

MEMBERS' NEWS UPDATE NOVEMBER 2023



CHAIR'S MESSAGE

Colleagues,

With 'dark nights' now with us, it means that we are fast approaching the festive season so it's time to bring the Xmas gear down from the loft and start sorting out those lights again! For me, though, it still seems early in November to be deciding what I want to eat in December – no doubt, it will be Turkey and Pud again! – have you booked yours yet with Maggie at the Castle Tavern, 8th December?

This month at Thorngate, with the AGM moved on to April 2024, we used the opportunity to have a 'Member Forum'. This was an opportunity for members to share their views with us on what Gosport U3a means to them and how they'd like to see it move on to bring benefit and enjoyment to all and help encourage more like-minded friends to join us. To help frame the discussions we encouraged contributions on these questions:

- **Are you happy with the way we are constructed and run our 'business'?**
- **Are you happy with our financial management in a climate where costs are constantly rising?**
- **Are there any beneficial changes that you'd like to see, such as special events and promotions?**
- **Are there any groups that you'd like to see added to our list?**
- **How do you rate the venues that we use – are there better options?**
- **We need to raise membership numbers – do you have suggestions on how to encourage new members? Are we 'welcoming' enough? – Are you aware that there is no obligatory age group for membership of U3a – Do you think we 'over-target' the full time retired and why are there so few men?**
- **Speaker meetings at Thorngate – right place. Right time. Right formula. Right topics/speakers?**
- **Our AGM will take place next April. Not all current committee members will be available or eligible to continue, so are you able and interested in joining the management team?**

This led to a very useful session with very positive views put forward so much so that the 'back up' talk I had prepared ahead has been reserved for another day. If you weren't there, you may like to join in and put your ideas and comments into an email that we can discuss at our next committee meeting. I must share one 'nugget' of info that I gleaned from a recent meeting of U3a Chairs. U3a does not, contrary to common thinking, have a minimum age limit – so if you have younger members of the family who have time on their hands, maybe by working part time or variable hours and would like to join us – bring them along. One U3a has a 27year old Treasurer! So U3a is not just for wrinklies.

Best wishes,
George Cantrill

MEMBERSHIP

We are always keen to encourage new members to join Gosportu3a and our Information Leaflets are an ideal way to do this. If you know of anyone who may be interested in joining us, it would be very helpful if you were to pass on these leaflets to them. The leaflets are always available at the General Meetings for anyone to collect and I can also be contacted through the website and am happy to answer any membership queries or provide information to potential members.

Linda Clachan, Membership Secretary

WELFARE OFFICER

Hello everyone, I do hope that you are all well. The next new members coffee morning will be held on **Monday, 6th November** at **10:30am** in the Discovery Centre. I look forward to meeting you.

Sheena Bone, Welfare Officer

CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL

The Craft Group members have continued to make Christmas decorations for the tree and we have lots of contributions from other Groups. Despite contacting Alverstoke Parish Office in June this year and being assured that we would have a tree, when I rang them 2 weeks ago, I was told we would have to await an invitation which has not been received. Judy Foster has a large artificial tree which we can hopefully put up in Thorngate Hall to advertise all the u3a groups.

Maggie Gavin, Secretary

ARCHAEOLOGY GROUP

Five members of the archaeology group visited the Gosport Museum to listen to a talk given by artist Mary Branson, who has created a new exhibition "Unearthing" which explores the nature of human existence through the archaeological traces left by ancient man. Admission to the gallery is free.

Julie Bennetts, Group Leader

NEW BOARD GAMES GROUP

In January there will be two u3a Board Game groups starting at the Gosport Museum Cafe. One will be in the afternoon from 1:45pm to 3:45pm on the 1st Tuesday each month. The other will be in the evening, from 6:45pm to 8:45pm on the 3rd Friday each month. There will be games available for you to play (Scrabble, Upwords, cards etc.) or, if you prefer, you can bring along your own games. A Tuesday member will be bringing Halma, so you may like to learn some new games. The main idea is to have fun, so all games should be friendly, with only a mild degree of competitiveness. Information about the group can be found on the Gosport u3a Website under Groups. Please contact me using the bluebird link if you are interested in joining either group, as numbers are restricted. *Val Havard, Group Leader*

DANCE GROUP



We had a fun time with a Halloween theme recently. Well done to Lyn Fairchild who won first prize for fancy dress. Tinou and Ian also looked good as we danced the Monster Mash. Four new members have joined our group and our next meeting will be on 28 November.

Pat Luke, Group Leader

FINE DINING GROUP

The Fine Dining Group met again at the Avenue141 restaurant after a long summer break and enjoyed another delicious lunch, beautifully presented by the students at Fareham College. We welcomed several new members to the group and will be dining again at **Avenue141 on Thursday, 16 November**. Our second venue at the **Lysses Hotel** will be on **Wednesday, 8 November 2023**. All the menus can be viewed on the Gosportu3a website and new members are very welcome to join us each month. If interested, please contact Jan or Judy via the bluebird link or e-mail u3afinedine@gmail.com for more information. *Jan Damerell, Group Leader*

FOLK DANCE GROUP

This new Group has now met twice and the interest is sufficient to make the Group viable. We will be meeting next on the 6 November at Gosport Methodist Church, Stokes Road, 10.15am to 11.45am and again on the 4 December. We usually take a break partway through for a tea or coffee. No previous experience is necessary nor do you need to come with a partner. It's just gentle exercise; if you can walk you can do it! Please note that our meetings for next year will be on the **second Monday** of each month.

