

All phone numbers are local, with the prefix 01454, unless otherwise specified

### From the Chairman:

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Welcome to the Winter Newsletter which will also serve as our Thornbury u3a (Tu3a) Handbook this year. I hope you had as an enjoyable Christmas as was possible in the face of the restrictions imposed by the Corona Virus. Although the vaccine is now being distributed, I fear it will be some time before we return to anywhere near normal. The impact it has had on our organisation has still to be determined - what will our membership be like when matters do improve, how many of the venues we use will still be open? I know I miss the face-to-face meetings and have proposed to the Committee that we set up Coffee/Tea mornings for our membership as soon as possible once the situation eases.



In the meantime, many Leaders have been using Zoom to keep their Groups running. In fact, twenty of our Groups are up and running using Zoom and some of our outdoor activities are still going ahead in friendship groups. The Committee has taken out two Professional Licences for Zoom that allows groups of people (up to 100) to meet on line for an unlimited length of time and many thanks go to Bob Dale who has given two presentations on how to use Zoom. We hope this will allow some more Groups to re-start meetings, or just have a social chat with their members, in this “virtual” format. Don Grundell is co-ordinating the use of these licences and information on when they are in use is on the “Events” page of our Website. So, if your Group Leader wishes to try this “medium” they should contact Don on [webmaster@thornburyu3a.org.uk](mailto:webmaster@thornburyu3a.org.uk) for further information. Zoom is but one of these virtual meetings platform, probably the most commonly used, but there are others with additional facilities. “Google Meets” is similar and has the facility for producing subtitles for those with hearing difficulties.

The 2020 AGM, held over from last year, will have to be held online, is planned to take place on Tuesday, February 9th 2021 at 10:30am. We want as many members as possible to participate, so we are arranging a special Zoom Licence that will cover up to 1000 platforms (PCs, tablets and even smart phones) to join in. Zoom will also allow us to conduct votes on any proposals. But this technology will only allow one vote per platform on which Zoom is being hosted – so if a couple both want to vote then they must use separate platforms. For those of you who will receive this by post but do have a computer, you can join in by entering the following text into your web browser:-  
<https://zoom.us/j/99485712885?pwd=cnlFSTViclVJMDFtaJVMtVEUGxXdz09>

The calling papers and reports for the AGM are attached to this Newsletter.

Every Committee post is re-elected annually. My thanks go to those on the Committee who have already volunteered to stand again. However, it is vitally important that we have volunteers to stand as Committee Members and help out where needed, so please put your name forward on the Election of Committee Members Form, if you can help. If there is some other activity you think we should be doing, have your say by using the formal Proposal of a Motion by a Member Form. Both Forms are

attached and you will need to put forward the names of Proposer and Secunder but, in these difficult times, the Committee have waived the need to obtain actual signatures.

The information in this Newsletter is based on the Group Leaders response to a request for contributions and provides their current view on the Group's activities. However not all Groups have provided an entry and we can only assume that these Groups will supply further information for future Newsletters. It is hoped that all Groups will survive and restart at some point this year (2021). However, we have lost the Line Dancing Group and several others are seeking new Leaders – such as Art Appreciation and Travel & Tourism. There is always a need for Group Leaders and we on the Committee will help any would be volunteers. There is a comprehensive Guide to the requirements of being a Group Leader on our website.

I understand that several members have been concerned that we, as a Committee, have had to raise the subscription rate for this year. I can only emphasise that the vast majority of your subscriptions go directly to the National u3a to cover public liability insurance, the running of Beacon and provide guidance at a National level. It does not cover any Group activity of which, of course, there has been very little since March.

No one knows when we may recommence all our activities so I can only give you one future event and that will be the publication of the next Newsletter in mid-April. So, Group Leaders, this is advance warning that we will require your input by April 9<sup>th</sup> 2021. However, be reassured that I will keep all members informed of any changes and I ask you to look on the “News” page of the Thornbury U3A website for the latest bulletins ([www.thornburyu3a.org.uk](http://www.thornburyu3a.org.uk)).

**Norman Taylor**                      **418396**                      [chairman@thornburyu3a.org.uk](mailto:chairman@thornburyu3a.org.uk)

## Committee

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Tu3a is governed by a Committee which is elected annually from its membership and forms the Charity's Trustees. The current Committee comprises:

Chairman	Norman Taylor	418396	<a href="mailto:chairman@thornburyu3a.org.uk">chairman@thornburyu3a.org.uk</a>
Vice Chairman	Frank Tustin	418453	<a href="mailto:vicechair@thornburyu3a.org.uk">vicechair@thornburyu3a.org.uk</a>
Treasurer	Steve Hughes	887151	<a href="mailto:treasurer@thornburyu3a.org.uk">treasurer@thornburyu3a.org.uk</a>
Secretary	Ian Macdonald	613846	<a href="mailto:secretary@thornburyu3a.org.uk">secretary@thornburyu3a.org.uk</a>
Membership Secretary	Jackie Gitsham	858438	<a href="mailto:membership@thornburyu3a.org.uk">membership@thornburyu3a.org.uk</a>
Group Coordinator	Louise Ingsley	415131	<a href="mailto:groupscoordinator@thornburyu3a.org.uk">groupscoordinator@thornburyu3a.org.uk</a>
Handbook	Norman Taylor	418396	<a href="mailto:handbook@thornburyu3a.org.uk">handbook@thornburyu3a.org.uk</a>
Equipment Co-ordinator & Assistant Webmaster	Mike Farquhar	413055	<a href="mailto:equipment@thornburyu3a.org.uk">equipment@thornburyu3a.org.uk</a>
Beacon Administration	Barbara Jones	414547	<a href="mailto:beacon@thornburyu3a.org.uk">beacon@thornburyu3a.org.uk</a>
Webmaster	Don Grundell	412896	<a href="mailto:webmaster@thornburyu3a.org.uk">webmaster@thornburyu3a.org.uk</a>
Health & Safety	Ian Macdonald	613846	<a href="mailto:healthandsafety@thornburyu3a.org.uk">healthandsafety@thornburyu3a.org.uk</a>
Committee Members	Sue James	885452	<a href="mailto:visits@thornburyu3a.org.uk">visits@thornburyu3a.org.uk</a>
	Anne Reed	415849	
<i>Assisted by:</i>			
Newsletters	Carolyn Purdy	-	<a href="mailto:newsletter@thornburyu3a.org.uk">newsletter@thornburyu3a.org.uk</a>
Catering Co-ordinator	Sheila Forsythe	-	

## Membership and Communications

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You must be a current member of Tu3a to participate in any of its activities, in order for us to comply with our insurance conditions. Prospective members may, however, attend two meetings, as guests,

before committing themselves to u3a membership. Members can join as many interest Groups as they wish. Annual membership subscriptions are due by 1<sup>st</sup> January each year, and currently, renewal notices are sent by post to existing members not on email. Subscriptions may now be paid online and we encourage members to renew in this way to help **reduce administration**. Members are also encouraged to Gift Aid the payment. The subscription this year is £7 per person. This fee covers our u3a central costs, the National u3a costs for management of Beacon and personal liability insurance whenever undertaking u3a activities; it does not cover any Group activity costs.

