

**MEMBERS' NEWS UPDATE
JANUARY 2025**



FROM THE CHAIR-

Fellow Member,

Welcome to Gosport U3a 2025!

I do hope that you enjoyed the Festive break, and I must start by thanking Maggie Gavin and 'the team' for their hard work both at the Festive themed General Meeting in December and then again for masterminding the organisation behind our very special 'lock-in' Christmas lunch at the Castle Tavern. The return of John Sherbourne to Thorngate with the music and life story of George Gershwin proved so popular that he's already been invited back in December 2025. Once again, Tavern Landlady, Verity, and her staff really did us proud, and members present left the Christmas lunch in the mood for good celebrations over Christmas and New Year.

So now we start the New Year with fresh endeavour and new ideas as we encourage members to boost our numbers and bring along friends to join us in our aims of 'living, laughing and learning'. I must mention too that we have only a few months until the Annual General meeting in May to persuade members to offer themselves as candidates for the committee – we ask for just a couple of hours or so a month. I'm serious when I say that it would be awfully sad to lose U3a in Gosport after all these years - but it is a real possibility as some current stalwarts are retiring and we must find replacements, and it can't run itself! Would you let it fold? Please consider volunteering.

On that note, Happy New Year! – onward and hopefully upward!

Best wishes

George

George Cantrill

Chair

***And an interesting observation on the significance of 2025 from
Barrie Bullimore.***

2025 is now here and it looks to be an interesting year. To mathematicians it's interesting as a number because:-

- 1 2025 is a perfect square, 45×45 . The previous one was 1936 (44×44)
- 2 2025 is the product of two squares, 9 squared and 5 squared (81×25)
- 3 2025 is the sum of three squares, 40 squared, 20 squared and 5 squared ($1600 + 400 + 25$)
- 4 2025 is the sum of the cubes of all the single digits ($1 - 9$)
- 5 2025 the square of the sum of all the single digits ($1 - 9$)
- 6 2025 is the sum of two other perfect squares, 1296 and 729 (36 squared and 27 squared)
- 7 2025 is the difference of two other squares (51 squared and 24 squared)

For everyone 2025 is interesting because;-

In January all the planets of our solar system will be in perfect alignment.

In February we will have each day of the week exactly four times, 4 Sundays, 4 Mondays etc, (I'm told that this happens only once in 823 years but I'm not sure I believe that.)

Maybe less exciting, is the inauguration of the USA's 45th President in 2025!

Barrie Bullimore

***Not directly connected to Barrie's piece comes this note from Group
Coordinator Judith –***

We have a member who is interested in forming a "Stargazing" group, he envisages it to be quite casual - just naked eye observation (he said, he's no expert!) and would like to meet up each month (maybe in a cafe) to discuss what has been seen and what there is to see that month. If you would be interested please drop me an email to groupcoord@u3agosport.org.uk if there's enough interest we should be able to set up a new group.

Thank you, Judith Ridley, Group Coordinator

THORNGATE MEETING -

Our next meeting will be on Wednesday February 5th, when the speaker will be Peter Greenaway who will be talking about Gosport and its surrounding area with the aid of old Post cards. The meeting starts at 10.30 am and the Thorngate bar is booked afterwards for members to gather for a coffee for a fellowship chat with friends to round off your morning.

GROUP REPORTS AND NEWS FROM GROUP LEADERS

BOARD GAMES GROUP

Thanks to Tricia, in November some of the Tuesday Board Games group were able to test out a newly developed Gosport board game. The game, funded by the National Lottery, is called Last Orders and is based around Gosport town centre pubs and some traditional pub games. I was impressed with the game, so I was disappointed when I was told it wouldn't be for sale and there wouldn't be any other editions - I was surprised it was called the Gosport edition when I later found out it was a one-off Gosport Heritage project. I think it is meant to be available to play in Gosport pubs after its launch later this month (January). If I find out more information I will include it in February's newsletter.

There are still spaces in the Friday evening Board Games group, which is on the 3rd Friday each month, from 6.45pm to 8.45pm, at Gosport museum cafe. Members usually play Rummikub, but there are always other games available to play, and members are welcome to bring their own game/s.

Val Havard, Board Games group (Tel. 01329 281824).

ENGLISH FOLK DANCE GROUP

NB We will be unable to meet on January 13th as there is a funeral at the church so the hall is not available. I am looking to bring the meeting forward to the 6th January and have contacted group members individually.

