



Tetbury & District u3a Newsletter

June 2024

Message from the Chair

Hello

This month we have articles from the Wednesday Book Club, Creative Writing, Gardening, Historic Buildings, Photography and Pub Lunch groups.

We also have a potential new group, Short Breaks, and Creative Writing Group Three has formed and is seeking additional members - please see below for further information.

I hope you enjoy reading this issue - and do have a look at the list of Online Learning Events and Interest Groups Online at the Annex.

Best wishes Bernadette chair@tetburyu3a.org.uk

Monthly Speakers

Our next monthly talk will be held on **Monday 15 July, 10.30 am at the Goods Shed**. Peter Gill will present the Jerry Lee Lewis Story - with visuals and piano. A return visit by one of our most popular speakers.



Potential New Groups

Short breaks is a new group that has been formed with a view to helping people organise short breaks/long weekends in the UK, mainly for people who would rather go with other people than by themselves.

Bookings would be made as a group to ensure we all get separate rooms within the same Hotel/B&B but individuals would be responsible for their own expenses. The focus is on car share as this has nothing to do with coach based short breaks or tour operators.

Destinations, attractions to visit etc would all be discussed as a group and democratically decided. If there should be a split decision on destinations and enough on each side this could go ahead as two or more groups.

Please contact shortbreaks@tetburyu3a.org.uk if you would be interested.

Group News

Wednesday Book Club

Seven of us met at The Royal Oak this afternoon to discuss Four Seasons in Rome by Anthony Doerr, author of the novel All the Light You Cannot See, one of the first books we read as a group.

This book was not a novel but a diary/ travel journal of 2004. Doerr had been told he had won a prize to spend a year writing in Rome the same day his wife gave birth to twins. An American in Rome for the first time, the book includes his thoughts on Rome and being a new father of twins in a strange city. Understandingly, appealing more to those of us who had been to Rome or who had brought children up abroad, we agreed it was beautifully written.

By Pauline Whittaker

bookclubwednesday@tetburyu3a.org.uk

Creative Writing Group Three

Tetbury u3a already has two successful Creative Writing Groups. A third has been formed, meeting on the third Thursday of each month from 10 am - midday.

We are seeking additional members so that we might have a regular attendance of 6 - 8. There won't be a meeting in June but we shall next meet on Thursday 18th July at the Goods Shed 'Whistle Stop Cafe', starting at 10 am prompt. Should we have a larger than expected response the venue may change - so please let us know if you plan to attend, by contacting Robert Smith: rgsmith@btinternet.com for more details.

Gardening Group

Our visit this month was to the garden of Caroline and Paul Hose in Longfurlong Lane in Tetbury. The garden is a delightful mix of lawn and herbaceous borders leading to open fields beyond. The weather was kind, although the wind was keen as has been the case for the first half of June.





Nevertheless, the lovely mix of plants, wild areas and landscape drew lots of admiration from the members. We are grateful to Caroline and Paul for their hospitality and hard work. The provision of coffee and homemade cakes deserves a special mention.

Our members love to visit local private gardens and if you have a special garden you would like to share with us please get in touch.

Our next visit will be on 11 July to Charlton Down House, details at: ngs.org.uk/gardens/charlton-down-house-gl8/

By Judith Walker
gardening@tetburyu3a.org.uk

The Historic Buildings Group

Our June visit was to Sezincote House nr Moreton-in Marsh. It is described as "India in the Cotswolds" and we discovered why!

At the heart of a traditional, family-run estate covering 3,500 acres of rolling Cotswold countryside stands a 200-year-old Mogul Indian palace, set in a romantic landscape of temples, grottoes, waterfalls and canals reminiscent of the Taj Mahal.

The house was the whim of Colonel John Cockerell, grandson of the diarist Samuel Pepys, who returned to England having amassed a fortune in the East India Company. John died in 1798, three years after his return, and the estate passed to his youngest brother Charles, who had also worked for the company. He commissioned his brother Samuel, an architect, to design and build an Indian house in the Mogul style of Rajasthan, complete with minarets, peacock-tail windows, jali-work railings and pavilions.



Once completed, Sezincote dazzled all who came. When the Prince Regent visited in 1807, an event commemorated in a Daniell painting owned by the family, he was so impressed that he went on to change his plans for the Royal Pavilion in Brighton. Designed by John Nash, it echoed the exotic Indian style he had admired at Sezincote.

Samuel Cockerell was greatly assisted by the artist Thomas Daniell in conceiving the design for Sezincote. Daniell had spent ten years in India with his nephew William, making aquatints, watercolours and oils of Indian buildings and landscapes using a 'camera obscura' and thus had an unparalleled knowledge of Indian architecture. The interior is purely classical - Greek Revival - and no attempt was ever made to Indianise it.



