

MEMBERS' NEWS UPDATE APRIL 2024

FROM THE CHAIR-

Well, the clocks now say we are in British Summer Time (not that the weather is confirming that) but for many, the summer holidays are being booked and the spring flowers are coming into bloom. So, it's also time to plan all the summer activities from the great variety of u3a groups and events on offer.

Our first major event is of course our AGM – this year back to its normal time in the calendar after the long Covid lockdown. It's also being planned on past lines too with a chance for members to really consider who they want to run Gosport u3a and to influence how we move forward, followed by a social lunch before sitting back to enjoy an entertaining speaker. So, if you haven't already diared Friday 26th April at 11 am at Gosport Methodist Church, Stokes Road then do so now! – and don't forget to pack a 'sharing plate' of your favourite snacks for our American Supper lunch. At 2 pm we'll be entertained by our guest speaker, Martin Marks, who'll be reminiscing with us all the humour of the 'wish you were here' Seaside Postcard and the famous Bamforth company most memorably associated with them.

But the really crucial element of our day is the election of a new committee. It is a bit more important this time round due to the greater than normal number of vacancies on the team that are needing to be filled. See for yourself from this table –

<i>Current role</i>	<i>Current holder</i>	<i>Known nominee(s) to date</i>
Chair	George Cantrill	George – (for 1 more year max)
Vice Chair	Barrie Bullimore	Nomination needed
Secretary	Maggie Gavin	Maggie Gavin
Treasurer	Judith Ridley	Judith Ridley
Membership Secretary	Linda Clachan	Tinou Neale
Website Admin	Jennifer Bellamy	Jennifer Bellamy
Beacon Admin	Judy Foster	Judy Foster
Member mentor/welfare	Sheena Bone	Nomination needed
News Update editor	George Cantrill	Nomination needed
Publicity	George Cantrill	Nomination needed
Speaker Secretary	George Cantrill	Nomination needed

We owe a big 'thank you' to Barrie, Linda and Sheena for their contributions in the past years but all of them will be standing down this year. On a personal note, neither do I feel able to be a 'multi-role holder' (I am not getting younger and have health issues) but am prepared to do the Chair role if nominated. We are an organisation with over 300 members so it is a real pity if we can't encourage just less than a dozen to come forward to give a little time and 'life experience' to keeping our u3a on the road. This uncertainty of the future of Gosport U3a is really that serious. Please think about offering to join in - one meeting per month is all that is asked of you!

You will notice from the contact list at the end of this bulletin that all role-holders now have a new contact email. Many thanks to Judith for resolving the difficulties that we had when we had to give up the old 'One.com' supported addresses – we'll now find it so much easier to hand over to successors with a continuity mail trail for each subject. Please now use these addresses rather than the private ones from recent months and note too that we have a telephone number for enquiries - **07424 685261**. 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.

George Cantrill

THORNGATE MEETINGS –



The wide interests and hobbies of our members never ceases to amaze me. When Martin Moore offered to give us a talk on his collection of Victorian Mechanical Music, I hadn't expected him to be bringing along such a fascinating collection of 'still working' and well cared for music making machines. Some originate from the early part of the Victorian era up to the far more recent wind-up gramophones – so very reminiscent of my parent's old neighbour's pianola which I was allowed to 'pedal' as a boy and marvel that music could be produced from punched out rolls of paper. Martin's collection from the simplest of 'card music' of the Victorians to the elaborate punched disc of crooning music from Frank Sinatra hits was so brilliantly displayed and Martin even completed the atmosphere of the period by looking the part too – plus of course having to wind away to provide the 'air power' for the various bellow arrangements. This was truly a family affair with Martin's wife, Judith, and grandson Logan, acting as 'glamorous assistants' by lifting to prominence each 'next' exhibit as Martin's talk progressed. Well done and thanks Martin and family!

If any member has a hobby that you'd like to share with us, please let me know! Don't forget though – no meeting at Thorngate next month, giving way to the Annual General Meeting on 26th April. In June, I'll give you the story of peace campaigner Sir Randal Cremer (formerly of Fareham).

George Cantrill

MEMBERSHIP

Welcome to our new members and thank you to all who have renewed their membership for the 2024/25 year.

For any members who have yet to renew their membership the committee have granted a grace period until 14th April after which non-renewals will be recorded as lapsed and will not be entitled to attend groups or general meetings.

Lapsed members will still be able to renew their membership but will have to reapply to attend a group.

If you have any queries I can be contacted by email: memsec@u3agosport.org.uk

Or through the u3a Gosport phone no: 07424 685261 where your query will be passed to the appropriate committee member.

Linda Clachan, Membership Secretary.

WELFARE OFFICER-

Hello everyone, the next new members' coffee morning is due to be held on Monday 3rd June, from 10:30 - 11:30 in the Discovery Centre.

As I am standing down as New Members Mentor and Welfare Officer, I want to take this opportunity to wish you all well, and to thank the committee for all of their support over the years.

