



Tetbury & District u3a Newsletter

March 2025

Message from the Chair

Hello everyone

I hope you enjoy reading this bumper edition of the newsletter - clearly our group activities have ramped up now that spring has finally arrived.

Firstly, a reminder that we need members to sign up each month to help serve refreshments at the Speakers meetings - you can do that after each meeting. Without your support, we would not be able to continue to provide refreshments as it is not cost effective to open the café just for us. We have now introduced new coffee bags, offering more flavour, so do come along and try these out. We would appreciate it if you could bring your own mugs, helping to cut down on our carbon footprint with the paper cups.

You will see that there are a few groups which have capacity for more members, including the Photography group, the Short Breaks group,

the Wine groups and the Badminton group. Please contact the group leaders if you would be interested. We are also planning to hold an Open Day in early July (date to be confirmed) with the dual purpose of promoting our u3a to potential new members and to encourage existing members to participate more fully. Look out for more information about this in future newsletters.

And last but not least, I'm proud to promote our Ukulele Group (T'Ukes) who will be performing songs from the 50s to 70s at their Sing-A-Long Concert at the Tetbury Goods Shed on 16th April, 2pm - 4pm. This is one of the Afternoon Concert series which the Goods Shed provides, and entry on the day will cost £4. The café will be open for refreshments - do come along and support this event.

Best wishes Bernadette
chair@tetburyu3a.org.uk

Monthly Speakers

Can I encourage you, if you haven't yet attended one of our monthly meetings at the Tetbury Goods Shed Arts Centre, to give it a try. The speakers invariably open our minds to worlds or useful information we were unaware of and it's a great chance to meet up with friends and make new ones over a cuppa.

The talks start at 10:30 am and there is a chance before, from 10am, and after the talk to meet up over refreshments.

Our March speakers, Paul Riddick, Roger Bellairs and Ed Tunel, gave us very well appreciated information about the work of the Community Connexions service: the prebookable community bus services and the volunteer car service that transports people to attend medical appointments, visit friends and family, go shopping, attend day centres or events in the community.

<https://communityconnexions.org.uk/transportation-services/>

They also touched on the new Robin service a bookable bus service that aims to improve connections between rural areas with infrequent or no fixed routes available.

<https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/transport/the-robin/where-can-i-travel/cotswolds-south/>

Our Speaker on 15th April: Our Great British Mammals

Our u3a Photography Group may be especially interested in this talk by the wildlife photographer and author David Boag. David will give us a window into the lives of our British mammals, many of which are small, secretive and nocturnal. Their illusive nature makes photography a challenge but his images will allow us to get close views to enjoy their secret lives and discover many fascinating facts.

By Anne Cox

speakers@tetburyu3a.org.uk

Group News

Art Appreciation

We started the March meeting by looking at the recent Vincent Van Gogh Exhibition at the National Gallery, "Poets and Lovers". It shows the work of the artist from 1888 - 1890 when he lived in Arles and St Remy de Provence. An extraordinarily prolific period for him when he painted his most iconic works including "Sunflowers", "Starry Night" and "Self Portrait" - all painted in 1889.

We concentrated on four lesser known paintings however, "The Lover", "The Poet", "The Poets Garden" and "Hill with the Ruins of Montmajour" all painted in 1888. During this time, Van Gogh's life was in turmoil, he was unable to become a priest as he had wished and regretted his lack of a successful, loving relationship. He became

obsessed with the Emile Zola book "The Sin of Abbe Mouret" depicting a young priest with his lover searching through an Eden like paradise for a sacred tree. The biblical themes in the book and the conflict between the sterility of the church and the fertility of nature resonated with Van Gogh and led him to believe that God could be found in nature. Many of the paintings and works of this time showed allusions to the themes in the Zola book, lovers, pathways indicating a journey, trees and ruins of abbeys.

We continued by looking at the frescoes in The Piccolomini Library in Siena Cathedral. Construction of the library was commissioned in 1492 by Francesco Piccolomini, the Lord Cardinal of Siena, and completed in 1507. The frescoes on the ceiling and walls were painted by Pintoricchio using shades of "gold, azure, ultramarine, enamel blue, azure greens and other pleasing colours" and depict 10 episodes from the life of Pope Pius II (Francesco's uncle Aeneas Sylvius Piccolomini).

