

MEMBERS' NEWS UPDATE FEBRUARY 2022



A message from our Chair

Hello everyone - We have had an addition to the Luke family as you can see, her name is LouLou.

I cannot believe we are into the month of February and Spring is in the air. The Government has again eased restrictions such as the wearing of face masks are not now compulsory, but I feel as members you need to keep safe and continue to wear them if you so wish. We will continue to supply hand wash at every group meeting and please do a self-risk assessment before attending your groups.



The Search building has now moved into its temporary premises until August and the Treasurer has detailed later in this update where these are. Any problems or issues please contact either of us.

On another bit of news, we have welcomed a new member to join the committee. Eve Thurston, is in a new role as Liaison Officer and is supporting members of the committee with our various projects.

Best wishes

Pat Luke, Chair

TREASURER SEARCH is closed for the first week of February due to major repairs. They are moving to 124 High Street, (next door to Ladbrooks) with good facilities, toilets, heating and plenty of room. All bookings will commence as normal from the 14th of February. Any problems please contact me.

Group Leaders please note too that I am ultimately responsible for all room bookings so need to be advised if you cancel or make changes to a booking.

Membership fees are remaining at £28 for 22/23 although the Third Age Matters distribution charge is increasing for each member, (5 Issues per year), and venues are increasing their prices as from the 1st April".

Jim Luke. Treasurer

MEMBERSHIP Membership subscription for 2022/23 is now open. Membership cards will be issued before 31 March. Payment details are on the website and in the membership leaflet. Please inform me by email if you pay by BACS.

Linda Clachan, Membership Secretary

WELFARE OFFICER

Hello everyone, I hope that you are all well and keeping warm during these cold January days. A very warm welcome to our new members, and a reminder that the next New Members coffee morning is March 7th, 10:30 in the Discovery Centre. If I can be of any assistance in my dual roles of New Members Mentor and Welfare Officer, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Best wishes , stay safe and well.

Sheena Bone, Welfare Officer

U3a Gigglebox – Smart kids!

Teacher: Maria, go to the map and find America.
Maria: Here it is!
Teacher: Correct. Now class, who discovered America?
Class: Maria.

Teacher: Glenn, how do you spell 'crocodile'?
Glenn: K R O K O D I A L
Teacher: No, that's wrong
Glenn: Maybe it is, but you asked me how I spell it!

Teacher: Donald, what is the chemical formula for Water?
Donald: H,I,J,K,L,M,N,O.
Teacher: That's wrong
Donald: Yesterday you told us it was H to O!

Teacher: Clyde, your composition on 'My Dog' is exactly the same as your brother's – have you been copying?
Clyde: No sir, It's the same dog.

Teacher: Harold, what do you call a person who keeps on talking when nobody is interested?
Harold: A Teacher.

(Editor's note – I'd be happy to receive any of your favourite jokes or cartoons for possible inclusion in Gigglebox for future editions of Update when space permits –

newsupdateeditor@gosportu3a.org.uk)

GENERAL MEETINGS AT THORNGATE -

Our speaker at the General Meeting this month shared his knowledge and enthusiasm for the development of the iconic wartime Spitfire. Colin Van Geffer held the audience enthralled with his brilliantly illustrated walk down memory lane as he recalled the origins of the 'plane that won the war' from its birthplace in Southampton to its adoption by 51 countries – even Russia! Next month our speaker will be Madeleine Salvetti on "Customs". **Maggie Gavin**

NEWS RE BEACON

The monthly service program on the Beacon Server at 10.30am on the first Tuesday in the month will this month include the updating of the Beacon My Sequel database to the latest version. The sites will be taken down at 10.30am and be unavailable until 1.00pm. This regular maintenance schedule of work on Beacon will mean that you should plan not to be in. If you are, you may lose unsaved work.

Thanks, Beacon Team

IN MEMORIAM – STAN HIGHAM.

As we reported last month, an old friend of Gosport U3a, Stan Higham has passed away. Geoff Piper has written a biography in tribute to Stan which we publish in full on page 6.

