



Tetbury & District u3a Newsletter

January 2023

A Message from the Chair

Happy New Year to you all !

Here we are, a new year and a time of anticipation. What will 2023 bring ? We've made our new years' resolutions ; how long will we keep them for? Will we take up a new interest or visit somewhere new? Exciting and challenging!

To help stimulate your interest in new activities , we will be giving a different group leader each month the opportunity to talk to you about what their group offers. This will start in February with Martin Doidge , who can tell you about boules , golf and computing. If you'd like to know more , talk to Martin at the end of the monthly talk. You may be persuaded to try your hand at something new !

chair@tetburyu3a.org.uk

The Christmas Lunch at Chavenage House in December was another great success. 77 members attended and were warmly welcomed by the staff, if not by the weather!



Monthly Speakers

Tuesday, 14th February 10.30am

Dogs for life - puppy to superdog

Our Speaker, Jenny, is a puppy socialiser and, if we are lucky, she will be accompanied by one of her dogs in training, although it is not possible to guarantee this.



During Lockdown we had a talk via Zoom from Jacqui, accompanied by her assistance dog, Duke. As we all enjoyed this talk, it was thought it would be good actually to have a face-to-face talk telling us a little more about how a dog like Duke turns into superdog.

A couple of times a year we try to bring in a charity speaker where we do rely on your generosity in making a collection afterwards and, where possible, try to find a cause which we think many will find appealing. Please, if you want to contribute, bring actual, rather than virtual, money.

Group News

Thank you to all the Group Leaders who have contributed to this month's Newsletter. Your Newsletter Editor would like to remind all groups who are holding meetings at this time to think about writing a few words about what's going on in their groups, so that any new members have an opportunity to see for themselves whether they might be interested in joining. A few lines are all that's required, plus photographs if you have any. (Please make sure everyone photographed is happy for their picture to be in the Newsletter.) Please send your offerings either to groups@tetburyu3a.org.uk or newsletter@tetburyu3a.org.uk

The History Group

The History Group held a festive history quiz in the railway carriage on 12th December with appropriate Christmas drinks and nibbles. Each member took it in turns to ask eight questions of the others with a brief that the question should be quirky or have a very interesting answer. There were no winners and no prizes, but everybody had a thoroughly enjoyable time.



Curiously, three people asked basically the same question: what happened in Italy in 1582, in Prussia in 1583, in Poland in 1586, in Denmark in 1700, in Great Britain in 1752, Japan in 1872 and Russia in 1918? See the end of the newsletter for the answer.

history@tetburyu3a.org.uk

Badminton Group

The badminton group finally got up and running again in October, after a long break during Covid and then a search to find a daytime venue, and with increasing numbers is going from strength to strength. We meet on a Monday evening, from 5-6pm at the sports hall at Sir William Romney's school.

The emphasis is on playing for enjoyment and although we do take things seriously, we also have great fun and a few laughs along the way. Members are very supportive of each other, with some players being more experienced than others, but we welcome all abilities. An hour's play flies by, and we all feel better for having had the exercise and camaraderie.

Just before Christmas we spent a very pleasant couple of hours getting to know each other better over a few drinks at The Priory Inn, which rounded off the term well, although sadly our play that evening had to be cancelled due to the rapid snow thaw resulting in a condensation problem in the hall.

We haven't yet managed to have enough players on any one evening to use all 4 courts available to us, so please contact the group leader if you would be interested in joining us, shuttles provided and racquets available if you don't have your own.

badminton@tetburyu3a.org.uk

Computing - Apple iPhone/iPad

A brief update about our group's progress to "Awareness, Discovery and Confidence"

We started in October 22 and have run weekly sessions to uncover the mysteries and functionality of the Apple mobile devices, specifically the ubiquitous Apple iPhone/ iPad and the numerous free applications that come installed with these devices.

This friendly enquiring group have discovered many helpful features that now help with their day-to-day today lives.

Progress now sees members regularly and confidently using the digital Address Book, Diary, Note Pad, have a good understanding of the Apple iCloud, are aware of how to keep their passwords safe, and have a better understanding of security issues related to online financial systems.

So, with new found skills we enter 2023 armed with the ability to use ApplePay at the supermarket cash register but also at the coffee shop, but more importantly they now understand how it works and the benefits over using a Contactless bank card. We now move onto other Apple applications and commonly used apps, like paying for car park fees. As currency disappears and high street banks close this group is preparing for their digital future!

We have also uncovered the functionality of the iPhone camera, where photos are stored, backed up, edited and grouped. Everyone now knows how to upgrade to the latest free version of the software and have seen the extra features and functions brought to their device, be that iPhone or iPad.

Along the way we've also looked at other commonly used online apps, like Patient Access used at the Phoenix Surgery, the NHS app showing all your medical records, to name a few, and we've all had a jolly good laugh, eaten mince pies and Christmas cake and drunk lots and lots of coffee.



So much of our lives are now online and many times it's just about having the confidence to try something new, and then deciding if that is for you.

