

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

### From the Chairman:

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Happy New Year!

Following the AGM, we are very pleased to welcome Steve Hughes to the Committee as Treasurer. We would also like a few extra Committee members if possible and are happy to speak to any volunteers who could spare the time.

At the AGM we agreed to change the Object clause in our Constitution and it now reads as follows: *The purpose of Thornbury U3A is for the advancement of education and in particular the education of older people and those retired from full-time work, by means including associated activities conducive to learning and personal development in Thornbury and its surrounding locality.* Perhaps the start of a year is a good time to remind ourselves of this premise. We are groups of like-minded, self-help people who come together to increase our knowledge, experience or understanding of particular subjects, leisure activities or social interactions to continue our personal development. How will you develop this year? Will you support a new group or offer to help on a committee or attend a new meeting?



A query was raised at the AGM about Gift Aid claim donations, enquiring as to whether payments to groups would qualify as small donations and therefore be eligible for Gift Aid claim. By special arrangement, we can claim Gift Aid on subscriptions from those members who are taxpayers. This is on the basis that subscriptions are used for administrative expenses, and that members do not receive a personal benefit of more than 25% of the £6 subscription i.e. £1.50. There would clearly be personal benefit on any monies paid to groups as small donations and as such it would not qualify for Gift Aid. Apart from subscriptions, to be eligible for a Gift Aid claim, funds must be a genuine donation to the U3A and we do not solicit donations.

It was very encouraging to meet so many members at the AGM and to witness the enthusiasm shown in the exhibitions at the Groups' Fair. Thank you to all who made the day so informative. We would like to continue to see an increase in the number of groups overall so that everyone who wishes, can participate. Please let us know if you have any ideas for new groups and/or are willing to lead one.

Last year the Handbook Distribution was beset with delays at the collection point in Thornbury. This year we have booked the two main rooms (the large hall and the former café) near the entrance to Turnberries and hope that, with a few extra volunteers, distribution will be smoother. There will be more room for you to meet your friends for coffee and renew your Theatre/Opera Visit or Garden Visit Membership. Our reason for using Turnberries allows Wi-Fi access for Membership enrolment and has less traffic congestion than other venues. Handbook Collection at Olveston Parish Hall is unchanged except for a slightly later start as a local group will be using the Hall at the earlier time.

Whichever way you choose, we hope you continue to enjoy meeting new people through Thornbury U3A.

**Alison Makepeace**

**415019**

**chairman@thornburyu3a.org.uk**

### Handbook Collection Dates 2019

Monday 28 January	10.00am - 12.30pm	Turnberries, Thornbury
Tuesday 29 January	10.45am - 12.15pm	Olveston Parish Hall

For any of your friends wishing to join our U3A, the next **Welcome Meeting** will take place on **Monday, 4**



## Open Visits

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A very interesting tour of the Concorde Museum, including boarding the Concorde, was enjoyed by all. Everyone was impressed with the details provided by the tour guide and a great deal of knowledge was gained.

The following visits are being planned for 2019 but not yet confirmed:

1. Repeat visit to the Houses of Parliament. Please note that this trip is for those members who were on the waiting list and unable to go on the previous visit due to the large number of applicants. Date of visit is still awaited. (David)
2. A visit and tour of Bletchley Park. (Sue)
3. A three-hour Southampton Water and Three Rivers cruise with Blue Funnel Line, including a fish and chip lunch. (David)

Details and application forms will be included in future Newsletters.

*Please note that this will be the final year that David will be arranging Open Visits.* If Open Visits are to continue into 2020, Sue will require another volunteer to join her in organising them. This is essential as cover is needed to cover for sickness and the practicality of running some of the visits on the day. Any member who is prepared to help with visits should contact Sue.

**Sue James**

**885452**

**visits@thornburyu3a.org.uk**

**Dave Austin**

**411069**

## Groups Coordinator's Report

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If you have any ideas for new groups or need help, please let me know.

**Anne Reed**

**groupscoordinator@thornburyu3a.org.uk**

## - Group News from Group Leaders -

### Architecture Programme 2019

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We meet at the Cossham Hall at 10.30am on the first Tuesday of the month. Everyone is welcome.

January 8	Alan Heath	Renzo Piano
February 5	Steve Thomas	Naples – an architectural history
March 5	Audrey Shepherd	Glasgow
April 2	Nick Howkins	“Quality Design in Higher Education”
May 7	Helen Roberts	Demolition!
June 4	Alan Heath	Thomas Heatherwick - modern British designer
July 2	Doug Fowler	Inside the mind of an architect
<b>August 6 trip</b>		<b>Gloucester Gaol/Llanthony Priory</b>
September 3	Helen Roberts	Decline and rise of Country houses
October 1	Anne Strong	Gwent villages
<b>October 29 trip</b>		<b>Highnam Court/Church, Huntley Church</b>
November 5	Kingsley Fulbrook	Shetland Vernacular architecture
December 3		Christmas activities, Armstrong Hall

