



Tetbury & District u3a Newsletter

January 2024

Message from the Chair

Happy New Year everyone!

I hope you all managed to recharge your batteries and spend quality time with family and friends during the festive season.



Here we are at the start of another year - where did 2023 go? - and there's plenty going on with our u3a which goes from strength to strength. We are starting off the New Year by resurrecting the **Quiz Group** on 1st February - more about that later.

This is another bumper edition of the Newsletter, which I hope you will find interesting and relevant.

Our u3a Christmas Tree at St Saviour's Tetbury

I hope you enjoyed Anthony Rudall's talk on 15th January, on his 'Diary of an Amateur Adventurer'. It was great to see so many of you there - nearly 100 of you - but did you notice our smart **new u3a banner** outside the Goods Shed? This will be used at our monthly meetings at the Goods Shed, and other public events, to stamp our brand, and thanks go to Martin Doidge and other members of the committee who designed it.

Most importantly, I'd like to offer my sincere **thanks to the Feoffees** on behalf of the committee, for paying for the banner - we really appreciate your generosity and support.

I'd also like to thank Judith Randall for arranging the **refreshments rota** at the monthly talks. It's lovely to have a cuppa and a chat, however to make this possible we need one more helper to serve refreshments on the following dates: Tuesday February 20th, Monday March 18th, Tuesday April 16th, and Monday 20th May, and two helpers from June onwards. If you can help, please contact me in the first instance. We would also like folk to bring a mug if possible to save expense, and to reduce waste.

You may recall that we held our **AGM** in November when we elected our committee and officers going forward, many of whom are new. You can find out who they are (with mug shots and bios) in the section '**Our Committee**' further on.

Did you know that u3a members have access to **u3a national online events**? You can join a wide range of online talks, workshops and



courses for free with your membership at the link here
<https://www.u3a.org.uk/events/educational-events>

We've included the detailed programme at the back of this newsletter, in the section '**u3a National Events**' - do have a look and see if there's anything that sparks your interest.

Best wishes Bernadette
chair@tetburyu3a.org.uk

Monthly Speakers

I want to apologise for missing the first talk of the year, especially as it would have been my first as Speakers Secretary (I've just taken over from Anita). I had just broken my ankle so wasn't fit and I want to thank the committee for rallying round and taking over my duties.

I'd like also to add my thanks to Anita for the job she has done as Speakers Secretary since the foundation of Tetbury u3a. As I start to research speakers for the 2025 season, I appreciate what a great job she did and looking at the 2024 programme, which she has put together, I am looking forward with excitement to the range and quality of speakers she has found for us. Details of the 2024 programme can be found on the U3A Tetbury website and in the leaflet soon to be available at the Goods Shed.

Our next monthly talk on 'The Colours of Water' will be provided by Michael Norton, MBE, at 10.30am on Tuesday 20th February at the Goods Shed.

Michael Norton is a civil engineer with over 40 years of professional experience in the fields of water resources, urban water, and the environment. He is an internationally recognised



expert on water, and his current focus is on providing thought-leadership in the fields of water scarcity and water security. He has worked in countries all over the world, served as Professor Associate at Brunel University and as Visiting Lecturer at Oxford University School of Geography.

This talk is about how water is distributed over the planet and its role as 'bloodstream of the biosphere'. Water is described in the clouds of blue, green, grey and black, as mankind uses water for a range of purposes.

Nowadays we are increasingly aware of the role water plays in our lives. With floods and sewer system overflows it's no longer possible to take this resource for granted. It will be fascinating to learn how water is distributed over the planet, its role as 'bloodstream of the biosphere' and it may help us to understand how water works in the Tetbury landscape.

By Anne Cox

speakers@tetburyu3a.org.uk

Quiz Group

Calling all quizzers!

We are hoping to restart the Tetbury and District u3a Quiz group with a new format.

We will hold a quiz on the first Thursday afternoon of each month from 2:00pm to 4:00pm at the Malt House, just off the Chipping Car Park in Tetbury.

The quiz will be member led, so we will provide our own quiz and form our own teams. There's no need to form teams in advance, we can do that based on who is there on the day or come with a ready-formed team of 4 or 5 if you wish. Martin Doidge has volunteered to get

things going and will prepare the first few quizzes starting on February 1st.

To cover our costs, we will charge £3 a head for the first quiz, to include tea/coffee and biscuits and the opportunity to win a (small) prize! We may be able to reduce the charge dependent on the numbers taking part.

