

MEMBERS' NEWS UPDATE MARCH 2025



Welcome to the March edition of the News Update. I have taken over the role from George Cantrill, your hard working Chairman who has kept the News Update going for the last few years. This has been alongside all the other ways he has helped our u3a flourish and grow. A big thank you George for his continuing commitment to our u3a. I hope to continue captivating key moments in our brilliant u3a as I take on producing the monthly News. This month there is a lot of important information about keeping our u3a going. Please take time to read it, especially the **HELPFUL GROUP** suggestion. Do contact me with anything you think is relevant via my email on the back page. I hope to draw contributions from as many members as possible to make it **YOUR** News Update.

Kathy Parker

THORNGATE MEETING

On Wednesday 5 March we had a very informative talk by Amy Irwin from the Hampshire & IOW Fire and Rescue Services. Amy works on the Prevention Team of the service and took us through a well structured presentation highlighting key ways we could help ourselves be 'Safe and Well' in our homes.



The Service offers free visits to homes to provide advice of any issues which we should address. To make more enquiries or find out more, visit the website community.firesafety@hantsfire.gov.uk Phone 02380 644000

The website is very accessible and has an online form to complete so the service can make the appropriate response.

Next Month on Wednesday 2nd April. Our talk will be about '**Literary Hampshire**' by **Dr Cheryl Butler**. Cheryl is an Honorary Fellow of the University of Winchester. She is a regular speaker and is involved in many Historical and Writers Societies.

Please note – Thorngate has a large car park but there are pay and display charges. Penalties will be applied if you exceed the time you have paid for. If our meetings do roll on and you need to leave early make sure you inform the register desk

NEWS FROM YOUR COMMITTEE

YOUR GOSPORT U3A COMMITTEE NEEDS YOU

Earlier this week you received an email highlighting the need to encourage members to get more involved. George also drew attention to the crucial situation we are in as we approach the AGM.

We appeal to members to come forward to support the committee. We have vacancies & some members are coming to the end of their term.

*It is your u3a but it could close
if the membership does not maintain a viable committee.*

This brilliant idea came from Val Havard one of our enthusiastic members:-

Lets create a HELPFUL GROUP

I think Gosport u3a is excellent, and I am sure everyone wants Gosport u3a to continue well into the future. That can only happen if there are committee members. To help new committee members, and for u3a events, it might be beneficial if there is a group of volunteers to support the committee. I envisage a new "**Helpful Group**" which members can join via the website like other groups, but this group wouldn't meet in person or online. Hopefully if some members join the group an email will be sent out as and when any help is needed, then anyone able to help can reply. I have never been on a committee and don't know what kind of help may be needed, but that shouldn't matter as members would only be expected to reply if they are able to, and would like to help.

Val Havard

There is a HELPFUL GROUP page set up on the website with a direct link to Val from the page – click on her name and an email message appears – just like all other group pages for the Group Coordinator.

https://gosport.u3asite.uk/u3a_groups/helpful-group/

- **Membership renewal** – Thank you to all who have renewed already. It is due by the end of this month and is still **only £28**. This entitles you to join any group that interests you – as many as you like. Details of how to renew are on the members page of the website. If your contact details have changed you must let the Membership Secretary know.

<https://gosport.u3asite.uk/members/>

Tinou Neal (Membership Secretary)

- **Annual General Meeting CHANGE OF DATE Tuesday 29 April at 1030 at Thorngate.** Full details will be emailed to all members including how to nominate members to the committee and raise questions for the meeting.

- **New Website** – Do spend a few minutes looking at the new website – Jennifer Bellamy has worked hard to navigate our way into the new format which has been designed for u3as across the country. The new format works well on tablets and phones as well as computer screens.
<https://gosport.u3asite.uk/>

Jennifer Bellamy (Website Administrator)

- **New Member Coffee Mornings** Soon after somebody becomes a Member, the Membership Officer informs the Welfare Officer (me!) who invites them to a Coffee Morning to meet other members and one of Committee. The CM is held at the Discovery Centre in Gosport on the 1st Monday of every other month from 10am until 11:30am and the hot drink is free! I have just held a really good meeting on March 3rd and was joined by 6 new members and our Secretary Maggie Gavin. The next one would normally be in May but it's a Bank Holiday so it won't be until 7th July - a long time away! In the meantime, if any new member has a query or concern, please contact me direct.

John Draper (Welfare Officer).

- **Publicity** – Look out for new publicity leaflets. They are available at Thorngate meetings but will be seen in other venues we use. Help us promote our membership – pick up a leaflet and give it to someone who you think may be interested.

