

MEMBERS' NEWS UPDATE MARCH 2022



A message from our Chair

Hello Everyone,

I trust you are all looking forward to Spring and the warmer weather after the last week of storms and heavy winds we endured.

It is nice to see things have calmed down.

This year u3a celebrates its 40th anniversary, so the committee will be discussing an event that we could perhaps arrange to celebrate this event with members, or it may be that you would like to celebrate in your own groups. If any of you have any thoughts please let me know.

Best wishes

Pat Luke, Chair



Editor's note re the 40th Anniversary – Members may be interested in joining a zoom webinar described as a Spring Gathering on 7th April organized by the South East Region of U3a. Introduced by Susie Berry, Trustee for the South East Region of U3a, there is a full programme of speakers from 9.30 am to 2.30 pm and includes break-out sessions for interactive discussion. It's free to U3a members but you do have to register. If you are interested, use this link - <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/spring-gathering-tickets-268897147607> by April 6th at the latest.

MEMBERSHIP Thank you to all who have already renewed their membership and welcome to all our new members.

As this is the last News Update before the end of the subscription year please excuse this 'gentle' reminder:

Membership renewals are due by 31st March. A link to how to renew your membership is on the Member's page of the U3A Gosport website. All cheque/BACS payments should be made out to U3A Gosport.

As all BACS payments are now processed promptly, I will record any members whose subscriptions I have not received by 8th April as lapsed. Lapsed members will not be eligible to attend Interest Groups. Membership can be reinstated upon payment of subscription. Reinstated members will need to make a request to interest group leaders to join/rejoin a group. *Linda Clachan, Membership Secretary*

WELFARE OFFICER Hello everyone, A very warm welcome to our new members, and a reminder that the next New Members coffee morning is March 7th, 10:30 in the Discovery Centre. If I can be of any assistance in my dual roles of New Members Mentor and Welfare Officer, please don't hesitate to contact me. Best wishes, stay safe and well. *Sheena Bone, Welfare Officer*

GENERAL MEETINGS AT THORNGATE -

Madeleine Salvetti led a really interesting ‘canter’ through the annual diary and gave us the background to the notable dates that give rise to long held customs and celebrations from New Year’s Day to the next St Stephen’s Day or Boxing Day (apparently notable by the *boxes* of gifts that were given to the poor by the gentry after Christmas). On the way, we were also reminded of all our UK Saint’s Days –and learning that St George was born in Rome – having the same birthday as William Shakespeare! – hence “England and St George” as quoted in Henry V, Act III. Many of us could remember when the Victorian ‘Empire Day’ – celebrated on Queen Victoria’s birthday was changed to Commonwealth Day in the 1950’s. As a Derbyshire lad it was good to hear Madeleine including the Tissington Well Dressings in the list too. (*Thanks for the memories Madeleine! - George Cantrill – standing in for Maggie Gavin in her absence*).

Maggie, our speaker secretary, is currently enjoying a few days away but I know that she would welcome ideas and contacts from members for future speakers at the monthly meetings.

U3a Gigglebox – A language problem!

A bus stops and 2 very ethnic Italian men get on. They sit down and engage in animated conversation.

The lady sitting next to them ignores them at first but she becomes rivetted by their conversation –

Emma come first

Den I come

Dena two asses coma together

I come once more

Two asses, day coma together ahgain,

I coma gain and den pee twice

The I coma one lasta time

Finally, she’s heard enough and tells the man “what dirty talk! In this country we don’t talk about our sex lives like that in public!

“Hey Wassa mattah lady? Who’s talking about sex?

I’m just telling mah friend how to spell Mississippi”

(Editor’s note – I’d be happy to receive any of your favourite jokes or cartoons for possible inclusion in Gigglebox for future editions of Update when space permits – newsupdateeditor@gosportu3a.org.uk)

Apologies if this slightly ‘adult’ humour offends my readers this month – but it really did make me giggle! So a little more innocently perhaps, did you hear about the teacher who was getting to know her pupils on the first day at school and asked one little girl “and what does your daddy do?” The little girl replied “Whatever mummy tells him to do” Boom, boom!

