

**MEMBERS' NEWS UPDATE  
MAY 2023t**



*As you can see from these pictures, our Crochet and Craft Groups' display of paper flowers and crochet work along with Maggie Gavin's team of helpers providing the fizz and cakes certainly gave Thorngate a celebratory look 'fit for a King' at our May meeting!*

*The Crown and Coronation regalia made by the crochet group over the past five months is certainly spectacular with lots of symbolic detail (even a nod to Croatia) and the banner that has been made by the craft group showcased their talent and added to the festive atmosphere that took hold especially once the glasses were filled!*



**HERE'S A HEALTH TO  
HIS MAJESTY KING  
CHARLES III.  
LONG MAY HE REIGN  
OVER US!**

*George Cantrill, Chairman*



## **THORNGATE MEETING**

The May meeting was certainly a busy one but we still had time for a fascinating talk in which Bill Harris, a spritely 'near nonagenarian', took us through a period of his career as a construction engineer when he was one of the team engaged in designing and building the brilliantly successful Channel Tunnel. We were reminded of how the rail tracks had to be the same width as the rest of the UK and Europe but with the dimensions of the vehicles to be transported that this could, without careful planning, produce a top heavy and unstable load moving at 100 mph! Plus what do you do with the 'spoil' produced by building three tunnels (outward, inward and service/escape) over twenty miles long with a circuitous route and the varying depths of the sea bed? (Answer: You use it to create an 'island' on which to build the terminal at Folkestone!)



By the end of Bill's talk, we were fully aware of how much heat is created by the pressure and velocity of the trains but equally how much water is needed to keep everything cooled – and all the personnel involved moving, alive, well – and even showered! So many of the small details of a 5-year long build that we would never imagine were brought alive in this talk in Bill's relaxed and non-technical way.

*Bill has other talks – so I'm sure he'll be back.*

Next month, our speaker is from the Blue Lamp Trust with advice on 'safety in the home'.

## **MEMBERSHIP**

We are always keen to encourage new members to join our u3a. There will be information leaflets available at general meetings for you to pass on to anyone you think may be interested in joining us.

I can be contacted through the website. I am always happy to answer any membership queries and provide information to potential members.

*Best wishes*

*Linda Clachan, Membership Secretary.*

**WELFARE OFFICER.** A reminder that the next new members coffee morning will be on **Monday May 15th**. This will be at 10:30 am in the Discovery Centre / Library. All new or prospective members are welcome. **Sheena Bone**

## **GROUP MEETINGS AT GOSPORT MUSEUM**

Some members may be aware that there have been one or two 'teething problems' as groups returned to the Museum (formerly Search) following its refurbishment. Hopefully these issues have now been ironed out, but they mostly affected the 'Monday' groups when the museum is not normally open so special arrangements have had to be made for access. The main message is to follow guidance from your group leader and do not arrive before the allotted start time or you may have to wait outside.

## **ADVANCED FRENCH CONVERSATION**

We now have space for one or two more members in our friendly group. A good grasp of French is needed, preferably to "A" Level standard. If you used to speak it reasonably but your fluency could do with a brush-up, why not give our group a try? You'll find a warm welcome awaits you.

*Thanks so much. Libby (lysbethmackay@gmail.com)*

## **ARCHAEOLOGY**

We welcomed a new member this month with another new member joining us next month.

Our topic was Maiden Castle situated near Dorchester in Dorset. Despite its name it is in fact, one of the largest Iron Age hill forts in Europe.

A lively discussion ensued, was it built and used as a fortification for defence purposes? Or a settlement? Or a place of worship?

*Julie Bennetts, group leader.*

## **DRAMA AND MUSICAL THEATRE**

Due to ill health, the Drama&Musical Theatre Group has been put on hold for the next few months.

*Neena Vadra-Edwards*

## **NEW GROUPS IN FORMATION -**

**NEW WALKING GROUP** – Jennifer Bellamy is planning to start a new Walking Group with the 'working title' of '**Walking for 5 milers**'. If you are interested, please contact Jennifer who is planning a meeting in the Discovery Centre for interested members – contact her either through Beacon or use her Webmaster address from the panel below.

