

MEMBERS' NEWS UPDATE

March 2023



STOP PRESS – RE NEWS UPDATE

We are disappointed to report that our News Update Editor for the past few months, Nick Blunden, has decided to retire from the committee with immediate effect and just as this edition was being assembled. This month's edition is therefore much reduced in the usual content and supporting pictures. Group members needing more up to date information should please contact either Group Coordinator Barrie Bullimore or their leader directly and/or consult our website.

A MESSAGE FROM YOUR CHAIRMAN

Fellow members,

We are now, technically at least, into Spring with all that brings as a kind of 'renewal' of our activities. In Gosport U3a of course that means renewing our membership and many of you have started doing that. This week at our Thorngate meeting, our committee were kept busy, not only looking after renewals but also welcoming prospective new members who had come to look us over.

We are certainly looking forward to a new look for some of our groups this year - the Museum (formerly the Search building) has now opened its doors for some of our sessions and we can look forward to at least two new groups starting up in coming months - Pickleball is a new and increasingly popular pastime and a new Psychology, Criminology & Forensics Study Group led by Tricia Stevenson.

Like many organisations though, we can't ignore the financial pressures that we face but one thing that hasn't changed is our membership fee (£28) - so remains a real bargain for access to a year of pleasurable activity ahead.

One group that I'd like to see return - especially in view of the Update news above is an "IT group" - I could certainly do with help beyond my limited knowledge! Maybe we have a volunteer in our membership who'd like to offer their services - and maybe also join the committee to take on Nick's former role? Please give me a call!

*George Cantrill
Chairman*

WELFARE OFFICER

You will probably all be aware by now of the awful news that Sheena's husband, Alex, sadly passed away whilst Sheena was away, visiting her daughter and family in Australia over the Christmas period. Sheena wishes to thank everyone for the kind messages of sympathy and support received during this sad time. However, thanks are also due to Linda Dorsett who has stood in Sheena's stead as Welfare Officer during her absence and for hosting the planned New Member meeting at the Discovery Centre on Monday March 6th at 10.30. Sheena has said that she'll be back to U3a soon - and certainly in time for the next New Member meeting in May.

MEMBERSHIP

Thank you to all who have already renewed your membership for 2023/24. Membership cards and leaflets for the new year have now been printed and are in the process of being distributed. As we are trying to avoid postage costs as much as possible these are being handed out / hand delivered where we can.

You will notice the new membership cards have a yellow stripe along the bottom. This is in collaboration with other U3As in area so that future current membership is more easily identified at shared activities, such as the Cinema Group etc. The colour code will change each year.

The Committee is also considering using a reader for the barcode on membership cards at the General Meetings as a more efficient way of signing in and keeping a list of attendees for fire regulations at the venue. This is still at the early stages of discussion.

The 2022/23 membership year ends on 31st March. I do hope those who have not already done so will renew their membership and continue to enjoy the benefits of being part of U3A Gosport and helping us build an even more successful U3A. This organisation is for the members by the members. We couldn't do it without you!

Best wishes, **Linda Clachan, Membership Secretary**

GENERAL MEETINGS AT THORNGATE

This month, we were treated to a fascinating talk by our guest speaker, Brenda Margetts, who related the story of a family who raised 9 children in the austere times of poverty and struggle for survival - and adventure - in the early 20th century. But it wasn't just the description of their lives - and loss - but it was the particularly way in which Brenda took us through the narrative that was so familiar and compelling. I'm not going to spoil the thrust of her talk as, like me, others may have the privilege of hearing it again in another forum - just let's say a big thank-you to Brenda for an enthralling visit. Some members who were present requested a copy of the poem that Brenda concluded her talk with -

My name was on that bullet (as those old soldiers said),
My name was on the telegram that told them I was dead.

Next on my grave they carved it, and then, with all my friends,
Upon their War Memorials, stone dead till the world ends.

But now you bring them back to life - you read our names aloud,
Instead of lifeless marble, your Cenotaph of sound Restores us
From our graveyards and a cold death underground.

Next month, we will welcome Pam Marsden, (if the name's familiar, her husband Joe was a guest speaker in January). Pam has an interesting career story that she will be sharing with us from her early days as presenter with the BBC.

We now have a full programme of talks in place for the remainder of the year - just look at our website for details. George Cantrill, Speaker Secretary

GROUP REPORTS AND NEWS

from Group Leaders

All Group Leaders can be contacted via the blue bird link on the relevant page on the website.

GROUP LEADER MEETING

Group Coordinator, Barrie Bullimore, will hold a Group Leaders Forum on Friday, 21st April at Gosport Methodist Church starting at 2.00pm. The church is in Stokes Road opposite The Royal Arms. There are several important issues that need to be discussed and Barrie hopes that all leaders will try and attend.

Please note:

50/60's Music Group that meets on 1st Monday at HEDCA will move in April to the Museum.

The Painting Group will be changing its meeting times from 10.15 to 11.45.

The proposed Psychology, Criminology and Forensics Group is likely to start in May and will replace the "How" Group.