The u3a membership system 'Beacon' is used for our membership management and is accessible by Group Leaders and Committee Members for the purpose of administration and communication to their members. Beacon is supported nationally and meets the requirement of the current GDPR/data protection regulations.

Communication throughout the Tu3a is via Newsletters, Website and the Beacon system which are our main platforms of communication and membership information management. The Quarterly Newsletter contains current news and activities within the Tu3a and its Groups. This is sent by email to all members who have an email address. Currently, we also send out copies of the Newsletters to non-email members, although this is both very time consuming and very expensive. To have your email address added to your personal details, please email the Membership Secretary [membership@thornburyu3a.org.uk](mailto:membership@thornburyu3a.org.uk) giving your membership number. Use the Tu3a Website [www.thornburyU3A.org.uk](http://www.thornburyU3A.org.uk) to change any personal details, including your email address, via the members' portal. Also please add [communications@thornburyu3a.org.uk](mailto:communications@thornburyu3a.org.uk) to your email address book or contact list to lessen the chance of our emails being incorrectly blocked. The Tu3a Website continues to expand and is now a focal point for information, particularly in these times of ever changing Covid-19 restrictions on our activities. We are moving towards all Group Leaders, or their representatives, using the Website to inform their Group members of what is happening within the Group, the costs involved in taking part in the Group activity and whether there are vacancies or not. Also on the Website is a Table of when and where each Group activity takes place in order of each day of the week. Help is on hand from our Webmaster, [webmaster@thornburyu3a.org.uk](mailto:webmaster@thornburyu3a.org.uk), for those needing guidance and he will even update pages, if requested to do so.

## **Treasurer's Report:**

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The Financial Statement for the year ending 30<sup>th</sup> September 2020, attached ahead of the AGM in February, has been prepared in a different format than in previous years. The Income and Expenditure Account and the Balance Sheet for the entire Tu3a is shown first, followed by enhanced Notes which include full financial details of both the General and Social Funds, as well as headline figures for the Groups.

If last year's Statement was notable for revealing for the first time the considerable scale of financial activity across the whole Tu3a, the most significant aspect of this year's figures must be the substantial reduction in activity caused by the pandemic. From a General Fund perspective, while there was a modest drop in income, the far greater reduction in expenses resulted in a surplus being generated for the first time in 3 years. A more detailed Report will be given during the AGM and questions may be raised then or sent in ahead of time to [treasurer@thornburyu3a.org.uk](mailto:treasurer@thornburyu3a.org.uk).

Looking ahead, the asset base of the u3a remains strong and this, together with the fact that renewal of subscriptions for 2021 has already generated over 90% of the amount received in 2020. This means that we are well set for the coming year from a financial perspective. You will note that the Independent Examiner's report is currently in draft form, pending completion of the approval process which will, of course, include a vote on acceptance of the Financial Statement at the AGM. Thereafter, it will be signed and dated and form part of our Annual Return to the Charity Commission.

**Steve Hughes**

**887151**

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

## Group Activities during Lockdown

### Open Talks

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As Covid 19 is still prevalent, the Armstrong Hall is closed and speakers are less happy with online presentations, therefore Open Talks have been postponed until we are able to meet again in person.

**Alison Makepeace**                      **415019**                      [talks@thornburyu3a.org.uk](mailto:talks@thornburyu3a.org.uk)

### Open Visits

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Open Visits, similar to Open Talks, have been postponed until we are able to meet again in person.

**Sue James**                                **885452**                                [visits@thornburyu3a.org.uk](mailto:visits@thornburyu3a.org.uk)

### American Civil War

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Since the last (2nd) meeting of the Group, members have been contacted telling them of free historical presentations, on Zoom, that I have found interesting.

**Mark Walker**                              **411094**                              [uscivilwar@thornburyu3a.org.uk](mailto:uscivilwar@thornburyu3a.org.uk)

### Ancient Civilisations & Culture

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The Group is closed, although there is some consideration of being amalgamated with Classical Studies

**Barbara Day**

### Archaeology

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We meet at Porch House on the 4th Tuesday of the month from 2-4 pm. When we are able to meet again, I plan to continue our exploration of the Archaeology of the Americas with the Mayas & Incas before moving further north to find out about some lesser known cultures. Everyone is welcome & no previous knowledge required.

**Jackie Carpenter**                      **294561**                      [archaeology@thornburyu3a.org.uk](mailto:archaeology@thornburyu3a.org.uk)

### Architecture

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The Group, which was formed over 10 years ago, has grown and grown ever since. It now fills the Cossham Hall on the first Tuesday of the month at 10.30. Most of our meetings consist of PowerPoint shows with a speaker from our own ranks, but we also go on one or two visits a year to buildings of particular interest and have had several visits abroad.

At present we are in Covid abeyance but hope to start again once meetings are permitted and our committee has met to form plans.

**Helen Roberts**                              **01453 845216**                              [architecture@thornburyu3a.org.uk](mailto:architecture@thornburyu3a.org.uk)

### Art Appreciation

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The Group is currently looking for a new Leader, so if any member(s) wish to organise the Group please contact the acting Group Leader.

**Mike Farquhar**                              **413055**                              [artappreciation@thornburyu3a.org.uk](mailto:artappreciation@thornburyu3a.org.uk)

## **Art (Monday)**

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We haven't been able to meet since February 2020. Many members of the group swap pictures on "WhatsApp" and a few people follow the Sky Arts portrait artist of the week and portrait artist of the year and share their pictures.

When weather allows, we meet outside on Monday mornings around Thornbury for drawing sessions. However, since the pandemic, we have looked at a few sessions on Zoom. We are looking forward to being able to meet once again at St Mary's Church Hall when the virus no longer poses a threat.

**Sue Punton**

**776271**

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

## **Aspects of the 19th century**

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There has been no activity or information since lockdown and I cannot envisage holding any more meetings until later in 2021. I would then hope to pick up the program for 2020 which was cut short.

**John Smith**

**412140**

[aspectsof19c@thornburyu3a.org.uk](mailto:aspectsof19c@thornburyu3a.org.uk)

## **Astronomy Group**

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The group meets from 10.30am on the first Monday of each month. Because of the Covid-19 difficulties, the group is now holding the meetings using the Zoom and has been doing so since May 2020. This will continue for the foreseeable future. The meetings are well supported and, because we are now recording them, can be watched if the live meeting is missed. In addition, the observing activities practised by various members of the group have been largely unaffected by the current problems and have provided the year's meetings with a number of interesting topics for discussion and some spectacular images.

The group leader would like to thank the members for their support during the past, rather difficult, year. In particular, he would like to thank the group's regular speakers – also members – who have adjusted their contributions, and the frequency of their contributions, to suit the new arrangements.

**Peter Jackson**

**418050**

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

## **Bird Watching**

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We aim to go out once a month to a different site to see a range of different species, always working within the Covid guidelines. When possible, we will meet in groups, probably small ones, and all members are welcome to come. The more experienced are happy to help those with less knowledge to improve their skills and enjoy all that nature has to offer. When the situation improves, we will revert to travelling further afield. When this happens, a program will be produced and all members of the group informed.

Our normal programme would be on the second Monday of each month, departing Thornbury Leisure Centre car park at 9.30. Warm clothes, sensible foot wear, refreshments and binoculars are essential. Remember we are standing around a lot of the time.

Meanwhile I can pass on sightings of interesting birds for people to look at in their bubble. The Severn Estuary has plenty to keep us interested.

