

All phone numbers are local, with the prefix 01454, unless otherwise specified

From the Chairman:

Welcome to the Autumn Newsletter and a special welcome this time to those of you with low membership numbers who were perhaps some of the people who queued in the Chantry, in reply to a letter in the Gazette from Elizabeth Miller (002), inviting you to start a Thornbury U3A in the autumn of 1997 – 20 years ago this month. Well done and we all thank you for setting up such a happy, positive and friendly group from which, I hope, we all benefit in many ways.

To celebrate our 20th Birthday, watch this space for some events next year but in particular do keep Saturday 28 July 2018 free for a Big Picnic at the Chantry.



At this time of year, we thank those involved in Leading our Groups, and in particular Cynthia Black, our Groups' Co-ordinator, for holding the fort this year. Thank you, too, to all those who prepared the recently held Lunch and worked so hard behind the scenes to ensure everything went well. The Committee thanks all those who freely give their time to enable you to enjoy your Group events.

This newsletter contains the formal documents that accompany the Notice of our AGM on 1 November 2017 at 10.00 am in the Armstrong Hall, Thornbury. Every Committee post is re-elected annually, so please give careful consideration to the Nomination Form. To those who have already volunteered to stand, thank you, but if you know of any others who would be interested in joining the Committee, then do persuade them to put their names forward. Some current members wish to stand down or change roles, giving an opportunity for others to join the Committee and share their ideas and enthusiasm for our organization. It is vital that we have volunteers this year to stand as Committee Members for such roles as Secretary; Publicity; Health & Safety, and Vice Chairman.

If there is something else you think we should be doing, have your say by using the formal Proposal of a Motion by a Member form. There will also be an opportunity immediately following the formal AGM for anyone to raise a point with the new Committee who, while making no immediate response, will record and consider every item so raised.

After the AGM, the Group Fair will open. Here you will see what each group does and how you can join or help them. Is it time for you to take up a new interest or perhaps start or lead a new group? The group leaders will make you feel welcome and help you to keep the little grey cells expanding.

With the aim of furthering our use of IT, this year's membership renewal forms will be sent out online where possible, so look out for the form to be returned with your payment. For up-to-date information, see and use our website (www.thornburyu3a.org.uk) and if you have any other suggestions or queries, please contact me.

Alison Makepeace

415019

chairman@thornburyu3a.org.uk

Dates for your Diary

- 16 October 2017 Welcome Meeting for New Members, 3.30 pm at St Mary's Church Hall, Thornbury
- 1 November 2017 AGM 10.00 am (doors open at 9.30 am) followed by the Group Fair

Future Publication Deadlines

15 December 2017 Winter Newsletter Please send your contributions to:
newsletter@thornburyu3a.org.uk by the dates shown opposite

1 November 2017* 2018 Handbook Please send your contributions to:
handbook@thornburyu3a.org.uk by the dates shown opposite

**Please note that this is earlier than in previous years*

Handbook & Membership Card Collection Days - 2018

Monday 29 January 2018 Thornbury – Turnberries

Tuesday 30 January 2018 Olveston – Parish Hall

Communications

Initially the period after the last Newsletter was fairly quiet. Website updates and answering email queries were our main jobs. Most of the queries related to the recently issued Newsletters and not being able to print, or sometimes view. Many of the problems are due to members using very old versions of software. Occasionally members contact us after a few weeks as they have misplaced the most recent Newsletter. If this happens to you, please go to our Thornbury U3A website and look under News tab, on top right hand side and you will see the link to the Newsletter. Just press that and the Newsletter should appear. However since 9 August we have been very busy as outlined below.

Beacon

After what seemed like an endless wait we received notification on 9 August that our Beacon system was now live and ready to be set up by us to meet our needs. Since then the Beacon Team comprising Don Grundell, Barbara Jones and Phil Holland have been very busy. Jackie Gitsham, who is taking over as Membership Secretary, has also been involved. We have spent the past few weeks busily trying to familiarise ourselves with the system and how it works, although at times our holidays have intervened.

