

MEMBERS' NEWS UPDATE OCTOBER 2023



CHAIR'S MESSAGE

Fellow members,

I must begin this with a big thank-you to all those who helped spread the word on Gosport U3a at the Alverstoke Michaelmas Fayre last weekend. If you were there you would have seen the Gosport U3a stand with members of the committee ready to promote the pleasures and benefits of membership to a steady stream of very interested visitors. Particular thanks to Judith for lending us her driveway, kitchen kettle and the stream of refreshments to the ever-loyal team of helpers. The lovely sunshine and the bon-homie that ran through the whole event made it a very special day. Thank you all.

Well, it's now the end of the summer with holidays mostly behind us, so many of you, like me, will be switching over to '*Autumn/Winter*' mode with questions like "Shall I put the heating back on?" or "is it time to pull the summer bedding plants up when they've still got flowers left?" We're also thinking of how we spend our days now that it's 'cover up time' and the suntan lotion isn't needed so much. U3a provides many answers to these dilemmas as we return in earnest to our interest groups and joint activities.

Next month's big Thorngate event would have been our AGM when we look both backwards and forwards, but this has now been moved forward to April to bring us back into line with the rest of U3a. However, you may have noticed that the political parties are currently going through the 'conference season' where they look at what they are and where they'd like to go – so we at Gosport U3a are planning to do something similar.

How long is it since you were asked "Are you happy with what we have on offer?" "What changes, however small – would make it better?" "What about timing, venues, support for our organization". Next month's Thorngate Hall slot is going to be YOUR event. Maggie and her helpers are preparing 'nibbles and a glass of something' whilst we have a good look at what we do – and you can have your 'two-pennyworth'. Please give thought to constructive ideas that can be talked openly about with your fellow members. If you'd prefer to put these ideas in a note ahead for the agenda – you have my address and those of other committee members in this Update. We'd be happy to hear from you. See you next month, **George Cantrill**

Thorngate Hall

When did we last have to ask for more seats to be put out at our Thorngate Hall meetings? This happened at our October meeting which attracted so many returning post-holiday members – plus a few 'on recce' to perhaps become members. It may of course have had something to do with the return of a brilliant speaker, Jeremy Prescott, who earlier this year gave us a talk on War Graves but surpassed even that one with his detailed and enthralling story of the Flanders Poppy and how it became the international symbol of remembrance of lives lost in the First World War and subsequent conflicts. This was a fascinating story and so well told – without a microphone too. I have booked Jeremy to come back again in September 2024 with a new talk and he tells me that the charity collection for Combat Stress raised the magnificent sum of £145 for which he is deeply grateful.

George Cantrill

WELL-DONE, QUIZ 'TEAM 2'



I am very pleased to tell you that our u3a Team Two came first in the Elson Library & Hub Networking Quiz & won £150 for Gosportu3a.

The team members were:

*Val Havard
Chris Horscroft
Lynn Irvine
Jean Plummer
Jackie Watson
Mike Watson*

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

CLIMATE CHANGE GROUP

We are an enthusiastic group of members who participate in worldly discussions relating to climate change. During the year, we have invited speakers from Portsmouth Water and Gosport Borough Council. **Pauline Potter, Group Leader**

CRAFT GROUP



The Craft Group has been busy this month making Christmas Fairies for the Tree Festival in December. Picture shows just a few of the many fairies the group made this month

Maggie Gavin, Group Leader

CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL

Please can we have contributions from other groups no later than early/mid-November so we can assess if we have enough to dress the tree. If possible, please bring them to the 1 November General Meeting.

Maggie Gavin

FINE DINING GROUP

With the **Avenue141** closed for refurbishment in September, **The Lysses Hotel** was our alternative venue and we were able to meet in the lounge for drinks and the opportunity to talk and get to know the new members who were joining us. The lunch was delicious and the service excellent and we thoroughly enjoyed the change of venue, so much so that we now have a regular booking there each month. The group will have the option of attending both Avenue141 on the **3rd Thursday** of the month and The Lysses Hotel on the **2nd Wednesday** of each month. Our next lunch date will be on the **Wednesday, 11 October 2023** if anyone would like to join us. A 2-course meal will cost £22.50 and 3 courses will be £26.00 with complimentary tea/coffee and petit fours to follow. If interested, please contact Jan or Judy via the bluebird link or e-mail u3afinedine@gmail.com. **Jan Damerell, Group Leader**

PLAY READING GROUP

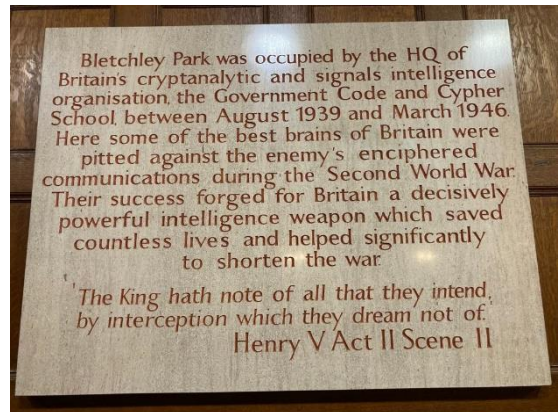
Just to let you know that the Play Reading group are meeting on the 3rd Thursday in October which is on 19th. All the group members, and especially myself, thoroughly enjoy our meetings and if you are interested in joining our group, I am sure you will enjoy it as much as we do. Please call me on 02393 110 709 for more information.

