

Collated by Helen Giles

Edited by Barbara Jones &  
Alison Makepeace

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

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### FROM THE CHAIRMAN:

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This has been a difficult few months and we have had to say goodbye to several members who have sadly passed away. One especially deserves our thanks, Dick Paine, who has been a doughty stalwart of Thornbury U3A, involved in its inception, acting as Chairman and leader of groups and kindly supporting, encouraging and welcoming everyone involved. We send our deepest sympathy to Shirley and family at this difficult time and our condolences to all other members who have lost loved ones recently.

Thinking of Welcoming people is not only an important part of our being a member of Thornbury U3A but also an important feature of being part of the local community and Helen Harrison, Thornbury Town Mayor, is making "Thornbury Welcomes" a major part of her second year in office. She is interested in finding out how welcoming we find Thornbury and what more we could do to enhance this welcome especially for people with disabilities or additional needs. To this end I have offered suggestions about increasing car parking, ensuring public facilities have good access for all and positive comments to Sarah Martin who is working with Helen and would be happy to forward any further ideas you may have as long as I receive them before the end of July. Let us too welcome new members to our groups whenever possible.

We shall also be considering access to premises as well as various updates at the Group Leaders' Lunch on the 27th September in Tockington/Olveston Village Hall and the Invitation to leaders or their representatives will be going out shortly.

Now for some good holiday news that some of you may not know about: if you book your holiday with Which? Recommended Provider Riviera Travel they will donate 10% of the final cost to YOUR U3A Club. Call 01283 742300 to speak to a member of the reservations team or go online at [www.utariviera.co.uk](http://www.utariviera.co.uk) for a brochure. Please mention our U3A when booking!

Have a good summer and enjoy friends and family wherever you are.

Alison Makepeace

415019

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

### An opportunity to help

Would you like to join our catering team? At least two extra helpers, are needed, for the Leaders'

lunch on Wednesday 27 September. If you could help please contact **Helen Briggs** on **01454 202181** to find out more. If Helen is not available please contact Alison as above.

## **DATES FOR YOUR DIARY**

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### **Future Newsletter Publication Deadlines**

|                          |                   |  |
|--------------------------|-------------------|--|
| <b>22 September 2017</b> | Autumn Newsletter | Please send your contributions to:<br><a href="mailto:newsletter@thornburyu3a.org.uk">newsletter@thornburyu3a.org.uk</a> |
| <b>15 December 2017</b>  | Winter Newsletter | by the dates shown opposite  |
| <b>31 October 2017</b>   | Annual Handbook   | Please send your contributions to:<br><a href="mailto:handbook@thornburyu3a.org.uk">handbook@thornburyu3a.org.uk</a>     |

Please note this is earlier than in previous years by the date shown opposite

### **Open Meetings**

|                           |        |   |
|---------------------------|--------|---|
| <b>Friday 17 November</b> | 2.30pm | Mrs Blackadder goes forth (Women in WW1)<br>Mark Walker |
|---------------------------|--------|---|

### **Garden Visits Group**

|                              |  |
|------------------------------|--|
| <b>Wednesday 6 September</b> | Places are available on a trip to Wisley Flower Show<br><i>Details on page 5</i> |
|------------------------------|--|

### **Group Leaders Lunch**

|                               |                                      |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| <b>Wednesday 27 September</b> | Invitations will be sent out shortly |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------------------|

### **Open Visits**

To date this year there have been successful visits to the Royal Mint/Penderyn Whisky Distillery on 11 April and to Avebury Manor together with a guided tour of Avebury Stones on 7 June. (the only dry day of the week). Unfortunately the proposed 2nd visit to the Royal Mint/Penderyn Whisky Distillery on Tuesday 11 July had to be cancelled because the Royal Mint had to be closed on that day for reasons unknown; however we have now managed to rearrange this trip. Please see the important notice below if you were due to go on this trip or were on the waiting list.

