

Unless otherwise specified, all phone numbers are local, with the prefix 01454

From the Chairman:

Welcome to our Spring 2019 Newsletter!

Did you know that in the UK there are 10.3 million people, aged 65 and over, an increase since 1951 of 80 per cent? In South Gloucestershire, figures are broadly in line with national statistics and the over 65s make up 18% of the total County population (app.280,000) with 10% between 65-75 and 8% over 75. Statistics alone can be interpreted in many ways but whichever way we consider them, there is a growing number of Third Agers living longer and hopefully healthier lives due to both medical and nutritional improvements but also perhaps due to improved education and social activities such as those offered by the U3A.



Advertising the existence of Thornbury U3A has been a recent theme with representation locally at our own Welcome Meeting, also at a "Thornbury Welcomes" event and nationally with the placing of banner adverts in certain national newspapers. Much of this is in response to the government campaign of social prescribing to seek alternatives to loneliness and to improve the health of the older UK citizen. Our ethos of self-help and sharing life skills is key to the success of our U3A but we, too, are in need of more volunteers.

The central Committee is looking for one or two people to help with Communications and the Open Talks. Could you be part of this friendly and outgoing team and shadow or help out when we need extra pairs of hands? Various groups would like to rotate their leaders and new groups could be formed if members were willing to act as co-ordinators. Could you offer your support or help? Please see the groups section in this newsletter or contact the Committee if you have ideas or would like to help.

Don't forget learning resources are available nationally as well as from within your group. Check out your group's copy of Third Age Matters (or order one yourself via our Membership Secretary) to see What's On, find Subject Advisor Contacts and generally keep abreast of National U3A developments.

If you are considering your next holiday, whether it is in trending places such as Central America or old favourites such as European River cruises and you are using Riviera Travel, please remember they will give 10% of the total cost to our U3A in commission – so please do mention that you are a U3A member! Thank you to those of you who have already participated in this scheme.

Meanwhile, enjoy your group activities and delight in Spring!

Alison Makepeace **415019**

chairman@thornburyu3a.org.uk

Future Publication Deadlines

4 th July	Summer Newsletter
3 rd October	Autumn Newsletter
12 th December	Winter Newsletter

Please send your contributions by the dates shown to: newsletter@thornburyu3a.org.uk

Notice to Group Leaders

Several group leaders have recently reported receiving emails, supposedly from their U3A group email address, claiming that their email accounts have been hacked. These are scam emails and should be deleted. Certainly, don't click on any links in the email itself.

Don Grundell

communications@thornburyu3a.org.uk

Open Talks

Wednesday 3rd July 2019
Armstrong Hall 2.30pm

'My First Love, My Darling': The History of the Clifton Suspension Bridge

Hear the story of one of Bristol's great icons: a bridge dreamt of by a man who would never see it built, and designed by another, who would never live to see it completed. Ambitious and plagued with difficulties, the project was halted by arguments, financial problems and riots. Come and listen to how one side of the chasm was finally joined to the other. The story began in 1754 but didn't end until 100 years later.

Doors open at 2pm for tea and coffee.

Tickets are available in advance (see Page 8) or on the door. Price £2.



Open Visits

The following visits have been arranged for 2019:

- a) A visit to Bletchley Park on Wednesday 29th May.
- b) A Southampton Water Three Rivers cruise on Monday 22nd July.

Details and Application Forms for these visits can be found towards the end of this Newsletter.

The proposed repeat visit to the Houses of Parliament has been kept on hold for the present bearing in mind all that is currently taking place re Brexit. The waiting list is still in place.

Please note that David will not be carrying out any more visits after this financial year. For Health/Safety reasons a volunteer is needed to assist Sue with further visits to take place next year.

Sue James **885452**
David Austin **411069**

Groups' Co-ordinator's Report

Archaeology

Due to the sad death of Cynthia Black, Jackie Carpenter is now the Group's new Leader. All enquiries should be addressed to her. Cynthia will be remembered for her keen enthusiasm and interest and will be sadly missed.