**Cilla Farquhar**

**413055**

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

## **Book Group 1**

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The Group reads 'modern novels' which were written from the early 20th century to the present day. We have recently enjoyed some prize-winning novels by Colson Whitehead, George Saunders and

Tom McCarthy. We are now reading Chinese authors, including *The Dark Road* by Ma Jian.

The group is now full but if you wish your name to be added to the waiting list please contact:

**Lesley Thomas**                      **613508**                      [bookgroup1@thornburyu3a.org.uk](mailto:bookgroup1@thornburyu3a.org.uk)

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## **Book Group 2**

We are currently meeting via Zoom on the first Monday of the month at 2pm. While not as good as meeting together, about half our Group has managed to keep up a varied and informative selection of titles with the aid of modern technology.

The programme for 2021 looks to be equally versatile, with fact and fiction titles to be undertaken. We have, among others *The Salt Path* by Raynor Winn (fact), a true story of hope over despair, and *The Silence of the Girls* (fiction), a retelling of the Trojan War from the women's perspective.

**Barbara Day**                      **852015**                      [bookgroup2@thornburyu3a.org.uk](mailto:bookgroup2@thornburyu3a.org.uk)

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## **Bridge 1**

Currently dormant, we would welcome new players who are familiar with Duplicate Bridge and can come with a partner. Investigations are continuing about a change of venue.

**Mike Farquhar**                      **413055**                      [bridgegroup1@thornburyu3a.org.uk](mailto:bridgegroup1@thornburyu3a.org.uk)

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## **Bridge 2**

Currently dormant, we are able to accept a few more members; all interested members would be made to feel very much at home by a particularly friendly bunch of players. Coming with a partner would be especially welcome.

**Linda Cooper**                      **414762**                      [bridgegroup2@thornburyu3a.org.uk](mailto:bridgegroup2@thornburyu3a.org.uk)

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## **Bridge 3**

Members of Bridge 3 will meet on a Friday afternoon in the season, hopefully.

**Richard Harrop**                      **416927**                      [bridgegroup3@thornburyu3a.org.uk](mailto:bridgegroup3@thornburyu3a.org.uk)

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## **Canasta**

During the coming year, we hope to get back to some sort of normality allowing us to resume our Canasta games. Members of the group will be informed in good time.

**Val Curtis**                      **850981**                      [canasta@thornburyu3a.org.uk](mailto:canasta@thornburyu3a.org.uk)

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## **Card Making**

The Card Making group has not met, and has no plans to meet at the moment.

**Sue Kitson**                      **418543**                      [cardmaking@thornburyu3a.org.uk](mailto:cardmaking@thornburyu3a.org.uk)

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## **Church Visits 1**

Sadly, for everyone 2020 has been a disastrous year, but with the breakthrough regarding vaccines I am hopeful that we will be able to resume our visits next year.

**Sandra Body**                      **415250**                      [churchvisits1@thornburyu3a.org.uk](mailto:churchvisits1@thornburyu3a.org.uk)

## Church Visits 2

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Sadly, we had to abandon our planned outings for 2020. We will, I hope, be able to resume where we left off, with visits to churches based on the theme "Church Memorials through the Ages", hopefully we might be off on our travels again by Spring/Summer. We normally start our visits in March and go on day trips each month (except August) on the second Thursday until October.

**Janet McBride**

**07748 427439**

[churchvisits2@thornburyu3a.org.uk](mailto:churchvisits2@thornburyu3a.org.uk)

## Cinema Group

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We have nothing to report except to reassure members that we will endeavour to set up negotiations with Tockington Parish Hall to accommodate us when the time arrives.

**Pam Dawe**

**614843**

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

## Classical Studies

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Our last meeting was in March, before lockdown was imposed, and we have not met since.

I had already decided to step down from the leadership of the group at the end of this year, feeling that I had exhausted my potential input into a group for which I had become the accidental leader. Perhaps someone else might be able to take up and develop the literary aspects of the subject via Zoom in the future but this is definitely outside my expertise and comfort zone.

I am also involved in the running of the Ancient Civilisations group and after discussion with the leader we feel that the more historical and archaeological based aspects of Greek and Roman culture could easily fit within an amalgamated single group with a wider remit which we would be more confident in being able co-lead in the future.

In conclusion therefore it is with regret that I feel that Classical Studies in the present format will have to be suspended, although possibly someone with a background in the subject may feel able to restart a group based on Classical drama and literature in the future.

**Rosemary Bailey**

**419977**

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

## Computer

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The Tu3a Computer group has had a three-month summer vacation for some years, so after lockdown eased, my co-leader, Brian, and I decided to keep going by using mass emails. The core Q&A activity was maintained by requesting members to send their queries and problems to us to solve via email, since I concluded that the way the group interacted did not make Zoom viable. I had been pushing for the formation of a few new sub-groups (with their own leaders) to get involved in smaller computer projects, such as Raspberry Pi and Arduino. One group, which was endeavouring to automate an impressive Meccano battleship, was just getting started but had to be suspended.

**Andy Pearson/Brian Brown 416321**

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

## Concerts

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Our activities are currently suspended and we will only hold a meeting in May if the orchestras publish programmes for September 2021.

The Concerts Group normally organises visits to afternoon and evening classical concerts in Bristol and Cardiff, travelling by coach from Thornbury with pick-ups en route. The concert season runs from September to June and we normally book twice a year. There is a choice of seat location and price and the charge for each concert is the seat price plus the coach cost. We decide on the concerts to be

offered at meetings which are normally held in May and November.

**Phil Holland**

**413897**

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

## **Country Dancing**

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Our meetings have been suspended until further notice as our activity requires close contact. The details below apply if or when we can re-start the group. I do not think that we will resume before the autumn term, which usually begins in September.

The group meets in the Methodist Church upstairs hall in Thornbury on alternate Tuesday afternoons from 2pm to 3.45 pm. (Occasionally the fortnightly schedule is changed to accommodate other hall requirements or holidays.) There are no meetings in July and August. We have approximately 20 regular members but always have room for more so why not come and join us?

The 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 or have rests and just watch. You may already recognise some of the dances if you have been to barn dances or ceilidhs. You do not need to bring a partner as the more experienced dancers help any newcomers and the dances often mix people up. Each dance is walked through and called every time, so you do not need any prior knowledge. Now we play music on CDs but if you play an instrument, then bring it along to try playing some dances. (Music notation is available.)

We are always pleased to see new faces and it doesn't matter if you have never danced before, are on your own, have two left feet or are a bit shy, as we are a friendly bunch and the afternoon is full of enjoyment. Currently we ask members to pay £2 per week (cheaper if you pay per term) so we are sure of covering the hall rental costs. New members are welcome to come for a taster session for £2. It's fun, good exercise and a way of making new friends.

Dates for meetings are available via the Thornbury U3A website or can be emailed to you.

**Iain Gray**

**0750 1116887**

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

## **Scottish Country Dancing**

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A month before lockdown in March 2020, a group of around 20 people gathered to enjoy learning Scottish Country Dancing. According to research, happiness is Scottish Dancing! It combines all the elements which create positive feelings – it is sociable, active and involves both the body and the brain with great music to help you along. This is country dancing but not a sword in sight!

