

This is the final letter which will be sent to everyone who is coming on the Thoresby 2018 holidays.

I will be posting them around 18 December for the January holiday and 20 January for the February holiday. Note the two holidays have different reference numbers when you fill in the registration forms and different zones when you look at the Pavilion seating.

Room allocation

I have attempted to allocate rooms as requested. However, some rooms had already gone when you tried to book and others had been upgraded. I leave the FINAL allocation to the last possible minute because THINGS CAN GO WRONG. If you want to be bored out of your mind, just ask me while we are on holiday and I will tell you some of the things that have gone wrong in the previous 14 years.

The REALLY important bits are

Let me know if you are a member of Warner Concierge Club and also if you want any £6 for £5 Add Lunch vouchers. Do this via the thoresby2018 email.

Regulars will notice Thoresby have decided to dispense with the 10% off Spa vouchers. If you want your 10%, when you book (prebooking is STRONGLY advised due to health reasons, some treatments are not compatible with some medical conditions) mention U3A or if you cannot remember that, the word WHITEHEAD will suffice.

When I get a price from Warner they include some free places, which are always subject to fluctuation. So the price you pay is what Warners are charging me. As we have some free places I have always refunded that money by giving a Warner voucher for £10 to each room. The rest of the money goes back in the form of draws each evening. When you see me on my little table downstairs from Reception you will get an envelope which contains your £10 voucher and a raffle ticket. It looks like each evening I will be drawing three tickets out, each winner will get a cheque from me for about £50. If you give me your winning ticket I will give you a cheque for £50. If you do not bring your ticket you will not get the cheque. Winning numbers will be posted on Reception each morning. I do not know which ticket numbers you have and it is your responsibility to sort out if you have won and find me before I go home on the Friday.

I also get a number of singles from Warner with no supplement. Extra singles are charged at a considerable sum. So I have recalculated the singles and those in single rooms will also get in their envelope a cheque for £21.



THE UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE

*Warner Leisure Hotels
Thoresby Hall Hotel
01623 821000*

I do hope that you are looking forward to our forthcoming gathering at Thoresby Hall Hotel as much as I am looking forward to meeting you all. I have listed a host of information below in preparation for our break which I do hope will answer any questions you may have and to let you know what you can expect during our break together at Thoresby.

Lilian and I will be staying at Thoresby for a weekend break before the group holiday so do not try to contact me with last minute questions, you will just get my answer phone. In an emergency or in the event of a cancellation please contact the hotel direct on the number above to inform them of your cancellation and they can then let me know.

In the unlikely event that you become unwell with the suspected Noro Virus bug please **do not travel** but again contact myself or the hotel telephone on the number above. I do have a waiting list and the easiest option for all parties is that someone takes your place. If I can fill the vacancy from my waiting list you will lose the normal £5 per person. On the other hand, if you know anyone who might like to go on the waiting list, contact me, no obligation.

We do have the Warner 'cancellation insurance' included (details on the Warner website) but in all the years I have been organising these breaks only 10 people have had to use it out of over 2000 guests.

Terry Whitehead
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Mansfield
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01623 626991

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Directions to Thoresby Hall

NG22 9WH (for 'SatNav' users)

USEFUL HINT - Some sat navs do not recognise the postcode, if so, input Perlethorpe and then follow the signposts.

From A1:

Exit at roundabout signposted A614 Nottingham, Leicester. Travel approx 4 miles at the next roundabout take the exit to the right signposted Thoresby Hall Hotel. Entrance to the hotel is approx 1 mile on the left.

From M1 North:

Exit at Junction 30, follow the A619 to Worksop, and then take the A57 to the A1. At the A1 leave at roundabout signposted A614 Nottingham, Leicester. Travel approx 4 miles at the next roundabout take the exit to the right signposted Thoresby Hall Hotel. Entrance to the hotel is approx 1 mile on the left.