### **Forthcoming trips**

|                            |  |
|----------------------------|--|
| <b>Friday 8 September</b>  | Visit to Wareham, Poole and Brownsea Island. <i>Details pages 6 and 8</i>  |
| <b>Tuesday 14 November</b> | Rearranged visit to The Royal Mint, Llantrisant and a tour of Penderyn Whisky Distillery. <i>Details pages 7 and 8</i> |

Initially this trip will only be open to members who had reserved places or were on the waiting list for the cancelled trip, however, if any other member wishes to apply please contact David Austin on 411069 to express their interest. This is to avoid members filling out forms, making out s.a.e's, and sending cheques if there are no spaces available.

**N.B. All members who were going on 11 July and who still wish to go on this re-arranged trip must apply as usual. If you had a place and now do not wish to go on this trip please contact David Austin to let him know so that other members may go.**

## **JOTTINGS FROM THE COMMITTEE**

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The committee meetings in May and July were largely concerned with administrative matters which confirmed we are solvent and observing national and organisational mandates.

Membership stood at 1738, of whom 148 have joined in 2017. Using local magazines to advertise the Welcome meeting held in March boosted enquiries, so this seems a good resource to use for the next such meeting in October.

Administrative information will shortly be moved onto the Beacon System. No action is required of current members but it will be a more efficient system of information storage and retrieval. Preparing for this system has already revealed a number of people who had either omitted to renew their annual membership, or thought it was included in their group membership fee. Inspection of cards by group leaders may seem annoying, but it is fairer for all and makes sure we are covered by insurance for all attendees.

Open visits and meetings are well attended and enjoyed. Plans are afoot for a continuing programme in 2018, to include some special features to celebrate what will be our 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary year.

A Sheffield University research student has invited U3A Members to take part in his research project on how we can make computer based mental health therapies more accessible to older adults. If you would like to help you will find a survey questionnaire on our website on the News page.

We debated various possible ways of moving the compilation of the Annual Handbook from the traditional time in late December and early January. Now we have such a successful organisation with many flourishing groups, the Handbook preparation is an onerous task for the editors, during the festive season, when, like everyone else we have Christmas shopping, guests arriving and a turkey to cook! It was agreed to re-visit the problem.

**Helen Giles**

**U3A Committee Member**

## **COMMUNICATIONS**

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### **Newsletter and Handbook**

#### **Beacon**

For the past few months things have been quieter. At a U3A National level the Beacon system has been updated and tested and new routines for import of data created. Consequently for the past three months no U3As have been able to migrate to Beacon however we have just been notified that they are now ready to accept new U3As into the system so we hope that it will not be too long before it is our turn. Several U3As are in the queue so we do not know when our migration will take place. After migration, work has to be done to thoroughly familiarise ourselves with the system, then we need to set it up to meet our working practices. At the moment we are just waiting. We are hoping to be operational by the end of September at the latest, so fingers crossed.

#### **Website**

Have you recently taken a look at the website which is gradually developing? Your feedback would be most welcome. The latest information is usually posted here first.

#### **Emails**

Emails from us are currently sent out via MailChimp. Please make sure that you click on the embedded link(s) as this will take you to the actual document(s), e.g. the current Newsletter.

**Barbara Jones & Don Grundell**

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

## UPDATES FROM GROUP LEADERS

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Members are encouraged to keep up to date by consulting the website, [www.thornburyu3a.org.uk](http://www.thornburyu3a.org.uk). Here they will find programmes and contact details for the various groups, as well as other information for the forthcoming sessions. Just to whet your appetites below are updates from some of the group leaders

### Art Appreciation

We were very saddened to hear the news about Dick Paine who, with his wife Shirley, founded the Art Appreciation group in their home some ten years ago. We are very grateful to them both as it is still going strong, although now we are established in the Buckingham Room in The Chantry and meet on the third Thursday of the month at 2 p.m.

Over the past year we have had another successful programme with a range of interesting and provocative presentations. Our final meeting before the summer break was Members' Choice, when eleven members each selected a painting for discussion. Those who were happy to talk about their painting did so, otherwise Pauline found information on the choices and Mike Farquhar presented and displayed the pictures. What a varied selection there was, from "The Ambassadors" to "A Bigger Splash" by Hockney. Other intriguing titles included "The Rev. Walker Skating" and "Five Girls from Guaratinguela" and many more, which delighted the members and brought forth animated discussions. What a great way to end the season!

