

MEMBERS' NEWS UPDATE NOVEMBER 2024



FROM THE CHAIR-

Fellow Member,

Quickly following on from the Michaelmas Fayre came the **Infofest** event organised by the Gosport Older Persons Forum held at the Masonic Hall.

Gosport U3a had a table in the pretty crowded room which was well supported. It was an event where many organisations represented a wide variety of activities available to the retired, and advice on a number of aspects of retired living – health and amenities for example.



Our table, organised by our 'team' – Maggie, Judy, Judith and Tricia - was much visited and our colleagues have a big vote of thanks for their efforts – and, maybe, we could welcome more members as a result of it.



At our Thorngate meeting this week, we opened the floor to members to share any views that they have on how we run Gosport U3a as a **Member Forum**".

I listed a few bullet points to aid discussion – *How are we doing? How could we improve? Views on our activities? Venues/Dates and Times? Communication and involvement, Social opportunities and events, Publicity and Membership recruitment and retention.*

I promised to take the comments made back to the committee but if you weren't at the meeting and would like to comment – please contact me or Secretary Maggie Gavin (we meet on 3rd Monday each month (not December). We noted suggestions about publicity for u3a Gosport on a dedicated Facebook page and will discuss this at Committee.

One looming concern is the *Committee itself* – and it is also a fact that our next AGM is only about 5 meetings away when we'll be needing replacements for some of the team. It would be good to have 'shadows' in place, not least for 'absence cover' in the event of holidays and illness, to help relieve current members who often find themselves 'doubling for colleagues'.

Some, like me, already have more than one portfolio – just look at the list of roles at the end of this update and offer your skills and a little of your time – please!!

George Cantrill

THORNGATE MEETING –

Our meeting this month was a busy one – made really colourful by the vast array of goods on show – and for sale – by our Craft Group.

We opened with a repeat of last year’s Member Forum, as I’ve already outlined, but then I delivered the long-delayed story of Sir William Randal Cremer, using our new presentation kit for the first time too which worked well.

It surprised a number of members to learn that this man, whose father left the family when Randal was very young, leaving his mother to raise him and his sisters as a ‘single parent family’ in virtual poverty.

I won’t repeat his life story here but suffice to say, Randal became a very active peace campaigner – eventually in London, Europe (particularly Poland and Italy) as well as making a big name for himself in America too, all of which led to him being awarded The Nobel Peace Prize – the only Englishman to win it single-handed as well as a string of awards on the international stage as a result of his campaigns.



He also became an MP and was knighted but only after giving away all his Nobel Prize money to his Peace organisations. He has even recently been compared to Winston Churchill as one of our greatest statesmen.

The ‘cottages’ that bear his name in Stubbington have their own story to tell too after an original bequest in his Will to build four almshouses in memory of his mother who raised him after his birth in West Street, Fareham in 1828.

Next month, as Christmas approaches, we have a return visit from John Sherborne who will entertain on the organ, bringing us the life and music of George Gershwin. We’ll also be treated to mince pies and treats as well as running our Christmas raffle - if you have a prize you’d like to include, please bring it along – if not, get yourself a few tickets and listen for your numbers coming up!

The annual Christmas Tree Festival in St Mary’s Alverstoke is coming up and our Group Leaders have all had a message to contribute, if they can, with decorations on our theme of ‘Angels’. Whether you can help or not, do make a visit if you can ([details later in this newsletter](#)) and do vote for us as the best decorated tree!

I’m giving you advance notice too that there will be no meeting at Thorngate in January – the first Wednesday will be January 1st – you may not have noticed! If we rearranged it, then it hits all our other regular group meetings etc so **we will meet again on February 5th 2025.**

George Cantrill

GROUP REPORTS AND NEWS FROM GROUP LEADERS

DANCE GROUP

Our meeting this month had a 'Halloween' theme and some of the members dressed up for it. Prizes were awarded with the first prize went to Tinou for best fancy dress and runner-up was Ros.

New members are always welcome to join our session beginners as well as 'singles' – there is a perception that the Group is for couples – not true! A new member arriving by himself soon got the hang of the cha-cha-cha! Why not join us?

Pat Luke



GET BY IN FRENCH

Débrouillez-vous en français
(Get by in French)

Alouette, gentille Alouette, je te plumerai.
You have probably heard this well-known nursery rhyme but, do you know its origin. You may find the answer surprising.

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.

Alouette – lark. The song originated from french fur trappers in Canada, the lark was considered a game bird and eaten. The song describes how every part of the bird is plucked. The song was sung by the trappers as they paddled their canoes on the rivers to the rhythm of the tune. Je te plumerai – I will pluck you.



LOCAL HISTORY GROUP

Do join the Local History Group! We are a friendly group with a wide and varied programme of topics looking at changes in Gosport history. In October we researched Crime and Punishment and in December we will explore Royal Visits and Celebrations. The Local History Group meets the second Tuesday of the month at Gosport Museum.

Elizabeth Backhouse

QUIZ GROUP

THE QUIZ GROUP ARE ON THE MOVE !!

We have been meeting in the Carisbrook Arms pub now for many years where we have been very well looked after and all of us are very sad to be leaving. It is certainly a great place to hold a quiz. Blame 'dark nights and bus timetables' etc.

On Tuesday 12th November at 7pm we will be holding our last meeting there and it will be our Prizegiving & Social Evening.

From January 25th 2025. We will be accommodated at the Gosport Methodist church hall, Stoke Road, Gosport PO12 1JB. It is the last church before town (the one with the spire"!)). There is a bus stop right outside the church, and free parking for 2 hours in Jamaica Place. Please come along on our 'new day' – **SATURDAYS** – and we look forward to seeing you on **25TH JANUARY 2025 at 2pm.** There is a £1 charge.

Please look at our u3a Gosport web page for more detail or contact me.

Jean Plummer

CONTACTS FOR COMMITTEE MEMBERS AND ROLE HOLDERS 2024- 2025

(NB – The mobile emergency telephone number issued earlier this year is now no longer available – please delete it from your phone directory.)

| | | |
|-----------------------|------------------|------------------------------|
| 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 |
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| Member Mentor | John Draper | Mentor@u3agosport.org.uk |
| News Editor | George Cantrill | Newsed@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 –

Members may like to attend Spithead Art's next talk:

THE CURIOUS HISTORY OF CHRISTMAS FOODS by Peter Ross - The foods we eat at Christmas have a long, curious and visually spectacular history. Medieval boar's head, highly decorated mince pies and almost forgotten twelfth night cake. Manuscripts, paintings, prints and illustrations provide us with some of the lost glories of the British Christmas feast.

As the usual venue at Bay House is unavailable this month, the talk will take place in Brune Park's main hall on 26th November and, as it will be preceded by the AGM, it will start at the earlier time of 6.30pm.

Guests are welcome for £7, an amount which is deductible from the membership fee should you decide to join.

St. Mary's Church Alverstoke
Green Road, Alverstoke PO12 2ET

Christmas Tree Festival 2024

Entry: £3 Adult, Children FREE
(Children must be accompanied by an adult)

Thursday 5th December
6:15pm to 7:30pm Opening ceremony and lighting of the trees

Friday 6th December 2.30pm to 7pm
Saturday 7th December 11am to 6pm
Sunday 8th December 12pm to 6pm

  Alverstoke Parish Church
www.stmarysalverstoke.org.uk 