

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

From the Chairman:

Welcome to the Autumn Newsletter and, after the dry summer, an autumn that has brought the rain!

At this time of year, we thank those involved in leading our Groups. At the very successful Leaders' Lunch, we welcomed and thanked Sue Horsfall (our new Catering Leader) and her team for providing an excellent Lunch, and to Wine Group 4 for serving the drinks. The Committee thanks everyone, front of house or behind the scenes, who willingly give their time to enable members to enjoy Group meetings, visits and events.



This Newsletter contains the formal documents that accompany the **Notice of our AGM** on Tuesday 12th November 2019 at 10.00am in the Armstrong Hall, Thornbury. I would ask you to give some careful consideration to the **Nomination Form**. My thanks to those who have already volunteered to stand. If you know of others who would be interested in joining the Committee or helping with the **Handbook**, please persuade them to put their names forward for nomination. Every Committee post is re-elected annually. Some current members wish to stand down or change roles, so there is an opportunity for others to come on to the Committee and share their ideas and enthusiasm for our organization. It is vitally important that we have volunteers to stand as Committee Members and help out where needed.

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. Immediately following the formal AGM, there will also be an opportunity for anyone who so wishes to raise a point with the new Committee. Although the Committee will make no immediate response, it will record and consider every item raised.

After the AGM, refreshments will be available and the **Groups Fair** will open. Here you can find out about each group 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? Several leaders are wishing to relinquish the responsibility of running groups and would welcome offers to help out. Can you help?

Shortly after the AGM, membership renewal invitations will be emailed out to members with email addresses. This saves us all a great deal of time and money. Non email members will be sent renewals by post. If you have not yet given us your email address, we ask you to please let us have it. We will only use it for Thornbury U3A communications.

Don't forget, if you are booking a holiday with **Riviera Travel**, please book by phone and state that you belong to Thornbury U3A and request the 10% Commission for our U3A. Our Treasurer will then raise an invoice and they will pay us. Thank you.

For up to date information, please see and use our website (www.thornburyu3a.org.uk).

Finally, as I step down from the Committee, thank you very much for all your support over the last three years and I wish you well for the future.

Alison Makepeace

415019

chairman@thornburyu3a.org.uk

Dates for your Diary

- November 12th AGM Armstrong Hall, Thornbury commences 10.00 a.m. (doors open at 9.30 a.m.) followed by the Groups Fair
- November 13th Open Talk “Disaster at Newark Park – was anyone to blame?” with Helen Roberts at 2.30pm.

Future Publication Deadlines

- November 15th 2019 Handbook - please send your contributions to:
handbook@thornburyu3a.org.uk by the date shown above
- December 13th Winter Newsletter - please send your contributions to:
newsletter@thornburyu3a.org.uk by the date shown

Handbook Collection Days - 2020

- Monday January 27th Thornbury – Turnberries
- Tuesday January 28th Olveston – Parish Hall

Open Talks

**November 13th 2019 Armstrong Hall, Thornbury at 2.30pm.
“Disaster at Newark Park – was anyone to blame?” with Helen Roberts**



A National Trust house that was never open to the public? A National Trust house which the Trust thought was “beastly” and longed to knock down? A National Trust house which contained a nursing home which the County Council wanted to close down, and which could be smelt from hundreds of yards away, and where huge piles of rubbish were accumulating by the front door? What on earth? But this was the true story of Newark Park between 1949 and 1971.

In the summer of 2018 Helen Roberts ploughed through thousands of original letters at the National Trust Headquarters. Come and share in the awful discoveries she made!!

Come and join us for what promises to be a very interesting exploration of Newark Park. Tickets available in advance from Alison Makepeace (see form at end of newsletter) or on the door, price £2. Tea or coffee available from 2.00pm.

Open Visits

Three Rivers Cruise - Southampton Water

An enjoyable outing on the rivers Test, Hamble and Itchen, together with a humorous commentary, was had by all, despite there being a fault with the cooking equipment. This meant that we had a packed lunch instead of a "Fish & Chip" lunch. I believe that everyone, after the initial disappointment, found that the quality of the packed lunch was very good. The weather was pleasant and not too hot. There was a great variety of boats on the water, including luxury yachts, large container ships and, near the end of the cruise, Saga's newest cruise ship, "Spirit of Discovery", a huge vessel that was about to embark on its maiden voyage.

I thank everyone who has supported any of my Open Visits and I also wish to say that I have enjoyed organising them.