Please let me know on quiz@tetburyu3a.org.uk if you are interested.

Hoping to see you there!

By Carmel Burton

Group News

Art Appreciation

At our January meeting we discussed Albrecht Durer, 'The Feast of the Rose Garlands' painted in 1506. Durer was a late Gothic / early Renaissance painter born in Nuremberg and is mainly known for his beautifully detailed engravings and woodcuts. As a contrast this painting - breaking from his usual monochrome work - is wonderfully colourful and vibrant. It was painted as an altarpiece for the church of San Bartolomeo in Venice, the meeting place of German merchants of the Brotherhood of the Rosary who commissioned it.

The influences of perspective and design on paintings of this period are noticeable in its 'pyramid' construction. Pope Julius II, on the left, has laid down his Papal Mitre before being 'crowned' with a rosary by the Christ child. The Virgin Mary at the top of the pyramid is being 'crowned' as Queen of Heaven by a cherub whilst at the same time she is 'crowning' the Emperor Maximilian I - thus signifying that he gets his legitimacy directly from heaven and not through mediation by the Church.

The painting was believed to be a tribute to Mary of Burgundy, Maximilian's wife, who is shown on the right in blue (reflecting the blue of the Virgin Mary's dress) behind her husband.

The painting includes a depiction of Saint Dominic - the founder of the Institute of the Rosary. The painter has (rather prominently) also included himself in the background against a detailed Alpine view, looking directly at the viewer and holding a cartouche giving his name and when this picture was produced.

By Judy Greeman

artappreciation@tetburyu3a.org.uk

Badminton Group

I wonder how many of us started 2024 with good intentions to keep active this year?

January can be a very difficult month to get motivated, with short days, dark evenings and inclement weather, and we have certainly had our fair share of that this month.

However, it's not too late to renew that intention. The Badminton Group goes from strength to strength with two new potential members this term and our usual complement of around 14 members back in full swing on a Monday evening at Sir William Romney's Sports Hall, Lowfield Road, from 5-6pm. The emphasis is always on enjoyment in a sociable setting.

If you have never played badminton before, or if you are a former player who has been 'resting' you would be welcome to join us. Rackets are available. So do come along on a Monday evening or email badminton@tetburyu3a.org.uk to find out more.

By Val Pearce

Monday Book Club

We have enjoyed reading a wide range of books during 2023 and our last choice for the year was 'Barchester Towers' by Anthony Trollope as we decided it would be nice to end the year with a Classic story.

Our first meeting of 2024 is taking place on Monday 29th January at The Royal Oak when we will discuss 'Barchester Towers' and decide on books for the next two or three months.

We are looking forward to meeting up again as our last group meeting was in November when we enjoyed a very tasty lunch for our Christmas Meal.

By Saxon Greenway

bookclubmonday@tetburyu3a.org.uk

Wednesday Book Club

We met for our last meeting of the year and our Christmas lunch at The Royal Oak on the 29th November. We decided to leave talking about our December book, 'A Fine Balance' by Rohinton Mistry, until our January meeting so we could have longer to read it and because we had the pleasure of Liz and Bob's friend Bob Farrand whose book, 'The Snake that Bites its Tail', we met to discuss in April. We were surprised to hear that the opening of the book was based on his own personal experience.

We meet next on the 31st January to discuss 'A Fine Balance', a book set in India in the 70's. Our February meeting will be on the 28th when we'll have read 'Beware of Pity' by Stefan Zweig. We'll then read 'The Salt Path' by Raynor Winn for our meeting on March 23rd. Wishing everyone a happy, healthy 2024 when we can look forward to discovering more books.

By Pauline Whittaker bookclubwednesday@tetburyu3a.org.uk

French Conversation Group and Games

On Saturday 6th January, members of the u3a French group joined millions of French people celebrating La Fête des Rois (the Festival of the Kings) which takes place on the 12th day after Noël (Christmas), when Christians celebrate Epiphany, the arrival of the Three Kings after the birth of Jesus, with a bring and share lunch.

The French celebrate with a special pastry, a Galette des Rois and from that date and throughout January, French patisseries are full of Galettes des Rois (Kings' Cakes), made of pastry filled with frangipani.

A charm is hidden inside the cake and whoever receives the piece of cake with the charm (la fève) in it, becomes King (le rois) or Queen (la reine) for the day. They wear a special crown (une couronne).