Jackie Carpenter **294561**

archaeology@thornburyu3a.org.uk

Art Monday Afternoon Group

Since the last Newsletter a member of the Monday Afternoon Watercolour Group has sadly passed away. Barbara Smith from Almondsbury, who was 83, was a very accomplished watercolour landscape painter and we are greatly saddened by her death. Barbara was a popular member of the group and always had an encouraging word and a smile for everyone. She'll be greatly missed.

Janice Jackson

artmondaygroup1@thornburyu3a.org.uk

If you wish to join an established group, please contact the Group Leader as listed in the 2019 Handbook.

Possible New Groups 2019

We have had enquiries regarding the setting up of two new groups: Badminton and Italian. Anyone interested in starting any of these new groups should contact me.

Anne Reed

415449

groupscoordinator@thornburyu3a.org.uk

– Group News from Group Leaders –

American Civil War

The new American Civil War Group will start meeting towards the end of this year. The Leader had previously stated that the Group was full with a small waiting list. However, if there are enough new members showing interest, he will consider running a second group.

Mark Walker

uscivilwar.thornburyu3a@aol.com

Architecture Group

Firstly, changes to the 2019 programme:

September's talk will be given by Steve Thomas on "Alternatives to Demolition".

The August trip will be to Shepton Mallet Gaol in the morning and Wells in the afternoon.

The autumn visit will probably be to Gloucester Llantony Priory and Gloucester Blackfriars.

Secondly, as the Cossham Hall fills up rather quickly (we are victims of our own success!), visitors will only be allowed entry if they are U3A members and there is enough room at 10.30am to accommodate them. We reserve the right to turn late-comers away.

U3A members who have not attended before should contact in advance:

Helen Roberts

01453 845216

architecture@thornburyu3a.org.uk

Art Appreciation Group

Welcome to the Art Appreciation group.

Please note that the May 16th talk will now be given by Chris Rivett and is titled *A walk round the Tretyakov Gallery in Moscow*. You may remember that we had to rearrange the two talks. In February David Ploss gave an excellent talk on the *Wyeth Dynasty in Pennsylvania and Maine*.

Please note the date in April: the 18th not the 17th.

We meet in the Buckingham Room at The Chantry on the third Thursday of the month, unless otherwise advised. Meetings start at 2 p.m. but doors open at 1.30 p.m. 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.

Pauline Rummens

413591

artappreciation@thornburyu3a.org.uk

Art Monday Morning Group

We meet on Monday mornings (except first Monday in the month) at St Mary's Church Hall, Thornbury from 9.45 till 12 noon.

We have a different demonstrator each month and this term will include work on watercolour, acrylics, mixed media, drawing and line and wash, we also plan to do some drawing work outside.

We are a friendly group with a range of abilities from beginners to more experienced people, and we all help each other. If you would like to join, please contact

Sue Punton

776271

artmondaygroup1@thornburyu3a.org.uk

Concerts Group

Our first meeting to discuss the 2019 Autumn programme is at 2:30 pm on Friday 24 May in the Buckingham Room at The Chantry. Subscriptions of £5 per address for the 2019/20 season are due in May and should be paid by the date of the meeting.

Subscriptions may be paid in cash at the meeting or by cheque, payable to **Thornbury Concerts Group**, and posted to Maypole Barn, Lower Morton, Thornbury, BS35 1LB. They may also be paid by bank transfer – contact Phil for details.

New members wishing to join the Group should contact:

Phil Holland

413897

concerts@thornburyu3a.org.uk

Country Dancing

The group continues to meet fortnightly with some variations if the hall is in use.

We have an average attendance of 20 and 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 leader teaches 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.

WHERE - We meet in the upstairs room of the Methodist Church Hall in Thornbury.

WHEN – Tuesday fortnightly, between 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.

The dates for spring/summer 2019 are –

9 th April	16 th April	30 th April
21 st May	4 th June	18 th June
2 nd July		

Not all dates are strictly fortnightly to avoid Easter and hall constraints.

There are no meetings in July and August. See U3A website for future dates.

Sue Lowman

411936

countrydancing1@thornburyu3a.org.uk

Indoor Bowls

The indoor season has finished and it proved to be another very successful one. As there's no weekly commitment our numbers vary from about 6 to 16! We play games accordingly. We will recommence in October.

