

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

### From the Chairman:

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Dear Members,

Welcome to the Summer Newsletter!

The first week in June was Volunteers' Week but using our "by the members for the members" U3A mantra, many weeks of the year are Volunteer weeks in Thornbury U3A. We are grateful to all those who have helped our U3A run so well, whether it is helping on Committees, sub-committees, leading groups or putting-out chairs and making coffee. However, do we possess sufficient volunteers for the future?



Our "self-help principle" of freely providing time, and volunteering expertise and knowledge, has served Thornbury members well and we benefit enormously from well-researched presentations and talks, social events, exercise, cultural visits and study sessions. However, these sessions do not magically happen on their own. Leaders and committee members are needed to help with the planning and organisation. Where can you help? Can you spare a few hours to get involved? After all, volunteering keeps you "young" and involvement benefits our health!

The central Thornbury Committee will be looking for several new members from November, including a Chairman, and several groups are looking for new leaders, but we urgently require a **Catering Co-ordinator** as unfortunately Helen Briggs has had to step down. Helen and her team of helpful assistants have been outstanding in providing teas for Open Talks, Handbook days and Leaders' Lunches and we thank them wholeheartedly for giving us their time and energy, always with a smile. Thank you. If you can help or give any assistance, please let us know.

To thank our Leaders, there will be a Leaders' Lunch invitation being sent out in the near future for **Tuesday September 24<sup>th</sup>**.

There has been much talk in the press and social media about cybercrime and fraud, especially where older people are involved. Avon and Somerset Police have kindly offered to present a free Workshop, aimed at reducing such crime, on **Friday October 4<sup>th</sup>** from 10 a.m. to 12.30 p.m. in the Armstrong Hall. Do come along to hear how you can avoid such situations and receive answers to any questions you might have.

This time last year we were enjoying a splendidly warm summer and looking forward to our Big Picnic. I hope that as you read this the weather continues to improve!

Have a good summer.

**Alison Makepeace**

**415019**

[chairman@thornburyu3a.org.uk](mailto:chairman@thornburyu3a.org.uk)

### Future Dates for your Diaries:

September 24 <sup>th</sup>	Leaders' Lunch
October 4 <sup>th</sup>	Open Workshop: Cyber Crime Prevention with Avon and Somerset Police
November 12 <sup>th</sup>	Thornbury U3A AGM and Groups' Fair
November 13 <sup>th</sup>	Open Talk: Extraordinary Events at Newark Park with Helen Roberts

## National U3A Conference & AGM 2019: 27<sup>th</sup> – 29<sup>th</sup> August

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### EAST MIDLANDS CONFERENCE CENTRE, UNIVERSITY PARK, NOTTINGHAM, NG7 2RJ

Together we will be sharing our views, ideas and experience at this year's conference "Sharing Inspiring Learning". With workshops focusing on lifelong learning, managing new educational resources, finance for charities, and supporting the growth and development of U3As, there will be an opportunity to discuss, debate and enjoy the views of colleagues across the movement. There will also be some free time in which to share interests such as singing, ukulele playing, and walking, among many others. Please join us for the Conference and enjoy time with U3A members from across the movement.

Please come and join the discussion and see <https://conference.u3a.org.uk> for further details.

Residential and non-residential options for the Conference are available; costs range from £115.00 to £325.00 (This includes AGM day); [AGM](#) Day only tickets are also available.

If anyone is interested in attending, and is willing to represent Thornbury U3A, we may be able to help towards expenses. Please contact the Committee.

### National and Regional Summer schools and Events

Please see the National website for details: <https://u3a.org.uk/events>

### Future Publication Deadlines

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October 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Autumn Newsletter
December 12 <sup>th</sup>	Winter Newsletter

Please send your contributions to: [newsletter@thornburyu3a.org.uk](mailto:newsletter@thornburyu3a.org.uk) by the dates shown.