We looked in more detail at three of these frescoes. The first illustrates his journey to Basel for the Catholic Church Council in 1432 when a violent storm diverts his ship to Libya. The third fresco depicts Aeneas being crowned Poet Laureate in 1442 and receiving the laurel from Emperor Frederick III. A study relating to this fresco is in the Ashmolean Museum and believed to be by Raphael who made some of the original sketches and cartoons and was at the time an assistant in the Piccolomini studio. The fifth fresco shows Aeneas introducing Frederick III to his future wife Eleanora of Portugal in 1452. The frescoes are in good condition and retain their bright colours and original vibrancy today.

By Judy Greeman

artappreciation@tetburyu3a.org.uk

Badminton

The Tetbury u3a badminton group is enjoying the chance to run about every Monday evening and have some fun. After a quieter period over midwinter, we have filled three or four courts recently at the sports centre at Sir William Romney's School and simply enjoyed playing.



Every now and again we meet at the Priory for a post game drink and reflect on the lovely people we have got to know over the past two and a half years.

We have room for just one or two more, if you are interested, all abilities welcome. Contact me at badminton@tetburyu3a.org.uk if you would be interested.

By Christine Berry



Board Games

Rather thwarted by Covid closures, The Board Games group finally got off the ground in late January, meeting in the ground floor foyer in the cosy coffee room at Upton Mill where, to our amusement, we were photographed for their magazine.

However, we did find there was a lot of coming and going and chatter in the foyer, which made concentration a bit testing, so for our second meeting we were offered the privacy of a small dining room upstairs, called the Highgrove room, which has proved to be a lovely peaceful venue.

The group is jointly organised by Barbara Howarth and me, Chris Lees, to make sure one or the other of us can be there.



Barbara was in charge of organising our session on Feb 26th and reported-

"Nine of us arrived at Upton Mill where the Highgrove room provided very comfortable surroundings for the 3rd meeting of the Board Games group. Two tables played a selection from "Rummikub", "Sequence" & "Perudo". Tea and biscuits were available at half time when we paused for chat & catch up".

Everyone paid £2 which was given to the Care Home as a thank you for letting us use their facilities.

We were very pleased to see two new members and are always very happy to welcome more.



Please get in touch via boardgames@tetburyu3a.org.uk We meet every second and fourth Wednesday of the month. We look forward to seeing you then, upstairs again.

By Chris Lees

boardgames@tetburyu3a.org.uk

Bookclub Monday

The Curious Case of the Curate's Egg*

The Monday Bookclub met in February, sadly without two of our members who are moving from Tetbury. We shall miss them and wish them well with the next chapter of their lives. As a consequence we have places available if anyone would like to join us. Have a look on the [Tetbury u3a website](#) for more details.



Our February book choice was "A Noble Radiance", a Venice-set detective story by Donna Leon and one of her Commissario Brunetti series.

This turns out to be as much a whydunnit as a whodunnit, with the discovery of a long buried body, although the clue is, somewhat cryptically, in the title. Reactions were mixed across the group. The sense of place, in Venice and the surrounding Veneto, was well characterized, as was the Commissario's daily life and work in Venice, rather than the tourist façade many of us would be familiar with.

Equally well described is the claustrophobic nature of "real" Venice, essentially no more than a large town, both in the geography and the countless personal connections, on which Brunetti, and even more so his impossibly elegante secretary, can draw and navigate.

Against this there was a general feeling that the characters were somewhat under-developed, especially as this was the 7th in the series. The main character was spared the usual flaws and traumas of fictional detectives, seemingly having a settled domestic life which drew out some of the tensions between a day spent in homicides and the everyday concerns of home and family.

Overall, we liked the book, giving it a score of 3.12 out of 5. It was an easy read and most of us would look at another in the series. Next month we discuss V. V. Ganeshananthan's "Brotherless Night".

