

MEMBERS' NEWS UPDATE JUNE 2024

FROM THE CHAIR-

Fellow members,

First, an apology for being a little late with this update caused by my cataract surgery last week and thanks for all the good wishes and support – especially from the many who were ahead of me in having this procedure and assured me, quite correctly, that it is not as daunting an operation as I'd previously imagined.

So back to business, the management team has had its first meeting of the year and are raring to go. Members can look forward to the possible regular return of the coffee meeting in the Thorngate Bar after monthly speaker meetings. You'll remember that this popular 'meet and chat time' for members was curtailed when Thorngate management closed the bar sessions at lunchtime. However, we have 'booked' the lounge for an hour or two after our meeting on Wednesday 3rd July for you to get a tea or coffee and to gauge member support – if you like it, then we'll continue to secure this booking each month from September (after our August break).

Note, too, that we'll be taking part again in the Alverstoke Michaelmas Fayre and our Christmas lunch is booked at the Castle Tavern on December 12th. We also have another picnic planned at Nicholson Gardens, details of which will be announced shortly so we have plenty to look forward to. In the meantime, the holiday season is with us and group activities are in full swing – so whatever you've planned to enjoy your summer, have a great time and here's hoping the sun eventually warms up too

George Cantrill.

THORNGATE MEETING

It was unfortunate that our speaker, our Chair George Cantrill, was indisposed after recent surgery – I'm sure he'll give us his talk on another occasion. Fortunate though to obtain such an excellent speaker who engaged us all with his fascinating talk, wonderful photographs and his impersonations!



Andy Newbold Photography (NewBold PR and Media) may not be a name you are familiar with BUT he is a Social, Commercial, Celebrity and Charity Photographer based in both Surrey and Hampshire and has also worked abroad on special charity commissions. Andy has many strings to his bow in terms of the Royal Family and, among his credentials, he is official photographer of the Royal Variety performances (and they were very interesting photos!) and official photographer of the Royal School of Needlework among others.

But the man himself started in newspapers in 1987 and progressed through taking photos of babies in shopping centres to amazing shoots and events for magazines such as Surrey Life, tv, radio and a red-carpet lifestyle meeting celebrities well-known to us and even on super yachts!

We had a few insights into what the stars are REALLY like behind the scenes and we now know that Judy Dench is 'adorable'! To be fair Andy seemed to like all those he photographed and perhaps that is because he made them feel comfortable and had a unique angle on them to ensure he portrayed them at their very best. The names tripped off his tongue ... Laura Hamilton, Virginia McKenna, Damon Hill, Sir Cliff Richard, Sir David Attenborough and so many more. Andy was able to take off the voices of so many of them ... while getting ready to photograph Paul O'Grady he did his impersonation of him ... the great man appeared behind him and said 'are you taking the mickey'! He quite often became friends of celebrities too and the photo he took of Michael Caine was requested by the star for his own sitting room. From civic events to local events Andy has been at them all and prides himself in what he has done in support of many charity events in this country and abroad.

His talk was a 'Who's Who' of household names backed-up by the photos he had taken to go with them. It was good to know that Andy found both the current King and Queen 'lovely' and it was fun to know he said to those he photographed 'think of something naughty' instead of the usual 'say cheese' to raise a smile. It obviously worked and Andy said he was honoured to work so closely with the Royal Family. In turn, I think we were honoured to have him talk to our U3a meeting and we all enjoyed his amazing photographs.

Pam Marsden

Editor's note – Just a reminder to contributors to the Update – Publication is usually in the early part of the month and usually closely following the Thorngate meeting. Contributions should be sent to Newsed@u3agosport.org.uk and may include any photographs you have of your event to support the piece.

GROUP REPORTS AND NEWS FROM GROUP LEADERS

All Group Leaders can be contacted via the blue bird link on the relevant page on the website.

BUS BEER AND BANTER



The **Bus, Beer & Banter Group** visited the pubs of Arundel on May 29th 2024.

Some of our members visited Arundel's world-famous Carpet of Flowers at Our Lady & St. Phillip Howard Cathedral.

There is a different design theme every year, which is drawn out on paper before the thousands of flowers are laid. Photo by Cindy Tull.

Whilst some took a walk beside the river or visited the many Antique Shops &/or the selection of Independent Shops.

Tricia Stevenson

GET BY IN FRENCH

Illustration courtesy of Lingo Mastery

Débrouillez-vous en français

Nous ne parlons pas couramment, mais nous nous débrouillons plus ou moins.
(We're not fluent but we get by more or less.)

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.

Finally a teaser for U3A members. How do the french cope with everyday life. The answer is système D. (System D). But what is system D ?

Richard Lovett



PLAY READING GROUP

Sadly, as far as I know no one turned up for the playreading class in May. So, if there are any members who would like to have a go at playreading please let me know on 02393 110709 if you would like to give it a try.

