

MEMBERS' NEWS UPDATE JULY 2023

CHAIRMAN'S NOTES

Fellow members,

Well, here we are at the summer break point already! Most of our groups take a rest for the next month or so, as August is declared a holiday for so many activities. However, that doesn't stop us enjoying ourselves and everyone is invited to a picnic at a new venue for us at Nicholson Gardens. Maggie has sent everyone an email with all the details but we won't be providing the Pimms! Geoff Piper will be providing background music so augers well for a really enjoyable afternoon.

On a more serious note, this year, for the U3a Committee, will now be a little longer. At the meeting on 5th July, members present unanimously supported the proposition that we move the AGM back to the original April point in the diary. It was moved at the start of the Covid epidemic when meetings were effectively stopped and we now find ourselves out of kilter with the rest of the organisation, so we will be soldiering on until April 2024 but we will still give you a progress report in November as planned.

If you enjoy our Thorngate meetings and would like to help out by coming a little earlier to volunteer as a 'meeter and greeter', giving a warm welcome to new and prospective members, we would love to hear from you. The pay isn't good, but the hours and duties are not very onerous! Please let Judith Ridley, our treasurer, know if you can help as she is organising the rotas etc. Other news, too, the day trips group has been re-activated by making block bookings for interested members with a local coach company. Contact Maggie Gavin if you are interested a couple of trips are already organised for later this year but they do get booked up very quickly. If you fancy Folk Dancing, Barrie Bullimore is starting up a new group at the Gosport Methodist Church in September, so no, we are not resting! just getting ready for another exciting time in the Autumn with Gosport U3a. And if you are away on holiday, I hope that you have a really good time. See you at the Picnic!

George Cantrill

THORNGATE MEETINGS

If we thought that we might be running out of good speakers with interesting topics before the summer, we'd be so wrong. This week we were visited by brilliant author Phillip K Allan, who clearly knows all there is to know about the wooden ships of the Royal Navy and their preparedness to defend our islands against the likes of Napoleon Bonaparte. Phillip told us how our boats were built, prepared, and put to sea in the 19th century. Those stories of recruitment (often by press gangs) were described, plus how the men were fed (livestock also being accommodated for fresh food and goat's milk etc). We learned too, how the ladies who managed to get aboard as wives, would not necessarily be wearing wedding rings! Maintenance crews also had to be on hand, hence co-travelling carpenters and artisans, plus all their tools and spare repair-ready materials. Yes, life was hard, but survival needed more than food supplies at the visiting ports etc. Fascinating stuff and all true.

Not only does Phillip present these talks around the country and on cruise ships, but he is a prolific author and brings alive the life and times of his subjects with gripping stories of the sea and sea battles on his favourite wooden ships. We were lucky to have him visit us (maybe having his big sister, Gosport U3a member, Tinou, as a helping hand at our meetings opened a door). Phillip's books are available on Amazon and I have put one on my Kindle - it's a gripping read!

We will be ringing the topic changes again when the speaker at our September meeting (just a couple of months away already) will be Adrian Stannard from Eye Contact. Enjoy your summer break.

George Cantrill

A NOTE FOR YOUR DIARY – Picnic in the Park

We hope many of you will be able to join us for the picnic and look forward to seeing you on **Thursday, 10th August 2023** in Nicholson Gardens, Gosport from **1:30pm-4:00pm**. The Gardens are in Carlton Road (off Prince of Wales Road) and although there is no parking in the grounds, you can park along the road in that area, or, for 3 hours in the Jamaica Place car park.

Chairs and tables are available, so no need to bring your own and there are shaded areas if the weather is very hot. There will be free tea and coffee, but no alcohol is permitted in the gardens although you can bring your own food. Geoff has very kindly agreed to provide background music for us.

Maggie Gavin, Secretary

THE 50's & 60's MUSIC GROUP

Both Music Groups will not, this year, meet in September and October but will meet as usual in August. Each month we listen to music from an individual artist or a type of music. Last month we featured Burt Bacharach and in July and August we will be listening to the music of some 1960s musical icons. Many of the group will be attending the Brendon Care Music Night (see poster at end of the News Update), where Geoff will be playing music from the golden age of popular music and taking requests on the night. This is a great social evening for anyone wishing to come along. The group is now in its 14th year and has a membership of over 60, who meet at HEDCA on the first Thursday of the month and welcome new members to the group.