David Austin

Open Visits update

Plans are afoot to arrange various Open Visit trips for next year and details will follow when they are confirmed. Judith Austin and Quentin Killey have volunteered to join me and possibly one other. The visits will be a mixture of pleasure and learning and we are open to suggestions. The hoped for second trip to the Houses of Parliament is still on hold as I have yet to hear back from the H of P organisers. I have retained the original waiting list and as and when things can be arranged, those on the list will be given priority.

A big thank you to David Austin (assisted by Judith) for all his hard work over the years in giving us so much pleasure in the outings he has arranged. We will endeavour to keep up the standard!

Sue James

885452

visits@thornbury3a.org.uk

- Update on New Groups -

Groups Co-ordinator's Report

Interest has been shown in starting a "Walking with Dogs" Group. This would be a monthly event, at least to start with.

If you are interested in joining such a group, please contact Jackie Gitsham on 01454 858438 to arrange a preliminary planning meeting.

- Group News from Group Leaders -

Garden Visits Group – AGM & Talk

The Garden Visits Group AGM will take place in the Armstrong Hall on Thursday, November 21st. The doors will open at 13.45 for registration and refreshment before the meeting starts at 14.30.

Our speaker will be Jenny Short, an award-winning garden designer from Dorset. Membership can be taken out or renewed for the 2020 season after the main U3A AGM on Tuesday November 12th or before our meeting on the 21st.

Lyn Haigh

228637

gardenvisits@thornbury3a.org.uk

Architecture Group

All our architecture meetings are held on the first Tuesday of each month at 10.30 a.m. in the Cossham Hall. We are looking forward to the autumn season, and would very much welcome new members. New members are advised to contact our group leader beforehand as we may need to check seating availability, especially during the winter months.

2019

October	Anne Strong – Gwent villages
November	Kingsley Fulbrook – Shetland Vernacular Architecture
December	Christmas fun activities

2020

January	Doug Fowler – Inside the Mind of an Architect
February	Andy Moir – Dendrochronology
March	Steve Thomas – Alternatives to Demolition
April	Nick Howkins – Tall Buildings of the World
May	Helen Roberts – Post War Reconstruction
June	Louise Ingsley – Makers of 18th century Bristol
July	Alan Heath – Calatrava Post 2012
September	Lyn Haig – Industrial buildings
October	Steve Thomas – Herzog and de Meuron
November	Helen Roberts – Rebuilding Gothic Cathedrals
December	Xmas fun activities

Helen Roberts

01453 845216

architecture@thornburyu3a.org.uk

Art Appreciation Group

A specialist knowledge of art is not a prerequisite for enjoyment of this group, rather an interest in gaining a greater understanding and appreciation of art and artists. A presentation of approximately one hour is followed by taking questions from the audience, and interesting and animated debates can ensue.

Meetings are held in The Buckingham room at The Chantry on the third Thursday of the month starting at 2 p.m. A fee of £2 per visit helps pay for the room but even more enticing is the special membership price of £10 which allows unlimited visits covering the nine sessions from October through to the June meeting.

We start the new season on October 17th when we have Richard Bradley with the intriguing title "To infinity....and Beyond : The Art of Kazimir Malevich"

In November, Brian Etheridge will present "Stanhope Forbes and others - The Newlyn School".

On December 19th Justine Hopkins's title is "The American Woodsman at large and the making of the Birds of America: John James Audubon".

Please check the website for the full programme.

PLEASE NOTE. Regrettably, Pauline Rummens, who has led the group so ably, always producing such

a varied and interesting programme, has resigned from the leadership owing to deteriorating health. Pauline has run the group for about twenty years and we thank her for all her dedication and hope that we will see her whenever she feels well enough to attend.

We are now seeking a new leader and are looking for someone interested and willing to take this on this role.

If you would like further information, Pauline has asked that you contact me.

Tricia Norton

07808 404160

artappreciation@thornburyu3a.org.uk

Monday Art Group

We meet on Monday mornings from 9.30 am until 12 noon at St Mary's Church Hall, Thornbury.

We have a different demonstrator each month which we follow up with our own work. Our plans for the autumn term include 2 acrylic sessions, one drawing outside session, and one painting with card. There are then 2 sessions painting with acrylic inks, 2 sessions on acrylic painting and lastly the preparation to get our own Christmas cards printed. We then end with an exhibition of our work and the sale of art books to raise money for *Crisis at Christmas* on December 16th.