Barrie Bullimore, Group Leader

HISTORY GROUP

We had a great session this month discussing Revolutions, Civil Wars and Protests. Input by members included: The Boston Tea Party, The Invasion of Singapore and The Rebecca Riots, along with other items which led to lots of discussion. I think we all learnt something new. We have welcomed a number of new participants over the last few months and are always ready to welcome more. We are a sociable group and cover many subjects in history. If you feel you would like to join us, please contact me, Linda Dorsett, on 07763441602 or email me on lindadorsett6@gmail.com **Linda Dorsett, Group Leader**

KNITTING GROUP

The Knitting Group have been busy this month. The picture shows a selection of items knitted by the group for the premature baby unit at QA Hospital. The Group meets on the 1st Monday of each month from 2pm-4pm at the Gosport Museum. All are welcome to join our group and help and advice is available if needed. For more information about the group, please visit our web page on the Gosportu3a Website.

Jan Almond, Group Leader



PICKLEBALL GROUP



Pickleball the game with a funny name.

If you become a member of the Gosport U3A Pickleball Group, you can become a member of Pickleball England and have access to national pickleball events and training material. The Pickleball group meets each Monday, 2pm to 3pm, at the Gosport Leisure Centre. If you are interested in playing, please email me via the Gosportu3a website. The Pickleball Group are recycling broken whiffle balls into Xmas tree decorations for the tree festival. Thankfully we have not broken many!

Jane Mcardle, Group Leader

UKULELE GROUP

The Ukulele group met as usual this month at HEDCA and we had a really enjoyable session. Several new members have joined us recently and if you would like to come along and join in the fun too, please do. You don't need to have played before but a love of music helps. If you decide to join us on a regular basis, you would need your own ukulele, which aren't expensive and a music stand. If you would like to join the group, please do not hesitate to contact Richard or Linda. More information about the group can be found on the Gosportu3a website, along with contact details and an e-mail link that you can use. ***Richard Glaysher, Group Leader***

WALKING FOR SOFTIES GROUP

The Walking Group enjoying their walk (between the showers) by the Cackle Pond in Gosport recently.

What a beautiful pleasant scene, the lake was calm and we finished our walk with a coffee break at the Gosport Museum.

Natalie Surrage, Group Leader



WORLD VEGETARIAN FOOD GROUP

The World Vegetarian Food group meets every 3rd Tuesday from 6.30pm. We research recipes, cook them at home and then bring them along to taste and share. October was researching the letter 'U'. We had bread from Ukraine, Cocadas (coconut sweets) from Uzbekistan, Strudel (allotment apples) from the UK and a Pinto bean and potato dish from Uganda. If you enjoy cooking, sharing and chatting, do join us and if you would like more information about the group, please contact Neena on nvadra@yahoo.com.

Neena Edwards, Group Leader



NON - GOSPORTU3A LOCAL NEWS

Gosport Museum

Terry Hunter has suggested that Gosportu3a members might like to visit the free "Unearthing" exhibition at Gosport Museum and Art Gallery. It includes a display of local artefacts from the Stone Age to Roman times. 8 smoke fired sound vases (the wind, the rain, footprints in the snow etc) are mounted on plinths. There is also a frieze representing the sun, with replica 'clay' flints, made by local volunteers including a few of our Gosportu3a members. A light show highlighting the changing light through 24 hours completes the exhibition.

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THE RITZ CINEMA @ ST. VINCENT

Gosport's volunteer run community cinema with Free Parking
(Tickets on the door - £5 for adults, £3 for children & students)

Thursday Nov 16th 7pm at St. Vincent College

BLACK NARCISSUS (1947) introduced with a talk exploring the style of Powell & Pressburger's films & their place in British Cinema History.

Thursday Nov 30th 7pm at St. Vincent College

THE FABLEMANS (2022) a semi-autobiographical story by Steven Spielberg, loosely based on his adolescence & first years as a filmmaker.

Thursday Dec 14th 7.30pm at St. Vincent College

LAST CHRISTMAS (2019) inspired by the music of George Michael & Wham!
Non-alcoholic mulled wine & mince pies provided.

For more information or to book online:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/o/the-ritz-st-vincent-27969121893>

2022-23 COMMITTEE ROLES AND CONTACTS

SOME COMMITTEE ROLES AND CONTACTS HAVE CHANGED SINCE THE MEMBER BROCHURE

GOSPORTU3A MEMBERS – PLEASE NOTE BELOW

DUE TO ONGOING ISSUES WITH ONE.COM AND THE DOMAIN ADDRESS. THE COMMITTEE'S CONTACT ADDRESS [@gosportu3a.org.uk](mailto:gosportu3a.org.uk) WILL BE OUT OF ACTION FOR THE NEXT 2 MONTHS. TEMPORARY E-MAIL ADDRESSES HAVE BEEN SET UP BELOW AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS CAN STILL BE CONTACTED USING THE 'CONTACT PAGE' ON THE GOSPORTU3A WEBSITE AND VIA 'U3A OFFICERS' ON BEACON UNTIL THE DOMAIN ADDRESS IS RE-INSTATED.

Chairman	George Cantrill	georgecantrill@outlook.com (temp)	01329 238429
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Group Coordinator	Barrie Bullimore	bkbullimore@gmail.com (temp)	07470 203830
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Website Administrator	Jennifer Bellamy	no temporary address available	07765 500053
Speakers' Secretary	George Cantrill	georgecantrill@outlook.com (temp)	01329 238429

Committee members and other members with a gosportu3a.org.uk email address for their role will usually check their emails at least once a week. As part of their role many committee members check their emails more frequently. If members need an urgent reply or do not receive a response to emails, they should ring at a reasonable time or contact another committee member.