*Curate's egg - Something partly good and partly bad.

By Douglas Looman, member of the Book Club
bookclubmonday@tetburyu3a.org.uk

Book Club Wednesday

Eight of us met on a rainy afternoon to discuss Victoria Hislop's "The Figurine". Her descriptions of the heat, the sun, the sea and the dust made us wish we were there and her passion for Greece shone through.

In 1968 Helena, the daughter of a Scottish father and Greek mother is encouraged to go to stay with her grandparents in Athens to discover her Greek heritage. When Helena eventually inherits her grandparents' apartment she discovers the extent of her grandfather's crimes. This is Hislop shining a light on the theft of cultural treasures which opened up quite a discussion for us, including the future of the Elgin Marbles.

However we were all a little disappointed, we felt some of her characters were two dimensional and her baddies were very obvious.

A good holiday read though.

By Pauline Whittaker

bookclubwednesday@tetburyu3a.org.uk

French Group

The group continues to build confidence and fluency in the language with three meetings a month and the occasional celebration on a French holiday. Our sessions are: Conversation, sharing things we have prepared for a topic; Games, playing card and board games to improve our vocab, grammar and fluency and a Monthly Film Matinee, with films in French with subtitles.

It's all done in a spirit of friendly support and fun so if you'd like to join us get in touch.

By Anne Cox frenchconversation@tetburyu3a.org.uk

Gardening Group

In March we visited nearby Newark Park (National Trust) on a chilly sunny morning.

After a hot drink in the pavilion, we wandered out to explore the gardens. We had come to see the daffodils, and although they looked splendid en masse, perhaps we were a bit early as some were still to bloom. Still, it's difficult trying to predict when spring will arrive as it varies each year. This spring seems later than last year, although we are now catching up with warmer weather.



In the walled garden we were greeted by two amorous male peacocks, who were strutting their stuff, putting on a magnificent show purely for our entertainment as there were no females in sight.

This is a lovely secluded estate with glorious views, constructed over three levels including the walled garden, woodland glade and romantic lakeside garden. Woodland walks of various lengths may be enjoyed throughout the year.

Next month we will visit the Tetbury Men's Shed on 16th April at 10.30am, to learn about their plans for the growing season and see their allotment on Herd Lane.

We are a friendly group, and we aim to visit at least one garden most months. We have plant swaps too. Please contact me if you would like to find out more and consider joining our group.

By Caroline Hose
gardening@tetburyu3a.org.uk

Historic Buildings Group

The Historic Buildings Group programme for 2025 got off to an unusual start with a visit to Air Salvage International (ASI) based at Kemble Airport. You must have driven by the airport and wondered what happens to the planes you see parked up on the airport - now we know!

The event started with a talk by Mark Gregory who set up ASI in 1997. ASI is the world's largest privately owned provider of aircraft disassembly and recovery. The company was the first facility in Europe to offer these services. Mark explained the history of ASI, the scope of its operations (world-wide, not just Kemble), and the economics of the dismantling process - 80% of the value is in the engines!

They have dismantled over 1,500 aircraft, with a surge of aircraft during COVID when fleets were prematurely down-sized as a result of the pandemic, when 19 747's were dismantled.



Normally an aircraft reaches its end of life based on the number of take-off/landing cycles (typically 35,000), but we were told about a 787 Dreamliner originally worth \$35m that had only 22hrs flying time registered - "One careful owner"!

The high-value engines must have a complete record of all the supporting maintenance and service information. This was to be seen stored on pallet after pallet of documents - they seem to weigh more than the engines! Without this, the value of the engine is simply as scrap metal.

We did very well participating in a quiz at the end of Mark's presentation. He showed slides of logos and liveries of historic airlines. He said we did much better than NATS (UK air traffic control) visitors. We suspect that age demographics were in our favour, as current air traffic controllers were probably not even born

when the likes of Dan Air, British Airtours, Caledonian Airways and Pan Am were flying.



We then toured the hangers and aprons where planes were being dismantled. The highlight of the visit was seeing the final demise of an aircraft that had been stripped of anything of value or hazardous.



