

MEMBERS' NEWS UPDATE OCTOBER 2024



FROM THE CHAIR –

Fellow Member,



I start this month with a big thank-you to the 'Publicity team' that ensured a good presentation at the Alverstoke Michaelmas Fayre last month.

Judy Foster took the pics – sadly I couldn't be there - but the weather was kind and a lot of enquiries were made – let's hope this effort results in more new members.

The next event that offers a showcase will be the Gosport Older Person's Forum 'Infofest' to be held at the Masonic Hall on Friday 18th October from 11am to 3pm – if you are in the area, drop in and help fly our flag!

Meanwhile, our brilliant Website administrator, Jennifer, in her piece below explains what is coming with the change of website (following pilots right across u3a and, in doing so, highlights a change in terms that we use too. Gone are 'Group Leaders' to be replaced by 'Group Facilitators'

– a seemingly small change but hopefully helps reflect a sharing of responsibilities within groups so that it doesn't fall on one person to do everything.

However, semantics aside, we should all be concerned that Gosport u3a continues to stay relevant and adaptable in fulfilling the needs of our members and encouraging more like-minded people to join us.

Next April may seem a long way away, but it's only 6 more meetings away when counted as 'one per month'. Our AGM is due in April when team succession plans should come into play as some committee members and role holders seek to stand aside to allow 'new blood' so that our u3a seamlessly continues. Without a 'managing team' it cannot carry on.

At the last elections, I agreed to continue for this year only and that is still my position. I do intend standing down. There is no nominated deputy for the Chair, nor anyone formally role-sharing for my other duties as Speaker Secretary or Update Editor. This situation is very true of all our 'committee' roles so there is no effective 'succession plan'. So please, if you want Gosport u3a to continue, don't just assume that it will do so 'by magic' or coercion on reluctant members. If you care enough and have a little time and experience to offer in any of the roles, please come forward now and maybe 'shadow a role' until you feel ready to take over. We all need a little bit of help – so that we can all learn, live – and laugh!

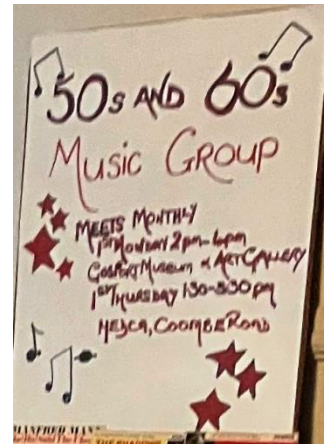
George



THORNGATE MEETING -



This month, we were taken back to the Swinging Sixties, by our DJ and expert on that era, Geoff Piper. He kept us in 'memory mode' as we remembered the music and the fashion of those iconic times of Lulu, Helen Shapiro and of course, Mary Quant and the mini skirt. I was neither Mod nor Rocker as I recall but I do remember feeling to be the 'bees-knees' in my flared trousers and platform shoes! Thanks for the Memories Geoff!



Next month, we'll be having another 'Member's Forum' when anyone wishing to comment or ask about how Gosport U3a is faring and managed has the floor. If you have any questions to ask, (Why don't we? Why do we? Could we?) or any constructive criticism on how we run things, feel free to raise them or send them to me ahead, and we'll be sure to try and answer them.

If there's time – I'll be ready to regale you with the talk that's been prepared for a while now on *'the Life and Legacy of Sir William Randal Cremer'*. Who's he? I'll perhaps tell you at our November meeting!

George Cantrill (Speaker Secretary)

MEMBER/MENTOR

The next new member coffee morning will be held at the Discovery Centre on Monday 4th November at 10.30. All new members (and any potential members) are invited to attend for a chat about u3a and Gosport in particular plus a 'free' coffee. Just let John Draper know and he'll be pleased to welcome you.

WEBSITE - u3a Gosport website - note from the website administrator

I am now working on the migrated live site of our new replacement website. During this period only I can update the existing site so, if you have any immediate requirements, please email me and I will update both the existing and new site. The new site should, hopefully, be available to you before the end of this month. At that point, if all works as it should, any visit to the existing site will automatically be redirected to the new site.

In the new site, group leaders will be called group facilitators to recognise that we, as u3a members, are all responsible for our groups to be successful. Many groups now have different people to 'facilitate' the group at their meetings, update the group website page and communicate with members, via Beacon. We all have different skills - share the load!

The new website has many opportunities to improve the layout of our pages to make them more attractive and useful. This will take a bit longer to achieve so it will be an on-going project once we are using it. As before, it's a good idea if someone from the group can edit each group page. I will be training those who wish to be page authors (new terminology) as soon as I have got to grips with the features.

Jennifer Bellamy

webadm@u3agosport.org.uk

GROUP REPORTS AND NEWS FROM GROUP LEADERS

David Atkins – We are sorry to learn that popular leader, David, was discovered to have been admitted to the respiratory ward, QA hospital, recently amid concerns for his health by his group colleagues. We obviously wish him a speedy recovery, but we are extremely grateful to Bev Harris who has agreed to step in to keep the German and Genealogy Groups going in his absence. Group News for both of these will be circulated directly to members as they evolve. **Ed**

ALLOTMENT GROUP



It's been a challenging year on the allotment with the weather, but we have managed to keep on top of the work while enjoying the fun and

good company on our plot at the Rectory site.