Sheena Bone

GROUP NEWS UPDATES -

NB to leaders - As our new u3a year starts this month, the printed leaflets for members are in preparation. The details are checked against the information showing on the website for the days on which groups meet, where they meet and the times of the sessions - if these details are not correct on the website they will appear on printed leaflets incorrectly. If you are a group leader, please check (or ask someone to do it for you) that the details shown are accurate. If not, please let me know on webadm@u3agosport.org.uk as soon as possible. Also, even if you don't use the website, it's important for potential members to see what groups are available and whether they are on a day/time/location they can make before they join

It is very sad to see several of our groups close recently. If you no longer wish to run a group, please let the committee know in advance - firstly, if you are unhappy or need more support they may be able to help, and secondly if you really need to give up, another potential leader can be sought.

Our u3a is run by, and for, volunteer members and no-one should feel they are not supported in their valuable roles.

Best wishes
Jennifer Bellamy

Note too – if your group isn't mentioned in this update, remind the leader of your group to provide me with regular group news – Newsed!

ARCHAEOLOGY GROUP



This month the archaeology group discussed the archaeological evidence of Viking remains, these are some photos from the Viking museum in Stavanger, Norway.

If you might be interested in joining our small friendly group I would be delighted to hear from you.

Julie Bennetts group leader



Bus, Beer & Banter Group

Seventeen of our members joined our Southsea outing in March. We had lunch in the Brewhouse & Kitchen, a brewpub serving freshly brewed award-winning craft beers.

After which we visited the Barley Mow, the Meat & Barrel & the Hole in the Wall.

Maureen & Tricia

Get by in French Group

Illustration courtesy of Lingo Mastery

Débrouillez-vous en français

(Get by in French)

The Giants of Flanders.....famous in Belgium and Northern France. To learn more join our group.

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 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.



Richard Lovett

PAINTING GROUP

Spaces are available to join our happy band of painters. No experience needed and no need for expensive materials; just pick up a pencil, some paper and a few paints and come along for a relaxing hour or so putting paint to paper.

Want to give it a go? For more details go to the Painting page on our website:

<https://u3asites.org.uk/gosport/page/55573> and either send a message with your contact details or give me a call.

Roger Pike, Group Leader

Psychology, Criminology & Forensics

Thirty members came along to our March meeting to listen to a very interesting talk by Police Community Support Officer Gemma Broster. Gemma spoke to us about how the police are organised in Gosport, types of crime in Gosport, what happens when a person is arrested in Gosport & more. She also answered a lot of questions.



Help shape policing in your neighbourhood. Hampshire & Isle of Wight Constabulary are seeking your views on the issues that affect you!

Visit <https://survey.hampshirealert.co.uk/> if you would like to complete the survey.

PC&F will NOT be meeting in April, July or September as we have trips arranged to Portsmouth Combined Courts, Winchester University & the Royal Courts of Justice. In common with many u3a Groups we don't meet in August or December.

Carole & Tricia

Quiz Group

Our next meeting will be on **Tuesday April 9th 2024** when Nick Blunden will be our Quizmaster. The Quiz will start at 7pm as usual, in the Carisbrooke Arms, 75 Carisbrooke Road, PO130QY & we are finished by 9pm.

There is a charge of £1 per meeting which goes towards the annual prizes & the November Buffet. New members are always welcome. We play in teams with members picked from 'a hat' on the night which means that you won't always be on the same team so it's a good chance to meet new people.

Jean & Tricia

2023-24 COMMITTEE ROLES AND CONTACTS

Chairman	George Cantrill	Chair@u3agosport.org.uk
Secretary	Maggie Gavin	Secretary@u3agosport.org.uk
Deputy Chairman	Barrie Bullimore	Depchair@u3agosport.org.uk
Beacon Administrator	Judy Foster	Beaconadm@u3agosport.org.uk
Membership Secretary	Linda Clachan	Memsec@u3agosport.org.uk
Group Coordinator	Barrie Bullimore	Groupcoord@u3agosport.org.uk
Member Mentor	Sheena Bone	Mentor@u3agosport.org.uk
News Editor	George Cantrill (pro tem)	Newsed@u3agosport.org.uk
Publicity	George Cantrill	Publicity@u3agosport.org.uk
Speaker's Secretary	George Cantrill	Speaker@u3agosport.org.uk
Website Administrator	Jennifer Bellamy	Webadm@u3agosport.org.uk
Welfare Officer	Sheena Bone	Welfare@u3agosport.org.uk
Treasurer	Judith Ridley	Treasurer@u3agosport.org.uk

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.

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.

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



QUIZ AID - for Christian Aid Week

EVERYONE IS WELCOME

GET A TEAM TOGETHER

OR COME ALONG ON YOUR OWN

TO

BRIDGEMARY

METHODIST CHURCH

GREGSON AVE PO13 0PP

SATURDAY 4th MAY at 2pm

TEA AND CAKE, RAFFLE AND LOTS OF FUN

COST £5

CONTACT JEAN 02392 342301

Mamas and Papas



to



Mozart

AND BACK! (2)

**75 Minutes of
Popular Music from
Broadway Shows, Opera, Pop Charts
etc.**

**St. Mary's Church
Alverstoke
Saturday 20th April 4.00pm
Paul Pilott Louise Helyer
and Friends
Admission Free
Retiring Collection for
St. Mary's Organ Fund**