

MEMBERS' NEWS UPDATE FEBRUARY 2024



FROM THE CHAIR:

In all walks of life, the quiet months of the winter give us time to reflect and make our plans to ensure that the next year is more productive than the last. This reflective mood this year especially applies to your committee to make sure that our U3a remains 'relevant' and in good shape for the challenges that are already lined up for 2024.

Whilst we have a long and active list of groups and dedicated leaders, the AGM due in April is seen as 'crunch time' when new 'blood' is needed for the Committee 'team' after a few years trading on the goodwill and energies of a number of reliable long serving individuals. So, I'm appealing to all members by adapting an old wartime maxim – 'Your U3a needs You'. To go forward, we have to adapt to new ways, new ideas, and if necessary new technologies that are outside the experience of some of us who retired more than a year or two ago. In short, can you help?

Do you have a little time available to join us to share the load, and in the process, bring your experience and knowledge so that we can adapt and build on what we have. It would be a great shame if after nearly 30 years Gosport has to shrink or close down – and that is not too dramatic a comment on the reality of our current position.

Examples of this 'realism' are easy to spot: Our membership Secretary Linda has decided not to continue after the AGM and she doesn't have an understudy; Treasurer, Judith Ridley, covers a number of functions also single handed. Maggie Gavin, our Secretary, soldiers on, as well as leading on all matters 'hospitality'. We've been lucky to have coopted Judy Foster to the committee who is now turning her hand to heading Beacon, whilst Jennifer Bellamy is keeping on top of the technology required and the regular updating of the website; and Sheena Bone has two roles – Welfare and helping our new members settle in. Vice chairman, Barrie Bullimore, is Group Coordinator as well as looking after the presentation kit at Thorngate Halls and he also runs his own U3A group too.

I should add that I'm also nominally in charge of Speakers and Publicity – and now back to compiling this News Update after Jan Damerell has regretfully decided to withdraw. All of us give of our time willingly but we'd also like to participate more in our membership of our U3A groups!! So please - can you help?

Our friendly committee meets just once a month for a couple of hours – anything more will depend on you and what you want to get involved in. And there's a topical bonus! – for most functions you can 'work from home!' Just give any one of us a call - all our numbers are on the end page!

We look forward to seeing you all at our next U3A monthly meeting at Thorngate Halls on Wednesday 6th March when Richard Jones will talk to us. His topic is '*Forgotten Disasters and Shipwrecks*' and comes highly recommended.

Have a good month and keep dry during this rainy weather.

George Cantrill

THORNGATE MEETINGS:

A late substitution this month brought a new speaker – Mike Williams, who in another life is a guide on HMS Warrior in Portsmouth but on this occasion he drew on his extensive knowledge of 'Military Sites in and around Gosport'. Mike took us back thousands of years in demonstrating his theme of 'location, location, location' and on why Gosport is such a strategically obvious place for our forts. Many thanks, too, to our own Archaeology Group members who were present and had laid out their 'group table' and able to share details of their group activities but were also able to support the talk with local info and anecdotes.

MEMBERSHIP:

I am now taking subscriptions for the 2024/25 membership year which starts on the 1st April. I will be available at General Meetings to take cash and cheques or cheques can be posted to: Linda Clachan - 77 Grove Road, Gosport, PO12 4JJ. The membership fee is unchanged from last year, £28. If you are already a member of another U3A the fee is only £22.

Cheques should be made out to:

U3A Gosport and remember it's 2024 for the date on the cheque!

Payments can also be made by bank transfer to:

• U3A Gosport • Sort Code: 30-93-56 • Acc No: 02123229

(Reference payment with your membership number). Please inform me by email if you make a bank transfer.

Subscriptions will be recorded on Beacon as they are received. Membership cards have been printed and will be available for collection at general meetings.

I am no longer able to hand deliver membership cards. If you wish to receive your card by post, please provide me with a stamped self-addressed envelope.

Best wishes

Linda Clachan, Membership Secretary.

WEBSITE

A reminder to leaders that as the website is viewed by potential members (as well as many of our members) and is used for administration, it is essential that the information is up to date. Please can you let me know if the days, times or location of your group meeting are incorrect. I need to know this information, so please don't just change the page yourself, as I have to update the website elsewhere too.

However, many groups have their own page editor, so the text can be amended by that person. Could you add a diary to remind members of when you are next meeting? If you are unsure how to edit the text, add links, pictures, diary items I can help, and if I am editing the page for your group, let me know what changes you need to make.

Jennifer Bellamy (u3a Gosport website administrator)
jcbellamyu3a@gmail.com

Groups in abeyance

NB - Sadly, two of our groups have ceased to meet as there is no leader/facilitator. If you would be interested in taking over these groups please let Barrie Bullimore (Groups Coordinator) know. The groups are 'Birdwatching' and 'Exploring World Faiths'.

WELFARE OFFICER.

Hi everyone, I hope that you are all fit and well, and like me looking forward to Spring, which is just around the corner. All of the dates for the new members coffee mornings for the year, are now on our website. Just search for U3A Gosport or note in your diary Monday March 4th for new (and potential) members when we hold our coffee morning in the Gosport Discovery Centre café.

Sheena Bone

GROUP NEWS UPDATES -

ARCHAEOLOGY GROUP

The archaeology group had an interesting meeting in January discussing burial mounds. I am hoping to find out about the mounds in "Mound Close" situated off The Paddock close to Green Lane and Bury Lodge, does anyone have any information please?

Julie Bennetts Group Leader

History Group:

The topic for this month's History Group was 'Music/Musicians'. Group members were encouraged to pick something around this topic they were interested in, do a little research, on- line, a book or personal knowledge, jot a few notes down and bring it along to the session.