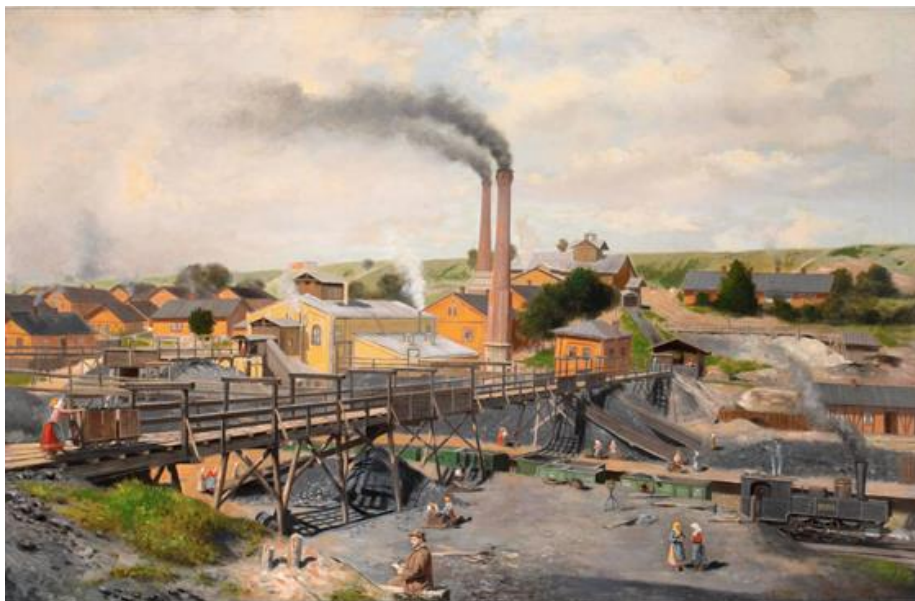
It was being "eaten" one bite at a time by a machine that looked very much like an escaped dinosaur from Jurassic Park. We all stood there mesmerized by its actions and had to be herded back onto the minibus! We raised £200 in donations for the Wiltshire & Bath Air Ambulance charity - a suitable and very worthwhile cause.

Our next visits are 30th April to Kingston Bagpuize House and 8th May to Stratfield Saye. Please see [here](#) for more information or email us at historicbuildings@tetburyu3a.org.uk

By David Smith

History Group

Our February meeting - at 2pm after the General meeting - was a round-table discussion of the events of the two decades after the death of the despised King George IV. A lot happened during that time (1830-1850) which witnessed the end of the first phase of the Industrial Revolution, the seven-year reign of William IV, the ascension of Victoria, her marriage and seven attempts on her life!



An 1895 oil on canvas of a European industrial landscape by Edmund Kregczy (1855-1916). (Science Museum, London)

The Metropolitan and other Police Forces were founded to avoid any repetition of the Peterloo massacre, and the Reform Act was passed, redistributing parliamentary seats less unfairly. There was the abolition of slavery throughout the Empire. At home there was enforcement of the rules limiting the employment of children. The Tolpuddle Martyrs were sentenced and later pardoned, and the railways grew exponentially, with safety provisions enacted. Trade restrictions that had been imposed after the Battle of Waterloo in 1815 were repealed, leading to lower food prices, but not all of the reforms immediately benefitted those they were intended to help.

It was a good-humoured meeting to which everyone contributed and all of us learnt! It was the embodiment of "Live, Learn and Laugh."