GROUP REPORTS AND CHANGES from Group Leaders

ARCHEOLOGY GROUP

We had a fantastic meeting this month discussing Tudor archaeological finds, along with discussing various fossil finds which have been collected by members along our coastline. The museum also lent us fossils to compare them with and help us to identify them. A member also discovered that Gosport has its very own TUDOR WALL. It is found off of one of the alleyways along the high street, so we all trotted along at the end of the session to have a look and a feel. Something built so long ago...amazing!

Contact Julie Bennetts

ART APPRECIATION GROUP

The Art Appreciation group meets on the 3rd Tuesday of the month, and we discuss various art forms including ceramics, jewelry, glass etc. The subject for our last meeting was Miniatures, this covered the history, the works of Penelope Ross, Rosa De Jong who produces works of art in test tubes, works produced as love tokens by Isaac Oliver and the zany world of Chewing Gum artist who paints on gum found on the pavements! In contrast the work of Tatsuya Tanaka uses up to date technology to produce a miniature work every day of the year featuring everyday items and tiny dolls he collected as a hobby.

We always welcome new members to the group.

For details contact Maggie Gavin

CLIMATE CHANGE GROUP

We have been meeting on the second Monday of the month and have fourteen members. New members are welcome to come along. Our last three meetings have discussed, but not necessarily found a solution, on "Milk and the effect on the Environment", "Conspicuous consumption at Christmas" and "World Population".

Pauline Potter.

50's and 60's GROUP

Our next music evening will be on 14th May at HEDCA. Further information will be given in a future Monthly News update. If you are interested, please put the date in your diary now. Meanwhile Geoff is finalizing the programme and hospitality plans for the evening and will be advising ticket price etc later.

Contact Geoff Piper for further information.

DRAMA AND MUSICAL THEATRE GROUP

The revamped Musical & Drama Theatre Group will meet in March to plan our first trip. Info will go out via Beacon to those who have expressed an interest.

Contact Neena by email, nvadra@yahoo.com for details.

GET BY IN FRENCH GROUP

Big thank-you to Frank Hall who is sadly standing down as Group Leader after leading it for 8yrs - so "merci beaucoup" Frank". Good news is that Richard Lovett has agreed to take over as leader.

Contact – Richard Lovett

GENEALOGY -

The Genealogy group met last Friday in the Discovery Centre and David Atkins has offered to lead it. David is currently contacting those interested to try and agree a convenient date for the next meeting.

Contact: David Atkins 02392 553198

QUIZ GROUP – Good to see old and new friends joining us at the meeting in February. Our next meeting at Carisbrooke pub on Tuesday 8th March at 7 pm. George Cantrill is setting the questions this month.

Contact Tricia Stevenson

PLAY READING – Colleen has had her first meeting with members, and it went well.

Contact Colleen Wright, 02393 110709.

HISTORY GROUP

The History group met this week to discuss, "Pirates and smuggling". Many of the group researched the subject and brought along their findings to share with the group, including "Chinese Pirates", "Famous British Pirates", "The Barbary Pirates" and "The Jamaica Inn" These and other topics led to very interesting discussions on the topic. A very enjoyable afternoon had by all.

Linda Dorsett.

GOSPORT WALKERS

Walking is good for you! Anne Sandall would be happy to see new members to join the walking group for one of the two walks that she organizes each month – one short and one a bit longer. See the website for more info or phone Ann directly.