**Helen Roberts**

**01453 845216**

**architecture@thornburyu3a.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 with subtitles in English with a synopsis of the plot given by one of the group. 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 tea/coffee and biscuits. The programme is:

### Programme for 2019

22 January	Rigoletto	Verdi
26 February	Gondoliers	Gilbert and Sullivan
26 March	Lady Macbeth of Mtsenk	Shostakovich
23 April	Lucrezia Borgia	Donizetti

In addition, we also show a longer opera on the 5th Tuesday of any month, when any member of Thornbury U3A is invited to attend:

29 January	Prince Igor	Borodin
30 April	Fairie Queen	Purcell

Arrangements for the longer showing are slightly different. We begin at 4.30pm and watch part 1, then partake either of a delicious buffet meal or bring your own food, then watch part 2, after which we have coffee/tea and then proceed to the final part, the whole evening finishing generally at ~ 9.45-10pm. The cost is £4 for the opera and £4 for the buffet, which must be booked in advance either a week earlier at the normal monthly meeting or by telephoning Helen Giles (01454 411571).

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

**414915**

**opera@thornburyu3a.org.uk**

## Our Living Language Group

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The breadth of interest of the Our Living Language group is reflected in the programme for the next few months.

In January, we have a “bring and share” session of Winter Poetry;

February looks at the origins of words used in a Parliamentary context;

The March meeting, like the March Hare, is a load of (literary) “Nonsense”;

In April we uncover the secrets of the Cryptic Crossword;

and in May we head north to explore the Border Ballads.

Our normal meeting day is the fourth Monday of the month at 2pm at the Alveston Methodist Church Hall. However, as the fourth Mondays of April and May are both Bank Holidays, these meetings will be a week earlier. There’s a warm welcome for everyone – just turn up.

**Bob Dale**

**415345**

**ourlivinglanguage@thornburyu3a.org.uk**

## Scrabble Group 1

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This group has a number of regular players but we could happily take a few more. We meet on the 1st and 3rd Monday of the month at the Baptist church from 2pm – 4pm.

After the Christmas break, we will restart on 21 January.

**Janet Mills**

**430713**

**scrabble@thornburyu3a.org.uk**

## Scrabble Group 2

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Although we are full, we are willing to have a waiting list, the idea being that if we know someone is planning to be away, we can offer would-be members individual sessions to help them get to know the group.

**Josie Bloxidge**

**01179 692555**

**[scrabble2@thornburyu3a.org.uk](mailto:scrabble2@thornburyu3a.org.uk)**

## Wine Group 4

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Following on from our successful 'Fish & Fizz' event on 30th November, Wine Group 4 ("Imbibe with friends") continues to welcome new members.

Our planned events in 2019 include taking a look at English / UK wines and Aldi's range of wines.

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

**Colin Ballantyne**

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

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## OPEN TALK Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> February: "How the NHS came about" with Nancy North



It's 70 years since the NHS was established as a universal and comprehensive health service, free at the point of access and delivered at an optimum rather than minimum standard. In aspiring to all these goals, it was unique. What pressures, political and otherwise, shaped a haphazard assortment of independent voluntary hospitals, municipal ex-workhouses and general hospitals, a fragmented medical profession and a mixture of rudimentary state insurance and private payment into a health service which endures, maybe against the odds? We shall investigate the emerging case for a national health service in the first half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century and the political battles which created its form.

*Dr Nancy North, a member of the Thornbury U3A, began her working life with UNICEF in East Pakistan/Bangladesh before and after the war of independence. She then trained as a nurse, married, had 3 children and worked in the NHS before embarking on her doctoral studies at the LSE. As principal lecturer at the University of Portsmouth, she researched and wrote about health and social policy before retiring in 2014.*

Come along to the Armstrong Hall on 28<sup>th</sup> February to hear how the NHS came about. Doors open at 2pm for tea and coffee and the talk will start at 2.30pm.

Tickets are available in advance from Lesley Hellen, 32, Durham Road, Charfield, Wotton-under-Edge GL12 8TH or on the door. Price £2.

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Please reserve ..... tickets for the **How the NHS came about** talk 28/2/19

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, Wotton under Edge, GL12 8TH



## OPEN TALK Wednesday 3rd April 2019: Cotswold Canals



Some of you may be members or Volunteers of the Cotswold Canals Trust and many of you will have walked all or part of the towpath. Huge restoration progress has been made over the last few years, with the help of grants and volunteers, and now the stretch from Brimscombe Port, through Stroud to The Ocean is being completed. How will they link the Stroudwater canal to the Sharpness canal let alone the Thames? Where will the funding come from? Could water transfer help? Can you help?

Come and listen to a talk by Cotswold Canal enthusiasts and see how the developments can affect the Severn Vale.

Come along to the Armstrong Hall on 3rd April for 2.30pm. Doors open at 2pm for tea and coffee.

Tickets are available in advance from Lesley Hellen, 32, Durham Road, Charfield, Wotton-under-Edge GL12 8TH or on the door. Price £2.

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