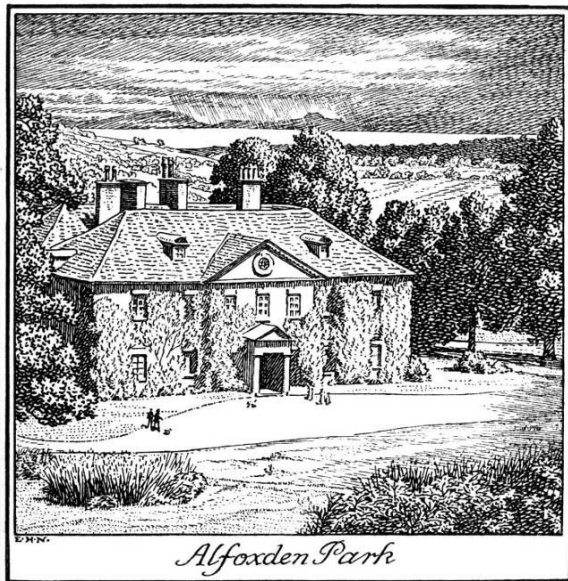
In March the History Group tasked itself with bringing along a surprising historical fact or discovery. It was a very successful idea, and a variety of surprising and entertaining historical facts emerged.



Maggie Smith: Talked about the life of Ernest Brian Trubshaw, 1924-2001, the first British pilot to fly Concorde on the 9th of April 1969.

Image by Eduard Marmet, CC BY-SA 3.0 GFDL 1.2, via Wikimedia Commons

He lived in Tetbury at 48, London Road and died in Cherington. His grave in the churchyard has a Concorde etched into it with the epitaph "Once again he soars into the heavens many will look to the skies and remember him". Maggie has a photo of Brian Trubshaw sitting in her house.



Old book illustration, Public domain,
via Wikimedia Commons

David Smith: Spoke about a historic walk that he had recently done in the Quantock Hills and the many interesting buildings and people who had lived in the area.

This included the Holford tannery, built in the 16th century with the waterwheel (still visible) that powered it; Alfoxton House, now in need of restoration, which was the home of William and Dorothy Wordsworth; and the old Holford Silk Mill featured in Bryan Adams' music video for his hit song (Everything I Do) I Do It For You.

David Walker: Recounted the story of poor Admiral John Byng, the only British admiral to be executed by firing squad on March 14, 1757, at Portsmouth.



Thomas Hudson, Public domain,
via Wikimedia Commons

He was tasked with sailing to Minorca, after it had been besieged by the French. After an indecisive action with the French fleet, he held a council of war, and all agreed to return to Gibraltar. Upon his return to England, he was court-martialled for "failing to do his utmost" to take or destroy the enemy ships, which was a violation of the 12th Article of War. He was found guilty and as a result automatically received the death penalty.

The monarch, George II, denied granting Admiral Byng clemency, and Voltaire famously immortalized his execution in his novel *Candide* with the phrase, "in this country, it is thought good to kill an admiral from time to time to encourage the others".

George Keeling: Told us about the connection between Napoleon Bonaparte and the façade of Milan Cathedral, which is characterised by its intricate spires, ornate statues, and a blend of architectural styles.

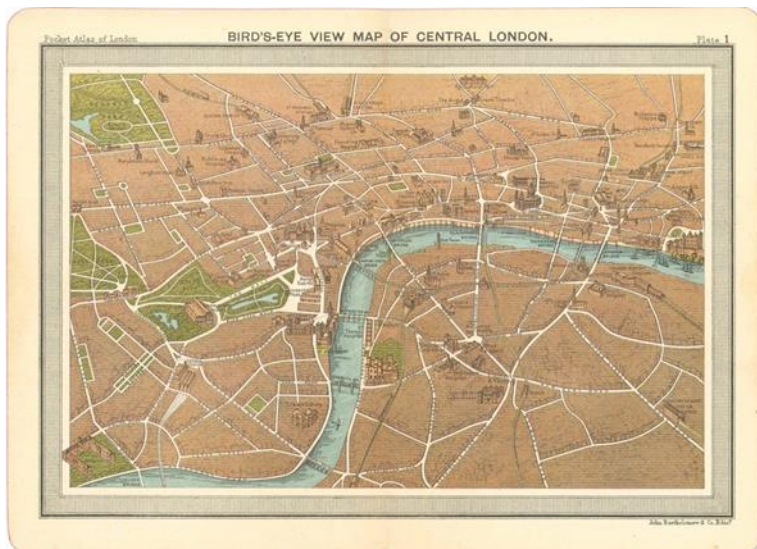


Jakub Hałun, CC BY-SA 4.0

<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/4.0/>,

via Wikimedia Commons

Construction of the cathedral began in 1386, but it was still incomplete in 1805 when Napoleon ordered the façade to be finished apparently donating money for this purpose. He was then crowned King of Italy in Milan Cathedral by the Cardinal Archbishop of Milan on May 26, 1805. Even after this, the construction continued and is considered one of the longest-worked cathedrals in the world. George told us that it was an ugly building, and we should turn our backs to it!