When conditions permit us, we will be returning fortnightly to the Methodist Church Hall in Thornbury on Tuesday afternoons from 2.30-4pm. We have a trained Royal Scottish Country Dance Society teacher to lead us. All you will need to bring is yourself and soft shoes if you have them, and wear comfortable clothing. You do not need a partner as it is traditional to change partners after each dance. We will send more information out via the newsletter when we can resume.

**Margaret Pinder**

**416778**

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

## **Cribbage**

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Members of the group have been kept informed that we will not be meeting as we cannot socially distance satisfactorily.

**Pam Pass**

**600772**

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

## Cycling

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We are looking forward to sunnier vaccinated days when the regular Tuesday and Thursday bike rides can re-start.

**Don Grundell**

**412896**

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

## Discussion

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Do you have views and opinions that you are happy to share? Do you enjoy hearing the views and opinions of others? Then the Discussions Group is made for you. There are no tutors, no votes, no right answers and no formalities. Topics are chosen by the group and range from "Whom do you trust?" to "The role of NATO" and from "Taking the knee" to "My place in Society".

Meetings are on the second Tuesday of each month at 2pm. Whilst we are unable to meet at The Chantry, meetings will continue on Zoom.

**Bob Dale**

**415345**

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

## DIY

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The DIY group is still not meeting because of the dreaded virus, and will probably not meet until September, but all would be welcome at the DIY Group, which is open to new members. The current members are all fairly new to DIY, so we have been starting from the beginning, but we are open to experienced DIYers, who want to know more. Alan, our Leader, has been doing DIY for many years, and is a qualified adult teacher. So far, we have had a go at drilling holes, fixing to a wall, sawing, filling holes, turning the water off, changing a tap washer and pointing a wall.

We often meet at Alan's house but go to other members' houses, too, if they have a project to tackle. The topics are suggested by the members, so we are always open to suggestions for future topics.

**Alan Pinder**

**416778**

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

## Exercise (Gentle)

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We would normally meet on Thursdays weekly 10am in the Methodist Hall, Thornbury.

Gentle Exercise involves low impact exercise with some seated but no floor work. It is generally appropriate for those who already have some degree of fitness but we keep it fairly low key. It is not necessary to have done 'Keep Fit' before to enjoy the sessions. New members are welcome to come for a free taster session before deciding. To see if we have vacancies in the Group, please consult the TU3A website or contact below.

**Pat Wells**

**850379**

**Sally Bradford**

**419651**

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

## Family History

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The Group is now meeting via Zoom at 10.30am on the third Friday of each month. We have had three very successful meetings so far and more are planned for 2021. Offers to do presentations and suggestions for topics to be covered will be very welcome.

If anyone needs help with research, there are plenty of group members with various areas of expertise who will be happy either to advise or do online research. If you don't know whom to ask, just email

one of the group leaders who will either put you in touch with someone who can help or suggest where to look.

**Frances Houghton**

**417048**

[familyhistory1@thornburyu3a.org.uk](mailto:familyhistory1@thornburyu3a.org.uk)

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## **French Book Club**

French Book Club normally meets on a Monday afternoon in members' houses. As this is a small group, at present with 8 members, we aim to meet on the third Monday of the month but we are able to move this date if necessary.

We have read a very wide range of books ranging from the classics to recent thrillers. We discuss the books in English. We have very lively, wide ranging and often hilarious discussions that usually last 2 hours.

At present, of course, we have had to resort to Zoom, which is working well. Our meetings are taking place on a Wednesday afternoon, again to suit members' schedules. New members are always welcome.

**Sue Kessler**

**414917**

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

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## **French WD40 (for rusty learners)**

Since the start of the Covid-19 pandemic the Group has met via Zoom and it is unlikely we will meet in person until the vaccine has been rolled out to our age group.

Our lessons are based around the "Rendezvous" magazine. Normally, we prepare a grammar or vocabulary exercise for our fellow students and then read and discuss a passage from the magazine. Not only does it help keep our language skills from rusting up but we also learn interesting details about how France and French life are coping with the pandemic.

Using Zoom has its challenges but we are getting more adept at managing the medium and would welcome any new members (or old ones who haven't yet tried Zoom) to our sessions.

We meet on the first and third Tuesday of the month.

**Alan Payne**

**418749**

[frenchwd40@thornburyu3a.org.uk](mailto:frenchwd40@thornburyu3a.org.uk)

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## **Garden Visits**

The Committee is keen to start planning trips for 2021 but there are so many unknowns presently that we are unlikely to do so before Easter. As we have experienced this year, the rules can change very quickly so we are looking into using the Tu3a website to publish the programme and email for communications; this would mean the end of printed programmes being sent through the post.

I am only too aware, and sorry, that such a process could exclude the 39 members for whom we do not have an email address. If you do have an email account but did not receive the GVG newsletter before Christmas then please sign on to Beacon and update your membership record in order to continue receiving GVG communications. If you don't have access to an email account of your own, perhaps you could ask a friend or relative if messages could be sent to their address so they could share the information with you - I know of a couple of people already using a family member's email. Change is never easy and I do hope all our members will be able to find a way to receive and access the information needed to book future garden visits.

**Lyn Haigh**

**228637**

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

## Geology

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The Geology Group is holding monthly meetings on Zoom featuring member's presentations and group discussion. A programme is in place for the next three months, following which we are hoping that restrictions and weather will permit a field trip.

The group is now under the direction of an interim voluntary committee with Jamie Russell and Earle Kessler as co-leaders. We thank Les Strong for all the hard work and enthusiasm he put into leading the group and look forward to him presenting to us again very soon.

**Jamie Russell**                      **261649**

**Earle Kessler**

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

## German

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Angela Green has stepped down as Group Leader and I have taken on the role. On behalf of all members of the Group, I would like to thank her for all she has done to make the Group a success.

This Group is a self-help group of half a dozen or so members. We concentrate on conversation. Some of us have lived in Germany and others are simply interested learners, so our standard varies a bit. Please contact us if you are interested in joining us. We meet fortnightly on Mondays at 11.15am, usually at a Member's home.

**Michael Boulton**                      **416416**

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

## History

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Until we are vaccinated and able to meet again safely in person with willing speakers, History meetings have been postponed but members are being informed of occasional items of historical interest on television or elsewhere.

When we do return to the Chantry, we will be studying many different aspects of History from different era and topics. We look forward to welcoming you then. First Wednesday of the month from 10.30am at the Coach Hall, The Chantry, Thornbury.

**Alison Makepeace**                      **415019**

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

## Indoor Bowls

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Under normal circumstances we meet in Thornbury Leisure Centre on Wednesdays, 12.00 till 2.00pm from October to March. The cost of the session is set by TLC and was £6 last time I paid. An informal group, we play teams according to how many turn up.

**Pam Benson**                      **419245**

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

## Investment Group 1

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The group has continued to meet every month throughout the year, having made an early start with a Zoom practice run, when Covid appeared. Meetings have been very well attended, and lively, with more mail going to and fro between meetings. There has been so much going on in the USA, with Brexit and Covid that the investment scene has been wide ranging and particularly interesting. Altogether a very good year, particularly as investment success in the year was excellent.