New members are always welcome.

Barrie Bullimore

KNITTING GROUP

The first knitting group meeting for the year will on Monday 3rd February.

Jan Almond

LOCAL HISTORY GROUP

The Local History Group continues to thrive with around 15 regular members.

The next meeting will be on Tuesday 14 January. Our theme for the meeting will be "Gosport Inventions". So many interesting items were developed in our area including - The Gosport Tube, BVC vacuum cleaners, DD Lamson's pneumatic cash system, Henry Cort's rolling and puddling processes for wrought iron, Thomas White's patent slipway, OEC motorbikes and Osmiroid fountain pens. We look forward to discussing your research and welcome new members'.

Liz and Ian Backhouse

PICKLEBALL

Pickleball has now been recognised as a sport within its own rights in Britain and will continue to be governed by Pickleball England.

Gosport U3A Pickleball group is recognised by Pickleball England and this allows our members to join and access Pickleball England online resources for free. The site contains PB rules, top tips on play and national PB events. There is also a Facebook page with updates and events from other clubs.

Our local U3A group start the year on Monday 6th Jan 2pm to 3pm at Gosport Leisure Centre. We play every Monday except during holidays.

We have spare paddles for anyone wishing to have a go and free coaching can be provided by a recognised PB coach.

Please email Jane McArdle or Nick Blundan for further information.

POETRY GROUP

The Poetry Group ended last season with a moving session on War, casting the net wide over war poetry through the ages, helped by an emotive compilation of quotations and pictures compiled by Julia and Terry. See this picture.

We begin our 2025 programme on Wednesday January 8th with Performance Poetry, where Pam Ayres has been leading the way for 50 years, who has just published her life in poems, *Doggedly Onward*, and also John Cooper Clarke, with his distinctive cadaverous punk frame and caustic wit in more recent times.



After that we will be having a mini-series about wild creatures, large and small, and endangered nature. Poet Laureate Simon Armitage is discussing some of these topics currently on Radio 4. All are welcome to join our discussions, on the second Wednesday of the month, 2pm at GMAG.

Belinda Colby

SEA DIPPING

Not up and running yet but we did meet to 'test the waters'

Neena Vadra

QUIZ GROUP

We meet for the first time on Saturday 25th January 2025 at the Methodist church, Stoke road, Gosport at 2pm. Come along and give it a try. Below are the dates for the next few quizzes.

Jan 24, Feb 22nd, March 29th, April 26th, May 24th, June 28th

If you need any more information give me a call Jean Plummer 02392 342301



WALKING THE EXTRA MILE

2015-2024 - 10 YEARS WALKING THE EXTRA MILE

163 walks * 1213 miles in total * 8 founder members * 52 members over the 10 years

2024 This has been a fantastic year for the group. We now have 29 members & 2 more aim to join in January. Each walk has attracted between 12 and 22 walkers which has been manageable for car & parking capacity. We had 21 walks with a total distance of 165 miles.



ORGANISING OUR WALK PROGRAMME Anna Wood has been a brilliant supportive 'deputy' in planning our programme and has provided cover when I am away. Our renamed roles in u3a of **Group Facilitators** supports our aim to get everyone in the group involved. It has been an immense achievement to have had 2/3 of the group named as **Walk Leader** or **Second** this year with the expectation as we go forward that everyone will take a turn. ***This is so successful already with over half of next year's programme already lined up.***

PLANNING AND SAFETY Walk planning is becoming much more democratic as more members thrill us with locations and the treasures of our countryside. There is an outline planning and risk assessment process and we have emergency procedures in place – never needed yet but they are there. As **Group Facilitators** Anna or I hold overall responsibility on the day - for coordinating transport and dealing with any problems. In the rare situation where both of us are not on a walk another member will be nominated. Our group is large so for safe management of transport and the walk we usually have a maximum of 6 cars and 24 walkers.



Remembering
Stephanie in June



Walking to our Pub
Lunch near Liphook
in July



Finding out about the
Dragon at Bolton's
Bench, Lyndhurst
in September



A dusting of snow on
our way up to the
Trundle in November

We are revising our page on the website and will soon have details of the programme for the year.

If anyone is interested in joining us please contact Kathy via the website email link.- kathy.parker2.kp@gmail.com

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
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.