### For the attention of all Group Leaders - Group Finances

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As advised towards the end of last year, with effect from the financial year ending 30 September 2019, Charity Commission requirements include the need for our Annual Return to include not only the financial details of the U3A 'central' function (i.e. those figures presented at the AGM each year), but also those of each interest Group. As such, we need to ask for assistance from each Group to enable us to comply with our statutory responsibilities.

Clearly we wish to keep any additional work to a minimum so we are happy for this to be achieved in one of the following ways:

If your Group's financial reporting period ends on 30 September (as recommended at the Leaders Lunch last September), then we simply need a copy of your financial records for the 12 months ending 30/09/19. These should be sent by email if possible or alternatively by post to 58 Hopkins Close, Thornbury, BS35 2PX.

If your Group has a different reporting period, then we will need just three figures from you, namely income and expenditure for the 12 months to 30/09/19 and the cash and/or Bank balance held as at that date. Again, these details may be sent by email or alternatively advised by phone.

If anyone requires further clarification or encounters any difficulties, please do not hesitate to get in touch using the email address or phone number below. Many thanks

**Steve Hughes, Treasurer**      **887151**

[treasurer@thornburyu3a.org.uk](mailto:treasurer@thornburyu3a.org.uk)

### Open Workshop 2019: CYBER CRIME PREVENTION

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Friday October 4<sup>th</sup> in the Armstrong Hall from 10 a.m. – 12.30 p.m.

Have you received unwanted phone calls, emails or letters?

Have you been scammed or are you afraid to ask how to keep you and your family safe online?

Do you know what to do if your identity has been compromised?

We are running a **FREE** open Workshop on Cybercrime in conjunction with the Avon and Somerset Police on

October 4<sup>th</sup> in the Armstrong Hall.

Please come along and ask questions and listen to their advice to keep you safe in the online world.

No tickets required and tea and coffee available. Doors open at 9.30am

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## Open Visit to Bletchley Park

The trip to Bletchley Park, the birthplace of modern computing, was a great success. It was here that, during WWII, the code-breakers tackled the complex task of intercepting, deciphering, analysing and distributing the intelligence derived from enemy radio signals that ultimately helped shorten the war by up to two years, saving countless lives. The new interactive displays were excellent and the staff well informed, bringing the history of Bletchley to life.

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## Trips & Visits

The trip to Southampton (3 Rivers Cruise ) on Monday 22nd July is fully booked and there is also a waiting list. It is hoped that the weather will be fine for the occasion.

Arrangements for a visit to the Houses of Parliament are still being actively followed up (watch this space ). A list of those who applied previously is being held for when another visit finally materialises.

## David Austin

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## Open Visits in 2020 - Suggestions

After many years, David Austin is retiring at the end of the U3A financial year and I will need some help in running the trips for 2020. So far I have had one offer of help - if you are interested and want to know more, please contact me for a chat.

I would also appreciate your suggestions for places to visit next year - they could be new venues or repeats of previous outings. If I get no feedback from the members (currently 1,800), I will decide for you!! Don't forget, U3A is a self-help organisation run for members by members on a voluntary basis. I look forward to hearing from you.

Sue James

885452

[visits@thornbury.u3a.org.uk](mailto:visits@thornbury.u3a.org.uk)

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## - Update on New Groups -

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## Groups Coordinator's Report

It has been a quiet time. There have been no new enquiries for potential new groups. At present we do not have enough interest to start a new Italian Class, so if anyone is interested it is not too late to get in touch.

We have been advised that the Jubilee Hall, Alveston has daytime availability. Those interested should email Carolyn Melford at [jubileehallbookings@gmail.com](mailto:jubileehallbookings@gmail.com)

Anne Reed

[groupscoordinator@thornburyu3a.org.uk](mailto:groupscoordinator@thornburyu3a.org.uk)

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## History

We will be starting a new History Group on Wednesday October 2<sup>nd</sup> at 10.30 a.m. in the Barn Hall of the Chantry and will welcome any former Tudor and Stuart History members or any new aspiring historians. We will start with monthly meetings covering many different aspects of History and then may plan a year studying a particular period of history in the future when we see what members prefer.