**Peter Taylor**                      **418974**

[investment1@thornburyu3a.org.uk](mailto:investment1@thornburyu3a.org.uk)

## Investment Club 2

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When I was elected as our Chairman just before the first lockdown, it was hard to imagine that we would not be sitting around our 'board room' style table in The Chantry for many months and it is still likely to be some time before we can meet again in person. However, the Club with 15 members and a diverse portfolio of shares still requires regular management. We were able to continue our monthly meetings through Zoom and we are grateful to Tu3a for providing the professional Zoom Licence.

We have 15 members and the majority has been able to join online and those who are unable to attend have been kept up to date with our various transactions. It has been a learning experience, sharing screens on Zoom and as Chairman a challenge trying to ensure everyone in the meeting has a chance to contribute. Our members vary in experience but everyone gets a say. Some decisions are made based on hard facts but hunches and common sense can work well, too. We have an internal fantasy competition amongst ourselves and a friendly fantasy competition against our friends in Investment Club 1. It's all very enjoyable and we learn as we go along.

Each month we have funds to invest as we each pay in anything from £30 to £100 which is transferred into units. We are effectively managing our own unit trust. The challenge in a chaotic falling market was to manage our portfolio of shares in a way to retain those companies we felt would bounce back and invest in those we felt would weather the storm and recover. The market has come back strongly and we have had a few real successes with some clever picks thanks to our members. With many different views to consider, we hold a base of 'blue chip' stocks but we also like some speculation. It's amazing how often you look at the financial pages when your stocks are rising as against when they are falling. It's not as much fun meeting on Zoom but at least we can keep our club moving forward.

**Graham Ford**

**07970 294341**

[investment2@thornburyu3a.org.uk](mailto:investment2@thornburyu3a.org.uk)

## Italian

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Our Italian Group meets at Gate Farmhouse to the same schedule. We are a very happy Group that has been full since its inception at the start of Tu3a. Please contact the Group Leader to determine if there are any vacancies.

As soon as restrictions are lifted, the Group will start meeting on the first and third Thursdays of the month at 2 pm at the Leader's home.

**Emma Buckoke**

**413318**

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

## Jazz Appreciation

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There have been no meetings since February. However, each month, I have circulated an email presentation with links to jazz performances on YouTube, and these will continue until we can have live meetings again.

If you do not receive these emails already, but wish to do so in future, please let me know and I will add you to the circulation list.

**Bob Gray**

**885290**

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

## Latin

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The Latin Group is continuing to meet on Zoom. During the current restrictions, the meetings take place every Friday afternoon from 2:00 to 3:00 pm. After the disruption of the first lockdown, we decided to change from the Cambridge Latin Course to Oxford Latin Book II, as a means of consolidating grammar topics. In addition to the text book, we also read extracts from the works of

various Latin authors, such as Caesar, Ovid and Catullus. It is likely that we will continue to meet on Zoom until the Covid 19 restrictions are lifted.

While this group is no longer suitable for beginners, new members who wish to revive previous knowledge of Latin are very welcome. For more information about the group, contact

**Lorna Minshall**                      **411685**                      [latin@thornburyu3a.org.uk](mailto:latin@thornburyu3a.org.uk)

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## Line Dancing

This Group has been disbanded and is unlikely to reform.

**Louise Ingsley**                      **415131**                      [linedancing@thornburyu3a.org.uk](mailto:linedancing@thornburyu3a.org.uk)

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## Lunch Group 2

No meetings have taken place since March, and we can only hope that the new vaccine will soon be available, so that life starts to return to more normal activities, and we can meet again in 2021. In the meantime, regular e-mails are being sent to members.

**Quentin & Gill Killey**                      **281372**                      [lunchclub2@thornburyu3a.org.uk](mailto:lunchclub2@thornburyu3a.org.uk)

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## Mah Jong - English

The Group will sadly not be meeting for the foreseeable future as u3a and government guidelines advise against any activities that involve shared equipment or where social distancing is not possible.

**Jane Climpson**                      **228672**                      [mahjong@thornburyu3a.org.uk](mailto:mahjong@thornburyu3a.org.uk)

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## Mah Jong – Western Game

As with all games that involve handling cards or tiles, we have been unable to meet during the pandemic. However, as soon as we are convinced that we can get together and play Mah Jong safely, the group will once again meet as before.

Playing the Western Game to the rules of Thompson and Maloney, we meet weekly on a Tuesday at 2pm at the United Reformed Church Hall, Thornbury. We are a friendly Group and there is always time to socialise between hands and during the tea break. There is space for about two more players and we are happy to teach beginners.

**Pat Pursord**                      **501438**                      [mailto:mahjong2@thornburyu3a.org.uk](mailto:mailto:mahjong2@thornburyu3a.org.uk)

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## Mixed Crafts

The Mixed Craft Group is an informal Group; there are no speakers or themed meetings. We use the Rockhampton Village Hall from 2:00pm–4:00pm on the second Wednesday of the month. You provide the chat, we provide the tea and biscuits. Just bring along your craft project and enjoy a relaxed afternoon. We are always willing to share our skills and will try to offer help and advice if needed.

**Anne Reed**                      **415849**                      [mixedcrafts@thornburyu3a.org.uk](mailto:mixedcrafts@thornburyu3a.org.uk)

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## Music

The Committee has reluctantly decided to cancel all meetings for the current term up to and including the June 2021 meeting. We are hoping to resume meetings in September 2021 subject to Covid / vaccines / church access / Tu3a and national guidelines.

**Jos Gregson / Phil Holland**    **411652 / 413897**                      [music@thornburyu3a.org.uk](mailto:music@thornburyu3a.org.uk)

## Opera Study

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Currently our meetings have been suspended but when we finally manage to meet again, we shall be looking for a new chairman and a new member to join the committee and be responsible for assisting with the ordering and showing of the opera DVDs. In the meantime, there may be the opportunity to watch operas on YouTube and join a discussion via Zoom afterwards – details will follow.

**Joan Flower**

**228584**

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

## Our Living Language

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If the origins, meanings, uses and abuses of our fascinating written and spoken tongue are of interest to you, then this is the group for you. We enjoy lectures, talks and discussions led by ourselves or outside speakers in a friendly, informal setting.

Later this year, I hope we can resume meetings at the Alveston Methodist Church Hall but, during the Covid restrictions, we are continuing to meet using Zoom. You can participate using an internet connection on any computing device. I circulate the web address to members each month and it also appears on the Events page of the Tu3a website. You can even join us on a normal phone line. Sessions are on the 4th Monday of the month at 2pm.

**Bob Dale**

**415345**

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

## Photography

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The Group usually meets at the Chantry on the second Wednesday of the month starting at 10.30am. During current Covid restrictions, short presentations will be given using Zoom on those days. Further details are available on the Web Site.

**Alan Jones**

**883912**

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

## Railway & Transport

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I hope that the Railway & Transport Group will be able to re-start when the Government restrictions have been lifted. Our usual meeting place is not available at the time of writing but I think the Alveston Methodist Church Hall is keen to re-open its doors to Tu3a Groups. There are no meeting programmes planned as yet but it will be possible to get speakers once the vaccination programme is complete.

**Dr George B Hargreaves**

**414243**

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

## Recorder 2 group

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I have sent members several pieces of new music which I have arranged so that they can practise on their own and be prepared for when we are able to meet again. Unfortunately, this still looks a long way off but I hope that we will keep in touch and keep playing.