Sue Punton

776271

artmondaygroup1@thornburyu3a.org.uk

Thursday Art Group

The Thursday Art Group continues to meet at St Mary's Church Hall from 9.15am to 12.15pm during school term times. We are a friendly bunch of amateurs who are still looking for someone to lead us, providing inspiration and projects. We have been without a formal leader since John Toller sadly passed away. If anyone would be interested in helping us in this way, please contact me.

Ann Jones

413875

artthursday@thornburyu3a.org.uk

Aspects of the 19th Century

This is an open group which meets on the first Monday of every month, except January and August, at the Methodist church hall in Alveston at 2 pm.

January	NO MEETING	
February 3 rd	Photography	Steve Wells
March 2 nd	Great exhibition	John Stennard
April 6 th	I'm a pauper get me out of here	Tony Cherry
May 4 th	To be arranged	
June 1 st	The slave trade	Mark Walker
July 6 th	Alcohol and abstinence	Tony Cherry
August	NO MEETING.	
September 7 th	Ada Lovelace	John Stennard
October 5 th	The golden age of shopping	David Cheeseley
November 2 nd	Elizabeth Garrett Anderson	Rosie Bailey
December 7 th	History of Clevedon Pier	Abbé Edbrook

The mandatory tea and biscuits are taken halfway through the afternoon.

John Smith

412140

aspectsof19c@thornburyu3a.org.uk

Church Visits Group 1

A huge thank you to all the very kind people who have sent cards and good wishes to me during my (now) three hospital admissions over the past six months. Especial thanks must go to Anita (Pashley) and Audrey (Shepherd), as well as Terry, for their support in keeping the Group running.

I hope to make the trip to Hereford in October, and look forward to seeing everyone at our renewal meeting on the afternoon of Tuesday, February 18th, 2020, at Porch House as usual.

Sandra Body

415250

churchvisits1@thornburyu3a.org.uk

Concerts Group

Our meeting to discuss the programme for Spring 2020 will be held at 2:30 pm on Friday November 22nd in the Buckingham Room at The Chantry. We will discuss the Cardiff concerts to be offered.

New members wishing to join the Group should contact:

Phil Holland

413897

concerts@thornburyu3a.org.uk

Country Dancing

The group started again after the summer break on Tuesday, September 17th 2019 and runs fortnightly. The dates for the year to July 2020 are available 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 dance leader teaches us a variety of English country dances. There are different styles and speeds so you can dance at your own pace or just watch if you need a rest. 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 in Thornbury from 2.00 – 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

History

The new History Group made a good start this month by thanking Lesley Hellen for all her previous hard work on the Tudors and Stuarts. We then welcomed Quentin Killey whose talk about 19th Century Prime Ministers had many parallels with today. The Group meets in the Coach Hall of the Chantry on the first Wednesday of the month at 10.30am. Cost is £1.50 and all are welcome.

Programme:

November 6th Alan Heath and the Engineer, Thomas Telford

December 4th Alan Payne and the Repeal of the Corn Laws

January 1st No meeting

Alison Makepeace

Acting Leader

415019

alison_makepeace@hotmail.com

Indoor Bowls

Our season starts on September 30th, making our first game on October 2nd at 12.00 till 2.00. The cost is £6 per session.

We are a very informal group and play for fun; the structure depends on how many people turn up.

I have been asked to advertise 3 sets of bowls, 1 x size 1, 2 x size 3. Also a pair of size 6 ladies' shoes.

Pam Benson

419245

indoorbowls@thornbury3a.org.uk

Jazz Appreciation Group

We meet on the third Monday of the month in the Buckingham Room at The Chantry. Please note we now start at **2.00 pm**, not 2.30 as previously. £2 entry, tea/coffee + biscuits at the interval.

Come along to enjoy jazz of all eras and styles, via CD, DVD, downloads, etc. – we are an Open Group, so all U3A members are welcome.

Here is our upcoming programme:

October 21st Jazz Ambassadors

November 18th Over Here and Over There - 30s/40s Dance Bands UK/US and/or Hollywood Jazz - Hot numbers from classic movies.

December 16th The Girls in the Band - a DVD celebrating female instrumentalists through the years. Plus, some Diana Krall in Rio.

January 20th Norman Granz - he never himself played a note but was a key figure in the development of jazz, as agent, promoter, record producer.