From January we will continue our weekly journey of discovery to include personalising applications, streamlining our workflows and sharing diaries with our partners, understanding iMessage & WhatsApp, Zoom & Teams video conferencing and much more besides. The classes close for the summer as the weather improves and we all move outside again.

The classes are due to finish in April, or earlier if there are no further questions ...(somehow I doubt it) and will open again in late

Autumn of 2023 for a new intake, or for those who want to simply re-take the class to cement the learning from this year.

There's always something new to learn.

apple@tetburyu3a.org.uk

The Wednesday Book Club

We had our last meeting of the year on the 30 November when we discussed "The Man Who Died Twice" by Richard Osman. We agreed it was light relief but written with such humour that we enjoyed it. His characters were so well described that we discussed which ones we liked, and one member suggested that it would make a brilliant tv series - who would play the leading roles? We next meet on Wednesday 25 January, 2.30 at The Priory, when we will have read "Hamnett" by Maggie O'Farrell.

bookclubwednesday@tetburyu3a.org.uk

Wine Group

Both wine groups joined together for a very enjoyable Christmas meal at The Ormond in early December.

Each group generally meets monthly with topics ranging from comparisons of old/new world, bubbles, blind tastings, comparisons of supermarket wines, etc. In the summer we had a most interesting visit and lunch at Woodchester vineyard.

Do contact one of the leaders via the website if you'd like to join either of our informal groups.



winetasting@tetburyu3a.org.uk

Bridge Group

THIS IS THE QUIZ WE SET!

With these two hands you have 25 high card points and could reach a contract of four spades. How many over tricks might you make and should you have bid them? Your opponents have not bid.

NORTH

♠ 10, 9, 7, ♥ A 10, 3, 2 ♦ A, K, J, 10, 8 ♣ 9

SOUTH

♠ A, K, 8, 7, 4, 3 ♥ 9 ♦ Q, 3 ♣ A, 9, 4, 3

You could make 6 Spades! The danger is that your opponents have 5 trumps between them. Statistically they are likely to be split 3:2 or 2:3 with the Queen and Jack possibly in the same hand. This means it will be risky to try and draw trumps by playing the Ace and King after using your ♣ A since you could have three losing club tricks. So deliberately lose a trump trick immediately leaving two trumps in dummy. You have then got control of whatever your opponent's lead and can clean up. Of course, if the opponent's trumps are split 5:0 or even 4:1 you are in trouble, so you are gambling with statistics on your side if you bid 6 spades!

If you enjoyed the quiz you might be ready to join our round robin social group who will be meeting in each other's houses over the winter.

We can offer anyone who wants to take up bridge some introductory sessions and we can offer help to lapsed players who want to update their bidding systems. We are happy to help those who want to play online bridge on "Bridgebase" too. We currently have three couples who have taken advantage of our offers.

bridge@tetburyu3a.org.uk

New Groups

Are you interested in beginners' Italian or playing the ukulele?

These are just two suggestions for new groups within the Tetbury and District u3a.

Other suggestions for groups not yet in existence can be found on our website - do take a look.

Then contact the groups coordinator on groups@tetburyu3a.org.uk and I'll try to get like-minded people together to start one.

Don't be shy if you have a burning desire to suggest another interest group too! All groups have started because someone suggested it!!

And finally.....

We are very fortunate in Tetbury to have a space as useful and beautiful as the Goods Shed. Many of you will already be aware that, apart from some administration, the Goods Shed operates entirely with Volunteers.

This is an appeal for additional volunteers. Volunteering can involve as little as a couple of hours occasionally at the weekend stewarding the art exhibition to organising a big performance or helping with the bar or box office. There is as much support and training as you may need, a friendly, team atmosphere with everyone prepared to help and an opportunity to see a variety of shows. Hours are entirely flexible and can be as few or as many as you wish.

If you are interested, contact me and I will give you more information without you making any commitment. Thank you.

Anita Stride

Stridesabroad@gmail.com [07947638729](tel:07947638729)

Our outgoing Membership Secretary, Gail Moss, would like to thank everyone for the gift of a beautiful Mahonia plant. Gail was one of the founding members of the Tetbury u3a and worked tirelessly to set up the membership register and make sure she kept in contact with anyone whom she suspected might need more help than others to fully participate in u3a activities. She will be sorely missed!

An excellent suggestion was made at the January Monthly Meeting for members to bring their own reusable coffee cups to the chat after the meeting. We would be doing our bit to save the planet and helping to cut costs for the committee. There is no obligation to do this, and I suspect some of us (including me) will forget, but it is a habit worth getting into so let's try and make it happen.

The answer to the History Quiz: The Gregorian Calendar was introduced. In England this meant that 3 September became 14 September and 11 days were lost. Also, in 1752 the Civil and Legal New Year was changed from starting on 25 March to 1 January. However, the Exchequer did not want to lose 11 days' taxes and so the tax year was extended to 5 April.

Articles for the February Newsletter should be sent to me newsletter@tetburyu3a.org.uk by 20 February if possible.