**Kate Phillipson-Masters**

**411253**

[recorders2@thornburyu3a.org.uk](mailto:recorders2@thornburyu3a.org.uk)

## Sailing

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There's been no social sailing since March, and I don't expect any before the middle of 2021 at the earliest. I will review the situation when social sailing is permitted.

When permitted, the Sailing Group meets monthly from March to October at the Thornbury Sailing Club (TSC), Oldbury-on-Severn, where a number of TSC boat owners volunteer to take Tu3a members out for a sail on the river. These trips will take place during the week, usually in the morning, but dependent on tide times, and last about four hours, sometimes finishing in the Anchor Inn for a social

debrief. Twice a year we offer a day trip to Cardiff and back, but only if the weather is benign. Sailing is dependent on availability of boats and appropriate weather. A schedule for sailing will be issued on the Tu3a website. New members are welcome: no experience is necessary, just some enthusiasm for fresh air. Email or phone me for a chat.

**John Allen**

**415261**

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

## Science & Technology

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Science is a really broad subject stretching from theoretical physics, through biology and medicine, to Earth sciences and climate change. And then there is Technology: how the science is applied to everyday life. So here is something for everyone with an interest in science – you don't need to consider yourself an expert.

After a break for most of 2020, the group is now meeting on the last Friday of each month using Zoom. You can participate via almost any device connected to the internet or even via a phone line. The subject of the meeting and an invite, in the form of a website address, is sent out a few days before each meeting to all members of the group and is included in the Events page of the Tu3a website. As we are not limited by physical space, there is plenty of room for new members to join us. Later in the year, I hope we will be able to gather physically again but I will try to incorporate a Zoom link for those who still wish to participate from home.

**Bob Dale**

**415345**

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

## Scrabble 1

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Currently dormant, we normally meet at Thornbury Baptist Church on alternate Mondays.

**Janet Mills**

**430713**

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

## Scrabble 2

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We are still keeping in touch via email or phone. Everyone is keen to meet up and play scrabble again as soon as possible.

**Josie Bloxside**

**01179 692555**

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

## Shakespeare Studies

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The Group completed King John in January and studied the first part of Measure for Measure in February but the lockdown curtailed any further meetings. The Group has kept in constant touch with the Saturday Sonnet, when two favourite sonnets were enjoyed every week. This was followed by Shakespeare Saturday, when we shared a favourite speech.

The aim of the group is to foster a love of Shakespeare's works, life and times through his plays. Members are encouraged, but not expected, to introduce a favourite play for general discussion that presents an opportunity for a reading of relevant parts for contextual purposes. We meet on the third Wednesday of the month at 2.00pm in the Vestibule of the Methodist Church, High Street, Thornbury. No meetings in August and September. Expenses and refreshments are covered by a charge of £1 only per session. **New members welcome.**

**Alan Brown**

**884851**

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

## Short Slow Rambles

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These are leisurely morning walks of between 3 and 4 miles. We go over fields and stiles as well as

along tarmac paths. Our meeting place for each walk varies but is usually not too far away.

New Members are always welcome.

**Pat Poole**

**414611**

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

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### **Table Tennis 1:**

Like most other groups we abandoned playing back in March due to COVID. However, looking ahead, we are glad to be celebrating the 90th birthday of our former leader, David Mitchell, to whom I delivered a card which had been signed by all our members. David was both surprised and delighted. It underlined the camaraderie of our group, and David like everyone else cannot wait to get back and start playing again. On a positive note for 2021, let's look forward to getting our jabs and being free to get together and have a good thrash around the table.

**Graham Bancroft**

**07514 086277**

[tabletennis1@thornburyu3a.org.uk](mailto:tabletennis1@thornburyu3a.org.uk)

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### **Table Tennis 3**

This Group is currently dormant until further notice.

**Jay Cooper**

**414762**

[tabletennis3@thornburyu3a.org.uk](mailto:tabletennis3@thornburyu3a.org.uk)

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### **Table Tennis 4**

Group 4 is a relaxed though mildly competitive group that plays TT at an intermediate level. Generally, we play on two tables for two hours each Thursday from 3:00pm to 5:00pm at Thornbury Leisure Centre.

Inevitably, our activities have been severely interrupted by the pandemic. However, we have been able to play at various times during the year when permitted and we look forward to recommencing as soon as circumstances allow.

Our membership is currently fully subscribed but we sometimes – particularly during the summer – have opportunities for casual players and this may lead to full membership depending on our numbers.

**Ray Pioli**

**0117 3706403**

[tabletennis4@thornburyu3a.org.uk](mailto:tabletennis4@thornburyu3a.org.uk)

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### **Table Tennis 5**

The Group meets on Friday mornings from 10:00 - 12:00 at the Alveston Methodist Church Hall, which is currently closed and as yet has no plans to re-open. However, as we play doubles table tennis, we could not safely restart the group at present. To see if we have vacancies in the Group, please consult the Tu3a website or use contact below:

**Pat Light**

**412260**

[tabletennis5@thornburyu3a.org.uk](mailto:tabletennis5@thornburyu3a.org.uk)

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### **Tai Chi**

These meetings have ceased for the time being but details of tai chi classes online have been forwarded to members.

**Joan Flower**

**228584**

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

## Theatre Group

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We would like to be able to send you a comprehensive list of Theatre visits for the New Year, but our sum total is the possibility of Dial 'M' for Murder at the New Theatre, Cardiff on July 1<sup>st</sup>. This is the only theatre which has offered anything, apart from The Millennium, for which we have seats to see Matthew Bourne's Nutcracker in 2022! We will send out details when appropriate.

On a lighter note, we will keep all present members on our books for this year at no charge, unless you wish to be taken off the register.

**Pam Dawe**

**614843**

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

## Travel & Tourism

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The group would normally meet on the second Friday of each month, except during August, at 2pm in the Cossham Hall. With the demise of the Armstrong Hall complex the group is currently without a suitable venue for meetings. It is not possible during the Covid restrictions to be able to find and inspect the suitability of alternative places. In the meantime, members of the committee are exploring ways of presenting talks via Zoom as an interim solution. Details will be available on the web site in due course.

When meetings are finally able to re-start in 2021, the Group will require some fresh faces on the Committee. Several members have indicated that they wish to step down during 2021. These include the Chairman, the Vice Chairman and the Secretary, so PLEASE give serious thought to helping the Group prosper; contact the Secretary (tel: 01179 314787 or Email: [normaandtreavor@gmail.com](mailto:normaandtreavor@gmail.com)) if you can help. Alternatively, contact any existing Committee member. The retiring Committee members will be happy to provide advice and they intend to remain as members of the Group.

With the temporary closure of the Armstrong Hall, the Committee believes that to accommodate such a large group a suitable venue will only be found outside Thornbury. As current Covid-19 lockdown restrictions are severely hampering the search for a suitable venue, the Committee has decided to give our usual talks via Zoom. We hope to meet monthly via Zoom and a programme of talks is being prepared.

All payments have been made to Chauffeurhire for the City Break to Winchester and the holiday will go ahead in 2021. Brian and Suzanne Brown have indicated that this will be the last holiday they will organise for the Group. The Chester holiday was cancelled by Rover European Ltd. and all payments made were returned to the travellers. Terry Pashley is hoping to be able to run this holiday but it is highly unlikely to go ahead before 2022.

