

## MEMBERS' NEWS UPDATE SEPTEMBER 2023

### **CHAIR'S MESSAGE**

Fellow members,

I trust that you are all feeling refreshed after the summer break and ready to return to the fun and learning – plus the camaraderie - that membership of U3a brings. Our 'having fun' got a really good kick-start with the picnic organized, so ably by Maggie Gavin and her team of helpers. Thanks are due to all involved for a superb afternoon.

Our recent committee meeting proved to be a lively one with so many plans under way for the coming season. We'll be kicking it off with participation in the Alverstoke Michaelmas Fayre on September 30 when we will be bringing visitors' attention to what we do and, in the process, hope that they would like to join us. Sadly, despite a pleasing trickle of new members in the past few months, our numbers still haven't reached pre-Covid levels and without a good increase our finances remain 'under strain'. So, we do need your help. Please tell your friends about U3a and bring them along for a 'taster'. Plus, if there are activities that you'd like us to encourage but we don't yet cover, tell us! Group Coordinator, Barrie, is starting up a new Folk Dancing group on September 4th and another 'likely' is a 'HOW TO' Group where participants will share their knowledge on phones, tablets and laptops with those of us who struggle to come to terms with what others find so easy – and useful!

We've already informed you that our AGM has been moved back to next April, but the November 1<sup>st</sup> slot at Thorngate was already earmarked for a 'Member Forum'. We intend this to be 'your meeting' with a good member-wide debate with the committee to help to shape our organization – so please help by providing us with a few items of 'agenda' that you'd like us to talk about.

Something else that we have to respond to is "Anno Domini" I am very fortunate to be leading a team made up of really knowledgeable and dedicated volunteers with expertise in their respective disciplines. However, we all keep getting birthdays and we all really do need to have reserves ready to fill in when any one of us has to step back for a while. Could you volunteer to become a 'shadow' and learn what's to be done? To borrow that old war-time phrase – Your U3a Needs You! See you soon, I hope.

*George Cantrill*

### **WELFARE OFFICER**

I hope that you have all enjoyed yourselves over the summer, and that you continue to do so over the bank holiday weekend. The next new members coffee morning will be at the Discovery Centre on Monday 4th September at 10:30 am, which I will be hosting along with Linda Dorsett. Stay fit and well

*Sheena Bone, Welfare Officer*

## **A PICNIC IN THE PARK**

Thank you to all the members who supported this event and also to those who helped set up the tables and chairs. We hope to make it a bigger and better event next year.

*Maggie Gavin*



## **CRAFT GROUP**

The Craft group are looking forward to meeting up again in September to make decorations for the Christmas Tree Festival.

*Maggie Gavin, Group Leader*

## **EXPLORING ART GROUP**

The Exploring Art group recently visited The Portsmouth Museum and Art Gallery and were able to access the Fine Arts Exhibition, although small there are some interesting objects including a fire screen which belonged to Virginia Woolfe. The visit was rounded off by excellent tea and cakes.

*Maggie Gavin, Group Leader*

## **XMAS LUNCH**

The Xmas Lunch Booking at The Castle Tavern on 8 December 2023 is restricted to 60 places and it would be appreciated if members could let me know if they wish to attend.

*Maggie Gavin*

## **DAY TRIPS GROUP**

Some members may be aware that National Express are no longer running day trips, Angela's Coaches have picked up this trade and we look forward to being able to book day trips next Spring.

*Maggie Gavin, Group Leader*

## **NEW GROUP**

For anyone looking for something a little bit different – this could be just for you!

John Taylor is looking for Gosportu3a members who would be interested in forming a Morse Group to learn and communicate in Morse. If you are interested and would like to find out more about this group, please contact John at [john.taylor177@ntlworld.com](mailto:john.taylor177@ntlworld.com)

## **FINE DINING GROUP**

The group met this month at The Bun Penny at Lee-on-Solent on Thursday, 17 August 2023 and despite a series of unfortunate events which started with one of our members being taken to the War Memorial Hospital for treatment after falling on the way in, then when a tray of drinks went flying across the floor, we were left wondering what other disaster might be awaiting us especially when the last two group members hadn't arrived! Luckily, all was well and their late arrival was due to transport problems and nothing disastrous, so we all heaved a sigh of relief and were able to thoroughly enjoy a delightful lunch with very pleasant company. If you haven't tried The Bun Penny, I would highly recommend it, all the food was delicious with a wonderful choice of menu. Our new venue in September (whilst Avenue141 is being refurbished) is at The Lysses Hotel in Fareham on Thursday, 21 September 2023. The menu looks excellent and can be viewed on our Gosportu3a web page which is updated regularly and all information including lunch dates and venues, can be found there. If interested in joining the group, please contact Jan on [u3afinedine@gmail.com](mailto:u3afinedine@gmail.com) or via the webpage link.

