



August 2025

Message from the Chair

Hello Everyone

I hope you're enjoying a summer break, catching up with friends and family. It's been a quiet month for u3a activities, as we are at peak holiday season and many of you are doing grandparent duties, so this newsletter is fairly short.

In this issue you will find useful guidance from our Tech Support Group on what to do about the Windows 11 upgrade which will come into place in October. There's also a potential new Pickleball group being set up - see section below.

Our monthly meetings will resume on 16th September at the Tetbury Goods Shed - I hope to see you there.

Bernadette (Chair)

<https://tetbury.u3asite.uk/>

Monthly Speakers

Do come along to one of our monthly meetings at the Tetbury Goods Shed Arts Centre, if you've not attended before. The speakers invariably open our minds to worlds or fascinating facts 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 next monthly meeting on "The Life and Works of Henry Purcell" will take place on Tuesday 16th September 2025, 10:30 am - 12:00 pm, at the Tetbury Goods Shed. Dr Timothy Brain, former Chief Constable of Gloucestershire, shares his passion for the life and music of the 17th century English Baroque composer.

We hope to see you there.

By Anne Cox

Potential New Groups

A couple of our members would like to start a **Pickleball Group**.

Pickleball is a racket (or paddle) sport in which two or four players use a smooth-faced paddle to hit a perforated, hollow plastic ball over a net. Pickleball is played indoors and outdoors. It was invented in 1965 as a children's backyard game in the United States, and is becoming increasingly popular over here. Aspects of the sport resemble tennis and table tennis played on a doubles badminton court, but pickleball has specific scoring rules, paddles, balls and court lines.

If this might interest you, please contact Caroline, the Groups Co-ordinator, here <https://tetbury.u3asite.uk/committee/>

At our Open Day we received feedback that you would like to see new groups including Handicraft, Knit and Natter, and Card Making. New groups can only get

off the ground if somebody is prepared to lead them, so if you would be willing to lead any of these groups, please contact Groups Coordinator Caroline.

Group News

Art Appreciation

Our first presentation was about David Hockney and we looked at about 15 paintings, illustrating his long and amazing life.

From his beginnings in Bradford to London, New York, LA, back in the UK. Then his time in Normandy and now back in the UK. He is 90 this year and still producing innovative art. He shows the world through his eyes and invites us to see things differently. Much of his art is very colourful and the consensus from the meeting was how enjoyable his work is on many levels.

We then talked about the German painter Winterhalter. He is best known in the UK for his paintings of Queen Victoria and her family.

One painting of a young Victoria shows her relaxed with a quite sensual look which she commissioned for Albert's 24th Birthday. He loved the painting and kept it in his own writing room. It was not shown to the public until 1977 as it was considered to be too intimate a picture of a monarch. It originally cost just over £100 and Albert was buried with a copy.

By Margo Smith

Wednesday Bookclub

We met on Wednesday 30th July to discuss "Raising Hare" by Chloe Dalton, which we all enjoyed. Beautifully written and illustrated it's Chloe's first book written during the pandemic when she was away from her high pressure job as a political advisor. It's the charming story of her relationship with an abandoned leveret and their mutual trust, a real joy to read.

Our next meeting will be on Wednesday the 27th August when we'll discuss Lady Tan's "Circle of Women".

By Pauline Whittaker

Garden Visits Group

At the beginning of the month we visited **Adeline Farm near Long Newnton**, which is a farming venture with the emphasis on quality, fresh, local and seasonal produce.



We were shown round by Ros Holland, who shared her passion for farming using organic methods and working with wildlife.

There were a series of polytunnels containing a range of tomato varieties, grown with companion plants including different types of basil, and tagetes to control pests naturally.

Each polytunnel contained a small pond which provided a refuge for frogs and newts. Outside we were impressed with the peppers, flowers for pollinators, and several varieties of squash which were growing very well despite being watered only three times this year due to a heavy application of mulch. Mulch is the answer to a successful harvest!



Afterwards over tea and coffee with biscuits, Ros explained the community projects she leads at the farm for disabled adults and people with learning difficulties, and local schools.

This enables people to enjoy a taste of the countryside by growing their own produce, engaging in environmental projects or participating in anything that has an agricultural bearing.

At the end of the visit we bought some delicious veg to take home. You can find Ros at the Stroud Farmers' Market on Saturdays.