This year's overseas holiday was dealt a severe blow with the collapse of the tour operator, Shearings, that has entailed claims being made to the Bonded Coach Holidays Protection Scheme. The repayment process has been slow but the majority of travellers have received a refund.

**Alan Jones**

**883912**

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

## Walking Group

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With the onset of Covid-19, the Walking Group Committee made the decision to suspend our Walks Programme and to inform the membership accordingly. It was also concluded that production of our monthly newsletter should continue as far as possible, with the objective of maintaining the strong sense of community that exists within the group.

Obviously, the success of this initiative is very dependant not only upon the editor but also on contributions from our membership. It is good to see that many of them have risen to the occasion.

As a result, we have had a variety of submissions including memories of past walks or walking holidays, equipment reviews, various quizzes, a guide to butterflies and even a series of poems.

Members have submitted details of local walks for inclusion in the newsletter. These have certainly encouraged others to get out and enjoy the many walks that have starting from our own doorsteps!

**Adrian Jones**

**417378**

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

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## **Water Colour Painting**

Although I have not been in regular contact with the Monday afternoon watercolour group, I emailed members to say that Pam Cockwell, from the Methodist Hall, wanted to know if we wished to book the Hall. I believe it is too soon considering the ages in the group.

**Janice Jackson**

**418921**

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

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## **Whist**

My only communication with my Whist group is the occasional quiz and imparting any relevant news regarding members.

**Reg King**

**418962**

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

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## **Wine Group 1**

Since our August update on activities, the group has continued with virtual wine tastings via Zoom. In September, members led a tasting of Italian wines with a very entertaining tour of 'Italy from Top to Bottom'. Members were provided not only with wines in mini-bottles but also with food pairing suggestions making for a very convivial evening. This was followed in November with our pre-Christmas tasting which was of New Zealand wines given by a committee member and his wife who had visited a number of the vineyards earlier in the year. The wines introduced were accompanied with photographs and reminiscences from their visits and again food pairing advice was given and followed by most of us. The evening was an excellent conclusion to a somewhat difficult year.

Although virtual wine tastings can never fully substitute for the real physical get-togethers, they have nevertheless enabled the group to continue to enjoy a wide variety of wines and also to partake fully in the discussions that inevitably follow. Plans for our 2021 programme have been made and will undoubtedly be enjoyed via Zoom for some time to come before we are able to meet up again as a group. Roll on the vaccine!!

**Rex Sackett**

**416940**

[winegroup1@thornburyu3a.org.uk](mailto:winegroup1@thornburyu3a.org.uk)

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## **Wine Group 2**

We normally meet on the fourth Thursday of each month (except December) at St Mary's Church Hall commencing at 7.00pm. However, for most of this past year, we have been holding Zoom sessions on alternate months. Hopefully, as the pandemic comes under control, we will be able to revert to our usual meeting pattern. Our aims are to broaden our knowledge and appreciation of wines from around the world in a friendly, and sociable environment, encouraging member participation.

Occasional presentations are arranged with wine producers/merchants and normally we hold two outside wine related social events during the year. Currently our Membership is at full capacity and we have no waiting list.

**Peter Burney**

**417900**

[winegroup2@thornburyu3a.org.uk](mailto:winegroup2@thornburyu3a.org.uk)

### **Wine Group 3**

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Usually, we meet as a group to appreciate and learn about new wines in a friendly and informative atmosphere. We have talks from members guiding us through wines representative of particular geographical areas or with a particular theme. We try to visit a vineyard when the weather is good and take part in other wine-related activities.

Sadly, this year, activities have been restricted to online meetings but quizzes and tastings have been enjoyed by several members. We look forward to resuming full meetings, hopefully later in 2021, bi-monthly on the first Friday of the month from 7.30pm at St Mary's Church Hall, Thornbury.

**Alison Makepeace**

**415019**

[winegroup3@thornburyu3a.org.uk](mailto:winegroup3@thornburyu3a.org.uk)

### **Wine Group 4**

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Wine Group 4 has been keeping members engaged during lockdown with a number of wine-based quizzes and 'virtual' wine tastings, where 6¼ bottles of wine per household were acquired from a supplier, then sampled and discussed over a Zoom forum.

For 2021, we have now acquired our own 'sterilisable' bottles and will be continuing with more virtual events based on a range of decanted wines very soon.

**Colin Ballantyne**

**07082 838241**

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

**Steve Hughes, Deputy Leader**

## Thornbury u3a Groups

The following Table provides a Summary of all the current Groups within our Tu3a. It provides the name of the Group Leader and how to contact them and when these groups meet. For more details on the Groups activities and how to contact them by email, then please look on our website [thornburyu3a.org.uk](http://thornburyu3a.org.uk).

	<b>Group</b>	<b>Leader</b>	<b>Tel: (01454 -)</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Day/Time</b>
<b>1</b>	Open Talks	Alison Makepeace	415019	Various	
<b>2</b>	Open Visits	Sue James	885452	Various	
<b>3</b>	American Civil War	Mark Walker	411974	Bi-Monthly	4 <sup>th</sup> Tues 10am & 2pm
<b>4</b>	Archaeology	Jackie Carpenter	294561	Monthly	4 <sup>th</sup> Tues 2pm
<b>5</b>	Architecture	Helen Roberts	01453 845216	Monthly	1 <sup>st</sup> Tues 10.30am
<b>6</b>	Art Appreciation (Dormant)	Mike Farquhar (Interim)	413055	Monthly	3 <sup>rd</sup> Thurs 1:30pm
<b>7</b>	Art Monday Group	Sue Punton	776271	Weekly	Mon 9.30am
<b>8</b>	Art Thursday Group	Ann Jones	416799	Weekly	Thurs 9.15am
<b>9</b>	Watercolour Painting	Janice Jackson	418921	Weekly	Mon 2pm
<b>10</b>	Aspects of the 19 <sup>th</sup> Century	John Smith	412140	Monthly	1 <sup>st</sup> Mon 2pm
<b>11</b>	Astronomy	Peter Jackson	418050	Monthly	1 <sup>st</sup> Mon 10.30am
<b>12</b>	Bird Watching	Cilla Farquhar	413055	Monthly	2 <sup>nd</sup> Mon 9.30am
<b>13</b>	Book Group 1	Lesley Thomas	613508	Monthly	3 <sup>rd</sup> Fri am
<b>14</b>	Book Group 2	Barbara Day	852015	Monthly	1 <sup>st</sup> Mon 2pm
<b>15</b>	Bridge Group 1	Mike Farquhar	413055	Weekly	Tues 9.30am
<b>16</b>	Bridge Group 2	Linda Cooper	414762	Weekly	Tues 2pm
<b>17</b>	Bridge Group 3	Richard Harrop	416927	Weekly	Fri 2pm
<b>18</b>	Canasta	Val Curtis	850981	Fortnightly	2 <sup>nd</sup> & 4 <sup>th</sup> Tuesday 1.30pm
<b>19</b>	Card Making	Sue Kitson	418543	Monthly	1 <sup>st</sup> Mon, Tues & Thurs 2pm
<b>20</b>	Church Visits 1	Sandra Body	415250	Monthly	3 <sup>rd</sup> Tues all day
<b>21</b>	Church Visits 2	Janet McBride	416569	Monthly	2 <sup>nd</sup> Thurs all day
<b>22</b>	Cinema	Pam Dawe	614843	Fortnightly	1 <sup>st</sup> & 3 <sup>rd</sup> Fri 1:30pm
<b>23</b>	Classical Studies	Rosie Bailey / Ann Lewis	419977 / 415675	Monthly	2 <sup>nd</sup> Weds 10:30am
<b>24</b>	Computer Club	Brian Brown & Andy Pearson	617156 / 416321	Monthly	
<b>25</b>	Concerts	Phil Holland	413897	Various	
<b>26</b>	Country Dancing	Iain Gray	414952	Fortnightly	Tues Fortnightly 2pm