FINE DINING GROUP

The Fine Dining Group is a very friendly group who meet at Avenue141 restaurant which is run by the students and staff at Fareham College. We meet every 2nd or 3rd Thursday in the month (dates can be found on u3aGosport website). The cost of the meal is very reasonable and offers a wonderful Fine Dining lunch experience at £12.95 for 2 course or £15.95 for 3 courses which includes complimentary tea/coffee at the end of the meal and for those who enjoy a glass of wine with their meal there is also a small bar available (which is also very reasonably priced).

GET BY IN FRENCH GROUP

Débrouillez-vous en français

This means "**Get by in French**" but don't be put off if you didn't get the meaning. This is just a posh way of saying "**Easy French for beginners**"

We meet every Tuesday at 1030 by Video Conferencing, details from Richard Lovett at Richardf.lovett@gmail.com or 023 9258 5194. We are a small friendly sociable group suitable for beginners and those at intermediate level.

We are currently working our way through a popular best-selling French grammar textbook "Living French" by T W Knight, 7th edition - available from Amazon for £13.20 (assessed with 4.5 stars out of 5)

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.

INTERMEDIATE GERMAN GROUP



The group has a couple of spaces for new members. We meet in members' homes, outside if the weather is warm enough (it was last May). We have a period of conversation plus reading German books and Newspapers specifically for those learning the language. You don't have to be a fluent speaker, but you need to have some knowledge of the language.

Contact David Atkins

HOW? GROUP

In February we had an interesting discussion about how much faster UK trains were in Victorian times. And how in 1837 the considerable resentment among the citizens of Portsmouth against Southampton put an end to the idea a branch line to Portsmouth off the Southampton main line. Resulting a few years later in a railway running to Gosport rather than Portsmouth. At our next meeting at 2pm on March 15th we will be discussing '**How do we square religious faith with governance in the UK?**' A topical subject, with the UK PM a practicing Hindu & a devout Wee Free & a faithful Muslim among the candidates to become First Minister of Scotland. Many faiths condemn some legal actions as sinful. Should their believers be in a position to make & change laws for us all? But banning people of faith from public office would be discriminatory. So how do we square the circle?

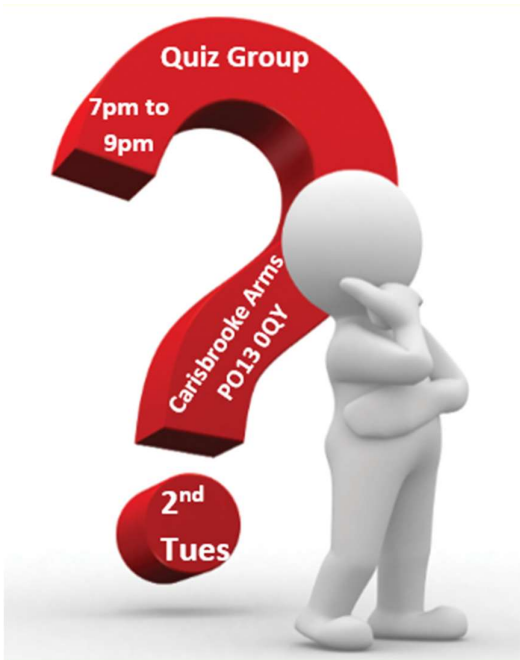
- **Tricia Stevenson**

UKELELE GROUP

The ukulele group is up and running again. We meet at HEDCA on the 2nd Thursday of the month from 2.00-3.30pm. The group is open to Beginners and people who are more experienced. The ethos of the group is to have fun. We sing, play and laugh throughout the session. You don't have to be able to play the Ukulele prior to coming along as we all teach each other as we go along. You would have to have access to a Ukulele and a music stand; however we do have a couple of spare ukes if you just want to come along and have a go.

If you are interested, please contact Richard Glaysher on 07711556260 or Linda Dorsett on 07763441602.

QUIZ GROUP



PROPOSED NEW WALKING GROUP

We have a gap in our u3a for a walking group to cover about 5 miles locally and in the countryside. In the spirit of the u3a, the group needs to be a collective effort so that one person or two are not organising the walks, leading them, sorting out travel (shared cars/buses) and doing the 'admin'. I have a few ideas about how to organise the group to spread the load and members of the Extra Mile group are prepared to offer to lead walks from time to time.

If you are interested in being in this proposed group, please let me know by email (jcbellamy@virginmedia.com) and I will arrange a meeting for us to discuss how the group can get up and running. Jennifer Bellamy

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
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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.

Non-U3a local events which may be of interest to our members.



As part of Give it a Go this year, taking place on 22nd July, in addition sharing heritage stories, we will be including some of Gosport's tall tales and folklore. For example, the beast of Haslar Lake which was just a 2ft eel!

If you know of any urban myths or tales which might be fun to incorporate, can you send me your ideas please. -**contact Kathy Parker via kathy.parker2.kp@gmail.com**

They could be in living memory or from centuries ago - We just want some ideas which we can draw on to inspire activity and create more of the postcards.