

I am sure by now most of you will have seen the latest edition of the Tuba published at the end of October. Thank you so much for all the articles which were submitted. The quantity and the quality of the articles I received made it a very special edition! The next Tuba will be published in February. (Dead-line Friday 15th February).

### **Monthly meeting**

Today we welcome William French (William the Butler) to present his talk "Butler to Royalty".

Our monthly meetings will resume on Wednesday 30th January when we hope to welcome Ian Keable talking about James Gillray "The First Ever Political Cartoonist".

On 27th February our speaker will be Steven E. Bruce "Buying and Selling at Auction".

On 27th March David Skillern will present "The Bentley Boys The Playboy Racers".

Earlier this month Anne Webb and I attended a Speaker Seeker conference for the Northamptonshire area. It was a very positive morning sharing ideas about prospective speakers. I am also always receptive to any ideas members have for speakers; please email [Lucascrl@aol.com](mailto:Lucascrl@aol.com).

**Trip to Blenheim December 5th Jeanette Waite has sent the following message for the bulletin.**

### **Important notice!**

All should have received an email confirming the details. However a senior moment led me to type **078** for the start of my mobile when it should have been **077**.

Should you be unable to go there is a waiting list of people wishing to go. If you can't go and decide to gift the tickets to another U3A member just let me know their details Tel 350213  
[jeanettewaite@btinternet.com](mailto:jeanettewaite@btinternet.com)

### **QUIZ**

Anne Webb is arranging our first quiz of the winter on **Thursday 13th December**, starting at 2.00 pm, at the Town Hall, Towcester. This is most certainly aimed at the fun side of quizzing and as Anne will be setting the questions she assures us it will not be intellectually challenging!

There is no need to have a team, just turn up on the day. We even provide refreshments. Looking forward to seeing you all on Thursday 13th. [other quiz dates for your diary are Wednesday 16th January and Monday 11th February - same time, same place...]. Contact Anne Webb [07745672870] for any further details.

## NEWS FROM THE GROUPS

### Garden Visits

A wonderful Christmas lunch was had by all at Cromwell. The next meeting will be on 9th January 2019 at The Saracen's Head Hotel. This will be for lunch at 12 noon followed by a planning meeting. For further details please see Carole Hunt at the monthly meeting or ring 01327 352564. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from Carole.

**Sunday Lunch Group** On Sunday 18th November 11 members of TU3A Sunday Lunch Group enjoyed a great meal with good friends at The New Inn Abthorpe. Our next get together is in the New Year. The group is currently at maximum numbers but I'm happy to start a reserve list or help someone else to start another group! Elaine

**Striders** The next Stride will be on Wednesday 12th December, starting from the Limes Farm café at Farthinghoe (NN13 5PB) at 0930. Adequate parking and toilets on site if you are eating in the café after the walk. Otherwise park considerately in the village and meet at the café. Although there are signs saying the A422 is closed this does not apply to the section between Brackley and Farthinghoe. Pass through the village and the café is on the far side on the right." Approx. 7 mile. Peter

### Card Making

Val Runnacles co-ordinates 4 card making groups which are all currently full. However Val does not always have full attendance at her groups so if you are keen to join please contact her and she will do her best to accommodate you. Tel 358315

**Antiques and Collectables:** next meeting is on Tuesday 22nd January for a social-planning-what-we-are-getting-up-to-next-year meeting. Contact Anne Webb [077 4567 2870] if you would like to join in with this very vibrant, busy and interesting group.

**Board Games:** our last meeting of the year will be on Thursday 6th December at 10.15 in the library [anywhere we can find tables!]. Our first one in the New Year will be Thursday 3rd January - to kick-start the New Year! Contact Anne Webb if you would like to come along to this enjoyable group.

**Creative Writing for Fun:** This new group is already producing some lovely work. With hints and tips about how to improve your writing there is the emphasis on the *fun*...you could, however, be the next J.K Rowling or Jeffrey Archer!

We always have a theme of the month and it is amazing at how different the interpretations of that title can be. Always fascinating. Meets on the first Friday of every month, 10.00 am in Towcester Library [The Pod]. Contact Anne Webb on 07745672870 for further details.

## **NEW GROUPS**

If you are interested in any of the following groups please contact Eileen [eandgd17@gmail.com](mailto:eandgd17@gmail.com)

### **French for absolute beginners**

Si vous pouvez lire ceci, alors cette classe n'est pas pour vous. Nous recherchons des debutants absolus. Cependant, si vous le prouviez, seriez-vous pret a aider a constituer un groupe de debutants en française absolu? [\* see below...]

If you are an absolute beginner in French the above will mean nothing to you, are you interested in learning French? I have been asked if it possible to set up this group. However, such a group will require help from a fluent French speaking member of Towcester U3A.

**Ma Jong** Is there anyone interested in joining a few new members in setting up a Ma Jong group in Towcester library on Monday morning?

**2<sup>nd</sup> Board Games** Are you interested in joining a 2<sup>nd</sup> Board games group at Towcester Library, or members' houses. This group is likely to meet on a Monday morning.

**English Law and Court visits:** Anne Webb was wondering if there was any interest out there among the membership for something based around our English Legal System? The group could look at celebrated cases perhaps, learn about how our legal system works and visit local courts to watch cases as they take place. She envisages it being a short course initially say 12 weeks? Contact Eileen [see above] or Anne Webb, if you are interested. [07745672870 or [anne.webb@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:anne.webb@yahoo.co.uk)].

A very successful **New Members Meeting** was held in early November. Many committee members and co-ordinators were there to meet our new members. In addition the Ukulele group played throughout the meeting. The next New Members Meeting will be in the Spring. (date to be advised)

**TADD (Door to Door)** urgently require volunteer drivers. As a result of driver shortage they are struggling to help the elderly and vulnerable in the community. Can you help?

Contact [tadd@btconnect.com](mailto:tadd@btconnect.com) 01327 810300

**Finally** It has been quite a year for Towcester U3A with membership and interest groups increasing. Long may it continue! All that remains is to wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy and Peaceful New Year, Carol.

*\* for those of you with an interest, the English translation is [approximately] "If you can read this then this class isn't for you. We are looking for absolute beginners. However, would be willing to help set up a group of absolute beginners in French?"*