is little else remaining to see of the medieval period, but we had a couple of buildings pointed out to us, including a small section of the medieval wall. We then focussed on the Georgian period with detailed information about how and why the city developed, and the key characters behind it - the architects John Wood the Elder and Younger, and Ralph Allen who supplied the famous stone.

Wood tightly controlled the design of the façade of the buildings, but everything behind the façade was up to the client. We saw some great examples of the chaotic building style that resulted by walking down alleyways behind some grand terraces - "Queen Anne at the front, Mary Anne at the rear"!

We also learned about the way that Regency society operated, mainly under the control of Beau Brummel, self-appointed MC of Bath. He seemed to have amassed a vast personal fortune, almost certainly by accepting "gifts" from those eager to climb the social ladder - "*plus ça change*"?

It was a fascinating tour with just the right amount of information provided to us by our very affable guide.

Our next Group visit is scheduled for 12 October when we will have a guided tour of Chavenage by Caroline Lowsley-Williams followed by afternoon tea. Those of you who attended her talk to us will realise that this is an opportunity not to be missed! We are also planning an autumn social event where we can discuss our programme for next year. We'll be in touch with Group members about this shortly.

Contact [historicbuildings@tetburyu3a.org.uk](mailto:historicbuildings@tetburyu3a.org.uk) for more information about our future events, or the answers to the questions at the start of this report!

## **Pub Lunch Group**

For 2022 the Pub Lunch Group are holding two lunches in December. Our first will be at The Priory Inn, Tetbury on Wednesday 14 December 12.00 - 12.30pm. There is a £10 booking deposit, and a pre-order is requested at least 7 days prior so closing date for bookings and pre-order will have to be 7 December. As the menu does not include traditional Christmas Fare (i.e., Turkey and all the trimmings)

it wouldn't be fair to call this a 'Christmas Lunch', so I am calling it our 'Festive Lunch'.

As we had such a good Christmas Lunch there last year I am taking us back to the Beaufort Arms, Hawkesbury Upton for our 'Christmas Lunch' on Tuesday 20 December 12.00 - 12.30pm. Here we can be assured of a proper traditional Christmas meal with all the trimmings.

As I realise that places at the U3A Christmas lunch at Chavenage House will be a lot less than the numbers of our U3A membership I am throwing the Pub Lunch Group December lunches open to all comers to ensure as many members as possible have the opportunity of a festive/Christmas meal with friends. You will have to email me [publunchgroup@tetburyu3a.org.uk](mailto:publunchgroup@tetburyu3a.org.uk) to reserve your place at either or both meals and get a menu. Bookings for Chavenage House contact [speakers@tetburyu3a.org.uk](mailto:speakers@tetburyu3a.org.uk)

You will not be disqualified from the Pub Lunch Group meals if you go to the U3A Christmas lunch.

[publunchgroup@tetburyu3a.org.uk](mailto:publunchgroup@tetburyu3a.org.uk)

## **Art Group**

Although numbers have been down over the summer due to holidays, illness etc we still have 15 people on the membership list which is the maximum we can accommodate in St. Michael's Hall. We will shortly be starting a group within the group, for those who are beginners in watercolours. Thanks to one of our members we are putting together some activities to help develop watercolour techniques and skills. Other members of the group are working with acrylics, oils, pencil sketching and other art forms on their own projects. Our sessions are very relaxed and informal - one day we may be ready to exhibit some of our work, but not for a while yet ! Depending on how regular our

monthly attendance is, there may be space to squeeze in one or two new members in which case we will put a notice in this Newsletter .

For more information contact:

[art@tetburyu3a.org.uk](mailto:art@tetburyu3a.org.uk)

### **Wednesday Book Club**

Eleven of us met at The Priory on Wednesday 31 August when we discussed "Findings" by Kathleen Jamie, a Scottish Poet who, incidentally, was on Radio4's Book club on the 4 September. A collection of short stories that are based on the natural world of her native land. They focus on the wildlife and scenery there but are interspersed with her personal, domestic musings - the way she shares part of her life makes her writing more intimate.

We all agreed that her use of language brought Scotland and sometimes the cruelty of nature to life. Even those of us who had not been to the remote islands agreed that her use of imagery made us feel part of the landscape. We also spent time discussing her choice of such an isolated lifestyle- she would take herself off to remote places to write leaving her husband and children behind. Was it selfish of her? Could we do it?

Our next meeting is Wednesday 28 September when we will have read "The Beekeeper of Aleppo" by Christy Lefteri

[bookclubwednesday@tetburyu3a.org.uk](mailto:bookclubwednesday@tetburyu3a.org.uk)

**And finally.....**



The National Office of the u3a runs some virtual subject networks that may be of interest to our members. Go to this link to have a look at what's on offer:

<https://www.u3a.org.uk/learning/subject-networks>

Following on from last month's Newsletter we have some further information regarding the possibility of starting a Travel by Public Transport Group. The prospective leader has this information,

*"Like me, do you really want to use your car less but still need to travel beyond Tetbury?"*

*Have you already tried looking for public transport options online but find it all bitty and confusing, especially as the information can be out of date?*

*I'm getting a group together to try and make sense of it all.*

*If you have a better understanding of what is available than I do and can help, or would like to research this with us, please get in touch.*

*The aim is, initially, to try and get a clear idea of what is available, produce a simple guide and identify what more is needed.*

*We all know we need to reduce the number of cars on our roads so how can we, as individuals, do that? Equally, if it's all been done before and you have access to the information, I'd love to hear from you."*

Please contact [frenchconversation@tetburyu3a.org.uk](mailto:frenchconversation@tetburyu3a.org.uk) if you are interested in this group. (The Leader is also the French Conversation Group leader so emails to this address will reach her.)

A reminder that we will be having the Tetbury & District u3a Annual General Meeting after the Talk on 15 November. Please stay behind if you can after the Talk so you can elect your committee and hear the report on how we are doing. If you are interested in joining the

Committee you will need to submit your completed form to the Chair by 21 October. Details will be on the website in due course. Any questions for discussion at the meeting will need to be submitted, in writing, to the Chair one week before the meeting. The Webmaster for our u3a sent out a detailed email on 16 September with all the information required.

If you have any news for next month's Newsletter then please submit it to me or Audrey (Groups Coordinator) by 21 October at the latest. All contributions gratefully received and please do include photographs where possible, making sure that members are happy for them to be included.

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