Tricia Stevenson (Publicity)

GROUPS' CO-ORDINATOR NEWS

GROUP LEADERS' MEETING

26 of your hard working Group Coordinators attended a meeting on Thursday 30th January. After a lively discussion about the title of 'Group Leader or Facilitator' a vote was taken and the following changes were made:-

- ✓ The title of **Group Coordinator** will replace Group Leader
- ✓ The title of **Groups' Coordinator** will replace the committee role of *Group Leaders' Co-ordinator*

Visitor attendance at groups. We encourage prospective members to trial two interest groups and one Thorngate meeting prior to joining. However.....

Group Coordinators are requested to let Tinou Neal, the Membership Secretary know the names of anyone who comes as a guest to one of their meetings. This will alert Tinou to the names of anyone who contacts her about membership.

Judith Ridley (Groups' Coordinator)

REPORTS FROM GROUP CO-ORDINATORS

MAH JONG

Our Mah Jong Group welcomed the **Chinese New Year** with nibbles



AND ..with the **Lucky White Cat** and his waving paw summoning happiness.....



And with a few games of Mah Jong!

Denise Davis

FRENCH

Debrouillons-nous en français (Lets get by in french) **Bonne année.**

We are a small enthusiastic group of varying abilities who meet fortnightly on Thursdays at 1000 by video conferencing (Google Meet)



We welcome & need members.

Very suitable for francophiles. Please email richardf.lovett@gmail.com or tel 023 9258 5194 for further instructions.

ANNECY

Richard Lovett

WALKING THE EXTRA MILE

I wonder how many members know where this gem of a Saxon Church in a field can be found. You may have seen it from the train to London. Last Friday 20 of us had a stunning 8.5 mile walk in the sunshine on the South Downs visiting the church for our coffee stop.

Our group continues to walk twice a month – list is quite full but we keep squeezing new and keen walkers in. *Kathy Parker & Anna Wood*



5-6 MILE WALKERS

In February we had a very interesting walk via the Winchester viaduct and water meadows led by Eve and Shirley.



Winchester - 21st February 2025

We encountered views of lovely snowdrops and many places of historical significance made all the more interesting thanks to Eve sharing her knowledge with us. We were able to claim the Wayfarer's Dole (a morsel of bread and small cup of ale provided to visitors who request it) from St Cross Almshouse.

Even the weather was kind to us, heavy rain was forecast but the worst of it passed us by and we were able to enjoy our packed lunches in the dry looking at the beautiful scenery. We all agreed it was a very enjoyable day out in the fresh air, enjoying the sights of nature and history in friendly company.

Linda Clachan

MEMBER RESEARCH INTO THE START OF OUR U3A CAN YOU HELP?

Did you know the u3a started in Gosport in July 1995? I am trying to trace the history of our u3a - the names of the founder members; the number of members in the first few years; venues used; and the first Interest Groups? Do you have any knowledge, photos or documents from the early days? I would be grateful for any information.

I think Margaret Rowley & Mary Patchett were founder members. Were there other founder members? I know that Ruby Bristow, although not a founder member, was one of the first to join the u3a in Gosport. Am I right in thinking that Gosport u3a's early meetings were held in St. Vincent College?

We used to celebrate significant anniversaries - I think it would be nice to do so again.

I would be grateful for any information.

Please email triciatullibody@gmail.com

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
Groups Coordinator	Judith Ridley	Groupcoord@u3agosport.org.uk
Member Mentor	John Draper	Mentor@u3agosport.org.uk
News Editor	Kathy Parker	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

*Make direct contact with any committee member from the Contacts Page on the website
<https://qosport.u3asite.uk/contact/>*

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 contact another committee member.

*Editor's note – A reminder to contributors to the Update – Publication usually follows the Thorngate meeting. Contributions should be sent to Newsed@u3agosport.org.uk by the weekend before the meeting. It may include photographs of your group activities or an event to illustrate your written items. Text can typed into the email or as an attachment, ideally using **WORD**. Pictures preferably in **jpeg** format.*

I LOOK FORWARD TO SOME INTERESTING NEWS TO SHARE

Thank you Kathy Parker

NON u3a EVENTS THAT MAY INTEREST MEMBERS.

Spithead Arts The next talk at Bay House on 25th March at 6.55pm will be:

FABER & FABER: It's history and designs.

Full of stories and personal insight, this talk traces the history of one of London's leading publishers through it's illustrations, covers and designs, featuring a wide range of artists. Turn up and pay as a visitor to see what you think.

Gosport Museum and Art Gallery **MACHINE BORDERS** by Artist Tom Daele.

This exhibition is inspired by Gosport's Maritime past and explores its place and influence in the world. *Free entry – donations welcomed. Continues to May 3rd*

Sacred & Secular – A Tapestry of Instrumental & Vocal Music at St Faith's Church Lee on the Solent at 7pm to 9.30pm In aid of St Faith's organ refurbishment. £10 with Light Refreshments. Doors open at 6.30pm.