GROUP REPORTS AND CHANGES from Group Leaders

ART APPRECIATION GROUP

The Art Appreciation group meets on the 3rd Tuesday of the month, and we discuss various art forms including ceramics, jewellery, glass etc. The subject for our last meeting was Miniatures, this covered the history, the works of Penelope Ross, Rosa De Jong who produces works of art in test tubes, works produced as love tokens by Isaac Oliver and the zany world of Chewing Gum artist who paints on gum found on the pavements! In contrast the work of Tatsuya Tanaka uses up to date technology to produce a miniature work every day of the year featuring everyday items and tiny dolls he collected as a hobby. We always welcome new members to the group. *For details contact Maggie Gavin*

CLIMATE CHANGE GROUP

We have been meeting on the second Monday of the month and have fourteen members. New members are welcome to come along. Our last three meetings have discussed, but not necessarily found a solution, on "Milk and the effect on the Environment", "Conspicuous consumption at Christmas" and "World Population". Our next meeting on 14th February has the subject of "Transport". *Pauline Potter.*

50's and 60's GROUP

Our next music evening will be on 14th May at HEDCA. Further information will be given in a future Monthly News update. If you are interested, please put the date in your diary now. *Contact Geoff Piper for further information.*

DRAMA AND MUSICAL THEATRE GROUP

The revamped Musical & Drama Theatre Group will meet in March to plan our first trip. Info will go out via Beacon to those who have expressed an interest. Contact Neena by email, nvadra@yahoo.com for details.
Neena 🍷

FINE DINING GROUP

We had a lovely meal again at Fareham College last week and dates for the rest of this year will be sent out soon to members of the group.

Contact Pat Luke

Are you of good voice? Pat has received suggestions that a Singing Group might be formed – if you are interested please contact Pat Luke directly.

DANCE GROUP

Dance Group had a good session again and two new members joined us. We danced the Waltz and Rumba, followed by Swing jive London Stroll, Charleston and Cha Cha Cha and finished off with Barrie Bullimore doing the calling for Folk Dancing. It's surprising how many of us get our left and right mixed up but we do have a laugh. Next session is on Tuesday 22nd Feb at 2pm.

for details contact Pat Luke.

GENEALOGY - a community table has been booked in the Discovery Centre for members who are interested in this group to meet on Friday 25th Feb from 12-13.00hrs initially.

Please contact Pat Luke 07752 596893

GOSPORT WALKERS

There are 2 walks a month – one longer and one shorter. Anne would be happy to welcome new members to join the group. See the website for more information or phone Ann if you are interested.

Ann Sandall 07856 291118

QUIZ GROUP - It's really good to be back to our monthly Quiz night at the Carisbrooke Arms but like other groups, we suffered with lower attendances during the pandemic. Hopefully, as we come out of that and into the Spring, we can look forward to welcoming returning members and more new faces to our fun nights. Whilst we are a 'quiz' group, participants aren't expected to be Mastermind contestants – the accent with our group is fun and fellowship. Indeed, everyone participating is included in a team and our teams are randomly drawn from 'a hat' so ensuring that we have a level playing field of expertise. Below is an example of a General Knowledge round from one of last year's events with **answers at the end of the news update** – see how you do – and we look forward to seeing you at the Carisbrooke on the second Tuesday of each month starting at 7 pm.

1. Who was Tom Daley's partner when they won the synchronized diving gold medal in Tokyo?
2. What is the common name for the complaint bursitis?
3. In 10 pin bowling, how many pins are there in the back row?
4. In Scrabble what colour are the double word score squares?
5. In the Winnie the Pooh books what is the name of his rabbit friend?
6. What is an Acrophobic afraid of?
7. In Greek mythology who was the god of the Sun?
8. What house number in Baker Street did Sherlock Holmes live?
9. Which of Henry V's wives is buried alongside him in Windsor Castle?
10. Miss Havisham appears in which Charles Dickens novel?

Contact Jean Plummer or Tricia Stevenson

PLAY READING – Colleen has had her first meeting with members, and it went well. The next meeting is on Wed 16th Feb from 2-4pm in the Discovery Centre.

Contact Colleen Wright, 02393 110709.

2021-22 COMMITTEE ROLES AND CONTACTS

SOME COMMITTEE ROLES AND CONTACTS HAVE CHANGED SINCE THE MEMBER BROCHURE

Chairperson	Pat Luke	chair@gosportu3a.org.uk	07752 596893
Treasurer	Jim Luke	treasurer@gosportu3a.org.uk	07485129506
Secretary	Linda Dorsett	secretary@gosportu3a.org.uk	07763 441602
Membership Secretary	Linda Clachan	membsec@gosportu3a.org.uk	07752 290588
News Update Editor	George Cantrill	newsupdateeditor@gosportu3a.org.uk	01329 238429
Publicity	Linda Dorsett	publicity@gosportu3a.org.uk	07763 441602
Welfare Officer	Sheena Bone	welfareofficer@gosportu3a.org.uk	02392 602427
Member Mentor	Sheena Bone	membmentor@gosportu3a.org.uk	02392 602427
Group Liaison Officer	Eve Thurston		07912207047

NON-COMMITTEE ROLES

Beacon Administrator	Pat Luke	BeaconAdmin@gosportu3a.org.uk	07752 596893
Website Administrator	Jennifer Bellamy	WebAdmin@gosportu3a.org.uk	07765 500053
Speakers' Secretary	Maggie Gavin	speakers@gosportu3a.org.uk	02392 501505

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.

