

NEWS UPDATE

DECEMBER 2023



CHAIR'S MESSAGE

Fellow Member,

The lights are on, the cards are written and the presents nearly all wrapped! All this means that Christmas is almost upon us and the festive 'eating' is about to start. But before I tuck into mine at the Castle Tavern on Friday, I should give you a rundown on the main announcements made at our meeting at Thorngate Halls so here goes -

Membership renewals – these will be due by the end of March, but you may start to renew at the Thorngate meetings from January. However, we're unable to continue providing postage or hand delivering membership cards. Members will need to provide a stamped addressed envelope or collect at general meetings.

Committee 'U3a.org' addresses. Sadly, we have not been able to secure a handover of the contract with one.com (the server backing the email system) to a new registered member and the contract has expired with the result that these addresses e.g. chair@gosportU3a.org.uk, will not be recognised until we can set something up to replace them which will take about two months. In the meantime, please use the addresses shown at the bottom of the Update. So doing will help separate U3a mail from our personal mail. (You'll need to check whenever you send us an e-mail as your computer may automatically decide to use the defunct address!)

Committee – I'm delighted to confirm that Judy Foster has agreed to be coopted to the committee for the remainder of the year. Judy's knowledge and past experience will be invaluable as we wrestle with such matters as the 'address' issue.

Meet and Greet – If you come to the Thorngate meetings and can spare a little time ahead of each event to assist in the 'meeting and greeting' of members – particularly 'first timers', Judith Ridley would like to hear from you – she keeps a rota of volunteers so that at least two members are at the door to welcome arrivals.

Group Promotion - Coordinator Barry Bullimore is preparing a rota in which groups will be offered a table space at each Thorngate meeting to display and explain what they do – and maybe encourage more members to add a group to their membership experience.

History group – Members who may have memories of the old Technical /Grammar School (now the Museum) are asked to contact the History Group who are compiling an anthology of anecdotes etc. ***And finally, whatever your plans for the coming weeks, I hope that you have a wonderful time and look forward to seeing you back with us, fully refreshed to enjoy your Gosport U3a activities in 2024. Best wishes. George Cantrill, Chairman.***

Cole Porter magic came to Thorngate this week! What a treat was had at our monthly meeting at Thorngate Hall this week. This talk with a difference was recommended by one of our members and the packed hall hummed and swayed to the life story as the memorable songs of this fabulous music maker were brought to life. Keyboard player John Sherbourne related the often troubled story of a man born into privilege but who suffered physically and socially whilst at the same time creating so many memorable – yet simply constructed – melodies which were to become the staples of so many famous songsters – Frank Sinatra for one – over nearly a hundred years. It was a great start for the Christmas period coming up – and Maggie's team providing the refreshments certainly got us into the mood for the festive season now beginning! Next month, we start really early in the New Year – on January 3rd - with a talk by Joe Marsden who will tell us about the continuous observation of our shoreline – Coast watch. We look forward to seeing you then. ***George Cantrill, Chair***



MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY

Advance notice for 2024/25 membership renewal



Due to the cost of postage and the burden of hand delivery, the committee has agreed that we will no longer supply postage or hand deliver membership cards and leaflets. Members will be informed when cards and leaflets are available for collection from general meetings or you can supply the membership secretary with a stamped self-addressed envelope. All the usual payment methods remain unchanged. Many thanks for your cooperation and my best wishes to you all for the festive season. **Linda Clachan, Membership Secretary**

WEBSITE ADMIN

Group leaders and/or webpage editors

In readiness for the New Year when potential new members are likely to be looking, it would be fantastic if we could have the u3a Gosport website fully up to date. Please have a look at your pages and see if any changes need to be made. If the webadmin is the editor, please let Jennifer know your proposed changes (she can help with suggestions if you wish) and similarly, if the page editors need any assistance, please let Jennifer know via jcbellamyu3a@gmail.com. Any suggestions for the website are welcome. **Jennifer Bellamy, Web Admin**



WELFARE OFFICER



Hello everyone, as always, I hope you are all fit and well. I can't believe that Xmas is very nearly with us! This year has flown by and Linda and myself have been able to welcome several new members at our coffee mornings. The next New Members Coffee Morning will be on **Monday, 8 January 2024 at 10:30am** in the **Discovery Centre**. I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy Healthy New Year. Best Wishes. **Sheena Bone, Welfare Officer**

CLIMATE CHANGE GROUP

The Climate Change Group meet on the second Monday of the month at The Museum and at our November meeting we discussed World Population. Our next meeting on 11 December will be about our Oceans and what the climate is doing to them. New members are always welcome to join us.