What is Beacon I can hear you ask? Beacon is our new Membership Information System which holds the details about each member. It also holds details about groups and venues where these have been added. Initially Group Leaders will be given access to the system and, amongst other facilities, it will allow them add and delete members from their group and use the system to email the members of their group should they so wish. Those Group Leaders who gave us their group membership list will find that these details have now been loaded. Checking that members have renewed their membership each year will be easy in future. Your name will be in red if you have not renewed!

When we transferred the membership information to the new system we took the decision that for joint membership, where there was only one email address, we would use it against both members. One reason was that although you may be a joint member you do not necessarily belong to the same groups. This Newsletter has been sent out using the Beacon System to all those who have notified us of their email address and therefore some of you will have received it twice for this

reason. However, you will notice that it is (or should be) addressed to two separate names.

When you are invited to renew your membership for 2018, it will be suggested that you go online and check your personal details. At this stage, if you wish to change your email addresses, you can do so, although you are advised not to delete it. We hope that by November when you are invited to renew your membership, we will have set up the facility to enable you, should you so wish, to renew your membership on-line.

Using Beacon is quite a move forward for us and a different way of working. The database knowledge within our U3A will no longer be reliant on one person. The Beacon system has been created and is supported by U3A nationally, and many U3As are now using the system. This means that we can get advice and views from others who have more experience of using the system. I am sure that there will be many questions from members and we will do our best to answer them as soon as possible. We will issue further updates in due course.

Barbara Jones & Don Grundell

communications@thornburyu3a.org.uk

Open Talks

"Mrs Blackadder goes forth"(Women in the Great War) with Mark Walker

17 November 2017 2.30 pm in the Armstrong Hall, Thornbury

Here is an opportunity to hear about the role of women in World War I with Mark Walker.

Mark's interest and fascination in the Great War date from his childhood in the 50's when he spent many hours with his grandfather, a maimed veteran of the Great War. He has spent months on the Western Front and more recently has researched the home front where his grandmother had her role to play.

Mark currently leads the U3A Great War Group, which is now reaching its climax with the approach of 11 November 2018.



For tickets please see page 10 for the application form or buy on the door.

Open Visits

The trip to Poole Harbour and Brownsea Island on 8 September 2017 was enjoyed by all despite the heavy rain whilst we were travelling. When we arrived at Wareham for the boat trip to Poole the rain eased off and by the time we were at Poole it was not raining at all. It was very peaceful on Brownsea Island, in fact there were hardly any other visitors and I believe that most of us saw some red squirrels.

The repeat visit to The Royal Mint & Penderyn Whisky Distillery is on Tuesday 14 November 2017 and nearly everyone who had booked for the visit that was cancelled has re-booked and in fact there is a waiting list.

SPECIAL NOTICE

I should like to express my thanks, and those of other members, to John Ackland for all the help and assistance which he has given on other visits in the past. Unfortunately, for personal reasons, John will no longer be arranging visits. Visits in 2018 will be arranged by Sue James and myself.

David Austin

Visits Coordinator

Cotswold Link Singing Day

We have been asked to circulate this event as Thornbury is a member of the Cotswold Link group of U3As so that anyone interested can join in.

On 23 May 2018, Malvern U3A Singers are hosting a singing day. This is the annual meeting of all the Cotswold Link U3A singing groups. Any U3A member who would like to join in is welcome. Music can be sent either by email or normal mail. The idea is to have a working knowledge of the music before the day and then on the day brush up those areas that need a little work. It is light-hearted and perfection is not the main aim, only pleasure in singing together.

If you would like more information please email Ann Peach at adp.2ndsoprano@btinternet.com

- Update on New Groups -

Groups Co-ordinator's Report

This has largely been another successful year. Although, sadly, we have lost a number of key members, U3A Thornbury continues to grow, in some cases to such an extent that groups have already, or may need to, divide to satisfy their members' needs.

On the down side, of the six new groups that started this year only two will be continuing. When a new group started (and I visited them and/or their leaders), there was initially great enthusiasm but this quickly faded and the numbers dropped. We need to be sure that through discussion and diligence this does not happen. Group members' close involvement from the outset is key. I will be looking for new ideas / groups at the AGM - see you there.