**FOLK DANCE** Barrie Bullimore is looking to form a **Folk Dance Group**. If you are interested or even just curious e-mail Barrie who will be planning a meeting in early June for interested members"

**WORD GAMES** – Graham Freer is proposing a Group for members who are interested in Word Games. Some games will be well known but Graham has created others based on word ladders which group members will compete with each other at a regular venue. If you are interested, contact Graham directly on 01329 313404 or email: grahamjfreer2@gmail.com

## **FINE DINING**

The Fine Dining Groups continue to enjoy the delicious lunches that Avenue141 provide for us each month. Several new members have joined us recently and have expressed how much they have enjoyed their lunch and how pleasant the company was.

In June we have an Afternoon Tea planned and details of this will be announced on the Website when confirmation is received. As Fareham College closes for Summer Break during July and August, we decided to try something different last year and organised a lunch for our group at a local restaurant instead. As this was a success we will be arranging something similar again this year.

We have been updating the Gosportu3a Fine Dining Website Page recently and you can now view the monthly Menu and see what wonderful meals we have been enjoying each month. We are hoping to add pictures of the meals so that you can see how delicious they are too.

Avenue141 lunch prices have increased but are still very reasonable and offer a wonderful Fine Dining lunch experience at £14.95 for a 2 courses meal or £17.95 for 3 courses 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). If you would like to enjoy a lovely meal and meet lots of new friends, we would love to have you join us. If interested, please contact: Jan or Judy via the contact *details and links on the website.*

## **HISTORY GROUP**

This is a very popular group with an ever-growing membership. We have a topic each month for members, if they wish to, can participate. The topic for this month was "Kings and Queens" which covered the whole spectrum of history from Anglo Saxon to modern day and further afield. It led to fascinating conversation. ***If you are interested in history and would like to come along, please contact me on 07763441602. Linda Dorsett.***

## **UKELELE**

We had a great Ukulele session this month welcoming some new members. The group is mixed abilities, social and welcoming so if you fancy giving the Uke a try, why not come along. We have some spare Ukuleles for you to have a try and you will be given all the music along with help and encouragement. It is held on the second Thursday of the month at HEDCA from 2.00-3.30pm. ***Please contact Richard Glaysher on 07711556260 if you would like to come along.***



## **PSYCHOLOGY, CRIMINOLOGY & FORENSICS STUDY GROUP**

Regrettably this Group is now full. We simply can't fit any more people in the room. Please let Tricia know if you wish to be added to a reserve list in the event of dropouts. However please bear in mind that Intro. to PC&F is a Study Group following a course & we won't be able to go over what members joining part way through have missed. – *Tricia Stevenson*

## **WORLD FILMS GROUP**

World Films Group continues to meet, discuss and enjoy Independent productions from around the world. So far this year we have viewed films from Spain, America and Egypt.

Neena Vadra-Edwards [nvadra@yahoo.com](mailto:nvadra@yahoo.com)

## **WORLD VEGETARIAN FOOD GROUP**

World Vegetarian Food Group is a group of foodies that love researching, cooking and sharing dishes from around the world. This month we enjoyed dishes from Yemen including Baba Ganouj (dip), Zhug (hot green sauce), Saltah Stew (butter beans) and Masoub (banana bread pudding).

All delicious and mouth watering.

Neena Vadra-Edwards [nvadra@yahoo.com](mailto:nvadra@yahoo.com)

## **2022-23 COMMITTEE ROLES AND CONTACTS**

Chairman	George Cantrill	<a href="mailto:chair@gosportu3a.org.uk">chair@gosportu3a.org.uk</a>	01329 238429
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*Committee members and other members with a [gosportu3a.org.uk](mailto: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.*

And news of a non-U3a event which may be of interest to members



**QUIZ AID**

**Held for Christian Aid Week.**

Everyone welcome, Get a team together or Come along on your own to  
Bridgemary Methodist Church , Gregson Avenue, PO13 0PP

**Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> May at 2 pm.**

**Tea and Cake, Raffle and Lots of fun**

**Admission £5 per head – Contact Jean on 02392 342301**