From M1 South

- Exit at Junction 28 and follow the A38 – Mansfield. Continue straight through 7 sets of traffic lights and at the 8th set turn right – signposted A617 Newark.
- Continue through 2 sets of lights and straight over 3 roundabouts. At the 4th roundabout take the turning left signposted A614 – Doncaster.
- Continue straight over the 1st roundabout and at the 2nd take the turning left signposted Thoresby Hall Hotel.
- Entrance to the hotel is approx 1 mile on the left.

For new guests be careful not to go down the road to the left labelled 'Courtyard'. There is no car access from the Courtyard to the Hotel.

Warner Guest Registration Card

Fill in the guest registration card. These cards should be handed in at Reception when you register.

If you do not have one, contact me, if you are sharing first check with the person with whom you are sharing, they will have one. Unless you are a travelling individually, both sides of the form will have something on.

To help you fill your form in:

Arrival date is 22 January 2018 departure date is 26th January 2018
Booking reference is 4208660

Arrival date is 12th February 2018 departure date is 16th February 2018
Booking reference is 4211594

Car registration number is necessary in case the hotel need to contact you regarding your vehicle.

The booking is made as part of a group booking.

Sign in the bottom right of the form.

Concierge Club

If you are a member of the Warner Concierge Club please contact me before the holiday as Thoresby will not have that information.

Add lunch

Vouchers can be used towards the cost of lunch from the Coffee Shop, bar food menus and Great Hall; just buy as many as you need for your stay. They are brilliant value too – each costs £5 but gives you £6 to spend. They do expire at the end of the holiday so if you do purchase these ensure you redeem them before the end of your stay. Please contact me to book prior to arrival; they cannot be bought from Reception. (I will require payment in cash on the Monday). Sample menus are on the Mansfield Group Thoresby page.

Mobility Scooters

Thoresby have an arrangement with Mansfield Mobility whereby you can hire a mobility scooter and they deliver and collect from Thoresby when your holiday is finished. For further details contact them directly on 01623 627565.

Check In

You may check in from 12pm on Monday. Standard rooms are available from 3pm, Signature rooms 2pm and Historic Rooms and Suites from 1pm. Porter service is available from 11am. I would suggest if you are arriving earlier than 3pm please leave your luggage in your car until you can get into your room unless you wish for a porter to assist you with your luggage prior to this time. You should have luggage labels, just fill in name and room number and a porter will take your luggage to your room.

Lilian and I will be at the bottom of the steps to your left as you enter Reception to say Hello and to give you your £10 spend on site voucher per room, one raffle ticket per person and any Add Lunch vouchers you may have ordered. If you do not have any luggage labels or have lost your Registration Form, I will have spares.

My Warner Table

Warners are now fixing tables for the entertainment in a similar way to you sitting at the same table to have your meals. Areas within the Late Lounge have been reserved specifically for U3A guests as part of this scheme. Please visit the late lounge from 12.30pm to 4.00pm on the Monday to pick your seats in the area allocated for us. Go to the Thoresby webpage on Mansfield U3A Groups and look at the zoning plan.

We have been allocated tables in
Zone(s) 3, 4, 7, 9 & 11 (January)
Zone(s) 2, 3, 4 & 7 (February).

If you do not pick a table on the Monday when you come to the Pavilion in the evening just find any that say WHITEHEAD (apart from mine which will have mine or Lilian's signature on). This seating scheme does not operate during the daytime, only in the evening.

Check out

The hotel asks that you vacate your rooms by 10am Friday; however you are more than welcome to continue using the facilities available. Porter service is available should you require assistance with luggage. Please contact reception who will be happy to organise this for you.

Packing

Tea, coffee, toiletries and towels are provided but you might like to pack a flannel. Also in the room will be a safe and an iron with ironing board.