Our charm was a very special Petit Prince, given to Anne, one of our members, years ago, and treasured to this day. Anne also made the delicious galette, a pastry which is so rich, it would have fed even more than the nine who were present, especially after a substantial lunch of bubbly with canapés, selection of yummy mains and gorgeous fruit salad (and cheese board that, although so so tempting, no one could find room for)!

As you can see from the photo, a good time was had by all and with the bubbly came the idea of adding a regular French film night to our conversation and games activities.



Our end of January Songs and Games session continued the fun and we'll have our Conversation session, this time on Sport at 3pm Monday 5th February. I've broken my ankle, so the group has agreed to meet at my house for the two sessions in February to allow me to attend. If you'd like to join us to increase your confidence speaking French, please do get in touch for details.

By Anne Cox

frenchconversation@tetburyu3a.org.uk

Photography Group

The Photography group has been meeting once a month during the autumn and winter months at St Michael's Hall. Last time everyone shared their favourite images, explained what they liked about the images, what problems they had taking the shot, and what they thought could have made the images better. There was a lively, creative discussion on each image and the event was enjoyed by everyone.

More recently, we thought we would up our game and arrange a competition from our best images taken in 2023. These were judged by an independent judge, with feedback to be provided at our meeting next Tuesday.

Nigel Bowsher won the competition with his picture of The Needles, below.



2nd - Prairie Dog by Adrian Robson



3rd - Sunset by Steve Hammond



We would like you to choose which one of these is your favourite - please send your choice to newsletter@tetburyu3a.org.uk and we will announce 'the peoples' choice' in the next Newsletter.

The highly commended and commended images will also be included in the next Newsletter.

By Steve Hammond
photography@tetburyu3a.org.uk

Play Reading Group 1

The last meeting of the year took place on 27th November and the occasion was celebrated in the traditional way with delicious mince pies at The Royal Oak. Our leader chose 'The Potting Shed' by Grahame Greene. 12 members were given their parts and after two hours (with the mince pies and tea as a break) a most enjoyable, if thought provoking, time was had. Graham Greene (1904-1991) was a playwright and journalist.

Though an agnostic till the age of 26 he became a catholic on marriage to his first wife. This play has a religious theme threading through it and is based on the son of the Callifer family who returns to the family home on the death of his father after a long unhappy time. A rather precocious child - played by me - stirs up the family to uncover what happened in the potting shed when the son was 14. The story is full of wit and humour and well worth a read.

By Dee Buss
playreading1@tetburyu3a.org.uk

Play Reading Group 2

Play reading two normally read the same plays as group one, a week later, on the first Monday of the month. Both groups are popular but we have room for two more members in the second group.

Two of our members have written 16 plays designed for reading rather than for stage performance. The latest two will be read on 4th March (group two) and probably by group one, subject to approval of the leader, on 26th February.

The Fun Vendetta Club is by Stephanie Dale. A group of computer savvy care home residents amuse themselves by hacking into individuals and organisations they do not like to get revenge. However it gets out of hand...

The Life Certificate by Jeremy North. A serious look at artificial intelligence set in 2083 as a 90-year-old man battles in court against humanoid prosecutors and a judge for his life...

Both plays are controversial and will lead to lots of discussion over tea and biscuits!

To join in contact playreading2@tetburyu3a.org.uk

By Jeremy North

Pub Lunch Group

In late November, 14 members of the Pub Lunch Group enjoyed a delicious early Christmas lunch at The Beaufort Arms, Hawkesbury Upton. We have enjoyed a Christmas lunch here since starting the group, as the atmosphere is great, as is the food, service and price. It also suits a lot of the members as they not only do a normal size meal they also do one for smaller appetites as not everybody can cope with a full size meal.

In mid-December, 18 members enjoyed our 2nd Christmas lunch at The Priory Inn, Tetbury, where they not only have a diverse menu but also do a traditional Turkey Lunch excellently cooked by Matt.



On Wednesday 24th January we went to the Highwaymans Inn, Elkstone, for lunch. This was our first time at this venue, and a new experience for most, and our first lunch of 2024.



By Grahame Inman publunchgroup@tetburyu3a.org.uk

Storytelling

This group is up and running with the next meeting on 31st January in our leader`s apartment. We have room for three more members, who can take part or just listen. Members can prepare something in advance, either something out of their own imagination, or in reaction to a set subject which this month is: 'A Deceitful New Year`s Resolution`.