We have an enthusiastic committee but would welcome volunteers to lead sessions and someone to step forward to co-ordinate the group as Leader or to help on the committee.

## Dates for your Diary:

Wednesday October 2<sup>nd</sup>: Quentin Killey and UK Prime Ministers

Wednesday November 6<sup>th</sup>: Alan Heath and Victorian Engineer Thomas Telford

Wednesday December 4<sup>th</sup>: Alan Payne and Repeal of the Corn Laws

**Alison Makepeace**                      **41501**

(Acting group leader)

[history1@thornburyu3a.org.uk](mailto:history1@thornburyu3a.org.uk)

## - Group News from Group Leaders –

### Archaeology

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In September we are embarking on a new venture to explore the Archaeology of the Americas. We will be making many intriguing discoveries about the New (and not so New!) World with many surprises along the way.

**Jackie Carpenter**

**294561**

[archaeology@thornburyu3a.org.uk](mailto:archaeology@thornburyu3a.org.uk)

### Art Monday Group 1

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Except in the school holidays, we meet every Monday at St Mary's Church Hall, Thornbury from 9.30 a.m. until 12 noon.

We aim to have a demonstrator at least once or twice per month to provide us with some help and guidance.

The group consists of a range of abilities, from beginners to the more experienced, and we help and inspire each other. Group members will also try a range of media from watercolours and acrylics to pen and ink drawing.

Our first two meetings in September are on the 9<sup>th</sup> and the 16<sup>th</sup>, with Steve Wheeler as our demonstrator.

**Susan Punton**

**776271**

[artmondaygroup1@thornburyu3a.org.uk](mailto:artmondaygroup1@thornburyu3a.org.uk)

### Art Monday Group

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As we take our summer recess and see to our gardens, it is also time to consider what activities we might take up through the coming winter months. Have you tried your hand at watercolour painting? I can hear you say that you'd be useless at that. Well, we've had people join us who have never painted before but are thoroughly enjoying meeting in the Methodist Hall on Monday afternoons (2pm-4pm). A couple of people use acrylics.

We stop for a cuppa and a chat at 3pm. At the moment we have a few spaces left if anyone would like to join us. Look us up in the 2019 Handbook.

**Janice Jackson**

[artmondaygroup@thornburyu3a.org.uk](mailto:artmondaygroup@thornburyu3a.org.uk)

### Art Thursday Group

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Although we still remain leaderless, we continue to meet every Thursday during term times at St Mary's Church Hall as a self-support group. The cost per session is £3. This is usually paid per term to ensure we always have sufficient funds to pay for the hall, regardless of how many are able to attend.

We have been lucky enough to have occasional visits from Anne Harrison and her daughter, who have shown us several different techniques, such as ink and bleach, and painting in acrylics using an old credit card. We still have room for two new members who may like to join a friendly bunch of artists on Thursday mornings.

**Ann Jones**

**413875**

[artthursday@thornburyu3a.org.uk](mailto:artthursday@thornburyu3a.org.uk)

## Bridge 1

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The group continues to meet each Tuesday morning. However, over the summer period when some of our regular players are away on holiday, we could do with a few more pairs to join us. So please come along to Olveston Methodist Church Hall on Tuesday mornings at 9:20 for a 9:30 start. We finish by 12:15.

For more information please contact the group leader via **the link on the group webpage**.

**Mike Farquhar**

## Calligraphy

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Come and learn a new craft and make impressive cards and invitations. This small, friendly group has spaces for more members, beginners or experienced designers, and meets fortnightly (usually on the 1st and 3rd Fridays of the month from 2 p.m. – 4 p.m.) with Fiona Mitchell, our local expert.

