

All phone numbers are local, prefixed 01454, unless specified otherwise



FROM THE CHAIRMAN:

First of all, thank you to everyone who managed to collect, or have collected, their 2017 Handbook from Thornbury or Olveston on the Distribution days - it has saved us a considerable amount of postage. Thank you also to the helpful people who distributed them around their local areas. It was good to meet so many of you on these occasions and to learn of your experiences with Thornbury U3A.

An additional thank you for showing your Membership cards at your various meetings – this has served as a timely reminder that you cannot go to a group unless you have paid your overall subscription to Thornbury U3A. We also introduced our activities to a further 35 people at our recent Welcome Meeting and we hope you will make all newcomers feel welcome in our steadily-expanding groups.

As you can see from this newsletter, we are continuing apace to introduce our Beacon Online Membership system and we extend thanks to the small group of dedicated members who are transferring our details on to the new system, especially Phil Holland, who initially set up the database nearly 20 years ago. Group Leaders have also been requested, if they wish, to submit lists of their members and membership numbers so that we can add these to the Beacon email system to enable easier communication in the future.

If you have an idea for a new Group or have come across full groups and are keen to set up an additional one, please do not hesitate to talk it through with our Groups' Co-ordinator or myself.

Let's see if we can have 100 groups by our 20th Anniversary next year!

Thank you.

Alison Makepeace

415019

chairman@thornburyu3a.org.uk

Can you help please?

Due to holiday arrangements and Beacon planning, we need one or two people to prepare the next newsletters (Summer and/or Autumn) and would appreciate some volunteers.

Please contact me if you feel able to help or would like to know more.

Thanks, Alison Makepeace

415019

chairman@thornburyu3a.org.uk

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Future Newsletter Publication Deadlines

30 June 2017	Summer Newsletter	Please send your contributions to: newsletter@thornburyu3a.org.uk by the dates shown opposite
22 September 2017	Autumn Newsletter	
15 December 2017	Winter Newsletter	

Open Visits

Tuesday 11 th April	Visit to The Royal Mint, Llantrisant and a tour of Penderyn Whisky Distillery. This trip is full.
Wednesday, 7 th June	Visit to Avebury, Wiltshire. There are four spaces available. As the closing date is not until early May, it is most likely that more applications will be received. Any enquiries should be directed to John Ackland on 01454 418963.
Tuesday 11 th July	Repeat trip to The Royal Mint, Llantrisant and a tour of Penderyn Whisky Distillery but leaving at an earlier time. This visit is currently full but interested parties may put their names on a short waiting list by phoning David Austin on 01454 411069.
Friday 8 th September	Visit to Brownsea Island. See pages 8 and 9.

Due to the repeat trip to the Royal Mint the Mary Rose visit has been deferred until next year. Details were in the last Newsletter.

Visits to the Meteorological Office at Exeter. Disappointingly, the notice required to arrange this interesting visit is too short to make it viable.

Open Meetings

We are pleased to announce that the following Open Meetings, open to all members of Thornbury U3A, are planned for 2017 and will be held in the Armstrong or Cossham Halls Thornbury. We look forward to seeing you there.

An application for the first open meeting is towards the end of this Newsletter. Doors will open at 2pm to enable you to have a cup of tea or coffee before the talk.

Tickets, priced at £2, are available from Lesley Hellen at 32 Durham Road, Charfield, Glos. GL12 8TH. Please send a stamped addressed envelope to Lesley approximately 4 weeks before the event or obtain tickets on the door.

Thursday 27th April

2.30 pm



“Walking the Welsh Coast” with Rob Carruthers in the Armstrong Hall, Thornbury at 2.30pm.

Coffee/Tea available from 2pm.

Rob Carruthers undertook the 900 mile Walk around the coast of Wales on his own with a tent strapped to his back. He walked half the route in 2014 and completed it in 2015.

He met some interesting people, experienced many different weather conditions, visited hospital twice, saw

lots of sheep and wore out two pairs of boots!

Come and hear his extraordinary story illustrated with photographs taken on his journey.

To claim your place, please complete the form on page 9

Wednesday 12 th July	2.30pm	Magic with Barry Smith
Friday 17 th November	2.30pm	Women's Role & The Homefront in WWI with Mark Walker

JOTTINGS FROM THE COMMITTEE

The Committee met on 7th March. Apart from routine administrative matters, we reviewed the distribution of the Handbook. It was generally successful but some members faced a short delay as they had not realised, or remembered, that the renewal forms were available to print out.

Another successful Welcome Meeting has been held. An item in the local community magazines prompted several new members to come, so this is a resource to use another time.

