

## **MEMBERS' NEWS UPDATE MARCH 2024**

### **FROM THE CHAIR**

We are at a very anxious time as we approach the date of the AGM - Friday April 26<sup>th</sup> at 11 am in the Methodist Church, Stoke Road, followed by an 'American Supper' lunch. Following our lunch, at 2 pm, we have an entertaining speaker, Martin Marks, whose topic is Seaside Postcards.

So, there'll be a lot going on. AGM meetings can often be 'cut and dried' when items go through on the nod without much discussion. This time though, we have a particularly important item to put to members for approval – an updated revision of our Constitution. I'm grateful to the working group of the committee who have already gone through and adjusted the document to ensure clarity and understanding of our rights and obligations as officers and members. The revised Code of Conduct also needs to be adopted so that we fully conform to the requirements of the Third Age Trust and the Charities Commission. A copy of the proposal will be circulated to you beforehand so that you can read it and hopefully adopt it at the meeting.

Besides these of course, we'll have the all-important election of a new committee to take the Club forward for another year. I know that I'm beating a drum here again – but please do consider volunteering yourself to join the 'think tank', which is our management team, as new bodies and new ideas are always welcome – especially as this year several 'long service' committee members have indicated a wish to stand back to welcome new 'blood'. If you think that you can help in any role – just have a chat with the present jobholders. They'll be only too happy to be on standby and help until you've shaped the role to your own style.

Our membership numbers continue to grow – just topping 300 now – which shows that we are putting the Covid lockdown behind us and people are wanting to come out and share the fun and learning experience, which is the main function of U3a.

Judith Ridley has also been working particularly hard to resolve the conundrum of recent weeks that badly affected our communications with members. I refer to the One.com contract that provides the server for Committee generic e-mail addresses. At last, new addresses are being created and we'll bring these to you shortly when they have been installed and validated. All will then use the suffix – "@u3aGosport.org.uk" and our personal addresses and contact details will not need to be published and the mail history will move to the new job holder whenever it changes.

We also have a new phone number for U3a - **07424 685261**. The intention is that calling this number will reach the 'duty committee person' in emergencies or requests for information – so a good number to put in your phone for Gosport U3a.

Anyway, enough from me - enjoy your U3a activities and tell your friends!

**George Cantrill**

## **THORNGATE MEETINGS**

We were treated to an amazing talk this month at the Member's meeting at Thorngate Halls. Richard Jones has an encyclopedic knowledge of 'disasters' – which on the face of it shouldn't be so enthralling but, as he says, so many big incidents hold our attention for a little while until another happens and then the previous one gets 'forgotten'. Not so with Richard, he clearly is a mine of information on so many historical events, from the Sinking of the Titanic to the destruction of the Twin Towers 9/11 and many more besides. His numerous books recording such disasters are testament to his enthusiasm – all producing a valuable historical record. How many of our members before the talk knew that the US twin towers disaster site had been the site of a sea-going disaster a couple of hundred years before? It seems that a ship's wreck was unearthed in the foundations of the buildings when they were cleared to allow the building of the memorial to the victims of the disaster of twenty years ago. An amazing man – mention a disaster in our living memory and he has instant recall of the details and the background. Thank you, Richard, for this most interesting visit.

Next month, at our early April meeting, we'll be hearing (quite literally) from our member Martin Moore who will be talking and demonstrating Victorian Mechanical Music. Sounds good Martin!.

George Cantrill

## **MEMBERSHIP**

Thank you to all who have renewed your membership for 2024/25. The current membership year ends on 31<sup>st</sup> March. For those of you still to renew, payments can be made by cheque payable to **U3A Gosport** and sent to:

77 Grove Road, Gosport, PO12 4JJ

Or by bank transfer: **U3A Gosport**, Sort Code: **30-93-56**, Acc No: **02123229**

Reference payment with your name and current membership number.

Members will be able to collect their membership cards at general meetings. If you wish to receive your card by post you will need to supply the membership secretary with a stamped self-addressed envelope. Many thanks and best wishes to you all.

***Linda Clachan, Membership Secretary.***

## **WELFARE OFFICER**

Hello everyone, I hope that you are all keeping well. All of the dates for the new members coffee mornings are on the website, the next one being Monday.

On a personal note, I wish to inform you that I will be stepping down from my roles as Welfare Officer and New Members Mentor, at the AGM.

These are roles I have thoroughly enjoyed doing over the last few years, but it's time for someone new to take over. It's been a privilege to support you all, and to work with such a great committee.

If anyone is interested in taking over, I am happy to be contacted to discuss what this entails.

My very best wishes to you all

Sheena

***Sheena Bone***

# **GROUP NEWS UPDATES**

## **Group Coordinator**

### **AGM - Group Leaders**

Notification of the AGM will appear elsewhere but we will be reverting to the pre-pandemic format in which Groups have the opportunity to promote their activities. Tables will be available for this so if you would like to have one please let me and Maggie Gavin know as soon as possible.