The idea is to go back to ancient times before the written word existed when communication was entirely by word of mouth, often at night round a roaring fire. Thus our only rule: Stories have to be told without notes! At each meeting members may elect to react to a challenge to come up with a story on the spot. You will find some prefer this to preparation in advance, just like our ancestors. Below is a typical challenge:



'The Lord of the Manor is not feeling well'

If you would like to join us please contact our leader below for details of time and venue. As we only have three spaces it will be on a first come first served basis.

By Jeremy North

storytelling@tetburyu3a.org.uk

Ukulele Group

We celebrated the huge success of T'UKES (Tetbury ukuleles) with a Christmas lunch party with fabulous food and a terrible rendition on our Ukes of 'Thank you very much' to Mike, Sue and Martin, who have done so much to encourage and teach us over the last 10 months. Our numbers have grown and we are now full to capacity, bursting at the seams with our professional music stands and coordinated approach to our fifties and sixties numbers.

The extra strummers help to drown the chord mistakes and out of tune singing by some of us.....but I think we all leave after two intensive hours each week with large smiles and often one song that goes round and round for the whole week! Thank goodness we have now put all the Christmas carols to bed. We continue to gig to the good folk of Gloucestershire and Wiltshire, and our frequent WhatsApp messages are full of 'thankyous' from the generous helpers at clubs where we 'perform'....



By Sally Hadley ukulele@tetburyu3a.org.uk

Our Committee

Bernadette Bell – Chair and Publicity



Originally from Manchester, I moved to Tetbury in 1984 from the Middle East, and I taught at St. Marys Infant School. I have two children and two grandchildren all living in Tetbury.

I run the u3a Play reading group and I'm also involved in playing cribbage (which I learned to play in the pubs of Manchester). I also marshal for the Parkrun on Saturday mornings at the Goods Shed and have recently started to play Rummikub, a tile game based on the card game of rummy (good for mental arithmetic). I'd be

happy to teach others and set up a new group if anyone is interested. I have been the Publicity rep on the committee for two years, and have strived to promote the Tetbury and District u3a.

Alan Harris – Treasurer

My working life was spent in the Computer industry. I joined IBM, directly from National Service, as a Computer Engineer working on their early computers including the largest one built, at that time, at AWRE Aldermaston.

I moved to Tetbury with my wife 10 years ago from Malmesbury to be nearer to our daughter. I also have a family in Australia



with two grandchildren - making a total of four with the two granddaughters in the UK. I am now entering my third, and final, year as Treasurer of u3a in Tetbury and enjoy several groups including Wine Tasting and Pub Lunches - both very sociable groups.

Martin Doidge - Membership Secretary and Vice Chair

Despite living in Tetbury for 25+ years, having worked in finance in Bristol and Cirencester I never felt I really knew Tetbury. After retiring in 2021 I wanted some way to connect with my community and coincidentally u3a was just re-launching after the COVID lockdowns. I joined the Garden Visits and Boules Groups to start with. I also suggested a Golf Group as I was thinking about taking that up.

Two and a half years later I now lead the Boules Group, the Golf Group and the Windows PC Group and am an enthusiastic ukulele player. I have learned a lot and had many laughs along the way since I joined our u3a!



Jill James - Business Secretary



I moved to Tetbury 18 months ago from central Bath, and have found that I love being part of this welcoming and vibrant community. My working life was in finance, first in the oil and gas exploration industry and, in later years, in educational multi-academy trusts. It was a busy life with a great deal of travelling, supporting trusts in Somerset, Wiltshire and Cornwall.

I retired in 2019 and since then have focused on family, friends and a variety of interests. My days now are filled with visits to my children, spending time with friends, reading, walking, and enjoying u3a activities!

Anne Cox - Speakers



I've lived in Tetbury since 1982 but despite bringing up three sons here and being a founder member of a 40-year-old bookclub, didn't really feel part of the town, with a busy working life and a cultural life centred on Malmesbury Abbey.

During Lockdown, I decided to change this, withdrew from my Abbey commitments and gradually retired from paid work. I'm a trustee of Greening Tetbury, volunteer at the Goods Shed, enjoy several u3a groups and lead the French and Italian groups. I'm looking forward to finding what I hope will be a fascinating variety of speakers for 2025. Please let me know if you have anything you've always wanted to know more about or come across a speaker you'd like to share with your u3a.