27	Creative Writing	Doug Easthope	07794 705656	Monthly	Last Fri 10am
28	Cribbage	Pam Pass	600772	Fortnightly	2 <sup>nd</sup> & 4 <sup>th</sup> Wed 2pm
29	Cycling (Short)	Don Grundell	412896	Fortnightly	1 <sup>st</sup> & 3 <sup>rd</sup> Tues 2pm
30	Cycling (Long)	Don Grundell	412896	Fortnightly	2 <sup>nd</sup> & 4 <sup>th</sup> Thurs 9:30am
31	Discussions	Bob Dale	415345	Monthly	2 <sup>nd</sup> Tues 2pm
32	DIY	Alan Pinder	416778	Monthly	3 <sup>rd</sup> Thurs 2.30pm
33	Family History	Frances Houghton	417048	Monthly	3 <sup>rd</sup> Fri 10.30am
34	French Intermediate	Margaret Rowley	413217	Fortnightly	1 <sup>st</sup> & 3 <sup>rd</sup> Fri 11am
35	French Book Group	Sue Kessler	414917	Variable	Mon 2pm
36	French WD40 Group	Alan Payne	418749	Fortnightly	1 <sup>st</sup> & 3 <sup>rd</sup> Tues 10am
37	Garden Visits	Lyn Haigh	228637	Mar - Sept	Various
38	Gentle Exercise	Pat Wells Sally Bradford	850379 419651	Weekly	Thurs 10am
39	Geology	Jamie Russell	261649	Monthly	4 <sup>th</sup> Wed 10am
40	German Self Help	Michael Boulton	416416	Fortnightly	Mon 11am
41	History	Alison Makepeace	415019	Monthly	Weds 10.30am
42	Indoor Bowls	Pam Benson	419245	Weekly	Weds 11.45am
43	Investment Club 1	Peter Taylor	418974	Monthly	2 <sup>nd</sup> Weds 10am
44	Investment Club 2	Graham Ford Richard Norton	613164 416782	Monthly	2 <sup>nd</sup> Tues 2pm
45	Italian	Emma Buckoke	413318	Fortnightly	1 <sup>st</sup> & 3 <sup>rd</sup> Thurs 2pm
46	Jazz Appreciation	Bob Gray	885290	Monthly	3 <sup>rd</sup> Mon 2.30pm
47	Latin	Lorna Minshall	411685	Fortnightly	1 <sup>st</sup> & 3 <sup>rd</sup> Fri 2pm
48	Lunch Club 1	Brian Baskerville	416389	Monthly	1 <sup>st</sup> Weds
49	Lunch Club 2	Gill & Quentin Killey	281372	Monthly	2 <sup>nd</sup> Weds
50	Lunch Club 3	Gunter Schurrer	07833 634280	Monthly	Tues Monthly
51	Mah Jong - Social	Jane Climpson	228672	Fortnightly	2 <sup>nd</sup> & 4 <sup>th</sup> Mon 2.15pm
52	Mah Jong - Western	Pat Purssord	202216	Weekly	Tues 2pm
53	Mixed Craft	Anne Reed	415849	Monthly	2 <sup>nd</sup> Wed 2pm
54	Music	Jos Gregson	411652	Monthly	2 <sup>nd</sup> Fri 10.30am
55	Music Visitor	Elizabeth Smith	418695	Monthly	2 <sup>nd</sup> Fri 10.30am
56	Opera Studies	Joan Flower	228584	Monthly	4 <sup>th</sup> Tues 6.45pm
57	Our Living Language	Bob Dale	415345	Monthly	4 <sup>th</sup> Mon 2pm
58	Photographic	Alan Jones	883912	Monthly	2 <sup>nd</sup> Weds 10.30am

59	Play Reading	Liz Gazzard	614148	Monthly	2 <sup>nd</sup> Mon 2pm
60	Poetry Appreciation	Meg Adnams (Interim)	416080	Monthly	3 <sup>rd</sup> Mon 2pm
61	Practical Gardening Forum	Nick Roach	618411	Monthly	3 <sup>rd</sup> Thurs 2pm
62	Railway & Transport	George Hargreaves	414243	Monthly	Last Fri 7.30pm
63	Recorders 1	Mandy Clapp	414749	Weekly	Mon 9.45am
64	Recorders 2	Kate Phillipson- Masters	411253	Weekly	Mon 10.15am
65	Sailing	John Allen	415261	Various	Various
66	Science & Technology	Bob Dale	415345	Bi-monthly	Last Fri 10.30
67	Scottish Country Dancing	Margaret Pinder	416778	Fortnightly	Tue 2:30pm
68	Scrabble 1	Janet Mills	430713	Fortnightly	1 <sup>st</sup> & 3 <sup>rd</sup> Mon 2pm
69	Scrabble 2	Josie Bloxsidge	01179 692555	Fortnightly	1 <sup>st</sup> & 3 <sup>rd</sup> Wed 2pm
70	Shakespeare Studies	Alan Brown	884851	Monthly	3 <sup>rd</sup> Wed 2pm
71	Table Tennis 1	Graham Bancroft	07514 086277	Weekly	Wed 1.30pm
72	Table Tennis 2	Joan Flower	228584	Weekly	Wed 1:45pm
73	Table Tennis 3	Jay Cooper	414762	Weekly	Mon 9am
74	Table Tennis 4	Ray Pioli	0117 3706403	Weekly	Thurs 3pm
75	Table Tennis 5	Pat Light	412260	Weekly	Fri 10am
76	Tai Chi	Joan Flower	228584	Weekly	Thurs 11.15
77	Theatre Group	Pam Dawe	614843	Various	Various
78	Travel & Tourism	Alan Jones	883912	Monthly	2 <sup>nd</sup> Fri 2pm
79	Walking Group Short Slow Strolls	Pat Poole	414611	Monthly	Various
80	Walking Group	Adrian Jones	417378	Fortnightly	1 <sup>st</sup> , 3 <sup>rd</sup> & 5 <sup>th</sup> Thurs
81	Whist	Reg King	418962	Fortnightly	1 <sup>st</sup> & 3 <sup>rd</sup> Wed 2pm
82	Wine Group 1	Rex Sackett	416940	Bi-Monthly	3 <sup>rd</sup> Fri 6.30pm
83	Wine Group 2	Peter Burney	417900	Monthly	4 <sup>th</sup> Thurs 7pm
84	Wine Group 3	Alison Makepeace	415019	Bi-Monthly	1 <sup>st</sup> Fri 7.30pm
85	Wine Group 4	Colin Ballantyne	07802 838241	Bi-Monthly	Last Friday 7.30pm