They meet at 19, St David's Close, Alveston BS35 3LR. The cost is £35 for 7 classes per term and you can join at any time (£5 per class).

Fiona will provide you with all you need for the first class and then explain how to get more materials. Come along and get started.

**Fiona Mitchell**                      **881545**

## Cinema Group

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This is an open group, so any member of U3A is able to attend. It meets on the first and third Fridays of the month, except in August and the first Friday in September, at Olveston/Tockington Parish Hall, 1.30 for a 2pm start. Tea and coffee are served before the film.

If you wish to receive reminders of the films being shown, please give Penny Withers your email address.

Film notes are available at each meeting.

**Pam Dawe**                      **614843**                      [cinema@thornburyu3a.org.uk](mailto:cinema@thornburyu3a.org.uk)

## Computer Group

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This group is now in summer recess.

The next meeting will be on the 7th September.

For more information please contact the group leader via the link on the group webpage.

**Mike Farquhar**

## Country Dancing

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There are no meetings in July and August. The dates for the rest of 2019 are:

25<sup>th</sup> September; 9<sup>th</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> October; 6<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> November; 4<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> December.

We have approximately 20 regular members but we always have room for more. The two leaders teach us a variety of English country dances from 1650 through to dances written in the 20th century. There are different styles and speeds so you can dance at your own pace.

As each dance is walked through and called first, you do not need any prior knowledge. At the moment we use music on CDs but we would like to use live music, so if you play an instrument, then bring it along.

We are always pleased to see new faces and it doesn't matter if you have never danced before, are on your own or a bit shy. You don't need to bring a partner as the more experienced dancers will help any newcomers and the dances often mix people up. You don't have to dance all the time either – some of us sit out and watch. It's fun, good exercise and a way of making new friends. Some ladies dance as "men" so we don't need exact numbers of men and women.

We meet in the upstairs room of the Methodist Church Hall in Thornbury, on alternate Tuesday afternoons,

between 2.00pm - 3.45pm and pay £2 per session towards the cost of hiring the Hall.

COST - We ask members to pay £2 per week or £10 per term so we are sure of covering the current hall rental cost. New members are welcome to come for a taster session for £2.

Why not give it a go and come to join us?

**Sue Lowman**

**411936**

[countrydancing1@thornburyu3a.org.uk](mailto:countrydancing1@thornburyu3a.org.uk)

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### **French Book Club**

Please note that we are at present experimenting with meeting on a Tuesday evening at 7.30 p.m. Our meetings are still irregular, dependant on group members' other commitments. Our next meeting is on July 30<sup>th</sup>. Contact Sue for information about July's book and meeting venue.

**Sue Kessler**

**414917**

[frenchbookclub@thornburyu3a.org.uk](mailto:frenchbookclub@thornburyu3a.org.uk)

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### **Garden Visits Group**

At the time of writing, we are half way through our programme of visits to a variety of lovely gardens, with another six still to come before the autumn. We have experienced a higher number of cancellations than usual this season, so if you were not successful in the initial ballot, there may still be an opportunity to go on a trip. Please watch out for emails advertising spaces (or ask your friends with computers to let you know).

There is a new date for your diary: our AGM has been booked for the afternoon of Thursday, November 21<sup>st</sup> which is a week later than usual owing to the rescheduling of the main U3A AGM. New members will be welcome to join at both the main U3A AGM and the Garden Visits Group AGM.

**Lyn Haigh**

[gardenvisits@thornburyu3a.org.uk](mailto:gardenvisits@thornburyu3a.org.uk)

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### **Gentle Exercise Group**

We have changed our way of paying for these classes. We now pay each term in advance. The amount is based on the number of weeks in each term. It is currently calculated between £2.00 and £2.50 per week.

We do have a short waiting list but vacancies do come up so it's worth contacting us if you are interested.

