

CONNECT	
The Tetbury Social Experiment	

	2045 TA
	<i>Mad scientists can be utterly brilliant or just totally mad</i>
1	Pireaus, Tetbury CONNECT and the people of Tetbury have been chosen to be involved in a social experiment. The social experiment is the brainchild of a sociologist and is intended to measure the propensity of people in communities to work together on major issues.
2	It has been explained that the experiment was prompted by the events of the last two years, the extraordinary behaviour of our leaders in Westminster and the total lack of any challenge to their exercised authority over the population.
3	We understand that Tetbury has been chosen to take part in the experiment being one of a small number expected to be conducted over this year. It's not yet known if other towns in Gloucestershire have been selected, although towns in other parts of the country are understood to be involved.
4	Tetbury has been chosen for its population size and its apparent livelier than most community engagements. The large number of social activities and the wide-ranging different pursuits available to towns folk was said to be key to our selection.  Not only that, the vibrant and active community on social media proved that Tetbury has many people with an interest in engaging with their neighbours. This we gather was another key element and a prerequisite to being chosen.
5	So, what do we know of the experiment?  Well, we have little information at this time beyond knowing that Tetbury has been chosen. We know the experiment is however open to everyone living within the town and a small radius beyond the town limits. Potentially, that makes it a big experiment and one which surely will be widely noticed.  The experiment is one of a small number which are to form part of an experimental pilot study. If the pilot study proves a success, then it is said that the experiment will be expanded across a number of towns in England.
6	In the opening paragraphs, I gave mention to the extraordinary events over the last two years. The sociologist behind the experiment is said to be interested to see how people in the community might step up to take more of a leading role in how the local community organises its own affairs. The feeling – and this is our feeling – is that the leader of this experiment is eager

to examine how local communities can orchestrate those local affairs for themselves. We think it's about local people taking more control locally and be dictated to much less by the current model of top-down government.

In the messaging received so far, there is a possible indication that people will be invited to express their views and opinions on matters beyond Tetbury. This might mean there being invitations to express feelings about government, government policy and perhaps even the current government system itself. Now that could be very interesting!

Perhaps it's about a new Theory of Relativity – looking at how we all relate to one another and what better things could arise for our society by us all taking a more active role in our communities. That is, to the point where we actually steer our communities more directly ourselves.

Whatever the theory is behind the experiment, for us it sounds like a very interesting initiative indeed. I guess the pilot experiment might tell us all what changes would be welcomed by going about this business of government in a different way.

I would venture, that there must be many like us that would gladly switch systems of government for something much fairer – more engaging and inclusive - than the one we currently have. Could this experiment be the spark which ignites something special happening in our world – where local people have more say in their communities and more control over their lives?

Well, let's see what happens. We are hopeful and wait to be impressed.

7 We are ourselves quietly excited about the experiment and its possibilities – at least to open up discussion if nothing else.

We will keep people abreast of announcements as and when they are made. The next announcement is expected next month with a call to a meeting in the town in March for those eager to take a leading part – in the experiment!

PS1 *"We cannot solve our problems with the same thinking we used when we created them."*

**Albert Einstein**

### **CONNECT'S Maxim and Oath**

Connect is only interested in finding and sharing the TRUTH.  
In search of that TRUTH, we only pose questions – we have no answers.

By: David Charles

Source: Tetbury CONNECT: [Magazine](#)

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