Pauline Potter, Group Leader





HOLIDAY CLUB FORUM

As you may have heard George suggested he would be interested in seeing a friendly face while he is on holiday by himself. There are probably other like-minded solo travellers who feel the same so George is proposing a new group/forum to put people in touch with each other. This is not a group to arrange and run holidays, as that is too complicated to organise but a 'forum' to get interested people in touch with one another. This will be for those who like to travel independently but would appreciate a friendly face while they are on a solo holiday. The idea would be that if you have planned a holiday and might like the occasional companionship while you are away, you would tell the forum leader, who would circulate details to the other group members. Each member would book and pay for their holiday independently, but book the same destination and dates. It would be up to each traveller how much time they choose to spend in each other's company and whether they would travel together etc. There are no requirements and no obligations to make enquiries of a fellow traveller. Please contact George via georgecantrill@outlook.com if you would be interested in such a group. If there is interest it would start in the new year. *Jennifer Bellamy for George Cantrill, Chair*



NEWS UPDATE EDITOR



I recently suggested to the Committee that we have a Gosportu3a 'News Letter' or that the News Update's name be changed to 'News Letter' and include contributions from the Gosportu3a membership as a whole, rather than just Group Leaders. Many other u3a's include all sorts of interesting articles in their News Letters including incidents from their daily lives from funny anecdotes, jokes, poems, puzzles to even short stories. I am sure within Gosportu3a there are any number of interesting characters who would like to share their experiences (past or present) with the rest of us and perhaps bring a little amusement into all our lives. George was going to ask the membership at the last General Meeting, what their views were on this idea and see whether this was something Gosportu3a members would like to see happen in the future. As he didn't, I thought I would add it to the News Update this month instead, to see whether it was something that would appeal to everyone or not. Hopefully, you will be able to give the matter some thought and get back to me as I look forward to hearing your views. Wishing you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. With best wishes.

Jan Damerell, News Update Editor





NEW GROUP STARTING

WORLD CUISINES LUNCH GROUP




For those of you who enjoy exploring different cuisines, a new **Lunch Group** will be starting in the New Year and if you would like to join us on our adventure around the world, visiting a variety of restaurants within the local area and experiencing food from different cultures we would love to have you join us. So far, we have 10 different restaurants that have been recommended to us and if you have others that we can add to the list we would love to hear from you. Our first venture will be to **Krishna's Restaurant**, Fareham Road, on the **5 January 2024**, which has recently been advertised as "the best Indian restaurant in Hampshire" so, as our first port of call, we will be looking forward to tasting the delights of Indian Cuisine. If you would like to view the list of other restaurants, we will be visiting in 2024, these can be found on our Gosportu3a web page. The group is hoping to meet on the **1st Friday of each month** and if you would be interested in joining us, please contact either Jean or Jan via the Gosportu3a website or e-mail: u3aworldcuisines@outlook.com **Jan Damerell, Group Leader**

DÉBROUILLEZ-VOUS EN FRANÇAIS

This means "**Get by in French**" but don't be put off if you don't get the meaning. This is just another way of saying "**Easy French for beginners**". We are a small, friendly, sociable group, suitable for beginners and also those at intermediate level. We are currently working our way through a popular best-selling, French grammar text book "Living French" by T W Knight, 7th edition - available from Amazon for £13.20 (assessed with 4.5 stars out of 5). We are also reading a famous crime novel "Arsene Lupin" by Maurice Leblanc. A modern version of Lupin is currently being shown on Netflix. There



is absolutely no obligation to speak French at the meetings so newcomers are welcome to come and just observe to see if they could benefit. We also deal with French culture, places of interest, history, cuisine etc. so Francophiles, this is the group for you. We meet every Tuesday at 10:30am by video conferencing. To join, just forward your e-mail address to Richard Lovett at: Richardf.lovett@gmail.com (02392 585194) **Richard Lovett, Group Leader**





BEACON ADMIN

Setting up a New Group & Using Beacon

The News Update is all about our Interest Groups and promoting them to encourage new members to join, but what about starting up New Groups? I received an e-mail the other day asking why Gosportu3a does not offer help to members who would like to set up a New Group but are put off doing so because they think they have to use Beacon and the Website and 'they' are 'scary'. This request is 'in the pipeline' at the moment and awaiting action by the Committee so I thought I would mention that in the meantime as Beacon Admin, I am always more than willing to input any information onto Beacon for any Group Leader who requests this and if anyone needs help in navigating their way around Beacon, please feel free to contact me at any time. *Jan Damerell, Beacon Admin*



BOARD GAMES GROUP



There was a good response to last months' notice about the new Board Games group. The Tuesday afternoon group is now full, with 10 members, but members can still join the Friday evening group, on the 3rd Friday each month (6:45pm to 8:45pm), which starts in January, where Rummikub will also be available to play. Anyone interested in joining the **Friday group** should contact me (Val Havard) through the bluebird icon on the Board Games webpage or I can be contacted on 01329 281824. *Val Havard, Group Leader*