Pam Benson

419245

indoorbowls@thornburyu3a.org.uk

Music Group

Please note that owing to health issues there has been a change of performers on 12th April.

Meetings take place on the second Friday morning of the month at the Methodist Church, Alveston, starting at 10.30am. Being in a church there is always plenty of space and the church has very fine acoustics. Membership is £14 for the full season or £2 for a single session.

12th April The Celli Peppers, a group of cellists, will perform a wide selection of music. They will be joined by soprano, Helen Hill, in Richard Strauss's "Morgen" and in Rachmaninov's "Vocalise".

10th May Jana Chuda will perform a range of piano music with some material from the shows as well as a range of classical items.

14th June Local conductor Chris Hill will be Jos Gregson's guest as he decides what records he would have with him on a Desert Island, and we find out about his very musical life and how he would cope with the solitude.

Jos Gregson

411652

music@thornburyu3a.org.uk

Opera Study Group

Do come to an evening performance at the Opera Study Group. We use high quality DVDs on a large screen, with subtitles in English, and a member of the group gives a synopsis of the plot. We meet on the fourth Tuesday of the month at 6.45pm (doors open from 6.30) and your group membership fee (£7 or £2/visit) includes free tea or coffee and biscuits. The programme is:

28th May

Der Freischutz

von Weber

25th June

The Perfect American

Philip Glass

Michael Vooght

414915

opera@thornburyu3a.org.uk

Joan Flower (Secretary)

Our Living Language

Because the normal meeting dates coincide with Bank Holidays in both April and May, these two meetings will be a week earlier: 15th April (Cryptic Crosswords) and 20th May (Border Ballads).

Bob Dale

ourlivinglanguage@thornburyu3a.org.uk

Wine Group 4

We are delighted to confirm that for the foreseeable future the Group is continuing to encourage new members to join.

Our next two events are Aldi wines on 26th April 2019 and Tuscan wines on May 31st.

Colin Ballantyne

winegroup4@thornburyu3a.org.uk

SOUTH GLOUCESTERSHIRE Over 50s Forum

...are seeking to recruit new members to voice the views, concerns and opinions of older people so that their knowledge and abilities can be recognised and valued.

Can you help? Do you live in South Gloucestershire? If so, please contact South Gloucestershire Council on southglosover50s@gmail.com or Tel. 07967 102141

**U3A OPEN VISIT TO BLETCHLEY PARK
MILTON KEYNES**

**ON WEDNESDAY, 29 MAY 2019
DRAW ON 29 APRIL 2019**

Bletchley Park was the historic site of secret British codebreaking activities during the Second World War, where thousands of young men and women worked arduously to decode and translate intercepted messages. It was here that some of Britain's most brilliant mathematicians effectively invented modern computing, inspiring their greatest achievement; the cracking of Germany's "Enigma Code".

Free one-hour outdoor walking tours are available and will be arranged on site as we cannot pre-book. Multimedia Guides and maps of the site are free. A visit to BP involves both indoor and outdoor activities so it is recommended to wear suitable outdoor clothing and footwear.

The National Museum of Computing (Colossus and Tunny rebuild galleries etc) is also on site but there is a separate entrance fee of £5 payable on the day if you are interested (and it is open).

You can pre-order a copy of the Souvenir Bletchley Park Guide Book @ £4.50 (£6 on day) – see booking form.

We plan to arrive at Bletchley Park about 10.45am and leave about 4.30pm. Once there we will organise the guided tours for those who want them. The award-winning guides are a font of knowledge and very enthusiastic. There is so much to see around the site, with the many huts housing various machines and exhibitions, and also the Mansion building and gardens. There is also a shop which will send you down memory lane. Don't forget your glasses as there is an amazing amount of information to take in.

Food - There is a café and coffee shop for hot and cold food, snacks and drinks and picnic benches located around the site if you wish to bring your own food. There are no left luggage facilities at BP.

COST OF THE TRIP WILL BE £25.50 PER PERSON FOR COACH, DRIVER'S TIP AND ENTRY.