Cynthia Black

groupscoordinator@thornburyu3a.org.uk

- Group News from Group Leaders -

Garden Visits Group – AGM & Talk

The AGM will take place on Monday, 6 November 2017 with a talk from Margie Hoffnung on "Garden Visiting – A Very British Tradition".

Doors will open at 1.45 pm for registration and refreshments before the meeting starts at 2.30 pm. GVG will have a table at the main U3A AGM the previous week, so you can join or renew your subscription for 2018 then or at our meeting.

Lyn Haigh

228637

gardenvisits@thornburyu3a.org.uk

Archaeology

A very good year. Study of the rise and fall of the Knights Templar, and their links with the West country, has brought an influx of new members. There are a significant number of sites in Somerset but only one in Gloucestershire.

We had an excellent day out at Gloucester Cathedral with a very knowledgeable guide who took us to places the public generally cannot have access to. We will spend the rest of the year looking at the archaeology of local churches.

We meet on the last Tuesday of the month at Porch House, The Catholic Church Hall, at 2 p.m. Come and join us.

Cynthia Black

412641

archaeology@thornburyu3a.org.uk

Art Appreciation Group

Welcome to the Art Appreciation group.

Have you ever looked at an art work and wondered about its meaning, about the artist, the techniques used and the skills involved? Well, why not join our friendly group and immerse yourself in a whole new experience? None of us is an Art Historian but we have a thirst for knowledge and enjoy learning in the company of friends.

We meet in the Buckingham Room at The Chantry on the third Thursday of the month unless otherwise notified.

Meetings start at 2 pm but doors open at 1.30 pm. A presentation, given for about an hour by an outside speaker or a group member, is followed by questions and answers. There is a small contribution of £2 per session to help towards costs or you can join from October through to June and have nine months for £10.

Our programme for October to January is below but all our programmes through to June are listed on the U3A website.

19 October	Nick Large	Art in a Domestic setting: The Story of Kettle's Yard
16 November	Justine Hopkins	Wonderfully executed, boldly conceived: History, Nature and Edward Landseer
14 December	Robert Walter	The Children's Hour
18 January	Helen Roberts	The Changing Face of Alexander the Great

Pauline Rummens 413591 artappreciation@thornburyu3a.org.uk

Monday Art Group

We meet on Mondays (except first Monday in the month) in St Mary's Church Hall, Thornbury, from 9.30 am-12 noon.

Once a month there is a demonstration, after which we use the following 2 sessions to complete our own work. We like to make use of different art forms, from drawing to painting, and encompassing watercolour, acrylics and sometimes pastels.

This is a friendly group, and we include beginners as well as others who help us.

Our programme for the autumn term is:

11 September	Demo - Sue Gilmore and the following 2 weeks work on our own subject
9 October	Demo - Steph Cormack and following 2 weeks work on our own subject
13 November	Christine Dack and work on own subject
11 December	Exhibition of our work and Christmas competition

Sue Puntton 776271 artmondaygroup1@thornburyu3a.org.uk

Thursday Art Group

The Thursday Art Group meets at St Mary's Church Hall from 9.30 am-12 noon. We are a small group of enthusiastic amateurs who support each other's efforts. We do sometimes have a Workshop, but that depends on available funds!

New members will be very welcome. The cost per week is £3 and we only meet during school term times. If you are interested, please do come along and try us out.

Ann Jones 413875 thursdaydrawing@thornburyu3a.org.uk

Aspects of the 19th Century

These meetings will take place on the first Monday in the month in the Methodist Hall in Alveston at 2.00 pm

2 October	Tom Brown's Schooldays and the rest - John Green
6 November	The Origins of Cycling - Les Jones
4 December	Brunel - Alan Jones

John Smith

aspectsof19c@thornburyu3a.org.uk

Birdwatching

Having been Group Leader for about ten years, I want to hand over this position to a suitable member at the end of December 2017.

Although difficult at the beginning, it was an enjoyable experience, and helped by enthusiastic and helpful members, we had some excellent sightings of wild birds locally as well as further afield.