Bob Gray

885290

jazz@thornbury3a.org.uk

Music Group

Thornbury U3A Music Group meets on the second Friday of the month between September and June at 10.30am at Alveston Methodist Hall. The church has excellent acoustics and we normally have between 60 and 75 visitors. The committee's target is to have up to 8 live performances each season and the forthcoming season includes a string quartet; a jazz group; talks on Verdi by Andrew Borkowski and Handel by Helen Roberts; a vocal duo; a visit by young performers from the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama; a soprano soloist accompanied by Thornbury's Nigel Davies, and a Desert Island Discs event.

2019

Friday, November 8th Andrew Borkowski, past Chairman of the Friends of Welsh National Opera presents an illustrated talk on Verdi. "Verdi loved Shakespeare and regarded him as the greatest of all dramatists. The Bard provided Verdi with the inspiration for Macbeth, Otello and Falstaff - containing superb roles for the greatest singers."

Friday, December 13th The recently formed Jenner Jazz Quartet, featuring our old friend Gareth Williams, will provide the music for our Christmas meeting. Mulled fruit punch and mince pies will be served.

2020

Friday, January 10th Mezzo-soprano Anne Braley will join us for a programme of songs. She will be accompanied by Nigel Davis.

Friday, February 14 th	A visit from young performers from the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama. Watch this space to find out which performer or performers they will be sending.
Friday, March 13 th	The Brandon Hill Quartet return with a programme including string quartets, details of the works to be played will be given nearer the time.
Friday, April 10 th	To be advised
Friday, May 8 th	Helen Roberts will give a talk on Handel. "He was the master of us all. The greatest composer who ever lived" said Beethoven. Helen says "many of his works are instantly recognisable. But so much of his music is less well known. I hope to demonstrate the huge range of his music in my illustrated talk".
Friday, June 12 th	Local conductor, organist, pianist and music teacher, Nigel Davis, will be Jos Gregson's guest as he decides which records he would have with him on a Desert Island. We find out about his very musical life and how he would cope with the solitude of the island.
Annual Lunch	Venue to be advised

Membership for the full year is £14, individual meetings cost £3 for visitors, including coffee and biscuits.

Full details of the programme are available on the U3A website.

Jos Gregson

411652

music@thornburyu3a.org.uk

Opera Studies

Why not come to an evening performance at the Opera Study Group in Thornbury Methodist Church Hall? We use high quality DVDs on a large screen, with subtitles in English, and one of the group gives a synopsis of the plot beforehand. We meet on the 4th Tuesday of the month at 6.45pm (doors open from 6.30) and your annual group membership/fee (£7 or £2/visit) includes free tea/coffee and biscuits.

2019

September 24 th	Puccini	Madame Butterfly
October 22 nd	Beethoven	Fidelio
November 26 th	Mozart	Abduction from the Seraglio

2020

January 28th	Verdi	Falstaff
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In addition, we also show a longer opera on the 5th Tuesday of any month; any member of Thornbury U3A is invited to attend the following:

October 29th	Monteverdi	Return of Ulysses
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Arrangements for this opera are slightly different. The event begins at 4.30pm, with part 1; we then either partake of a delicious buffet meal or our own picnic, following which we watch part 2. Coffee or tea is served before proceeding to the final part, the whole evening generally concluding around 9.45 – 10pm. The cost is £4 for the opera and £4 for the buffet, which must be booked in advance either a week earlier at the normal monthly meeting or by telephoning Helen Giles (411571).

Michael Vooght

414915

opera@thornburyu3a.org.uk

Joan Flower, secretary

Recorders

There are two recorder groups both held at 10.15am in the leaders' homes. Over the years we have made good progress and now play in 4-6 part harmony on differently pitched recorders. New members are still encouraged to join us and are made welcome.

Group 1 Leader:

Mandy Clapp **414749**

Group 2 Leader:

Kate Phillipson-Masters **411253**

Scrabble 1

We meet from 2-4pm on the 1st and 3rd Monday of every month in the Baptist Church in Thornbury.

Although our numbers are keeping up, we would be pleased to welcome a few more players.

Janet Mills **430713** scrabble@thornburyu3a.org.uk

Table Tennis 2

Our new venue is the Jubilee Hall, Greenhill, Alveston, where we meet on Wednesdays from 1.45 – 3.45 with a break for refreshments. Whilst we have a long-standing core of players, we have spaces for another 2 players. We have a range of abilities and play to the old rules but with a very liberal approach!

If you would like to join us on some Wednesdays, please get in touch.

Joan Flower **228584** tabletennis2@thornburyu3a.org.uk

Tai Chi

The group meets every Thursday in term time beginning 19 September at Thornbury Methodist Church Hall (upstairs) from 11.15 - 12.15. We cannot at present accommodate any members new to tai chi as the group is now quite advanced but we welcome anyone wanting to join the initial half hour session of tai chi exercises.