**We meet again after the summer break on October 19** with a presentation called "Art in a Domestic Setting: The Story of Kettle's Yard" and hope we might encourage a few new members to join us. More information about our new programme is on the U3A website.

**Group Leader: Pauline Rummens 413591**      [artappreciation@thornburyu3a.org.uk](mailto:artappreciation@thornburyu3a.org.uk)

### Cinema – open to all members

**Venue:** Olveston Parish Hall      **Time:** 1.30 for a 2pm start

**Dates:** 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Fridays of the month

Notes for these films will be available at the venue.

#### **Programme for September and October:**

|                     |                             |        |
|---------------------|-----------------------------|--------|
| <b>September 15</b> | American biographical drama | (2016) |
| <b>October 6</b>    | British aviation film       | (1957) |
| <b>October 20</b>   | British war comedy drama    | (2016) |

**We are looking for someone to join our committee, and particularly to help with equipment. It is all good fun!! No interview is required!**

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

### Country Dancing

Our sessions commence again in September 2017. The first few dates after the summer break are **19 September, 3 & 17 October**. We have approximately 20 regular members but we always have room for more.

We meet in the Methodist Church Hall Thornbury. – upstairs, on alternate Tuesday afternoons from 2 pm to 3.45 pm.

Check the Country Dancing Group page on our website for the details of all our sessions

**Group Contact:** Sue Lowman 411936 [countrydancing1@thornburyu3a.org.uk](mailto:countrydancing1@thornburyu3a.org.uk)

### Garden Visits

Would you like to visit RHS Wisley on Wednesday, **6 September 2017**? There are still places available on this Garden Visits Group trip and they are open to any members of Thornbury U3A. In addition to the wonderful RHS gardens, this visit has been arranged to coincide with the spectacular Wisley Flower Show featuring 55 nurseries and 21 tradestands, the National Dahlia Society Show and floral displays by the Surrey area of the National Association of Flower Arrangement Societies (NAFAS). You will be able to browse and buy from RHS Chelsea and Hampton Court Palace Flower Show medal winners, along with other specialist nurseries and garden trade stands who will be showcasing their top quality plants and garden sundries. The gardens are accessible to wheelchairs (manual wheelchairs available to borrow) and there is a recommended route through the garden although some areas only have limited access due to the nature of the garden. The Restaurant, catering outlets, coffee shop, shop and plant centre are all wheelchair-friendly.

The cost including entry to the flower show is just £11.20 for RHS members or £21 for non-members (special U3A group rate). The coach will start picking up from The Anchor at 0800 with additional stops at Aldi, the Leisure Centre, The Ship at Alveston and The Tump, Almondsbury. Traffic permitting, we should return to Thornbury about 1830.

To join, please phone Lyn Haigh or for an application form please send an email to the address below.

**Group Leader:** Lyn Haigh 228637 [gardenvisits@thornburyu3a.org.uk](mailto:gardenvisits@thornburyu3a.org.uk)

### Opera Study Group

For 2017/2018 the Opera Study Group has put together yet another wide an interesting programme for your enjoyment and interest. All the operas are shown using dvds of prestigious performers on a large screen with English sub titles and an introduction by a member of the group. We meet in the Thornbury Methodist Church Hall, downstairs on the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of the month. Doors open at 6.15pm and the programme starts at 6.45pm. There is an interval for free coffee, tea and biscuits and we finish at ~ 9.30pm. Membership of the group for the year is £7 giving free admission to every meeting whilst U3A visitors pay £2 with costs always under review. Come along and join us.

|                     |                    |         |
|---------------------|--------------------|---------|
| <b>September 26</b> | Aida               | Verdi   |
| <b>October 24</b>   | The Bartered Bride | Smetana |

### Longer Operas

When there is a 5<sup>th</sup> Tuesday in the month, we show a longer opera and combine it with two breaks for food. Full details will be in the Autumn Newsletter. Our next event is

|                   |                   |        |
|-------------------|-------------------|--------|
| <b>October 31</b> | The Mastersingers | Wagner |
|-------------------|-------------------|--------|

The Opera Studies Group page on our website gives the whole programme until June 2018

**Contact:** Michael Vooght 414915 [opera@thornburyu3a.org.uk](mailto:opera@thornburyu3a.org.uk)

### Painting Group

This is a self-help group who meet together 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 stop for a short break for a cup of tea or coffee and biscuit – just 20p. Our medium is generally watercolour but anyone is welcome 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. We do not meet during the months of July and August.