I hope the Group goes from strength to strength in future years. I will miss the company but hope to attend some walks from time to time.

Very Best Wishes to You All,

Howard Lloyd 414616

birdwatching@thornburyu3a.org.uk

Church Visits Group 1

We are coming to the end of our programme with a visit to Trellech and Skenfrith - border villages/towns - in October. This season we have been to a few places in Wales, with more planned for next year. It is amazing how what once would have been quite large settlements protecting the boundary between England and Wales are now much smaller, but they still have a wonderful legacy of churches, castles and other buildings which play a large part in the community. We have met with such generosity and warmth on our visits that it has been a pleasure to liaise and arrange trips. Although we are a large group, we welcome new members.

Sandra Body 415250

churchvisits1@thornburyu3a.org.uk

Cinema Group

These showings take place at Tockington/Olveston Parish Hall at 1.30 pm for a 2.00 pm start on the 1st and 3rd Fridays of the month.

Programme:

6 October	British Aviation film (1957)
20 October	Br. War, comedy drama (2016)
3 November	Spanish Drama (subtitled) (2016)
24 November	Anglo-American mystery drama (2017)
1 December	Biographical sports drama (2016)
15 December	American musical

Notes on these films can be picked up at the venue.

If you wish to receive reminders, email pennygwithers@gmail.com

Pam Dawe 614843

cinema@thornburyu3a.org.uk

Country Dancing

The group has started again after the summer break. The dates for the year to next July are available on the Thornbury U3A website via the link on the group's webpage.

We always have room for new members so why not come and join us? You don't need to bring a partner as the more experienced dancers help any newcomers and the dances often mix people up.

The two leaders teach us a variety of English country dances. There are different styles and speeds so you can dance at your own pace. Full instructions are given in each session so you do not need any prior knowledge.

We meet in the upstairs room of the Methodist Church Hall, Thornbury between 2.00 pm 3.45 pm and pay £2 per session towards the cost of hiring the Hall.

New members are welcome to come for a taster session.

Sue Lowman 411936 countrydancing1@thornburyu3a.org.uk

Jazz

We enjoy recorded jazz of all styles and eras on CD, DVD, YouTube downloads etc. via our splendid new sound system.

Meetings are on the third Monday of the month in the excellent acoustics of the Buckingham Room at The Chantry, starting at 2.30 pm

We charge £2 max per person to cover room hire, and provide tea, coffee and biscuits in the interval.

Forthcoming topics:

16 October	An eclectic selection of personal favourites
20 November	Jazz on Screen! Legendary jazz stars on the big screen via DVD
18 December	West Coast Jazz - Cool, elegant and sophisticated

Our meetings are OPEN TO ALL U3A members, so whether you are a jazz fan already, or just want to know more, you are very welcome to drop in.

Bob Gray 885290 jazz@thornburyu3a.org.uk

Line Dancing

If you are interested in Line Dancing why don't you come along to the Thornbury Methodist Hall on a Wednesday afternoon and check us out? You don't need a partner.

We meet at 2:30 pm and it's £3:00 for a one hour session. We are a friendly bunch, now in our second year, and we usually learn a new dance every week. Wear comfortable clothing, secure shoes and bring a drink.

Classes re-commence on Wednesday, 4 October after our summer break.

Louise Ingsley 415131 linedancing@thornburyu3a.org.uk

Armchair Music Group

This group has now sadly closed due a shortage of participants. For all queries please contact:

Jos Gregson 411652

Music Group

Meetings are held on the second Friday morning in the month at the Methodist Church, Alveston, starting at 10.30 am

The intention of the committee is to make as many of the meetings as possible "live", with performers from a wide range of groups such as the Welsh National Opera; the National Orchestra of Wales, and the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama, as well as local folk, jazz and chamber music soloists and groups.

Please come and try us out. Being in a church there is always plenty of space and the church has a very fine acoustic. Membership is £14 for the full season or £2 for a single session.