Joan Flower taichi@thornburyu3a.org.uk

US Civil War Group

This Group has its first meetings scheduled for Tuesday November 26th. For anyone interested, we have two places left in the 2pm sessions.

Mark Walker **411974** uscivilwar.thornburyu3a@aol.com

U3A Wine Group 4

Wine Group 4, which continues to be open to new members, has had presentations on Rioja and Tuscan wines as well as a trip to Lovell's Vineyard – see photograph.

If you are interested in joining our growing, merry band, please contact the group leader.



Colin Ballantyne

winegroup4@thornburyu3a.org.uk

U3A DIARIES 2020

Available from the U3A ONLINE SHOP: u3a.org.uk/shop

Customer Service 020 8466 6139

Or by post from:

The Third Age Trust
52 Lant Street
LONDON
SE1 1RB

PRICE £3.25 including postage

Diaries are a page a week with the opposite page for notes. The cover for 2020 is mauve.

RIVIERA TRAVEL

Thinking of using Riviera Travel for your next trip? Then please book by phone and mention Thornbury U3A so that we can receive 10% Commission from your next visit!

They will email our Treasurer (treasurer@thornburyu3a.org.uk), who raises an invoice to Riviera Travel who then pay our U3A.

Thank you to those of you who have used this facility and please keep us in mind for any future trips.

Thornbury U3A 2019 AGM

Notice is hereby given of the Annual General Meeting to be held Tuesday November 12th 2019 in the Armstrong Hall, Thornbury, at 10.00am.

Members are welcome from 9.30am 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 2019. Both documents, together with the Chairman's Report, will be available in the Hall.

To avoid delays whilst membership is verified, all members will be required to show their Membership Cards before entering the meeting. After the meeting, refreshments will be available and members may then visit the tables and talk to Group Leaders.

Doors open at 8.30am for setting up tables for those wishing to advertise their groups.

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

AGENDA

1. Welcome and Introduction to the Committee
2. Safety announcement
3. Apologies for Absence
4. Approval of the Minutes of the 2018 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

NOMINATION FORM FOR THORNBURY U3A COMMITTEE 2019/20

Proposals must be signed by the Nominee, as well as by the Proposer and Seconder. All names to be printed legibly. Nomination forms must be returned to the Secretary no later than October 18th 2019.

Please return form to: Ian Macdonald, 1, Denys Court, Olveston, Bristol BS35 4DW. If you cannot print off this form, please contact Ian on 01454 613846 to ask for a paper copy.

Officer/Member	Nominee	Nominee's Signature	Proposed by	Seconded by
Chairman				
Vice Chairman				
Treasurer				
Secretary				
Membership Secretary				
Committee Member				
Committee Member				
Committee Member				
Committee Member				

THORNBURY U3A: AGM 2019 PROPOSAL OF MOTION/S BY A MEMBER/S

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, Ian Macdonald, by Friday, October 18th 2019
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 below or may be obtained from Ian Macdonald by emailing him on secretary@thornburyu3a.org.uk.

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 Friday, October 18th 2019.

The Motion

Originator Signature _____

Print Name _____

Proposer Signature _____

Print Name _____

Seconder Signature _____

Print Name _____

Please return to: Secretary: Ian Macdonald, 1 Denys Court, Olveston, Bristol BS35 4DW

Do we have your e-mail address?

If we do, thank you that is great! You are saving us money and keeping fees down to a minimum, benefiting everyone.

If we don't:

- We want to re-assure you that letting us have it will not unleash a torrent of unwanted messages – all you will receive will be Membership and your Groups' information and our quarterly newsletters – no other organisation will be able to send you anything;
- Sending out this information by mail, allowing for printing and mailing costs, now costs us more than our portion of your membership subscription.

We don't want to put up fees in the future or ask for a special donation to cover mailing costs.

So, if you have an e-mail, let us use it!!

Please!

“Disaster at Newark Park – was anyone to blame?” with Helen Roberts

November 13th 2018 2.30 pm

Armstrong Hall, Thornbury

Please reserve _____ tickets for the Newark Park talk

I enclose a cheque for £_____ at £2.00pp made payable to Thornbury U3A and a stamped addressed envelope

Name(s) in block capitals: _____

Phone number: _____

Email address: _____

Please send your cheque, application form and SAE to Alison Makepeace, 12, Meadowside, Thornbury, Bristol BS35 2EN