**Sally, Margaret and Pat**

[gentleexercise@thornburyu3a.org.uk](mailto:gentleexercise@thornburyu3a.org.uk)

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### **Indoor Bowls**

Just a reminder that U3A Indoor Bowls starts again this Autumn but, at the time of going to press, the Leisure Centre does not know the opening date of the hall. Interested members should call Pam in September and leave a message, and she will get back to you. There is no commitment to turn up every week, there is no uniform, and currently we pay £6.00 per 2-hour session, which runs from 12 noon until 2.00pm. weekly on Wednesdays.

**Pam Benson**

**419245**

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### **Jazz Appreciation Group**

Our meetings resume on Monday 16<sup>th</sup> September, after our summer break, and will continue on the third Monday of the month, in the Buckingham Room at The Chantry. Please note that from now on we will be starting at 2.00pm, not 2.30 as previously.

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. Recent presentations included Singers, Piano Players, West Coast Jazz and tributes to Doris Day and Andre Previn.

£2 per person, tea/coffee and biscuits at the interval.

**Bob Gray**

**885290**

[jazz@thornburyu3a.org.uk](mailto:jazz@thornburyu3a.org.uk)

## Line Dancing

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After our summer break, Line Dancing classes will resume at 2:30 pm on Wednesday, September 4<sup>th</sup> at the Upper Hall, Thornbury Methodist Church. Why not come along and join us?

**Louise Ingsley**

**415131**

[linedancing@thornbury3a.org.uk](mailto:linedancing@thornbury3a.org.uk)

## Music Group

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Meetings are on the second Friday morning in the month at the Methodist Church, Alveston, starting at 10.30 a.m.

There is plenty of room in the Methodist Church so come along and give us a try

### 2019

Friday, September 13<sup>th</sup>

**Matthew Bale** and **Laura Osbon** will present music for the harpsichord and violin with a range of solos and duets. Matthew will bring his own harpsichord.

Friday, October 11<sup>th</sup>

**Helen Hill** and **Chris Hall** have been exploring the English repertoire through the ages. Expect some hidden gems by less-known composers, including E J Moeran, alongside the likes of Dowland and Johnson. The odd Danish offering will undoubtedly make an appearance too, and Flanders and Swann may appear!

Friday, November 8<sup>th</sup>

**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 13<sup>th</sup>

The recently formed **Rockhampton Wind Quintet** 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 10<sup>th</sup>

Mezzo-soprano Anne Braley will join us for a programme of songs. She may well have a very local accompanist!

Friday, February 14<sup>th</sup>

A visit from 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<sup>th</sup>

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<sup>th</sup>

Alison Dite will give us a piano recital. If Philip Heyman is free, he will join her with his viola.

Friday, May 8<sup>th</sup>

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<sup>th</sup>

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

**Jos Gregson**

[music@thornbury3a.org.uk](mailto:music@thornbury3a.org.uk)

## Opera Study Group

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Why not come to an evening performance at the Opera Study Group? We use high quality DVDs and a large screen, subtitles are in English and there is a synopsis of the plot given by one of the group beforehand. We



meet on the 4th Tuesday of the month at 6.45pm (doors open from 6.30) and your group membership/fee (£7 or £2/visit) includes free tea/coffee and biscuits. The programme is:

## 2019

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

## Longer Operas

In addition, on the fifth Tuesday of any month we show a longer opera when any member of Thornbury U3A is invited to attend:

29 October	Return of Ulysses	Monteverdi
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Arrangements for this event are slightly different. Doors open at 4pm. Starting at 4.30pm, we watch part 1, then pause to partake either of a delicious buffet meal or one's own food, and then watch part 2, after which we pause again to have coffee/tea/pudding before proceeding to the final part. The whole evening generally draws to a close about 9.45pm – 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 on 411571.

**Michael Vooght**                      **414915**  
**Joan Flower (Secretary)**

[opera@thornburyu3a.org.uk](mailto:opera@thornburyu3a.org.uk)

## Poetry Appreciation

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Sometimes we have a speaker. At other meetings, we may take a theme or a poet to discuss, to which all bring contributions. We do not now have a waiting-list.