07856 291118

2021-22 COMMITTEE ROLES AND CONTACTS

SOME COMMITTEE ROLES AND CONTACTS HAVE CHANGED SINCE THE MEMBER BROCHURE

Chairperson	Pat Luke	chair@gosportu3a.org.uk	07752 596893
Treasurer	Jim Luke	treasurer@gosportu3a.org.uk	07485129506
Secretary	Linda Dorsett	secretary@gosportu3a.org.uk	07763 441602
Membership Secretary	Linda Clachan	membsec@gosportu3a.org.uk	07752 290588
News Update Editor	George Cantrill	newsupdateeditor@gosportu3a.org.uk	01329 238429
Publicity	Linda Dorsett	publicity@gosportu3a.org.uk	07763 441602
Welfare Officer	Sheena Bone	welfareofficer@gosportu3a.org.uk	02392 602427
Member Mentor	Sheena Bone	membmentor@gosportu3a.org.uk	02392 602427
Group Liaison Officer	Eve Thurston		07912207047

NON-COMMITTEE ROLES

Beacon Administrator	Pat Luke	BeaconAdmin@gosportu3a.org.uk	07752 596893
Website Administrator	Jennifer Bellamy	WebAdmin@gosportu3a.org.uk	07765 500053
Speakers' Secretary	Maggie Gavin	speakers@gosportu3a.org.uk	02392 501505

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.

Group Leaders' contact details are on the website and most group pages have a bluebird link to the leaders' email address. <https://u3asites.org.uk/gosport/home>

DATE	EVENT	LOCATION	CONTACT
Wednesday 6th April Speaker tba	General Meeting –	Thorngate Halls	Pat Luke 07752 596893
March 7 th 10.30 am	New member coffee morning	Discovery Centre	Sheena Bone 02392 602427
Saturday May 14 th	50's & 60's evening	Hedca	Geoff Piper

!! NB Thorngate Hall Management request that members retiring for coffee after our meeting leave the hall out to the front patio area – i.e. not by the inner door leading to the next function room which may be in use by another organisation.

Non-U3a local entertainment you might like to avail yourselves of –

CHARITY RACE NIGHT AT HMS SULTAN IN AID OF GAFIRS

At last the 40th Anniversary year of this event is being held on **FRIDAY 29th APRIL 2022**

To secure tickets and 'reserve seats / table or booth' *please ensure you make the appropriate payment into the account by Friday 11th March* (tickets subject to availability and expected to be as always a sell-out, especially as it's a special anniversary year so request sooner rather than later!?) Upon the appropriate total payment email me les@heyhoe.com with the full names of attendees and an address where to forward the tickets to?

Dress Code: Smart Casual – NO T-Shirts, Jeans, Shorts or Sportswear



NO Food to be brought or consumed and NO Smoking permitted!

Kindly spread the word amongst your family, friends and colleagues as they are more than welcome to attend at the ticket price cost as advised but subject to ticket availability!?! 200 of the 300 available tickets have already been sold! Regrettably due to rising costs etc. (£2,500.00 to hold this event), why not consider attending and be part of history, because sadly it is more

than likely to be the last occasion it will be held at HMS SULTAN.

Les Heyhoe BCav, Charity Race Night Organizer & Life Mess Member WOs' & SRs' Mess HMS SULTAN, 112 St Vincent Road, Gosport Hants PO12 4RF

Tel: 02392 357181 / Mob: 07494 150563 Email: les@heyhoe.com

LEE PLAYERS -

Lee Players are presenting the classic 'Ladies in Lavender' (based on the film directed by Charles Dance that starred Judy Dench and Eileen Atkins) at Stubbington Community Centre on two nights Friday and Saturday 18th & 19th March.

Doors open at 7.30 with curtain up at 8 pm. Tickets are £10 and can be acquired by phone to Jan at 01329 662128. You'll be seated at tables so take your refreshments with you! Tickets are 'going well', we are told. One of the leading ladies is also a member of our U3a! Have a night out and support local Amdram!

THIS UPDATE HAS BEEN SENT TO ALL MEMBERS VIA THE BEACON DATABASE

The next News Update will be circulated on 8th April
Please email any news items by Friday 1st April to George Cantrill
Space is often tight so make sure you get submissions in early
VISIT OUR WEBSITE FOR FULLER INFORMATION ABOUT OUR u3a
<https://u3asites.org.uk/gosport/home>