Bob Kelley: Bob's piece of surprising research was a reminder about not accepting statistics at face value.

Developed and published by John Bartholomew & Co between 1896 and 1904., Public domain, via Wikimedia Commons

In 1791, a police magistrate estimated that there were 50,000 prostitutes in London. This figure was subsequently increased in line with population increases until it reached the ludicrous figure of 80,000. This unreliable statistic continued to be quoted as fact, and replicated in numerous publications, despite being wrong and despite the original 19th century definition of a prostitute not being the same as today.

Corinne Hinton: Spoke about the contrasting conditions, artists impressions and reports experienced by people during the London Blitz (1940-1941).



German Air Force photographer, Public domain, via Wikimedia Commons

She had been shocked to recently read about The Tilbury Air Raid Shelter, and how East End Londoners had no access to any deep shelters. The government had not built them because of cost, time, and fears that the safety of underground shelters would lead to people refusing to work, or that anti-war sentiment might develop.

The Commercial Road Goods Depot was only originally supposed to house 1,400 people but eventually it was reported that on most nights of the Blitz Tilbury held around 14,000 rising to 16,000 people lying head to toe, with no facilities in appalling conditions. In contrast, the Savoy Hotel, provided a shelter for its wealthy clients that was air-conditioned, gas-proof, and sound-proof with serving staff and nurses. On September 14, 1941, Phil Piratin, a communist, led a workers protest which forced their way into the Savoy's "swank" shelter and demanded to be fed tea, and bread and butter. The manager couldn't throw them out because of the bombing continuing outside.



Interior of Canterbury Cathedral, Canterbury by Christine Matthews, CC BY-SA 2.0 <https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/2.0/>, via Wikimedia Commons

Elena Nichol: During the 16th-18th centuries many French Protestants (known as Huguenots) fled to England as refugees, with large numbers settling in Canterbury. Here they were offered the western crypt of the Cathedral for their worship. Elena was surprised

to discover that Canterbury Cathedral still hosts a Sunday service (in ancient French) in the Huguenot Chapel at 3:00pm. This is known as the Église Protestante Française de Cantorbéry and the worship is regularly conducted in French, with psalms sung to old Huguenot tunes.

The next u3a History Meeting will be held: April 15th, 2025.

By Corinne Hinton

history@tetburyu3a.org.uk

Playreading Group 1

For our last meeting we read "Towards Zero" by Agatha Christie. The play was set in Gull's Point, the home of Lady Tressilian. Gathered in the house is a curious assortment of guests - Neville Strange, the well-known athlete and her ward and heir, his beautiful wife Kay, his divorced wife Audrey, and Thomas Royde, an old friend of the family on leave from Malaya.

Across the river estuary at a hotel Ted Latimer, Kay's decorative young friend, is staying. The stage is set for murder most foul. Events are converging inexorably.....TOWARDS ZERO. Lots of tension ensued.

We had a new member joining us. She was unsure about playreading. She was given the part of Lady Tressilian who was murdered in Act 1 - exit new member. The plot thickened and it wasn't until the last few pages that the murderer was revealed. Not who some of us were expecting. Thoroughly enjoyable.

By Bernadette Bell

playreading1@tetburyu3a.org.uk

Playreading Group 2

Unfortunately, Jeremy Iles-North, who has led this group for many years in his own home, has had to resign due to ill health. We all wish Jeremy well, and thank him for his past organisation and hospitality. In the meantime, Margo Smith has very kindly leapt into the breach and she led us this month. So on Monday 3rd March nine members of the Play Reading group met at Steepleton to read "Bequest to the Nation": a play by Terence Rattigan.