The current membership stands at 1698, and subscriptions are ensuring a healthy balance for our funds. This has enabled some equipment spending: £100 for the Investment Group, and £330.38 for a new sound system for the Jazz Group.

The website went live in August 2016 and Groups are urged to use this very simple system for informing both their own groups and the wider membership of their various activities and contacts.

Group changes include Lunch Group 3, to start in April or May, and a new Table Tennis Group - No. 6! - to start at Easter. One to work off the effects of the other? However, Italian Group 2 is taking a rest until September, and Ballroom Dancing is struggling to keep sufficient numbers to remain viable.

On a happier note, we brainstormed many ideas for celebrating in 2018 the 20th anniversary of the founding of Thornbury U3A - watch this space.

Helen Giles U3A

Committee Member

COMMUNICATIONS

The past three months have been very busy as you will see below.

Newsletter and Handbook

December saw the preparation of the Winter Newsletter 17, ready for printing and distribution in early January and at the same time the information for the annual Handbook was being collated. This time the Handbook was printed as a booklet which seemed to meet with approval from members. At the end of January we had 1061 households who had renewed their membership and were therefore entitled to receive a Handbook. 852 were collected personally or on behalf of others during the two collection sessions, about 90 were hand delivered which only left 119 to post. Hopefully next year this will be even less.

Beacon

Recently we have embarked on the preparation for the transfer from our current membership database to the new on-line membership system, Beacon. This is a system developed and supported by U3A nationally. There will be lots of work for the Beacon Team to do over the coming months. One of the first tasks taking place is checking the suitability of our data and preparing it

ready for migration. Tests are ongoing with the national Beacon Support Team.

During the migration process we have a one off opportunity to bulk load the membership details of individual groups and so we are encouraging all Group Leaders to let us have their current membership lists. If Group Leaders take up this opportunity to have their group's membership loaded, they will in future be able to check on-line that their members hold current membership. The Beacon Team will do this check on their behalf if requested to do so. This will be a much more efficient way than having to check individual membership cards, especially for the larger groups. As at 29 March we have received details for 53 out of a possible 81 groups, and more have been promised. We are hoping that still more Group Leaders will send in their group membership lists. The closing date is now 16 April.

We anticipate that the new system will be in operation some time during the summer although dates have not yet been finalised. Later this year we plan to give members the facility to check, and amend where necessary, their personal data. Renewing annual membership on-line should also be available. Watch this space for more news. Of course members will still be able to send information in by email or post should they wish to do so.

Website

We are still trying to develop the website and it is good to see that use is gaining ground with more groups adding entries, especially under the Events Heading, enabling both U3A members and prospective members to have better and more up to date information. If there is any information that you would like to see on our website please let us know.

Emails

At present we are sending emails out via MailChimp. It is important that members click on the embedded links as this takes them to actual documents, e.g. the current Newsletter.

Barbara Jones & Don Grundell

communications@thornburyu3a.org.uk

GROUP NEWS FROM THE GROUPS COORDINATOR

A new Table Tennis Group (Table Tennis 6)

This will be starting on Thursday, 27th April at 2pm at Bradley Stoke Leisure Centre. Initially, it will have places for 12 competent players.

Contact: Roland Sims 07713 865133

tabletennis6@thornburyu3a.org.uk

Lunch Club 3 (New Group)

Having noted that the other two lunch clubs are full and have waiting lists, we would like to start a new Lunch Club (Lunch Club 3) after Easter on a Tuesday. We have discussed with the other two groups the best way to operate and are pleased to announce that we are now ready to accept new members.

Initially, to leave us free to select a greater variety of Pubs, Restaurants and Hotels, we will keep the Lunch Club small. We plan to meet monthly on the first or second Tuesday (dates to be given in advance) to enjoy a pleasant lunch whilst meeting new members and experiencing different venues.

Further details will be discussed at our first lunch meeting. If you are interested please contact me.

Contact: Gunther Schurrer 07833 634280

lunchclub3@thornburyu3a.org.uk

Ballroom Dancing

As the numbers attending have dropped significantly this group is now on hold until the Autumn.

Italian 2

Ray Pioli has stepped down as leader. This group will start again in September, at which time a replacement leader will be sought. It meets on Tuesdays at 10.30 am. Additional members very welcome.

Contact: Carolyn Purdy 01453 521765 italian2@thornburyu3a.org.uk
Cynthia Black groupscoordinator@thornburyu3a.org.uk

GROUPS NEWS FROM GROUP LEADERS

Cinema – open to all members

This is open to all U3A members. See our programme of films in the U3A Handbook.