Spa

Robes are provided in the Spa but do not forget your swimwear which is essential if you want to participate. Spa sessions need to be pre-booked, either on the Monday when you arrive or as soon as possible afterwards, as places are limited. The Spa team say they will accept telephone bookings on 01623 821033 before you arrive. Anyone undergoing medical treatment should advise Spa at the time of booking. ***You are entitled to 10% off any treatments; please quote 'U3A' when booking your treatments to receive your discount.***

Charge Cards

Rather than pay cash in the Gift Shop/Bar/restaurant for snacks, drinks books etc you can take out a charge card any time at Reception (once you have registered). The team will need to swipe a credit or debit card to give you the charge card. If you do take out a charge card, you will receive an envelope under your door on your final evening containing your bill. If you are happy with the amount, you can simply sign the envelope and put it in the express check out box on reception. You can also use your £10 spend on site voucher towards your final bill.

The Thoresby Courtyard

The Queens Royal Lancers and Nottinghamshire Yeomanry Museum is located in the Courtyard and although they shut for winter, they are going to arrange a guided tour for us on the Wednesday afternoon at an estimated cost of £4pp. You will need to register and pay for this at Reception. If you have grandparent duty during the school holidays the museum would be a great experience for them, especially as you can tell them lots of things which you remember from the guided tour. No need to tell them you have had the tour, just impart wisdom from the elder person.

Note that shops in the Courtyard are not part of Warner Leisure Hotels which means that your Warner charge card is not valid there. They are however worth a visit, even if you only have an ice cream in the café.

DVD

Signature and Historic rooms have a DVD player in. There will be a list of DVDs available to borrow at no additional cost from Reception.

Newspapers

If you want to pre book your newspaper to be delivered to your room, ask the Reception Team as you will require having a room account set up. Alternatively, newspapers will be available in the Gift Shop from 8am.

Dining

We shall be dining in the Sherwood Restaurant. The Restaurant will be open on the Monday from 12.30pm to 4.00pm for you to book a table. If you would like to sit with friends please write their names and room numbers on a piece of paper for the Restaurant Manager and then just one of your group need go down to book. The tables

reserved for U3A will have a card on them with the U3A logo. We will be staying in the same seats for all meals during your stay. We do kindly ask that if you are sharing a table, it would be appreciated if you could dine at the same time in order to ensure an efficient service. Please note the table sizes are a maximum of 8 guests per table.

Breakfast is served from 8.00 to 10.00 am and evening meals are served from 6.00 pm to 8.00 pm.

Specific dietary requirements such as gluten free / dairy free can be catered for during your stay but please advise the Restaurant team upon arrival. Alternatively please contact the hotel prior to arrival on the telephone number shown at the head of this letter. Vegetarian options are available at all meals.

If this is your first visit to Thoresby, although most meals are self service, the waiting staff will bring you anything on the menu if you find walking and carrying a plate full of food difficult. There are dishes on the menu which are not self service and these are ordered from your waiter.

If you ask I will send you contact details of other U3A members who are coming who belong to your own U3A and you can sort a table out between you.

If you would like to experience the Blue Grill Restaurant (open Tuesday and Thursday evening) there is an additional supplement of £19.95pp. The menu is on the Mansfield Thoresby webpage. Please contact Reception Team to book a table.

Quiz

I shall be conducting the customary quiz each afternoon at 5.30 pm in the Late Lounge with fabulous prizes. Please form teams of no more than 8. The quiz will take about 25 minutes and I will also be distributing the excess money from the account each evening. This get together gives a perfect opportunity for me to make any announcements so even if you are not quiz contestants come in about 5.45 to see if you have won some money, attendance on the Monday is strongly advised and bring your raffle ticket with you. Please retain your ticket in order to collect your prize.

WiFi

Wifi is available in some public areas around the Hotel; The Pavilion Bar, Old House and lower area of Reception. It is also available in some of the bedrooms but as Warners are gradually increasing access round the site if you can get WiFi in your bedroom treat it as a bonus. Just ask a member of the Warner team if you require support logging on. There are two different servers one of which is in the Old House, depending on where you are in the building you may need to login again.