Later in the month we visited **Kiftsgate Court Garden near Chipping Campden**. This is the creation of three generations of women gardeners, starting in the 1920s and 30s. We were certainly not disappointed.



The garden is set on a hillside, with mature pine trees and beautiful views to the valley below. It was bursting with colour, despite a lack of watering due to a hosepipe ban in the area, and it no doubt enjoys its own microclimate. There were a series of terraces, some very steep banks, sunken gardens, ornamental ponds, and orchard and meadow. We also enjoyed the sculpture exhibition which was an added bonus.



Our next garden visit will take place on 15th September, to one of our member's gardens at No 7 Park Close, Tetbury. We hope to have a plant swap there. You can find details of our programme on our website.

By Caroline Hose

Meditation and Mindfulness Group

This new group will meet every Friday morning starting on Friday 5th September from 10.00-11.15 at Steepleton Court restaurant, Cirencester Road, Tetbury GL8 8FQ. The group will provide an opportunity to meditate together and to share our experiences of meditation and mindfulness. If you are interested in joining this group or would like to find out more please get in touch via the website.

By Sandy Thomas

Playreading Group 1

Eleven of us turned up this month at The Royal Oak to read "Animal Farm" by George Orwell. The version we read was adapted by Peter Hall. The author, born in Bengal in 1903, came from a genteel middle class family. His education at Eton gave him a taste of snobbery, hypocrisy and pretensions and after a spell with the Imperial Indian Police in Burma he returned to Europe to take up writing.

The rise of two powerful totalitarian regimes, Hitler's Germany and Stalin's Russia, drove him to write about the underdog and against totalitarianism. Orwell was wounded in the Spanish civil war and therefore unable to fight in the Second World War and in 1943 started writing Animal Farm. His Manor Farm represents Russia which was ruled by the Romanov Tsars until the revolution of 1917 led by Lenin.

The 'animals' in the play represent characters from Russia, such as Trotsky is Snowball, Cheka is the dogs, Stalin is Napoleon etc. It is a powerful story which is frightening as well as informative of the ways people are manipulated. The animals were manipulated and controlled as well as being brainwashed with many deaths. A brutal regime which pitched one against the other by twisting the truth. A sad reflection which is in operation to this very day in some countries.

Playreading group 1 has room for a couple of new members - contact the group leader via the website if you would be interested in trying it out.

By Dee Buss

Tech Support Group

July and August have been interesting months for the Tech Support Group. We were busy at our meeting in July, as we have been most months, but after five meetings this year we had the first issue which completely stumped our 'experts'! This involved an Apple iPhone which had stopped doing what it normally did with emails and we couldn't fix it. We subsequently heard from the member concerned that the Apple Store had fixed the problem in one minute which was a bit galling for us. However we have already helped around 50 users solve their problems so we think one failure to 50 successes is still a good result for us!

In August we only had one member who needed help transferring data and contacts from an old Android phone to a new one and we successfully sorted that for them.

If you have any issues with a laptop, tablet or mobile phone (Apple, Android or Windows) the Tech Support Group is here to help. We meet every month on the second Thursday of the month from 10:30-12:30 at The Royal Oak in Tetbury. Our next meeting is Thursday 11th September - just drop in if you need some help.

Windows 11 - Do I Need To Upgrade?

Windows PC users will probably be aware that the Windows 10 operating system will not be supported by Microsoft after October 2025. Microsoft is encouraging users to upgrade to Windows 11 which is a free upgrade, but not every computer is capable of running Windows 11. So do you have to upgrade? Well Windows 10 doesn't stop working in October so your PC is not going to be unusable. It just means that Windows 10 will not now receive software updates which could make it more vulnerable to hackers. Windows 11 is very similar in use to Windows 10 so don't let that put you off upgrading. It is definitely worth checking if you can upgrade your current PC and there is a free software tool available from Microsoft that will test your PC to see if it can be upgraded

<https://support.microsoft.com/windows11>

If your PC can't be upgraded you really have two choices - don't worry about the increased security risk, or buy a new PC which will come with Windows 11 installed. There is a guide to buying a new laptop on our Group page which might be worth reading before you make that decision. https://tetbury.u3asite.uk/tech_support

By Martin Doidge, Tech Support Group Leader

And finallyThe deadline for contributions to the next newsletter is Monday 22nd September. We'd love to hear what your groups have been up to!

Please send your articles to Caroline, your newsletter editor, at newslettertetburyu3a@gmail.com

Annex

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 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](#)

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](#)