**Ann Birdsall**                      **413949**

[poetryappreciation@thornburyu3a.org.uk](mailto:poetryappreciation@thornburyu3a.org.uk)

## Table Tennis 4 - Thornbury U3A

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Do you want to play TT with a friendly group and can you give other members a good game? Table Tennis Group 4 is a relaxed though mildly competitive group that plays TT at an intermediate level. We play on two tables for two hours each Thursday from 3:00pm to 5:00pm at Thornbury Leisure Centre. Due to summer factors, the group is seeking additional players to join on a casual basis. Also, as we have a few permanent vacancies, this would open the prospect of joining us as a regular member when we review our membership list at the end of August.

If you would like more information please contact Ray Pioli on 0117 3706403.

## Travel & Tourism Group

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### The Classic Danube: June 2<sup>nd</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup> 2020

10 days Coach/Cruise trip on Shearing Coaches

Sailing on the Esmerelda: board at Linz and disembark at Budapest

Catering for 126 passengers

Outward journey:                      Overnight stop in Cologne

Homeward journey:                      2 overnight stops in Ravensburg and Brussels

Price approximately: £1,014 per person based on double occupancy. We will need a deposit of £200 per person asap.

We hope there will be enough takers to have our own coach from Thornbury.



## Plan B – without 36 people

We will run the holiday through *C The World Travel Agents* using Shearings coaches. The pickup-point will be Bristol but we would lay on transport from Thornbury.

The price will be reduced to approx £970 pp sharing; there are no singles available. We will still need your commitment and a deposit cheque for £200 pp asap and your details.

If interested, please contact ASAP:

**Pam Dawe**

**614843**

[pam.dawe@talktalk.net](mailto:pam.dawe@talktalk.net)

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## US Civil War

A new Group is due to start later this year. We still have 6 spaces in the group for anyone who is interested.

**Mark Walker**

**411974**

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## Wine Group 4

Following on from our successful Aldi tasting and Tuscan wines events, Wine Group 4 ('Imbibe with friends') continues to welcome new members.

Our planned events for the remainder of 2019 include an expert's guide to Rioja, a 'fun' French wines quiz and 'Favourite labels'.

We meet on the last Friday of every other month for 2 hours from 7.30pm in St Mary's Church Hall. Our next meeting dates will be July 26<sup>th</sup>, September 27<sup>th</sup> and November 29<sup>th</sup>.

If you are interested in joining our growing, merry band, please contact me.

**Colin Ballantyne**

[winegroup4@thornburyu3a.org.uk](mailto:winegroup4@thornburyu3a.org.uk)



## Newsletter

We are interested in exploring new ways for **non-email members** to receive the quarterly Newsletter.

Thank you to those who have given us their email addresses so that we can send the Newsletter across the ether in glorious technicolour but we think there may be a few more of you who could let us have your or a friend's email address for this purpose.

We appreciate that some people do not use email or a computer but with so many bills, receipts and information being distributed online we would like to reduce our stationery and postage bills still further.

It costs app. 35p to print each Newsletter and 65p (and rising) postage, not to mention the hours of preparation and foot slogging around Thornbury by a dedicated few, to hand deliver it. That is £4 per year for 4 issues.

We have approximately 200 members without email delivery and wonder if other members with email could "buddy" a non-computer person living nearby and share their Newsletter with them? Do you know someone who might benefit from this service? Alternatively, would you (those without email) be willing to collect a Newsletter from a particular Group meeting?

From each member's annual £6 subscription we are now sending £4.50 to the Third Age Trust for Insurance and Beacon. Hence our concern in respect of the £4 + p.a. non-email Newsletter costs.

We are open to ideas so please do get in touch with us.

Thank you.

Thornbury U3A Committee