Similarly the garden adjacent to the house and thus an extension of its domestic space, originally did not share in the Indian character of the water garden.

Work began on Sezincote in 1805 and was substantially complete by 1807, the time of the Prince of Wales recorded visit. The house was hugely restored after the 2nd World War and it is thought that Sezincote is the only Mughal building surviving in Western Europe.

In 1884, Sezincote was bought by James Dugdale. It was to remain in the Dugdale family until 1944 when Sir Cyril and Lady Kleinwort (of banking fame) took over the house and estate; it was in a somewhat dilapidated state. In the 1950s, the Kleinworts restored the exterior and interior of the house to their nineteenth-century splendour. Today, descendants of the Kleinwort family still own and live in the House.



Our excellent guides showed us around some of the rooms of the House and gave us very detailed information about the architectural features and works of art including many beautiful paintings by Daniell.

The gardens were at their best. Our Group spent a very pleasant hour or two wandering around admiring the landscape and plantings. The Head Gardener and his team do a splendid job!

We also took advantage of the classic tea and delicious home-made cake served in the magnificent orangery, imagining the many house guests who must have strolled through there over the years.

Our next visit is to Eastnor Castle on 2nd July (bookings closed). We will shortly be taking bookings for Woodchester Priory 29th July, so keep an eye on your inbox to secure a place for this visit.

Our full programme can be found here: tetburyu3a.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024/05/Historic-Buildings-Programme-2024-v4-May.pdf

By David Smith - Joint Organiser Historic Buildings Group.
historicbuildings@tetburyu3a.org.uk

Tetbury and District u3a Photography Group

We would like to invite all members of T&D u3a to have a tea or coffee with us, find out what we do, and see some of the images we have made since the group was formed.

Tuesday 25th June
2pm to 5pm
St Michaels Church Hall, Silver Street, Tetbury.

We will try to answer any questions you have on photography and how to get the best from your camera or phone. Bring a friend!

By Steve Hammond
photography@tetburyu3a.org.uk

Pub Lunch Group

In recent months we have enjoyed meals at The Old Royal Ship at Luckington, The Jigsaw Thai Restaurant in Cricklade and The Beaufort Arms at Hawkesbury Upton. These meals were well attended and I think everybody enjoyed well prepared, tasty meals and excellent service in pleasant surroundings.

On June 25th we will be going to The Crown at Frampton Mansell. I haven't been there myself but I believe some members have and so far have had good reports.



By Grahame Inman

publunchgroup@tetburyu3a.org.uk

And finallyThe deadline for contributions to the next newsletter is Monday 22nd July. We would love to hear what you're doing.....

Please use the contact newsletter@tetburyu3a.org.uk to send your articles to Caroline, your newsletter editor.

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
Laughter Yoga with Merrie Maggie - June	Tuesday, June 25th · 3:30 - 4:30pm
Celestial marvels: Demystifying the Cosmos	Wednesday, June 26th · 11:30am - 12:30pm
Darkness on the Edge of Town: Bruce Springsteen and the American dream	Thursday, June 27th · 2 - 3:30pm
Flight Inspirations Aviation Group Meeting: The History of Royal Flying	Tuesday, July 2 · 10am - 12pm
Demystifying retirement housing: options and costs	Tue, 2 Jul 2024 14:00 - 15:00
Rembrandt at 34: A Mirror to the Soul	Friday, July 5 · 10 - 11am

Live Cookery Demonstration - summer recipes	Thursday, July 11 · 10:30 - 11:30am
The Harlem Renaissance 2	Friday, July 12 · 2 - 3pm
Exploring World Faiths: Forgiveness	Monday, July 15 · 10 - 11:30am
Boost your digital confidence: how to overcome your mobile or tablet issues	Tuesday, July 16 · 2 - 3pm
Laughter Yoga with Judith - July 2024	Wednesday, July 17 · 10 - 11am
Mindfulness and Meditation Continuation Session: July	Thursday, July 18 · 10 - 11am
Numbers with Shapes with Dr Knott	Thu, 25 Jul 2024 14:00 - 15:00
Modern Britain: A Story Told Through Stamps with Diana Laffin	Friday, July 26 · 2 - 3:30pm
Bollywood Laughter Yoga Dance	Monday, July 29 · 10 - 11am
Laughter Yoga with Merrie Maggie - July	Tuesday, July 30 · 3:30 - 4:30pm
Secrets of the Human Brain: Talk 7: Brain Research, Imaging and Scanning	Wednesday, July 31 · 2 - 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 to 31 March. 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](#)