

## MEMBERS' NEWS UPDATE SEPTEMBER 2024



### FROM THE CHAIR-



Despite the cloudy skies, what a lovely time we had at the picnic! Fortunately, the rain held off and the work put in by Maggie and her team of helpers was rewarded with a good attendance from members too! This popular event certainly deserves its spot in our calendar. It was memorable for the happy banter and the opportunity to mix and mingle with members old and new. Thanks Maggie and crew for a very pleasant get-together.!



I'm sure many members too will have been using the summer to catch up on holidays and family meetings. Barry Bullimore and I shared a particularly good break by attending the International Gilbert and Sullivan Festival held annually in Buxton, Derbyshire. We were treated to a 'cornucopia' of well-known operettas performed by G&S Associations from across the UK and abroad – but as a Derbyshire 'lad', I also had a really nostalgic time soaking up the atmosphere of the old county of my youth and my early musical experiences! I hope that your 'away times' were as enjoyable and memorable and my thanks to Barrie for his help in making it happen.

Best wishes, **George**

## **THORNGATE MEETING –**

Our guest speaker at the first general meeting after the summer break was the ever-popular Jeremy Prescott. We've met Jeremy a few times now and his talks and his encyclopaedic knowledge insights into military matters never fail to capture the interest of members. This month his talk – “Op Overlord - D Day, The Normandy Landings”, a story told many times from different perspectives, but Jeremy, with his background is able to enthral by recounting the personalities of the world leaders involved and highlight the intrigue behind the planning – and deception – that led to a successful conclusion in 1945. We know that the war resulted in so many casualties but even these were put into some perspective. Well done, Jeremy.

This was the first outing too, for our new public address system – and it must have done the trick – not one of our back row colleagues complained of not being able to hear! Next, we will tackle the image – with a new projector. (Just need a 'techie' member to step forward to show us how to use all the features!)

However, we change the 'tempo' – quite literally – at the October meeting when our own 'DJ', Geoff Piper, tells the story of 'The Swinging Sixties' with some memorable musical accompaniment of course. I'm told that we can expect more memories being provoked – this time with a smile perhaps!

Don't forget – please be sure to book in when you arrive, donate your £1 towards room and speaker costs, and if you have to leave early, please 'book out' so that we know who's in the room should an emergency arise. But you don't have to rush away afterwards, – the 'coffee meet' in the bar afterwards has proved very popular so we are keeping it up to round off the meetings.

And talking of 'conviviality' – please be sure to book in early – and choose your menu - with Maggie Gavin for the Christmas lunch at the Castle Tavern on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> December. Details will be available on the website.

## **WEBSITE**

Our website is being overhauled (via a volunteer team of u3a members across the organisation) and will be in place before the end of the year. At the moment two of us have been learning how to use the new software and we are now at the stage of looking at the information from our website on a local copy. We may find that the information on the database is not quite right, so don't be surprised to receive an email from me asking for clarification about your group. Please respond asap, as we are likely to be moving quite fast now towards migration. I'll keep in touch with page editors as you will need to lose your editing rights while the actual migration takes place. Once I am totally familiar with the system I'll train those who wish to stay as, or become, page editors.

The new website will be also be easier to update, so we can include more information. For that reason, if you do not have access to the internet at home, you might like to use the library computers, which are available to use for free as a library member. The staff, I'm sure, will show you how to use the computers and you just need to search for u3a Gosport. Don't miss out on what is happening in your u3a!

Jennifer Bellamy  
u3a Gosport website administrator  
[webadm@u3agosport.org.uk](mailto:webadm@u3agosport.org.uk)

## GROUP REPORTS AND NEWS FROM GROUP LEADERS

### ARCHAEOLOGY GROUP



The archaeology group enjoyed visiting Hinton Ampner country house in July during the Festival of Archaeology, past and recent digs have found many interesting artefacts. We welcome any new members to our friendly group.