- 13 October Helen Hill (mezzo), Chris Hall (baritone) and John Merrick (piano) present a programme of songs and duets, both operatic and light-hearted, including those by Schumann and Finzi.
- 10 November Matthew Bale (harpsichord) and Lorna Osbon (violin) will return with an eclectic mixture of solo and duet works ranging from the baroque to the modern.
- 8 December Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama harpist, Alis Huws, and her flautist companion, Carys Gittins, will play for our pre-Christmas meeting. Mulled fruit punch and mince pies will be served.

Jos Gregson

411652

music@thornburyu3a.org.uk

Opera Studies

All the operas are shown using DVDs of prestigious performers on a large screen with English subtitles and an introduction by a member of the group. We meet downstairs in the Thornbury Methodist Church Hall on the 4th Tuesday of the month. Doors open at 6.15 pm and the programme starts at 6.45 pm There is an interval for coffee, tea and biscuits at no charge and we finish ~ 9.30 pm Annual membership of the group is £7, giving free admission to every meeting, whilst U3A visitors pay £2 with costs always under review. Come along and join us.

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|------------------|--------------------|-----------------|
| 24 October 2017 | The Bartered Bride | Smetana |
| 28 November 2017 | Arabella | Richard Strauss |
| 23 January 2018 | Hansel and Gretel | Humperdinck |
| 27 February 2018 | Dido and Aeneas | Purcell |

Longer Operas

When there is a 5th Tuesday in the month, we show a longer opera and combine it with two breaks for food. We begin at 4.30 pm (doors open at 4 pm). A delicious buffet meal can be ordered in advance from Sue Joyce (260542) for £4 or members can bring their own food – all eaten seated at tables. Any member of Thornbury U3A is welcome to attend at a cost of £3 to reflect the longer rental time of the Hall. Again, costs are always under review.

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| 31 October 2017 | Die Meistersinger | Wagner |
| 30 January 2018 | Woman without a Shadow | R. Strauss |

Michael Vooght

414915

opera@thornburyu3a.org.uk

Railways & Transport Group

We meet in the Alveston Methodist Church Hall starting at 7.30pm on the last Friday of the month.

29 September	'The Somerdale Railway & Rebuilding Fry's Sentinal Locomotive' Eric Miles
27 October	'A Broad Gauge Journey – Part 3' Exeter to Penzance Rev Canon Brian Arman
24 November	'Illustrated Guide to Barry Docks and Railway' Lindsey Brian
29 December	'Lancashire & Yorkshire Locomotives and Excursions in East Lancashire in the 1950s & 1960s
26 January	'Swiss Railways' Arthur Turner

George Hargreaves 414243

railandtransport@thornburyu3a.org.uk

Shakespeare Studies Group

Some members of the group enjoyed a visit to Berkeley Castle in July for a joyously youthful and romantic performance of Much Ado About Nothing, staged outdoors in the beautiful gardens. The young cast comprises members of Split Second Productions, based in Guildford. In the photograph of our group Maddie Hatt, who starred as Beatrice, is third from the right.



After our summer break we will recommence on Wednesday 14 October at 2.00 pm in the Vestibule of the Methodist Church, High Street, Thornbury, with Henry IV part II. New members to the group are most welcome.

Alan Brown 884851

shakespeare@thornburyu3a.org.uk

Table Tennis 2

We can accommodate 2 or 3 new members who have played before. We meet at the sports centre on Wednesday afternoons from 2-3 pm. If you are interested in joining us, please get in touch via the u3a website.

Joan Flower 228584

tabletennis2@thornburyu3a.org.uk

Table Tennis 6

Table Tennis 6, due to start on Thursday 28 September, will no longer go ahead due to lack of numbers.

Roland Sims

Travel & Tourism Group

Due to cancellations we have vacancies on our trip next April and therefore are opening applications up to any current member of Thornbury U3A. We have 4 seats to spare (2 double rooms but we may be able to convert these into twin rooms if necessary). The details are as follows:

Dates: Monday 23 April 2018 – Thursday 26 April 2018

Accommodation: The New Continental Hotel Plymouth, dinner, bed and breakfast, travelling with Chauffeurhire Coaches.

Cost £321 per person which includes excursions and gratuities but there is an additional charge if you are not National Trust member.