Group Leaders' contact details are on the website and most group pages have a bluebird link to the leaders' email address.

<https://u3asites.org.uk/gosport/home>

DATE	EVENT	LOCATION	CONTACT
Wednesday 2 nd March 10.30 am	General Meeting – Speaker: Madeleine Salveti on “Customs”	Thorngate Halls	Pat Luke 07752 596893
March 7 th 10.30 am	New member coffee morning	Discovery Centre	Sheena Bone 02392 602427

Quiz Answers from page 4. - 1. Matty Lee 2. Housemaid's knee 3. Four. 4. Pink 5. Rabbit 6. Heights 7. Apollo 8. 221B, 9 Jane Seymour. 10. Great Expectations.

!! NB Thorngate Hall Management request that members retiring for coffee after our meeting leave the hall out to the front patio area – i.e. not by the inner door leading to the next function room which may be in use by another organisation.

Tribute to Stan Higham by Geoff Piper.

Last month's news update announced the sad death of Stan Higham. For many years Stan was an active member of the U3A both in the Forest of Dean and Gosport. He led the Gosport Jazz Appreciation group until 2019, and with his encyclopedic knowledge and enthusiasm for Jazz, his members always looked forward to an informative and entertaining afternoon.

Stan was born in London in 1928 and became interested in Jazz around the age of 14 years when he together with a group of friends listened to jazz records. They decided to form a group with Stan choosing to learn the clarinet. Without any formal tuition he became proficient by listening to his favourite records and music on the radio. He decided to make music his profession, but soon realised that he would gain more work if he played the Saxophone. He soon mastered this instrument too, resulting in him getting his first gigs.

In 1949 Stan began his National Service in the RAF and as a member of the RAF Band, entertained troops serving abroad as well as performing at formal occasions.

During the 1950s Stan played with the big bands in Blackpool who had summer residencies, and during the winter he would look for freelance work in London. Stan's playing ability was very much in demand and a residency with the top orchestras of Eric Winstone and Sid Phillips followed. In the 1960s Stan secured regular employment at the London Hilton in Park Lane, where he would play for the rich and famous in the hotel's Starlight Restaurant.

Stan was also a member for a short time of Frankie Vaughan's backing group and once backed Marty Wilde at a concert when his regular saxophone player was unavailable. He also played on a record by John's Children, a 1960s group originally led by Marc Bolan.

His other great passion in life was golf. He played whenever he had any free time and was very competitive playing off a handicap of four, winning many amateur tournaments. He also followed motor racing when drivers such as Graham Hill, Jack Brabham, and John Surtees were the top drivers and would often visit the Goodwood circuit in his open-top Morgan car. Throughout his life Stan explored spiritual enlightenment. He attended meetings of a multi-faith international spiritual group and went to meditative retreats in Alresford. A move to the Forest of Dean meant Stan could indulge his love of the countryside and forests. It was then he became a school music teacher, but still did selected gigs in London.

When Stan moved to Gosport, he joined the U3A walking group and spent many happy hours exploring Hampshire with them. He was also a member of the Astronomy, Art Appreciation, and Psychology groups. The leader of the Psychology group remembers that when Stan joined, she changed the meeting time to the afternoon as Stan told her like most musicians, he did not do mornings! When the opportunity to form a Jazz Appreciation group came up, Stan agreed to run it, and for over ten years freely shared his love and knowledge of jazz to his loyal members.

Stan continued to play his saxophone with local bands well into his nineties including a regular spot with the Jim Hames Big Band that performed at Thorngate Halls in Gosport.

He will be sadly missed by those, who knew him.

(With thanks to Stan's son Lee who provided much of the information on Stan's interesting Life)

Geoff Piper

THIS UPDATE HAS BEEN SENT TO ALL MEMBERS VIA THE BEACON DATABASE

The next News Update will be circulated on 3rd March

Please email any news items by Friday 25th February to George Cantrill

Space is often tight so make sure you get submissions in early

VISIT OUR WEBSITE FOR FULLER INFORMATION ABOUT OUR u3a

<https://u3asites.org.uk/gosport/home>