We are now having an autumn clear up as there is always plenty to do! **Alexandra Richardson**

CLASSICAL MUSIC GROUP

New **Classical Music Appreciation** group met at the Museum with 9 members attending. Music on CD by the following Composers: Handel, Ravel, Shostakovich, Alan Horhaness, Chausson. Some were new pieces to be heard and some familiar. Please phone John Draper if you would like come in October - date tbc - 07966 559970. **John Draper**

CLIMATE CHANGE

"Our Climate Change meeting held on Monday, 9th September had two members from Solent Buses who came and gave us an interesting talk on the electric buses. A few facts for anyone interested - there are sixty-two buses with four double deckers on order. Single buses cost £320,000 each and the double deckers £600,000 each. One charge of battery lasts a full day and the company are hoping a battery has a seven-year life span.

Our next Climate Change meeting is on Monday 14th October at 10.15 in Gosport Museum and our topic will be "*Textiles and what effect they have on the environment*". New members would be made very welcome."

Pauline Potter

FOLK DANCE GROUP

It is pleasing to report that our numbers (and our competence) are slowly increasing although meeting only once each month limits rapid progress. We usually meet on the second Monday each month but that has to be changed this month when we will meet on 21st October.

Barrie Bullimore

GET BY IN FRENCH

Illustration courtesy of Lingo Mastery

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 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.

PICKLEBALL GROUP



This year U3A member Ian who entered the local Pickleball tournament was cheered on by Jacqui our U3A Pickleball finalist runner up from last year. Sadly Ian did not win a medal but played extremely well with his doubles partner Kev. They were up against very tough, experienced, competition.

If you always wanted to play a racket sport or previously played badminton or tennis then Pickleball may be the sport for you. We have spare paddles and coaching is provided by a recognised iptpa coach. All new players are made to feel welcome.

We play each Monday at Gosport Leisure Centre 2 – 3 pm.

Please drop me an email even if you just want to come and watch and see if it's for you. **Jane Mcardle**

PSYCHOLOGY, CRIMINOLOGY AND FORENSICS STUDY GROUP

Hastings True Crime Museum Day Trip

The Psychology, Criminology & Forensics Study Group are joining with Stubbington u3a for a day trip to the True Crime Museum in Hastings on **April 1st 2025**.

The museum is accessible, all rooms & exhibits are on the same level as the seafront entrance.

We haven't done a recce for this trip, as it's not easy to get to Hastings by public transport.

The cost, including entry to the museum, is £35 & the proposed itinerary is

Depart 07:55 Gosport, 08:15 Stubbington, 08:35 Fareham, 09:00 Wickham

Arrive 11:45 Hastings

Time at Leisure 11:45 – 14:15

Museum 14:15 True Crimes Museum

Depart 16:45 Hastings

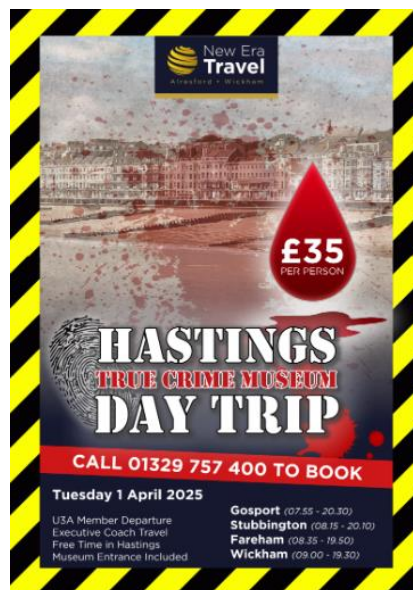
Arrive 19:30 Wickham, 19:50 Fareham, 20:10 Stubbington, 20:30 Gosport

Please phone New Era Travel on 01329 757 400 to book.

Friends & family are welcome, but when booking you must mention that you are a u3a Gosport member as the trip is not yet open to the general public.

If the two u3as fail to fill the coach between us, New Era Travel will advertise the Hastings True Crime Museum Day Trip to the general public.

Carole & Tricia



CONTACTS FOR COMMITTEE MEMBERS AND ROLE HOLDERS 2024- 2025


Chairman	George Cantrill	Chair@u3agosport.org.uk
Secretary	Maggie Gavin	Secretary@u3agosport.org.uk
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Beacon Administrator	Judy Foster	Beaconadm@u3agosport.org.uk
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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 non-U3a items which may be of interest to members –



Then & Now
A place to learn

The story of a building on the high street
The Display Space - Gosport Museum and Gallery
12 October - 9 November 2024
Tues-Sat 10am -4pm (late opening to 9pm on Fridays)
Free admission

'Spithead Arts' next illustrated talk is by the excellent speaker James Taylor "Grace Darling and the art of saving lives at sea". Grace, whose daring rescue off the Northumberland coast in 1838 earned her fame, the medal for gallantry and being the RNLI's poster girl. Discover more about her bravery, short life (died at 26) and influence.

It is on Thursday 22nd October in the main hall of Bay House School at 7pm. Guests are welcome for £7, which is deductible from the membership fee if you join. Further information can be found at [Spithead arts.co.uk](http://Spitheadarts.co.uk)