

MEMBERS' NEWS UPDATE

November 2022



A message from your new Chairman



First, let me pay tribute to Pat Luke who with her husband, Jim, have been at the helm of Gosport U3a as Chair and Treasurer respectively. Pat has led with enthusiasm and good humour for around 5 years and, last year, she and Jim tied the knot, and they are now quite rightly looking forward to being able to really enjoy their new life together.

However, it's good to know that we won't be losing them altogether as U3a still features in their upcoming diary (especially dancing) but includes more opportunity for travel and enjoying time with their far-flung families overseas. *Many thanks Pat and Jim for all your hard work for Gosport U3a.*

Thanks too, to our retiring Secretary, Linda Dorsett, who, despite leaving after a long spell as Secretary (among other committee duties), is now looking forward to enjoying new hobbies – and 'more U3a!' So now it's my turn – but I'm pleased that the committee that you've elected me to lead comprises a rich mix of existing and new members – all looking forward to continuing to make Gosport U3a an even more exciting and vibrant organization for developing hobbies and learning in the third age.

So, who is new and who is going to be doing what?

First, you're having a new Update Editor. Taking this on is Nick Blunden, who is far more 'computer savvy' than me, and our new Treasurer, Judith Ridley, brings much experience from her previous life in the city. U3a stalwarts, Secretary Maggie Gavin, Membership Secretary, Linda Clachan and Member Mentor, Sheena Bone, remain with us to remind we 'newbies' how to stay on the straight and narrow in the best traditions of Gosport U3a. Also joining the team is Barrie Bullimore who, whilst becoming Deputy Chairman, will also look after all the presentation and publicity property used for our events. In the meantime, I'm taking on responsibility as Speaker Secretary and following up Public Relations opportunities. Jennifer Bellamy is steering the U3a Website whilst Jan Demerell has agreed to be Beacon Website Coordinator.

Being elected to the committee doesn't mean we can claim a monopoly of ideas, so please do contact any one of us if there's something you'd like to do or see in Gosport U3a – our contact details are included in each Update and on the website.

Best wishes, George Cantrill

MEMBERSHIP

If you know of anyone who is interested in joining our U3A, I can be contacted through the website. I am always happy to answer any membership queries and provide information to potential members.

Best wishes, ***Linda Clachan, Membership Secretary***

WELFARE OFFICER

Hi everyone, I do hope that you are all keeping fit and well. The new members coffee mornings continue to run well. The next one will be on Monday November 7th, 10:30 at the Discovery Centre, which I will be running with the help of Linda Dorset, our secretary.

I look forward to meeting our new members over a complimentary tea or coffee.

Regards, Sheena Bone, Welfare Officer

CHRISTMAS LUNCH – a reminder!

Maggie Gavin is organising the annual Christmas Lunch at the Castle Tavern Gosport on 2nd December 12:30 for 1pm **but needs to know asap numbers and menu choices to complete the booking.** The cost is £22 per head (including gratuities). Make your choice from the following:

Starters	<i>Prawn Cocktail</i>	<i>Castle Pate with Melba Toast</i>	<i>Garlic Mushrooms</i>	<i>Vegetable Soup</i>	
Mains	<i>Roast Crown of Turkey</i>	<i>Tavern Salmon Fillet</i>	<i>Home Roasted Gammon</i>	<i>Homemade Pork and Apple Pie</i>	<i>Breaded Vegetable Cakes</i>
Desserts	<i>Xmas Pudding</i>	<i>Hot Chocolate Sponge</i>	<i>Lemon Meringue Pie</i>	<i>Vanilla Ice Cream Sundae.</i>	

Please contact Maggie with your request certainly no later November 8th but you may make your payment directly to the U3a bank transfer – details on the website - otherwise she'll need a cheque.

GENERAL MEETINGS AT THORNGATE -

For our December meeting (Wednesday 7th) we'll be having a talk by members of the Groundlings Theatre Group in Gosport. It will also be our last meeting before Christmas so expect a festive atmosphere for this one. **See you at Xmas lunch?**

Gigglebox Corner

According to unofficial sources, a new simplified income-tax form contains only four lines.

- 1. What was your income for the year?**
- 2. What were your expenses?**
- 3. How much have you left?**
- 4. Send it in!**



GROUP REPORTS AND NEWS

from Group Leaders

ARCHEAOLGY GROUP

This month the group met to talk about 'Bog Bodies'. These are human remains that have been excavated from all over the world, who have been placed, for whatever reason, in bog land. The discussions were extremely fascinating and enjoyed by the group. The topic for November, which will be our last one before Christmas, is Silchester Roman Town excavations.

If any members are interested in coming along to this session, please contact Julie Bennetts on 07790224628 or Linda Dorsett on 07763441202.

FINE DINING GROUP

The Fine Dining Group is a very friendly group who meet at Avenue141 restaurant which is run by the students and staff at Fareham College. We meet every 2nd or 3rd Thursday in the month (dates can be found on u3aGosport website). The cost of the meal is very reasonable and offers a wonderful Fine Dining lunch experience at £12.95 for 2 course or £15.95 for 3 courses which includes complimentary tea/coffee at the end of the meal and for those who enjoy a glass of wine with their meal there is also a small bar available (which is also very reasonably priced).

Following our request for the access gates to be unlocked, the college very kindly arranged for the 'side' gate on The Avenue to be open between 11:30am and 12:00pm which has made access so much easier for the group. Several members of the group have also offered lifts to other members, and this has been much appreciated and helped with transport problems. Due to low numbers in the group, we decided to open the group to other Gosportu3a groups who could bring along a 'friend' as an incentive to boost membership and encourage new members to join our group. Several people were interested and will be joining us in November and at our Xmas Lunch in December and we have already gained 3 new members to the group.