Please phone Geoff Piper (02393 113127) if you would like to attend.

Geoff Piper, Group Leader

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 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)

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. We meet every Tuesday at 10:30am by Video Conferencing.

Details from Richard Lovett at Richardf.lovett@gmail.com or 02392 585194

Richard Lovett, Group Leader

FINE DINING GROUP

Unfortunately, the Avenue141 restaurant's building renovations will continue into September and their September bookings have now been cancelled. However, our 'Summer Break' venues continue with several group members meeting at The Castle Tavern on the 15 June, and although not quite 'fine dining', it was really nice to get together for a chat and a meal with pleasant company. For those members of the group who are not travelling around the world and who may be wondering what to do with themselves during the summer months, our next 'Summer Break' venue will be at **The Golden Bowler, Stubbington on 20 July** and if anyone would like to join us (bus stops just outside) they will be very welcome. If interested, please contact Jan, via e-mail on u3afinedine@gmail.com or, use the blue bird link on our Gosportu3a Website page.

Jan Damerell, Group Leader

DAY TRIPS GROUP

The Day Trips Group will no longer be hiring a coach for its day trips, as insufficient group members were booking seats and it will now be 'trialing' a variety of Day Trips arranged via Touromo (previously Lucketts). Two Day Trips have been arranged so far, Bletchley Park and the Watercress Line and all new venues will be added to the Gosportu3a Website Page as they become available. For more information, contact Maggie or via the blue bird icon on website.

Maggie Gavin, Group Leader

GENEALOGY GROUP

We normally meet in the afternoon, on the third Friday of the month on the ground floor in the Discovery Centre and can make use of the computers on the top floor (there is a lift). In June, I was on my own and made good use of a computer, as the 1921 census is available to search (free of charge) if you have a readers' ticket. Members with Readers' Tickets can also access family history records from commercial packages (Ancestry, Find My Past and the British Newspaper Archive). The Group plan to meet on the third Friday afternoons in July, September, October and November, after which we shall review the feasibility of the group. There are on-line talks and events organised by the Third Age Trust, which sometimes include genealogy and family history topics.

David Atkins, Group Leader

GERMAN GROUP



The German Group has room for up to two new members. We meet once a month on the third Tuesday of the month (except August and December) between 10 am and noon, in members' homes. We usually start with German Conversation followed by refreshments and reading a German book. To get the most out of the group, members need to have some knowledge of German.

David Atkins, Group Leader

LOCAL HISTORY GROUP

A walk and talk are planned for our July meeting, led by Ann. There will be no meeting in August, but we hope to meet again on 12th September when we shall discuss and share what we have discovered about the history of Royal Clarence Yard. A new programme will be issued soon. Trust you all have a good holiday break.

Joy Hammond, Group Leader

PICKLEBALL GROUP



Our Pickleball group has been running successfully now for a few months. If you wish to try the game, come and join us on a Monday, 2pm till 3pm at the Gosport Leisure Centre. You only need to have a pair of non-slip trainers or court shoes. Coaching will be given or, come along to watch to see if it's the game for you.

Due to cost of court hire we are required to charge £1 when you play.

Jane Mcardle, Group Leader

HISTORY GROUP

This month the History Group went on a visit to the 'Spring and Arts Heritage Centre' in Havant. The sun was shining, the enthusiasm was high and we were not disappointed. We were met by our guide for the day, Neil, who made us feel extremely welcome and was a fountain of local knowledge. We started our guided walk by walking along the 'Billy Line', a train line which used to run from Havant via Hayling Island, to Langstone Harbour, visiting the Old Mill and The Chapel on our way.



Then we made our way back to the old part of Havant Town, where we visited the Natural Spring, before returning to the Havant Centre for lunch. After lunch we visited the small museum and then made our way back home. Everyone left having had a great time and with an even greater knowledge of Havant. I am sure the rest of the group will be planning a trip back soon as I certainly will be.

Linda Dorsett, Group Leader

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-GOSPORTU3A - LOCAL EVENTS

(Which you may be interested in)



Gosport Music night, 50's and 60's

Dance the night away to 50's and 60's at our monthly
Music night
Have fun and socialise - all welcome

Every 2nd Friday 7pm - 10pm

The Anchorage, Gosport PO12 1LZ

Members £1.50 and Non-Members £3.00 (card only)

Call **01962 857 099** or
email clubs@brendoncare.org.uk


BrendonCare