Colleen Wright

PSYCHOLOGY CRIMINOLOGY & FORENSICS GROUP

Workshop at the Royal Courts of Justice, The Strand, London WC2A 2LL

Some u3a members who do not belong to the **Psychology, Criminology & Forensics Study Group** have expressed an interest in joining the PC&F Group for the Workshop which we have arranged at the Royal Courts of Justice, home to the highest courts in the land. The trip is on **Wednesday September 18th 2024**.

In the Workshop we will take on roles such as a judge, barrister, defendant, witness or juror in a real, wheelchair accessible, Courtroom. Using a real court case & archive materials to explore the themes & issues.

There is a minimum charge for the Workshop so the price will increase if we have less than twenty people but stay the same (£8.50pp) if we have twenty or more. Members will pay their own travel to London Waterloo.

There will be a preparatory session in Gosport to allocate roles, discuss the script & background information on the case etc. We will do our best to arrange this for a date that suits everyone.

IF you would like to join us please email Tricia triciatullibody@gmail.com as soon as possible.

Carole & Tricia

WALKING THE EXTRA MILE GROUP

Our group continues to tread the many footpaths within a radius of about 30 miles from Gosport. We are halfway through our 10th year and there are now very few public footpaths we have not found. Incredibly a growing number of members are taking it upon themselves to find new walks. Sometimes we suddenly find we are on a path that was part of a previous walk which is fun - a map of all our walks looks a bit like a jigsaw puzzle.

We have welcomed several new members to the group over the last year, changing the dynamic of the group so that the average age is going down. Their fitness levels are good which is challenging some of the long-standing members (like me) but it is a good trend for the health of u3a Gosport.



We have 2 special summer walks coming up. We will go to the Isle of Wight to walk from Shanklin to Brading over Brading Down, with magnificent views in all directions plus a visit to a vineyard. Then for our last walk in July we will take the train and walk to a pub. Both these special walks mean our wonderful drivers will get a day off. *Kathy Parker*

CONTACTS FOR COMMITTEE MEMBERS AND ROLE HOLDERS 2024- 2025

Chairman	George Cantrill	Chair@u3agosport.org.uk
Secretary	Maggie Gavin	Secretary@u3agosport.org.uk
Beacon Administrator	Judy Foster	Beaconadm@u3agosport.org.uk
Membership Secretary	Linda Clachan	Memsec@u3agosport.org.uk
Group Coordinator	Judith Ridley	Groupcoord@u3agosport.org.uk
Member Mentor	John Draper	Mentor@u3agosport.org.uk
News Editor	George Cantrill	Newsed@u3agosport.org.uk
Publicity	Tricia Stevenson	Publicity@u3agosport.org.uk
Speaker's Secretary	George Cantrill	Speaker@u3agosport.org.uk
Website Administrator	Jennifer Bellamy	Webadm@u3agosport.org.uk
Welfare Officer	John Draper	Welfare@u3agosport.org.uk
Treasurer	Judith Ridley	Treasurer@u3agosport.org.uk

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

The next Spithead Arts lecture at Bay House is on the 23rd July at 7pm. This month's presentation is "The Cult of Celebrity: Omani, the Exotic, & Joshua Reynolds". Omani's portrait became an iconic image of Britain at the height of its imperial powers. Explore Omani's story, origins in Tahiti, his background and motivation to come to England, followed by his time in England and English society. Come as a guest for £7, annual membership is £40 (your £7 deductible if you join)

Thanks
Tinou

The Villagers
Open Air Drama Group

Proudly present
a comedy by
William Shakespeare

2024

As you like It

- **Thursday 18th July**
Admission £14
The Alverbank Hotel, Gosport PO12 2QT
7.30 p.m. start. www.alverbank.co.uk/events
- **Friday 19th July**
Adults £10, Children under School Year 6 - free
Stanford Rise Green, Sway, Hampshire
SO41 6BB - 7.30 p.m. start. For prices and
tickets: swaytreas@hampshirewi.org.uk
- **Saturday 20th July**
Adult £12.50, Under 18 £7.50, Family £30
Buckler's Hard, SO42 7XB
6.00 p.m. start. E-mail: info@hshants.org.uk
- **Tuesday 23rd July to
Friday 26th July**
Gates open at 6.30 p.m.
Adults £10 • Children £8 • Family ticket (2 adults + 2 children) £28.00
17th Century Village, Barrington Close,
Howe Road, Gosport PO13 8NZ
7.30 p.m. start
- **Saturday 27th July**
Gates open at 6.00 p.m.
Adults £12, Children £6. Tel: 07803 299973
Hill Farm House, Droxford Road,
Swanmore, SO32 2PY - 7.30 p.m. start

All profits in aid of local charities

To book tickets: please go to
www.villagers.org.uk or telephone 02392 345346
Tickets for The Alverbank, Sway, Buckler's Hard and Swanmore
should be booked with the venue.

Printed by Studio 6 • www.studio-6.co.uk