*Julie Bennetts and  
Linda Dorsett*



## CLIMATE CHANGE

For the next meeting of our Climate Change held at Gosport Museum on Monday, 9<sup>th</sup> September at 10.15 am I have arranged for our members to have a talk given by Solent Bus Company on the operation of the electric buses. New members will always be made welcome to join us.

**Pauline Potter**

## CRAFT GROUP

The Craft Group held their first sales table at the general meeting on Wednesday this week to raise funds for the group's future workshops.

Thank you to all who supported us and bought items. We are planning to have another table at the November meeting with Christmas themed craft .

Maggie

## FINE DINING GROUP

The Fine Dining Group has changed slightly and from September 2024 onwards we will be alternating between Avenue141, Lysses Hotel and The Anglesey Hotel restaurants. All dates and venues can be found on the Gosportu3a Fine Dining Website page and for those of you who use WhatsApp we also have our own group now. If you would like to join us, please contact me on [u3afinedine@gmail.com](mailto:u3afinedine@gmail.com)

**Jan Damerell (Group Leader)**

## GET BY IN FRENCH



### Débrouillez-vous en français (Get by in French)

Le Mans is famous for motor racing but did you know it also produces a culinary dish?

Boudin blanc du Mans.

(No need to translate, just google it.)

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](mailto: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.

## **LOCAL HISTORY GROUP**

Then and Now – A Place to Learn

Members of the Gosport u3a local history group have put together an exhibition to be shown in the display space at Gosport Museum. Called 'Then and Now - a Place to Learn', it will open on 12th October and close on 9<sup>th</sup> November 2024.

The exhibition will highlight the history of the building that is now Gosport Museum, looking at the schools and the children who attended them, at its uses during the Second World War as well what happened in the building once the schools moved out.

The local history group are looking for members who would like to help us by being present in the display space and perhaps chatting to visitors about the exhibition. It should be good publicity The exhibition will be open during usual Museum hours which are Tuesday to Saturday from 10.00 until 16.00. On Fridays there is an extended opening, but we won't ask you to stay until late!

If you are interested, please contact Dot Bedenham on 02392 529518 or by emailing [dot.bedenham@gmail.com](mailto:dot.bedenham@gmail.com)

## **CONTACTS FOR COMMITTEE MEMBERS AND ROLE HOLDERS 2024- 2025**

Chairman	George Cantrill	Chair@u3agosport.org.uk
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*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](mailto:Newsed@u3agosport.org.uk) and may include any photographs you have of your event to support the piece.*

**And items which may be of interest to members –**

**ALVERSTOKE MICHAELMAS FAYRE – Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> September – Gosport U3a will have a stall and we will be doing our best to publicise what our groups offer and to attract new members – so please support it if you can.**

**GOSPORT INFOFEST – Organised by Gosport Older Peoples' Forum at the Masonic Hall, Gosport on October 18<sup>th</sup> from 11 am to 3 pm. – We have a table at this too so please also note this event in your diary.**

**ROBIN'S SEATED "Dance , Fitness and Fun" – a weekly event (Thursdays 11.30 to 12.30) at Brendon Care, The Anchorage, Gosport. (Fee £4.50 for members and £6 for non-members) All ages and abilities are welcome to join in and dance with what you can to 'dance yourself' fitter in a judgement free environment. [robineyre1964@gmail.com](mailto:robineyre1964@gmail.com) tel. 07543089841**

**ROYAL BRITISH LEGION POPPY WALK at Southampton Common on Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> November as part of the Poppy Appeal. The RBL are encouraging people to bring friends and family together to celebrate the lives of Service men and women and help raise much needed funds and share a moment of reflection on a 3km walk. The Event Village will open at 10 am and entry costs are £10 per adult (under 18's Free) - more info [jlax1@britishlegion.org.uk](mailto:jlax1@britishlegion.org.uk) (Julie Lax 07354 165381)**