We meet on the first and third Friday afternoons of each month at Tockington Parish Hall (between Tockington and Olveston), 1.30pm for a 2pm start. Film notes are available at Tockington Cinema Meetings.

Additional films for the summer:

June 16 th	A British/French drama
July 7 th	British comedy drama
July 21 st	American Musical comedy

If you wish to be on our email register for reminders of forthcoming films, please let Penny Withers have your email address.

If you have any other queries, please contact the Group Leader by telephone.

Email List: Penny Withers cinemalist@thornburyu3a.org.uk
Group Leader: Pam Dawe 614843 cinema@thornburyu3a.org.uk

Concerts Group

Our first meeting to discuss the 2017 Autumn programme is at 2:30 pm on Friday 26th May in the Buckingham Room at The Chantry. Subscriptions of £5 per address for the 2017/18 season are due in May and should be paid by the date of the meeting.

Subscriptions may be paid in cash at the meeting. If paying by cheque, please make it payable to Thornbury Concerts Group and post to Maypole Barn, Lower Morton, Thornbury, BS35 1LB.

New members wishing to join the Group should contact Phil Holland.

Contact: Phil Holland 413897 concerts@thornburyu3a.org.uk

Cycling

We have now started our twice monthly, shorter, afternoon rides. These take place throughout the summer on the first and third Tuesdays of the month, starting at 2 p.m. If you would like to join us for a gentle 10 to 20 mile ride, please contact us. A full list of dates can be found on the cycling page of the U3A website.

Contact: Don Grundell cycling@thornburyu3a.org.uk

Garden Visits

There has been an excellent response to this year's programme. I am writing this before the draw date of Friday, 17th March but can advise that most of the visits are over-subscribed and regret that some of you may be disappointed. At this point, it appears that there may still be places on the following visits so please phone the named organiser should you be interested:

Thursday 15 th June	Arlington Court, Devon	Judith Austin	01454 411069
Wednesday 21 st June	Wildside & The Garden House, Devon	Lyn Haigh	01454 228637
Friday 4 th August	Taunton Flower Show	Heather Hunt	0117 9049125
Wednesday 6 th September	RHS Wisley including Flower Show	Lyn Haigh	01454 228637

Visit organisers will keep a waiting list in case of cancellations. Any spaces will be posted on the U3A website so it is worth keeping an eye out.

Group Leader: Lyn Haigh

gardenvisits@thornburyu3a.org.uk

Line Dancing

If you feel the need to blow away a few cobwebs, why not come along to one of our Line Dancing sessions at Thornbury Methodist Church? We're a friendly group and meet every Wednesday from 2:30 - 3:30, at a cost of £3:00.

A possible advantage of Line Dancing is that you don't need a partner.

Look forward to seeing you there.

Contact: Louise Ingsley

linedancing@thornburyu3a.org.uk

Opera Study Group

Join us to watch some or all of our next operas on a large screen using high quality DVDs. We meet on a Tuesday at 6.45pm in the Thornbury Methodist Church Hall. The admission of £2 also covers coffee/tea and biscuits. Our programme for the rest of the season is as follows:

March 28 th	Don Giovanni	Mozart
April 25 th	Samson and Delilah	Saint-Saëns
May 23 rd	Joan of Arc	Verdi
June 27 th	Daughter of the Regiment	Donizetti

In addition, on May 30th, we are having an extended meeting, same venue, starting at 4.30pm. Helen Roberts will give a talk on Baroque Opera followed by a showing of Rodelinda by Handel. There will be 2 intervals for food: bring your own or order a delicious buffet (£4) in advance. The entrance fee for this is £3 to cover the longer hire time of the hall.

All the operas have English sub-titles, and an introduction to the plot is given by one of the group, so come along and give it a try.

Contact: Michael Vooght 414915

opera@thornburyu3a.org.uk

Painting Group

This self-help group meets in the Methodist Hall in Thornbury on most Monday afternoons during the year. Each session lasts from 2pm until 4pm and we try to encourage and help each other according to our various abilities. Even if you have not done much painting before, or even none at all, you would still be very welcome. We take a short break during the afternoon for a cup of tea or

coffee and biscuit – the cost is just 20p. Our medium is generally watercolour but anyone is free to paint in any other medium. We do have to pay for the hire of the room and this charge is shared by us all.

Contacts: Jim Kane 414853 or John Ackland 418963

Thursday Art Group

Since the loss of John Toller, our Group Leader, the 16 member U3A Thursday Art Group has been meeting more or less as a self-help group for some time. We have occasional demonstrations from professional and semi-professional artists who provide us with inspiration and new ideas.