TO JOIN THIS VISIT, PLEASE RETURN THE BOOKING FORM BY 29 APRIL 2019

WITH A CHEQUE PAYABLE TO 'THORNBURY U3A' AND A STAMPED ADDRESSED ENVELOPE TO SUE JAMES, 15 QUEENS WALK, THORNBURY, BRISTOL, BS35 1SR (TEL 01454 885452)

Applications may only be made in writing and are put into a 'hat' and then drawn from the 'hat' on **29 April 2019**. Should anyone who is given a firm booking subsequently wish to cancel, we cannot guarantee that their cheque will be refunded, but we shall do the best we can to transfer the places if we are informed in time. Your booking application will be confirmed if you are successful in the draw. If not, you will go on the waiting list and your position on that will be confirmed. If you wish to come off the waiting list, please let us know as soon as possible.

Pick up times: Anchor Pub, Glos Road at 7.45am, Aldi at 7.50am, Leisure Centre bus stop at 7.55am, Ship, Alveston at 8.00am and The Tump, Almondsbury at 8.10am. Return to Thornbury about 7.30pm, traffic permitting. We are using KB Coaches and there will be a comfort stop both ways at Oxford.

This trip is being jointly organised by David Austin and Sue James.

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U3A OPEN VISIT TO BLETCHLEY PARK ON 29 MAY 2019

BOOKING FORM

NAME(s).....TEL.....

ADDRESS.....POST CODE

Please book.... places. Cheque enclosed (£25.50 per person) for £.....

Please book copy of Souvenir Bletchley Park Guide Book @ £4.50 (£6 on day) £.....

Total £.....

I/we will join the coach at.....at.....am

Please enclose a Stamped, Addressed Envelope - and please write clearly

2019 VISITS PROGRAMME

Monday 22nd July 2019

Public 3 Hour Southampton Water and 3 Rivers Boat Cruise (with Lunch)

Our coach will take us to Southampton where we shall board our Blue Funnel Cruises boat for the 3-hour cruise around Southampton Water, and on to the rivers Hamble, Itchen, and Test.

A fish and chip lunch will be provided together with a hot drink. I am sure that we shall see a great variety of ships and private yachts along the way. A commentary will be pointing out to us any matters of interest.

Important matters to be noted.

1. For health and safety reasons, flat comfortable shoes are recommended.
2. Wheelchair users are permitted on board but must be accompanied by an attendant. Members of the crew are not allowed to assist.
3. Short comfort stops will be made on both outward and homeward coach journeys.
4. Price of trip includes driver's tip.
5. We hope to be back in Thornbury between 7.00pm and 7.30pm, traffic permitting.

To apply, please complete the booking form and send it, along with an SAE and a cheque, at £35.30 per person, made payable to Thornbury U3A, to David Austin, 13 David's Close, Alveston, Bristol BS35 3LR

Applications, which may only be made in writing, will be put into a 'hat' and drawn on **Friday 10th May 2019**. To those who are given a firm booking but subsequently wish to cancel, we cannot guarantee that their cheques will be refunded, but we shall do our best to transfer their places if we are informed in time.

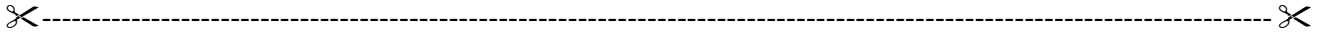
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I/We would like to join the 3 Rivers Boat Cruise on Monday 22nd July 2019

Name(s) and phone number(s), please	Pick up points– please tick as appropriate				
	Anchor, Morton 7.45am	Aldi 7.50am	Leisure Centre bus stop 8.00am.	Ship Inn Alveston 8.05am.	Tump Al 'bury 8.15am.

A cheque for £35.30 per person, made payable to Thornbury U3A, is enclosed together with a stamped addressed envelope.

THIS TRIP IS BEING ORGANISED JOINTLY BY DAVID AUSTIN AND SUE JAMES



Open Talk: The History of the Clifton Suspension Bridge 3rd July 2019

Please reserve tickets for the Clifton Suspension Bridge talk.

I enclose a cheque for £..... (£2 each)

Names (block capitals)

Phone number.....

Email address

Cheques should be made payable to Thornbury U3A.

Please send a stamped addressed envelope with your cheque and application form to

Lesley Hellen, 32 Durham Road, Charfield, GL12 8TH