**Contact:                    John Ackland                    418963**

## **VISIT TO WAREHAM, POOLE AND BROWNSEA ISLAND**

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### **Friday 8 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 booking form on page 8 and send the it to John Ackland, 31 Woodleigh, Thornbury, Bristol, BS35 2JT by **Friday, 11 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

**See Booking Form on page 8**

## **VISIT/TOUR TO ROYAL MINT, LLANTRISANT AND PENDERYN WHISKY DISTILLERY**

### **Tuesday 14 November 2017 This is a replacement visit in lieu of the cancelled trip on 11 July 2017**

**Initially applications for this trip must be members who were successful, or still on the waiting list for the cancelled trip only. (Please see notes in Newsletter and below.)**

#### **Royal Mint**

Before our Tour we shall be split into two groups after which we shall be met by a Guide. We shall enter one of the manufacturing areas to discover how blank pieces of metal are made before being struck to become coins. We shall look from a viewing area into the striking hall where thousands of coins are produced for 24 hours a day. After this we will be given the option of striking our own coin to take home as a memento. There is also further exhibitions to see which include 1) looking at fascinating military, sporting and commemorative medals, 2) different roles coins play, and 3) Coin collecting, amongst others.

#### **Penderyn Whisky Distillery.**

Penderyn Single Malt Welsh Whisky was first launched on St. David's Day, 1 March 2004 in the presence of H.R.H. Prince Charles. The distillery is situated in the old village of Penderyn nestled beneath the Brecon Beacons. We shall be split into groups for our tour of the distillery when we shall see the process of the production. **This will include two tastings.**

**Please note that all visitors must wear suitable flat, enclosed footwear. There is also no provision for wheelchairs.** Also note that lunch will be taken at the Royal Mint.

If you are interested, please complete the booking form and send it with your remittance of **£21.00 per person**. This price includes entry to both places plus the cost of the coach, tip for the coach driver, and incidental expenses. Applications will be processed in strict order, including the waiting list, this being as per the previously cancelled trip. **The Closing Date is 15 September 2017.**

Anyone who is given a firm booking and subsequently wishes to cancel cannot be guaranteed their cheque will be refunded. However I will do my best to transfer the place(s) if I am informed in time.

Please complete and return the booking form together with a cheque made payable to THORNBURY U3A and a **stamped addressed envelope** to David Austin, 13 Davids Close, Alveston. Bristol BS35 3LR by **Friday 15 September. 2017**

**See Booking Form on page 8**

**VISIT TO WAREHAM, POOLE AND BROWNSEA ISLAND**

**Friday 8 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, 8 September 2017**

< Pick up – Tick as appropriate >

| Name(s) & phone number, please | Tick if member of N.T. | Anchor Morton<br>7.30am | Aldi<br>7.35am | Thornb' LeisureC bus stop<br>7.45am | Alveston Ship<br>7.50am | Alm'y Tump<br>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  
**Closing Date: 11 August 2017**

Signed.....Telephone Number.....

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**VISIT/TOUR TO ROYAL MINT, LLANTRISANT AND PENDERYN WHISKY DISTILLERY**

**Tuesday 14 November 2017**

**To: David Austin, 13 Davids Close, Alveston, Bristol. BS35 3LR**

I/We wish to come on the visit to the Royal Mint etc on **Tuesday 14 November 2017**

< Pick up – Tick as appropriate >

| Name(s) & phone number, please | Anchor, Morton<br>8.30am | Aldi<br>8.35am | Leisure Centre bus stop<br>8.45am | Alveston, Down Road<br>8.50am | Do you require lunch Y/N |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------|----------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------|
|                                |                          |                |                                   |                               |                          |

I enclose a cheque for £..... (**£21.00 per person**) made out to **Thornbury U3A** and a **stamped addressed envelope**. **Closing Date: Friday 15 September. 2017.**

Signed.....Telephone Number.....