

MEMBERS' NEWS UPDATE

JULY 2024



FROM THE CHAIR -

Fellow members,

How time flies! – here we are already coming up to our traditional summer break as we look to enjoy the warmth and sunshine which, this year, has been a little late arriving.

Our general and group meetings might not be happening in August, but we do have the picnic which Maggie and her team have organised once again in Nicholson Gardens on August 15th from 11.30 to 3pm.

Everyone is welcome – bring whatever you fancy for your lunch (but please **no** alcohol). Geoff will be supplying some music to add to the party atmosphere.

During the summer your committee and leaders will be preparing a great programme for a return in September.

One exciting bit of news - I'm delighted to confirm that our bid to the GBC Community Fund, for funds to update the presentation equipment that we often struggle with at Thorngate, (ie the screen projection and sound kit) has been successful so we'll hopefully soon have 'new toys'.

Plus, from September, two groups (one new, one revised) are being instituted under the leadership of John Draper– Cathedral Concert Visits and Classical Music appreciation.

Have a great time and enjoy the holiday period ahead and see you back in September.

Best wishes,

George

THORNGATE MEETING -

This week we were given the back story to the popular and nearby leisure attraction that is the Watercress Line (or more correctly the Mid Hants Railway) but colloquially named after its original main purpose – the transportation of Watercress from the local growing fields to its markets around the country.

PR chief, Dan Ball, told of the railway's beginnings in 1865 and the colourful background to its development and rescue after Dr Beeching came looking.

Dan also told how the railway had survived during the wars as the Women's Land Army took over the roles vacated by their menfolk's call to arms and how many volunteers in recent times now ensure that it survives as a much-loved Hampshire attraction.

A sobering truth though is that the iconic steam engines can only use 'quality' coal that nowadays has to be imported from South America. So, diesel trains (also carefully restored) are often used with these costs in mind – but in the hot summer, mindful of avoiding sparks showering local corn fields and creating a fire risk!

Dan proved that there is more to running a volunteer railway than meets the eye!

George Cantrill

MEMBERSHIP

Membership Secretary, Tinou, is currently away on holiday but all enquiries meantime should be sent to Maggie Gavin.

The printed directory of groups etc is now available – they are being distributed to any paid-up member on production of your membership card when we have our open meetings e.g Thorngate and the picnic.

Welfare/new member officer John Draper will be hosting the next new member meeting on Wednesday September 4th at 10.30 at the Discovery Centre.

SPAM WARNING FROM BEACON EDITOR, JUDY FOSTER

Scam Emails

Two of our interest groups have recently received unsolicited emails via their Bluebird (email) link on our website. Fortunately they were only from a bookseller pitching for business and the emails included a link to a website to purchase reference books. However, it is a timely reminder for all of us to:

- never click on any link contained in an unsolicited email
- not to forward the email to others
- delete the email from your inbox
- regularly empty your (electronic) trash bin

Contact a member of the committee if you have ongoing concerns.

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.

ARCHAEOLOGY

We enjoyed a wonderful day visiting Andover museum of the iron age followed by a field walk around Danebury Iron Age hill fort as these pictures testify.



Julie Bennetts, group leader

GENEALOGY GROUP

Our next meeting will be on Friday 19th July at 2pm in Gosport Discovery Centre.

I hope to see some of you on that date.

David Atkins

HISTORY GROUP

A good session was held this month with the topic of 'World Leader'.

As usual members thought outside of the box and came up with some very interesting people who made a difference in the world.

Items researched by members included: Charlemagne; Sun Yat Sen; Christian Barnard; Sir Barry Cunliff; Mary Barbour; Donald Trump (tongue in cheek!) Nehru; Theodora and Marks & Spencer. This led to interesting conversations within the group.

At the next month's meeting, which will be the last before the summer break, the topic will be 'Entertainment'. If you are interested in coming along to see what we get up to please contact me on the number below.

Linda Dorsett – 07763441602 or lindadorsett6@gmail.com

KNITTING GROUP

I have attached two pictures from our knitting group as follows:

1 A fantastic blanket knitted by Maureen Mansfield/absolutely amazing work

2 A lovely pullover knitted by Veronica Giles

Two really lovely items to be displayed.

Jan Almond



WALKING FOR SOFTIES GROUP

We have 18 regular walkers in our group. We meet every Friday morning, some walks in Gosport, some partly by buses which suit many of us. This week we travelled to Portchester Castle, had lunch at the church cafe. Also varied places including Old Portsmouth around the round tower area, a beach walk in Lee and a couple of visits to Wickham. Last year 9 of us went on a day trip on the Watercress Line. We finished our year with Christmas lunch at the Castle Tavern.

Natalie Surrage



UKELELE GROUP

The Ukulele group is continuing to grow in strength and attract new members. The group is for anyone who wishes to play with other like-minded people and maybe learn a new instrument. We are not music teachers, but we will help anyone who wants to learn.

If you are interested in coming along to see what we are all about please contact either Richard Glaysher on 07711556260 or Linda Dorsett on 07763441602

CONTACTS FOR COMMITTEE MEMBERS AND ROLE HOLDERS 2024 - 2025

Chairman	George Cantrill	Chair@u3agosport.org.uk
Secretary	Maggie Gavin	Secretary@u3agosport.org.uk
Treasurer	Judith Ridley	Treasurer@u3agosport.org.uk
Beacon Administrator	Judy Foster	Beaconadm@u3agosport.org.uk
Membership Secretary	Tinou Neal	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

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.

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.

And other items of news which may be of interest to members

Our member Dot Bedenham is giving a talk to the Gosport Local History Club -

The talk will be given at the Gosport Local History Luncheon Club at the parish centre behind Christchurch in Stoke Road on 18th July. The hall is opened at 11.30, the talk 'The Gosport School of Science and Art' starts at 12.00. Talks cost £2.50, with ploughman's lunch £6. To book lunch send an email by Tuesday 16th to dot@gosporthistoryclub.org.uk



And, also brought to our attention is the website for U3a Friends Extra for discount opportunities etc. There are many benefits listed for U3a members.

<https://www.u3a.org.uk/get-involved/u3a-friends/friends-extra-faqs> this link takes you to where you can find all the information you will need.