We had lots of participants with things from the History of Native American Drums to Paderewski, and everything in between. The members joined in discussions from all the items which led to a really interesting afternoon.

If you feel you would like to join us, please give me a call on 07763441602.

Linda Dorsett

LOCAL HISTORY GROUP

We need your help! If you were a pupil at Gosport Grammar School (currently the Museum) we would love to hear from you with your recollections of lessons, teachers, incidents etc. Our group will be putting on an exhibition in the Museum in October of this year regarding the history of the school in the High Street. You can email me on the address below.

Also, a member of our group has organised a trip to the Isle of Wight Steam Railway on Tuesday 16 April 2024. The cost is £45. If you would like further details, please contact me on the following email hammondjoy4@gmail.com.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Joy Hammond

NATIONAL U3a ON-LINE LEARNING

In February there are 15 national u3a online (Zoom) learning events, and I have sign-up for 6 of them. Unfortunately, one online talk I would like to see (Locks and Keys on 14th February) clashes with a physical talk I definitely want to attend.

I think there could be something for everyone, as there is a good range of topics. Health is covered with Mindfulness & Meditation, Laughter Yoga, a talk about Advances in Public Health and a talk about Secrets of the Human Brain. For members who like words there is Cryptic Crosswords in Context, and if members like maths there is Number Fun.

Relating to art there is Mosaic Art. There is also food with Introduction to the Air Fryer. There have been talks on climate change, faiths, geography, history, people, science and other topics.

I think it is definitely worth members having a look at the webpage <https://www.u3a.org.uk/events/educational-events>

Val Havard

(Update on above from Val - "Introduction to the Air Fryer" – this event is regrettably Full.)

PHILOSOPHY

The Philosophy Group will meet on the afternoon of 12th February as usual! 2.15pm to 3.45 pm.
"This Mortal Coil"

Jackie Martin

PICKLEBALL



Pickleball Group following another fun session of Pickleball.

Our Pickleball coach Jane provides extra coaching to the group and has recently introduced Pickleball to Solent U3A. Jane has also been in talks with the Romsey U3A Pickleball group about the possibility of arranging inter U3A friendly matches in the future. Sadly, we are unable to accept any new players at present as we are at our maximum numbers. You can still learn to play Pickleball whilst on the Waiting List by contacting Jane who is happy to coach up to 8 players (cost of courts only) or happy to explain what else is available locally.

Jane Mcardle

MAH JONG

HAPPY CHINESE NEW YEAR 2024



Entering the Year of THE DRAGON on February 10th

Do you want to Learn a New Game?

Spaces available at MAH JONG

IF you enjoy playing cards, you'll pick this up quickly

Denise Davies

Ukulele Group

The Ukulele group is growing month on month and we are welcoming new members all the time. You don't have to have played before but if you love music, singing and laughing, why don't you give it a try. We meet on the second Thursday of the month, at HEDCA, from 2.00-3.30. If you decide to join the group you will have to eventually get your own ukulele and you will need to get a music stand, all music, help and encouragement comes free!

If you would like to give it a try, please contact myself or Richard on the numbers below.

Richard Glaysher - 0771155620 or Linda Dorsett - 07763441602.

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

The Ritz Cinema at St Vincent (a volunteer-run community cinema) has a varied programme of films. The following films will be shown on a Thursday evening at St Vincent (unless shown otherwise) at 7.30pm

Barbie (12A)

Thu, 22 Feb, 19:30

St Vincent College

Polite Society (12A)

Thu, 7 Mar, 19:30

St Vincent College

The General (U) with Live Organ Accompaniment

Thu, 21 Mar, 19:30 – it stars Buster Keaton with live accompaniment on the Compton Theatre Organ at Thorngate Hall



Walking Cricket

Stay warm and active this winter

Free social cricket for adults

- Friendly and fun
- Equipment provided
- No experience needed

Everyone welcome

GOSPORT LEISURE CENTRE
FOREST WAY, GOSPORT
PO13 0ZX

WEDNESDAYS 12NOON - 1PM
21ST FEBRUARY - 27TH MARCH
£2 per session

COME AND MEET US
Fridays 10am - 12noon
Privett's Pavilion, Privett Park,
PO12 3SX
10am -12noon

To find out more or to book a place, please call or text Barbara 07968103578





2023-24 COMMITTEE ROLES AND CONTACTS

THESE HAVE CHANGED SINCE THE MEMBER BROCHURE

Chairman	George Cantrill	georgecantrill@outlook.com (temp)	01329 238429
Group Coordinator	Barrie Bullimore	bkbullimore@gmail.com (temp)	07470 203830
Treasurer	Judith Ridley	jridleyu3a@gmail.com (temp)	07739 026648
Secretary	Maggie Gavin	maggiemouth@outlook.com (temp)	07920 388843
Membership Secretary	Linda Clachan	Linda.clachan@gmail.com (temp)	07752 290588
News update Editor	George Cantrill (pro tem)	georgecantrill@outlook.com (temp)	01329 238429
Publicity	George Cantrill	georgecantrill@outlook.com (temp)	01329 238429
Welfare Officer	Sheena Bone	sheenabone@yahoo.com (temp)	02392 602427
Member Mentor	Sheena Bone	sheenabone@yahoo.com (temp)	02392 602427
Beacon Administrator	Judy Foster	judyf@talktalk.net (temp)	
Website Administrator	Jennifer Bellamy	icbellamyu3a@gmail.com (temp)	07765 500053
Speakers' Secretary	George Cantrill	georgecantrill@outlook.com (temp)	01329 238429

Committee members and other members with an 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.

NEW TELEPHONE NUMBER FOR U3A EMERGENCIES: 07424 685261

This mobile telephone will be held by committee members by rota to be used where there is an urgent need to contact U3a on issues where the regular contact is not attainable.