Terence Rattigan, 1911-1977, is perhaps best known for writing "The Winslow Boy" and "Separate Tables". "Bequest to the Nation" is a play about the love triangle between Horatio Nelson, Emma Hamilton (his mistress) and Frances "Fanny" Herbert Woolward (his wife), both before and after the Battle of Trafalgar in 1805. The play was first performed at the Theatre Royal, Haymarket in 1970 starring Ian Holm, Zoe Caldwell, and Brian Glover. It was also turned into a film starring Glenda Jackson, Peter Finch, Michael Jayston and Anthony Quayle in 1973.

It was a long play to read, but it gave us some insight into how Nelson, a national maritime hero, was a passionate man who followed his heart. Abandoning his wife, he chose to live openly with his lover Lady Emma Hamilton (a married woman), despite the scandal and public mockery.

After Nelson's death his legal wife became Baroness Nelson and then Viscountess Nelson and was awarded a generous pension. She lived in Exmouth until she died in 1831. Poor Lady Emma Hamilton, on the other hand, was abandoned by many of his family and friends. She fell into debt and travelled to Calais to escape her creditors where she died.

In a final codicil to his will Nelson implored his king and country to provide for Emma and his daughter Horatia if he should die at Trafalgar. He asked that they should give his mistress "ample provision to maintain her rank in life". Hence the title of the play

"Bequest to the Nation". Despite his last wishes, however, the government awarded various monies to Nelson's family instead, and ignored Lady Hamilton and Horatia.

By Corinne Hinton

playreading2@tetburyu3a.org.uk

Short Breaks Group

The Short Breaks group has been set up to enable people to go away together for long weekends/short breaks as a group. This was basically set up for singles but doesn't preclude couples.

Going away by yourself doesn't appeal to everybody as some welcome the support of others to make it more pleasurable.

Initially I am basing this on car travel as this gives us greater flexibility and also gives us transport at our destination. This makes it easier to get around at our agreed destination and also cheaper. Unfortunately I am the only person willing to car share at the moment which limits when and how many can go away together by car. Other forms of transport haven't been ruled out and could be looked at if a reasonable deal is on offer.

Joining this group is open to anybody who wishes to spend a few days away from home in a group that enjoy doing things together as a group. Due to the confines of present transport, breaks will run from Friday lunchtimes to Wednesday PM or any period inbetween. It is also important that you have a flexible approach to destination as you will not always get your first choice.

If you have any queries or wish to join contact the Group Leader at shortbreaks@tetburyu3a.org.uk

By Grahame Inman

Ukulele Group (T'Ukes)

The T'Ukes deliberately had a quiet January in terms of entertaining audiences, after a busy pre-Christmas period of performances in and around the Tetbury area. However we continued to meet to practice on a weekly basis, and to introduce new songs into our ever increasing repertoire. We also welcomed into our T'Ukes family three new members, Esme, Sue M and Derek, all of whom settled into our ways with ease, and all who have been an asset to our group.

At the start of the new year our agent made the decision to restrict our performances to two per month, and these began on Valentine's Day when we greatly enjoyed a Sing-A-Long Concert at Long Newton Church. We experienced a wonderful morning with a very appreciative and generous audience who sang along with us with gusto. We also raised a magnificent £200 in donations to our chosen charity The Longfield Hospice. We were also treated to wonderful refreshments, baked and served by the ladies of the Long Newton Coffee Club.

For our second "gig" in February we returned to the Churn Project Friendship Cafe at the Ashcroft Centre in Cirencester, where we are always welcomed by an audience who fully participate by singing their hearts out, while enjoying the musical memories of their teenage years. Here we raised a further £58 for the Hospice.

In March our two "gigs" were both private performances, firstly at the St Mary's Ladies Monday Club, and then at the Kingsley House Residential Care Home.

These are followed in early April with another private event at the Upton Mill Care Home, but then on Wednesday April 16th from 2.00 to 4.00 pm we will be performing a Sing-A-Long Concert at The Goods Shed in Tetbury. If you have fond memories of songs from the 50s to the 70s, then why not join us at The Goods Shed. The lyrics of the

songs we will be playing and singing will be projected by Lawrence Moss onto a large screen in order that you can fully participate with us.