FINE DINING GROUP

The Fine Dining Group continue to meet at the **Avenue141** restaurant and at the **Richmond Restaurant** at the **Lysses Hotel** and we are all looking forward to our Xmas Lunch festivities on the **11 and 14 December**. We have enjoyed some excellent meals along with delightful company this year and are expecting the same delicious lunch menus to continue in the New Year. All the menus can be viewed each month on our Fine Dining Gosportu3a Website Page and the dates we have now booked for the New Year can be found there too. New members are always very welcome to join us each month and if you would like to know more about our group and are interested in joining us, please contact Jan or Judy via the bluebird link or e-mail u3afinedine@gmail.com for more information. Wishing everyone a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. *Jan Damerell, Group Leader*





POETRY GROUP

We have had two very enjoyable meetings since the last time we wrote in the News Update. In October, Julia Grant gave us a very perceptive talk on the former Poet Laureate, Andrew Motion, who has tended to fade into the background nowadays and showed us both his private poems and his official laureateship ones, including an affectionate tribute to the late Queen Mother and her hats on her 100th birthday. November was our final session of the year on the highly appropriate general theme of Celebrations, featuring Christmas, of course, particularly John Betjeman's, Christina Rossetti's 'Special birthday', Browning's 'Pippa's Song', 'God's in His Heaven/All's right with the World', Gerald Manley Hopkins glorying in the beauty of nature, and John Gillespie Magee's ecstasy of flying and many more simply celebrating the joy of life. We would warmly welcome new members, so have a look at our programme on the website and phone (02392 588267) if you would like to give us a try. **Belinda Colby, Group Leader**



WEEKEND LUNCH GROUP




We are a group of ladies at the moment, but if any gentlemen would like to join us for our Weekend Lunches, they would be very welcome. We meet fortnightly on alternating Saturdays and Sundays at various venues within the local area, all easily accessible by bus and as we plan our outings six months in advance, group members can pick and choose which days they wish to come along. We are a very friendly group, from members who have been with us for several years to the more recent members who have joined us. If you have nothing planned at the weekend and are wondering what to do with yourself, why not come along and join us for a friendly lunch and pleasant company – we would love to meet you. For more information, please contact Sheila via the bluebird icon on the Gosportu3a website page. **Sheila Brown, Group Leader**

XMAS FESTIVAL PICTURES



'Do go along and see the u3a Christmas Tree at St Marys Church Alverstoke. Our tree is decorated with contributions from many of our groups, to showcase the great variety of activities available at u3a Gosport. We have also tried to ensure the decorations are repurposed from everyday items to reduce the carbon footprint' **Maggie Gavin, Secretary**



MERRY CHRISTMAS

AND

A

HAPPY

NEW YEAR



2023-24 COMMITTEE ROLES AND CONTACTS

SOME COMMITTEE ROLES AND CONTACTS HAVE CHANGED SINCE THE MEMBER BROCHURE

THE COMMITTEE WISHES TO USE THE FOLLOWING TEMPORARY CONTACT ADDRESSES UNTIL THE ONE.COM ISSUE HAS BEEN RESOLVED. THE 'CONTACT PAGE' ON GOSPORTU3A WEBSITE CAN ALSO BE USED AND GROUP LEADERS ARE ABLE TO CONTACT THE COMMITTEE VIA 'U3A OFFICERS' ON BEACON.

Trustee Role:

Chairman	George Cantrill	georgecantrill@outlook.com (temp)	01329 238429
Vice-Chairman	Barrie Bullimore	bkbullimore@gmail.com (temp)	07470 203830
Treasurer	Judith Ridley	jridleyu3a@gmail.com (temp)	07739 026648
Membership Secretary	Linda Clachan	linda.clachan@gmail.com (temp)	07752 290588
Secretary	Maggie Gavin	maggiEBumble@outlook.com (temp)	07920 388843
Welfare Officer	Sheena Bone	sheenabone@yahoo.com (temp)	02392 602427
Beacon Administrator	Jan Damerell	jandamerell47@gmail.com (temp)	

Committee Role:

Group Coordinator	Barrie Bullimore	bkbullimore@gmail.com (temp)	07470 203830
Publicity	George Cantrill	georgecantrill@outlook.com (temp)	01329 238429
Speakers' Secretary	George Cantrill	georgecantrill@outlook.com (temp)	01329 238429
News Update Editor	Jan Damerell	jandamerell47@gmail.com (temp)	

Co-opted Member:

Website Administrator	Jennifer Bellamy	jcbellamyu3a@gmail.com (temp)	07765 500053
One.com Advisor	Judy Foster		

Committee members and other members 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.