Colleen Wright, Group Leader

DAY TRIPS GROUP

The Day Trip Group had a great day out at Bletchley last weekend. There were 11 members from u3a Gosport on the coach and we were fortunate that there was also a 40's Re-enactment group at the park; they were dressed in period clothes complete with seamed stockings and suits with a nipped in waist, which added to the atmosphere. The Park has become more organized, in the last 10 years and now offers a first-hand experience of what life was like at Bletchley during the war years. We have The Watercress Line coach trip on 29 September and are looking forward to the trip in December to see the Festival of Lights at Longleat.

Maggie Gavin, Group Leader



PAINTING GROUP



Our September challenge was to paint *Autumn Foliage* using watercolours. In October our theme will be "*Something Scary for Halloween!*"

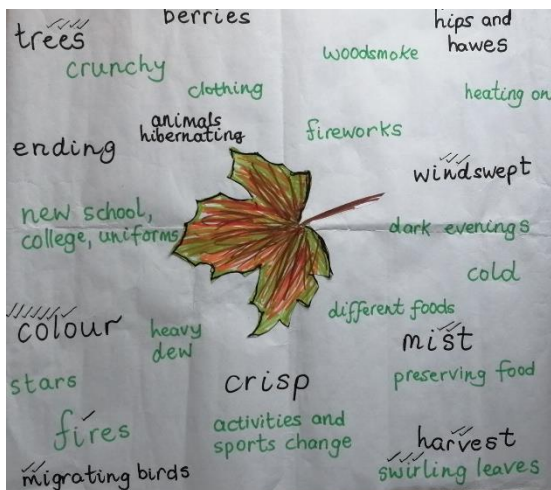
Roger Pike, Group Leader

HISTORY GROUP

The group is proving very popular with over 40 members currently. The group met on Monday 25th September and there was no set topic. This week was called 'A mixed bag' where members could bring along anything that they were interested in from history and wanted to share with the group. 12 members brought items along which was not only interesting but led to a lot of discussion. At the next session we are looking into Revolutions, Civil wars and Protests. New members are always very welcome. Please contact me, Linda Dorsett, on 07763441602 or email me on lindadorsett6@gmail.com **Linda Dorsett, Group Leader**

POETRY GROUP

The Poetry Group met again in September to explore the appropriate subject of Autumn. Everyone brought their favourite poem to read and to add an extra dimension, we compiled an Autumn Word-sheet, where we named the words and phrases suggested to us by the term and searched for them in the poems we had brought.



During the summer we ranged from studying the history of Poet Laureates (the Coronation got us thinking about that one) and then by contrast, some modern women poets, though of course Carol Anne Duffy featured in both. In October we are very much looking forward to Julia Grant telling us about Andrew Motion, and then we end our year in November on the general subject of Celebrations of all kinds. Next year we plan a wide-ranging programme of

modern and traditional poets, to include one or two foreign writers (in translation). With Covid restrictions and time passing, our group's numbers have decreased recently, although our enthusiasm remains undimmed. We would very much welcome new members. If you would like to join us on the second Wednesday of the month at 2:00pm in GMAG please contact Belinda on 02392 588267 or via the webpage link. **Belinda Colby, Group Leader**

BEACON - DEMO22

Gosportu3a now has access to the **DEMO22** learning system. The **DEMO22** is a copy of the main Beacon Management System which you can 'trial' and 'play' on, to find your way around Beacon before actually using the 'real' thing. It is great for those who are wary of technology and think they might 'mess things up' if they press the wrong button! If you are a Group Leader or thinking of becoming one and would like to 'trial' BEACON, please contact: beaconadmin@gosportu3a.org.uk

NON - GOSPORTU3A LOCAL NEWS

(or things you may be interested in)

HOLIDAY SAVINGS

Gosportu3a member, Tricia sent in the following information which you may be interested in looking into:

“I've just seen a post on 'u3a Keeping in Touch' saying that if a member books a holiday with Riviera, they need to mention when booking, that they are a member of a u3a and tell Riviera which u3a it is. Apparently, Riviera then pay a % of the price of the holiday to the Third Age Trust, take an admin charge then distribute it to the relevant u3a. One u3a said they had received £1k”. Certainly, worth investigating!

U3A NEWS

u3a offers members learning opportunities both locally and nationally, in person and online. From online events, creative writing competitions and photography challenges to networking opportunities and visits to other u3as, there is more on offer than you might realise. Why not download the [Learning Leaflet](#) to share? You may also be interested in checking out the on-line learning available for u3a members: <https://u3a.org.uk/events/educational-events>

2022-23 COMMITTEE ROLES AND CONTACTS

SOME COMMITTEE ROLES AND CONTACTS HAVE CHANGED SINCE THE MEMBER BROCHURE

Chairman	George Cantrill	chair@gosportu3a.org.uk	01329 238429
Group Coordinator	Barrie Bullimore	bkbullimore@gmail.com (temp)	07470 203830
Treasurer	Judith Ridley	treasurer@gosportu3a.org.uk	07739 026648
Secretary	Maggie Gavin	secretary@gosportu3a.org.uk	07920 388843
Membership Secretary	Linda Clachan	membsec@gosportu3a.org.uk	07752 290588
News update Editor	Jan Damerell	beaconadmin@gosportu3a.org.uk (temp)	
Publicity	George Cantrill	publicity@gosportu3a.org.uk	01329 238429
Welfare Officer	Sheena Bone	welfareofficer@gosportu3a.org.uk	02392 602427
Member Mentor	Sheena Bone	membmentor@gosportu3a.org.uk	02392 602427
Beacon Administrator	Jan Damerell	beaconadmin@gosportu3a.org.uk	
Website Administrator	Jennifer Bellamy	webadmin@gosportu3a.org.uk	07765 500053
Speakers' Secretary	George Cantrill	speakers@gosportu3a.org.uk	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 get a response to emails, they should ring at a reasonable time or contact another committee member.