*Jan Damerell, Group Leader*

## **EXPLORING WORLD FAITHS GROUP**

A small group of us had a wonderful day in the IoW visiting Quarr Abbey, home to a small number of Benedictine monks and quite a few pigs. The beautiful, peaceful setting of the Abbey also hosts a farm shop, book shop, displays about the Abbey and its current occupants and, very importantly, a good tea room!

The group meets again on Tuesday, 5 September, when we will continue looking at the faiths of Ancient Civilisations, this time at Shinto, which continues to be practised in Japan.

If you would like to join us, please contact Jennifer via the Bluebird icon on the website.

*Jennifer Bellamy, Group Leader*

## PICKLEBALL GROUP



Photo (above left) Jacqui receiving her runner up medal with her pickleball tournament partner Daryl.

Photo (above right) Jacqui with other local U3A players. Vic Weeks, Nigel Wittingham, Lynn Irwin and Jane McArdle. (Missing from the photo is Lynn Fairchild who partnered Nigel)

Well done to all members of our local U3A who took part in the first local Pickleball Tournament held at the Alverstoke Lawn Tennis & Badminton Club. The tournament had 46 entrants of all ages from London, Worthing, Basingstoke and further afield. Our U3A players did well at all stages of the tournament, especially Jacqui Thompson who made the finals but sadly lost after a hard-fought final. Another winner was Vic who won the main raffle prize of a fantastic Diadem Carbon Paddle. We expect great play from Vic now!

***Jane McArdle, Group Leader***

## CRYPTIC CROSSWORDS GROUP

This started as a beginners' group, but as we have now completed the course and had some practice, we are now improvers. So, if you would like to join us, we can take new members. Starting in September, as well as continuing to solve crosswords we are going to try our hand at setting a cryptic crossword, using all the techniques we have learned.

We are still working at a fairly slow pace, so the group is not suitable for experienced cryptic crossword solvers, but feel free to come and try it out. If you would like to do so, please contact Jennifer via the Bluebird icon on the website. We restart on Monday, 4 September.

***Jennifer Bellamy, Group Leader***

## WALKING FOR SOFTIES GROUP



Dolly's Tea Room

Our walking group has been running successfully for a number of years. We meet weekly at Gosport bus station for a 30 to 45 minute walk around Gosport or partly by bus. At the end of each walk, we look forward to our refreshments. Our group is now getting quite big, for safety reasons we are not taking any new comers for the time being.

**Natalie Surrage, Group Leader**

## QUIZ GROUP

We meet again after our summer break at The Carisbrook Arms pub, PO13 0QY on Tuesday, 12 September at 7pm with Phil as our Quizmaster. Our next Quiz Night will be on the 10 October when George will be our Quizmaster and on Tuesday, 14 November we have our Social & Prize Giving Evening when the 2023 winner will receive the trophy. Please join us, or call Jean on 02392 34230 or e-mail Tricia via the Blue Bird on our webpage. <https://u3asites.org.uk/gosport/page/55583>

**WANTED!**

Three Quizzers to join the u3a teams for the Elson Community Library & Hub **Networking** Quiz Night on Saturday September 16<sup>th</sup> 2023 at 6:30pm.

Gosport u3a are entering two teams in Elson Library's Quiz Night for Volunteer Groups. It's free to enter. Bring your own food and drink (alcohol allowed). All money raised from the raffle will be split between the winning teams for their organisations.

If you would like to join us, please email Tricia [triciatullibody@gmail.com](mailto:triciatullibody@gmail.com) or phone Jean 02392 342301

# NON - GOSPORTU3A - LOCAL NEWS

## (Or things you may be interested in)

A reminder to Gosportu3a members about a free listening service that is available in Gosport called "Centrepeace". Peter Halsey (Senior Trustee) has sent the following update about their recent move:

"After nine years plus in the High Street we have now moved into the residential area of Elson (near the library) and will be pleased to help U3A members with any issues"

For enquiries to our charity please email:

[info@centrepeace.co.uk](mailto:info@centrepeace.co.uk) or telephone (07756) 945660

[www.safergosport.co.uk/centrepeace-hub-gosport](http://www.safergosport.co.uk/centrepeace-hub-gosport)

### 2022-23 COMMITTEE ROLES AND CONTACTS

**SOME COMMITTEE ROLES AND CONTACTS HAVE CHANGED SINCE THE MEMBER BROCHURE**

Chairman	George Cantrill	<a href="mailto:chair@gosportu3a.org.uk">chair@gosportu3a.org.uk</a>	01329 238429
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Speakers' Secretary	George Cantrill	<a href="mailto:speakers@gosportu3a.org.uk">speakers@gosportu3a.org.uk</a>	01329 238429

*Committee members and other members with a [gosportu3a.org.uk](http://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 get a response to emails, they should ring at a reasonable time or contact another committee member.*