One of our members has been arranging demonstrations for us, while I am happy to continue to act as Treasurer. Whilst the current arrangement is working, we really do need someone who will lead us on a weekly basis to set projects and teach us relevant techniques.

Could you be the person to lead this happy band of leisure artists? Why not come along to St Mary's Church Hall on a Thursday morning from 9.00am and talk to us. We need you!

Contact: Ann Jones 413875 thursdaydrawing@thornburyu3a.org.uk

Theatre Group

Have you remembered to re-join for 2017?

The reminder was in the December Newsletter. If you wish to receive information about oncoming visits, please let us know and send us the membership fee of £3.50.

Contact: Pam Dawe 614843 pam.dawe@talktalk.net

Theatre Mailing List

NB – as we only book seats for members on our mailing list, YOU WILL NEED TO RE-JOIN FOR 2017



THEATRE MAILING LIST - 2017

I / We wish to register for this group and receive information

NAME _____ PHONE _____

ADDRESS _____

_____ POST CODE _____

E-MAIL ADDRESS _____

(if willing to receive information electronically)

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY Registration fee: £3.50 per household

Cheques payable to Thornbury U3A Theatre Group should be returned with this form to:

Heather Jones , 6 Glebe Field, Lower Almondsbury, Bristol BS32 4DL

VISIT TO WAREHAM, POOLE AND BROWNSEA ISLAND

FRIDAY 8TH SEPTEMBER 2017

We start with a boat trip down the River Frome from Wareham to Poole and then a visit to Brownsea Island in Poole Harbour. Brownsea is a beautiful and peaceful island in Poole Harbour with spectacular views of the harbour and the Isle of Purbeck. It is home to a variety of wildlife including rare red squirrels and birds. Habitats include pinewoods, heathland, seashore and lagoon, and the island's history embraces its use as a Victorian pottery and a daffodil farm. After Robert Baden-Powell held the first ever Scout camp there in 1907, the island has become best known as the birthplace of the Scout and Guide movement.

We do have a fairly busy itinerary and the following is what we hope to do, with timings provisional.

We will need to leave Thornbury early at 7.30am! The coach journey will take between 2½ to 3 hours. We will stop on the way for a comfort stop.

Arrive Wareham before 11am for a look around and have coffee etc., if you wish.

Embark on our own boat at 11am for a cruise down the River Frome to Poole Harbour. Arriving there about 12.15pm to have two hours for lunch around Poole Quay, where there is a good selection of cafes etc. Sorry it is not longer. You may prefer to bring a picnic lunch.

Back on the boat at 2.00pm to cross to Brownsea Island to arrive about 2.20pm. Depending on what you want to do, there is a café for refreshments, a shop, a church and visitor centre.

Stay on Brownsea until 4.20pm when we catch the boat back to Poole for our 5.00pm return to Thornbury where we should arrive at about 8pm.

The cost for the day will be £37.00 each for those not members of the National Trust and £31.20 each for those who are. This sum will include the cost of the coach, all boat trips, visit to Brownsea and all gratuities.

If you wish to book a place would you please complete the details below and send the slip to John Ackland, 31 Woodleigh, Thornbury, Bristol, BS35 2JT by Friday, 11th August 2017 with your cheque made payable to Thornbury U3A and a stamped addressed envelope.

All applications will be kept until then and placed in a "hat". The places will be offered as drawn on that day and any other applications will be put on to a waiting list. Should anyone who is given a firm booking subsequently wish to cancel, we cannot guarantee to give a refund but will do our best to transfer the place(s) if we are informed in good time.

This Visit is being organised by David Austin and John Ackland

VISIT TO WAREHAM, POOLE AND BROWNSEA ISLAND : FRIDAY 8TH SEPTEMBER 2017

To: John Ackland, 31 Woodleigh, Thornbury, Bristol, BS35 2JT

I/We wish to come on the visit to Wareham, Poole and Brownsea Island on Friday, 8th September 2017

< Pick up – Tick as appropriate >

Name(s) & phone number, please	Tick if member of N.T.	Anchor Morton 7.30am	Aldi 7.35am	Thornb' LeisureC bus stop 7.45am	Alveston Ship 7.50am	Alm'y Tump 8.00am

I enclose a cheque for £.....(£37.00 per person for non-members of N.T. and £31.20 for members) made out to Thornbury U3A and a stamped addressed envelope.



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OPEN TALK APPLICATION FOR TICKETS

Rob Curruthers's Talk on Walking the Welsh Coast on 27th April 2017 at 2.30pm, Armstrong Hall, Thornbury

Please reserveplaces for the talk at £2.00 p.p.

Name(s) _____

Phone number _____

Email address _____

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

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



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