Barrie Bullimore (Group Leader Coordinator)

## **50s & 60s MUSIC GROUP**

This year marks the 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our group. In that time we have featured musicians from Frank Sinatra to the Beatles and from 50s Rock & Roll to 60s Soul music. We are currently exploring the records that members could have purchased in 1964.

There are two separate groups that meet monthly, one in the Gosport Museum and Art Gallery (1<sup>st</sup> Monday of the month) and the other at HEDCA (1<sup>st</sup> Thursday) with the same programme featured at both groups. Please note however, that due to Easter both groups are not meeting in April.

There are currently vacancies at each venue so please contact me on the number below if you would like further information.

Geoff Piper 023 93113127

## **CRAFT GROUP**

The Craft Group spent a very enjoyable meeting decorating sardine tins! It's amazing what different ideas the members came up with, from seaside themes to flowers, Easter chickens, butterflies, weddings and swans.

Do come along and join us at our next session on Monday 25<sup>th</sup> March at the Search Centre.



February 9<sup>th</sup> saw 9 members from U3a Gosport, braved the rain to visit the ARC at Winchester to see an exhibition of Shoes and also Textile Art from around the region. The shoes brought back many memories of clogs, brothel creepers and stiletto heels, which ruined many a floor!



The Textile Art was amazing and inspiring and gave us ideas for future craft projects.

We finished the day with tea at the Cathedral and a walk around the historic Close.

best wishes,  
Maggie

## **Folk Dance Group**

Our numbers are still small but we continue to enjoy learning dances from past times. It has been said that dancing is "music made visible" but we have not quite achieved that yet!

We meet at the Methodist Church in Stokes Road on the second Monday of each month, 10.15 to 11.45am and usually take a refreshment break part way through.

It's not overly energetic so if you can walk you can do it!

Barrie Bullimore

## **Genealogy Group**

Our next meeting is on Friday 15th March on the ground floor of the Discovery Centre at 2 pm.

Regards

David Atkins

## **Get by in French - Débrouillez-vous en français**

We meet every Tuesday at 1030 by Video Conferencing...To join all you have to do is provide your email address to the following: Richard Lovett at [Richardf.lovett@gmail.com](mailto:Richardf.lovett@gmail.com) or 023 9258 5194

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.



## **Philosophy Today**

This month the Philosophy Today Group will be discussing Hippocrates statement "Let food be thy medicine & medicine be thy food"

We do have room for new members if you would like to join us on Monday March 11th from 2:15pm until 3:45pm in the Gosport Museum & Art Gallery.

Group Leader: Jackie Martin

## **Psychology, Criminology & Forensics Study Group**

The **Psychology, Criminology & Forensics Study Group** is still proving popular. The couple of spaces that we had were very quickly taken & the Group is now full again.

We have Police Community Support Officer Gemma Broster coming to talk to us this month.

Some of us will be visiting The Courts of Justice in Portsmouth in April to meet with a Judge & a member of Court Staff before observing that morning's Court Session. This visit was oversubscribed so we hope to arrange another visit later in the year

Co - Leaders: Carole Sharman & Tricia Stevenson

## **Quiz Group**

The **Quiz** Group meets on the second Tuesday of each month, bar August & December, from 7pm until 9pm in the Carisbrooke Arms, 75 Carisbrooke Road, Gosport, PO13 0QY. The £1 charge per meeting pays for our annual prize giving & buffet evening.

We play in teams with members picked from 'a hat' on the night so that folk are not always in the same team.

Full details are on our webpage <https://u3asites.org.uk/gosport/page/55583>

Co-Leaders: Jean Plummer & Tricia Stevenson

## **And news of a (currently) non-U3a events which may be of interest to members**

### **Gosport Ambassadors**

There was a consensus amongst local business, community & public sector leaders that Gosport punches below its weight, that the reality of the place is way better than its image. As a result, its potential was not being recognised or realised.

The aim of Gosport Ambassadors is to get as many people & organisations as possible to 'tell & sell' the Gosport Story to their networks & contacts i.e. to become Gosport Ambassadors.

Gosport Ambassadors are a powerful network of local businesses, organisations & residents working together to help change perceptions of Gosport, thereby raising its profile in the eyes of investors, businesses & visitors.

To join the Gosport Ambassadors or find out more visit <https://www.gosport.gov.uk/article/2537/Gosport-Ambassadors-Programme>

If you have room please can you advertise the following?

The next meeting of the Gosport Local History Luncheon Club will be held on 21 March at 12,00 midday in the parish hall of Christchurch, Stoke Road. Andrew Negus

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**2023-24 COMMITTEE ROLES AND CONTACTS**  
***THESE HAVE CHANGED SINCE THE MEMBER BROCHURE***

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**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.**