Enquiries were also made to see if other local u3a groups in the area would be interested in joining us (similar to the Cinema Group) and the response from Warsashu3a far exceeded expectations and was so great that it was suggested that they might need to form their own Fine Dining Group instead! ***If you would like to enjoy a lovely meal and meet with lots of new friends, please contact: Jan via e-mail on u3afinedine@gmail.com or Wendie on 07925 256023***

U3A BAND

The U3A Band meets on the second Monday of the month 1400-1600 at HEDCA and would welcome new players. You don't have to be grade 8 to play with us, just join in and have a bit of fun

Contact John on john.taylor177@ntlworld.com

GENEALOGY –

The final meeting for this year is scheduled for 18th November in the Discovery Centre.

Contact: David Atkins 02392 553198

GET BY IN FRENCH GROUP

Get by in French" is a friendly group which welcomes beginners. We not only practice the French language, but we discover aspects of the country such as culture, cuisine, history, geography and local customs. We are working from a French grammar-based textbook, *Living French*, which perfectly complements our aims. It has been the learner's choice for 60 years and is now in its revised seventh edition with up-to-date vocabulary and culture topics. (Available from Amazon for £12.40)

E-mail or phone Richard Lovett for further details. 023 9258 5194
richardf.lovett@gmail.com

HISTORY GROUP

This month it was a welcome return to the Search building for our group meeting. Our topic this month was "interiors" and members of the group were invited to research anything in History around this topic. Items included: The history of the candle; Talliston House; The Hofburg Palace in Vienna; Moroccan design and William Morris. All very different items which resulted in lots of discussion. Our topic for next month, our last one before Christmas, is what we are calling 'A mixed Bag'. In other words members can choose any topic from history they would like to research and bring to the group. We ask members to limit their talk to 5 minutes to allow all members to have their say.

If you are interested in joining us for an interesting afternoon with a friendly, welcoming group, please contact me on 07763441602. Linda Dorsett

LOCAL HISTORY GROUP

Thanks are due to Maggie Gavin for organising our visit to the Mayor in the Guildhall last month. In November our meeting will be held at SEARCH and the topic is 'Gosport's Royal Connections'. Looking forward to seeing many of the group then.

Joy Hammond

POETRY GROUP

The Poetry Group is eager to welcome new members to its Wednesday afternoon meetings, which will be back in the newly refurbished Search. November's theme is "I must go down to the sea again - John Masefield and Sea Poems", and it's on November 9th. Do come and bring your favourites.

Belinda Colby

UKELELE GROUP

The ukulele group is up and running again. We meet at HEDCA on the 2nd Thursday of the month from 2.00-3.30pm. The group is open to Beginners and people who are more experienced. The ethos of the group is to have fun. We sing, play and laugh throughout the session. You don't have to be able to play the Ukulele prior to coming along as we all teach each other as we go along. You would have to have access to a Ukulele and a music stand, however we do have a couple of spare ukes if you just want to come along and have a go.

If you are interested, please contact Richard Glaysher on 07711556260 or Linda Dorsett on 07763441602.

QUIZ GROUP

Tuesday 8th November – Presentation of Winner's Cup and Annual prizes plus a quiz run by Shirley and Iris.

Tuesday 13th December – No Meeting

Tuesday 10th January – Quizmaster, George Cantrill

NB - All group members are invited, if they wish, to take a turn at compiling quizzes & being quizmaster – it all adds to the fun and variety. Members can pair up for this if they prefer.

Look at our webpage <https://u3asites.org.uk/gosport/page/55583> for further information.

Tricia Stevenson

So, let's finish with a quick Quiz. Our October speaker gave a very interesting talk on wine so let's stay with the drinks theme and see what you know on these few. (answers on next page)

1. What fruit is used to flavour Southern Comfort?
2. Vinho Verde is a which wine from which European Country?
3. What brand of lager was advertised on TV by the actor Paul Hogan?
4. From which country does the drink tequila originate?
5. From which fruit is the drink perry distilled?

2021-22 COMMITTEE ROLES AND CONTACTS

SOME COMMITTEE ROLES AND CONTACTS HAVE CHANGED SINCE THE MEMBER BROCHURE

Chairman	George Cantrill	chair@gosportu3a.org.uk	01329 238429
Treasurer	Judith Ridley	treasurer@gosportu3a.org.uk	
Secretary	Maggie Gavin	secretary@gosportu3a.org.uk	
Membership Secretary	Linda Clachan	membsec@gosportu3a.org.uk	07752 290588
News Update Editor	Nick Blunden	newsupdateeditor@gosportu3a.org.uk	
Publicity	George Cantrill	publicity@gosportu3a.org.uk	01329 238429
Welfare Officer	Sheena Bone	welfareofficer@gosportu3a.org.uk	02392 602427
Member Mentor	Sheena Bone	membmentor@gosportu3a.org.uk	02392 602427
Beacon Administrator		BeaconAdmin@gosportu3a.org.uk	07752 596893
Website Administrator	Jennifer Bellamy	WebAdmin@gosportu3a.org.uk	07765 500053
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.

Quick Quiz Answers from P 5 – 1. Peaches. 2 Portugal 3. Fosters. 4. Mexico. 5. Pears.

Non-U3a local events which may be of interest to our members

Local Amdram - Lee Players next production is 'Life and Beth' a comedy by Alan Ayckbourn. Performances will be held in the theatre at Crofton Community Centre Stubbington on Friday 19 and Saturday 20 November commencing at 8pm, doors open at 7.30pm. Tickets are £10 each available from Stubbington Community Centre or tel 01329 662128 and cash payment please.