Included Excursions:

Castle Drogo	Steam railway and Buckfast Abbey
Devonport Naval Heritage Centre	
Mount Edgcumbe	2 free afternoons in Plymouth.

If you are interested in this trip please ring the organiser as follows:-

Carole Darling 774032

.....

Mark Walker talk on Women in the Great War

17 November 2017 2.30 pm Armstrong Hall, Thornbury

Please reserve places for the talk at £2.00pp. I enclose a stamped addressed envelope.

Name(s)

Phone number

Email address

Please send together with a cheque made out to Thornbury U3A for £2 per person, and a stamped return addressed envelope, to:

Lesley Hellen, 32 Durham Road, Charfield, Wotton under Edge, GL12 8TH

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THORNBURY U3A ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Notice is hereby given of the Annual General Meeting to be held on Wednesday, 1 November 2017 at the Armstrong Hall, Thornbury, commencing at 10.00 am. Doors will open at 8.30 am for setting up tables for those wishing to advertise their groups. Members are welcome from 9.30 am if they wish to read the minutes of last year's meeting, together with a copy of the Financial Report for the year ending September 2016. Both documents, together with The Chairman's Report, will be available in the Hall.

Before entering the meeting, members will be required to show their Membership Cards, otherwise there may be delay whilst details are checked to ensure they are a current member.

Coffee will be available after the meeting during which time there will be an opportunity to visit the tables and talk to Group Leaders about the various activities offered by the groups.

The AGM will be held from 10.00 am - 10.30 am Group Fair 10.30 am – 12 noon.

AGENDA

1. Welcome
2. Safety announcement
3. Apologies for Absence
4. Approval of the Minutes of the 2016 AGM
5. Matters arising from the Minutes
6. Chairman's Report
7. Treasurer's Report and Accounts
8. Election of Officers and Ordinary members of Committee
9. Appointment of Examiner for the Accounts
10. Motions from the Floor
11. Date of next AGM
12. Close of Meeting

Motions from the floor

The AGM will consider motions from the floor after the main business of the meeting has been completed. Any member wishing to raise such a motion must submit it in advance of the AGM, and it must meet the following conditions:

1. It must be received by the U3A secretary, Jackie Gitsham, by Wednesday, 18 October 2017
2. The named Proposer and Seconder must both be present at the AGM
3. It must be concerned with U3A business
4. The proposer must be prepared to speak in support of the Motion for a maximum of three minutes
5. For the motion to be carried, it must obtain 67% of the votes cast at the meeting

The approved form is on page 13 or may be obtained from:

Jackie Gitsham

858438

secretary@thornburyu3a.org.uk

NOMINATION FORM FOR THORNBURY U3A COMMITTEE 2017/18

Proposals must be signed by the Nominee, as well as by the Proposer and Seconder.

All names to be printed and signed.

Nomination forms must be returned to the Secretary no later than 18 October 2017.

<i>Officers</i>	<i>Nominee</i>	<i>Nominee's Signature</i>	<i>Proposed by</i>	<i>Seconded by</i>
Chairman				
Vice-Chairman				
Treasurer				
Secretary				
Membership Secretary				
Committee Member				
Committee Member				
Committee Member				
Committee Member				
Committee Member				

Please return form to : Jackie Gitsham, 1 Hopkins Close, Thornbury, Bristol BS35 2PX

If you cannot print off this form, please contact Jackie on 01454 858438 to ask for a paper copy

THORNBURY U3A: AGM 2017

PROPOSAL OF MOTION/S BY A MEMBER/S

Motions will be considered at the Annual General Meeting on WEDNESDAY, 1 NOVEMBER 2017

Proposals must be signed by the originator of the motion as well as by a proposer and seconder. (Please also print names beside the signature.) The originator may also be the proposer.

Proposal forms must be returned to the Secretary no later than WEDNESDAY, 18 October 2017

THE MOTION:	
ORIGINATOR	
PROPOSER	
SECONDER	

Please return to:

Secretary: Jackie Gitsham, 1 Hopkins Close, Thornbury, Bristol BS35 2PX