Should you have a free Tuesday afternoon between 2.30 and 4.30pm why not come along to the restaurant at the Steepleton Retirement Village and sample what we have to offer. If you do so, you will be welcomed by 22 of your fellow u3a members who will ensure you have an enjoyable and entertaining afternoon.

By Mike Hoskin

ukulele@tetburyu3a.org.uk

Wine Tasting Groups

There are two wine groups and both have some vacancies.

We expect that most members will be free to attend each monthly meeting. We take it in turn to host an evening which entails deciding on a theme and buying some wines to illustrate it once or twice a year, e.g. wines of the Loire, or Morrocco or whatever. The host is reimbursed by the group, typically £10/head.

Mine is the second group formed because the first had no more capacity and the format of meeting in members homes means that a sensible maximum is 8-12 being the capacity of a dining table or sitting room seating. I might aim for about 9 and see how we go. Sometimes the groups combine for a summer evening or vineyard visit.

I struggle to define the group objective, the study of wine, its diversity, the social environment of monthly meetings (first Tuesday each month @ 7pm 'save August) vineyard visits, or whatever.

Consideration brings me to realise it is all the above and more because the member hosting has free reign to set the agenda and choose the wine. It is very democratic!

Do contact me, Robin Voice, (first Tuesday each month @ 7pm 'save August) or for the first group, (2nd Monday of each month) contact Marcus at winetasting@tetburyu3a.org.uk and come to a meeting as our guest.

By Robin Voice

And finallyThe deadline for contributions to the next newsletter is Monday 21st April. Without your reports there would be no newsletter, so keep those reports coming in.

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

See Annex below for list of u3a National Online Learning Events.

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
U3a Radio Podcast	Listen to our monthly radio series - new episodes on the 17 th of each month
Flight Inspirations Aviation Meeting: Stealth	Tuesday, April 1 · 10am - 12pm
Smart Tech for Older and Disabled People	Tuesday, April 1 · 2 - 3:30pm
A Sustainable Wardrobe	Friday, April 4 · 2 - 3pm
How to get published with Writers & Artists	Starts on Tuesday, April 8 · 2pm
Laughter Yoga with Judith: April	Wednesday, April 9 · 10 - 11am
A Glimpse at the Pre Raphaelites: The Potential of Love	Thursday, April 10 · 10 - 11am

From Turmoil to Joy: The Sculpture of Auguste Rodin	Thursday, April 10 · 2 - 3:30pm
Duplicate Bridge Tactics for Improvers	Friday, April 11 · 10 - 11:30am
Robotics and Automation	Wednesday, April 2 · 1 - 2:30pm
How AI can save you hours when researching your family history	Monday, April 14 · 10 - 11:30am
Using the web to learn something new	Tuesday, April 15 · 2 - 3:30pm
Getting Going with Local History	Wednesday, April 16 · 10 - 11:30am
Mindfulness and Meditation Continuation Session: April	Thursday, April 17 · 10 - 11am
Laughter Yoga with Merrie Maggie: April	Tuesday, April 22 · 3:30 - 4:30pm
Secrets of the Human Brain: Talk Four - Brain Drugs and Medicines	Thursday, April 24 · 2 - 4pm
Artificial Intelligence News: April - Responsible AI	Friday, April 25 · 8:30 - 10am
The Assassination of President Kennedy	Fri, 25 Apr 2025 14:00 - 15:00
What the future changes in landlines will mean for you	Monday, April 28 · 2 - 3:15pm
Understanding online content, misinformation and disinformation	Tuesday, April 29 · 2 - 3:30pm
Poverty: A Sociological Perspective	Wednesday, April 30 · 10 - 11:30am
Flight Inspirations Aviation Meeting: Aircraft Carrier Britain	Tuesday, May 6 · 10am - 12pm
Staying Safe Online - A u3a Presentation with Q&A	Friday, May 9 · 10 - 11:30am

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 of the next year. 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](#)