David Smith - IT Support

I have lived in Tetbury for six years, along with my wife Maggie, having moved from Wickham, Hampshire before that. We moved to Tetbury to be nearer to our Grandson in Stroud, but since then a second Grandson has arrived, this time in Reading, so there's still some commuting! We joined the u3a when it was first established in 2019. We are joint Group organisers of the Historic Buildings Group (which keeps us very busy!), and also belong to several other u3a Groups and organisations in Tetbury.



Caroline Hose - Groups Co-ordinator and Newsletter Editor

I have lived in Tetbury for over 30 years with my husband, having moved from Cheshire and Edinburgh before that.

I joined the u3a in 2022 to be more involved with the local community and make new friends, and initially joined the gardening group as this is one of my favourite pastimes. Retirement from the Civil Service after many years has enabled me to more fully participate in u3a activities, including visiting historic buildings and brushing up my photography skills, and I've just joined the ukulele group. You might also see me at the Goods Shed where I volunteer, or on a walk around the area.



Information about the committee roles and contacts can be found here <https://tetburyu3a.org.uk/committee/>

u3a National Events

Online Learning Events

u3a members can join a wide range of online talks, workshops and courses for free with their membership. Most of these opportunities are presented by members themselves, sharing their knowledge or skills with others across the movement. There is also a wide range of talks on offer from well-known speakers and organisations, plus in-person events at venues like the Royal Institution.

All of these events can be booked at the link below via Eventbrite. Online events are hosted on Zoom - further information and 'how to' guides are here <https://www.u3a.org.uk/events/educational-events>

Want to be the first in the know? Sign up to receive regular monthly updates on upcoming events: [subscribe here](#)

List of future Online Learning Events

On-line Event	Date and Time
Holocaust Memorial Day - The story of Major Leonard Berney	Friday 26 January 2pm - 3.30pm
Laughter Yoga with Merrie Maggie	Tuesday 30 January 3:30pm - 4:30pm
Mosaic Art: a brief history and perspective	Thursday 1 February 10am - 11am
'Flight Inspirations' Aviation Network Meeting: Apollo Missions 11 and 13	Tuesday 6 February 10am - 11:30am
Housing options in later life: The role of retirement housing	Tuesday 6 February 2pm - 3pm
Mindfulness and Meditation	Wednesday 7 February at 10am
Introduction to the Air Fryer	Thursday 8 February 11:30am - 12:30pm
Laughter Yoga with Judith	Wednesday 14 February at 10am
'Safe bind, safe find': locks and keys	Wednesday 14 February 2pm - 3pm
Cryptic Crosswords in Context	Thursday 15 February 10am - 11am
Mindfulness and Meditation	Thursday 15 February 10am - 11am
David Hockney and the Theatre	Friday 23 February 2pm - 3pm
Science Network Event	Tuesday 27 February 9:30am - 12:15pm
Advances in Public Health Talk 1 of 5: The Role and Tragedy of Semmelweis	Wednesday 28 February 10am - 11:30am

More Number Fun with Dr Knott	Thursday 29 Feb 10am - 11am
Secrets of the Human Brain: Talk Two: Sleep and Dreams	Thursday 29 February 2pm - 3:30pm

Interest Groups Online

Interest Groups Online is an online u3a community that gives you the opportunity to join groups, talks and courses from the comfort of your home. Like with a u3a, the activities are run by members and are a great way to meet people from all across the u3a movement.

It costs £12 to join for the year, equating to £1 per month. Membership runs from 1 April 2023 to 31 March 2024. Membership and your groups are managed via the u3a Beacon Members Portal.

To become a member of Interest Groups Online you will need to fill out a short form and make your payment on the u3a Beacon Members Portal. As part of your subscription to Interest Groups Online, you can opt in to receive a free copy of the u3a magazine, Third Age Matters (TAM).

Take a look at the groups page for details on the wide variety of online groups, courses and talks, and how to join [interest groups online](#)

There is a large selection of interest groups - here are some examples



Don't forget u3a also runs many projects, initiatives and competitions available for all members to get involved in too.

Arm Chair Archaeology
Astronomy
Current Affairs
Discussion
Digital Skills
Extreme Knitting: Radical Crochet
Film Reviews
Geology
Jazz Hour
Military History
Philosophy

And finallyThe deadline for contributions to the February newsletter is Monday 26th February. Keep those reports coming in!

Please use the contact newsletter@tetburyu3a.org.uk to send your articles to Caroline, your newsletter editor. And don't forget to vote for your favourite image from the Photography Group competition.