

## **MEMBERS' NEWS UPDATE FEBRUARY 2025**



### **FROM THE CHAIR -**

*Fellow Members,*

Now that the morning and evenings are getting lighter, we can hope that the worst of the winter is now behind us as we wait and watch as the spring bulbs start to emerge.

There are new beginnings in a number of our U3a activities, not only new groups being suggested, but our Webmaster Jennifer, ably supported by Judy Foster has now updated our website. With a whole new look, it is so much clearer and easy read with up-to date info on what we are about so well worth a look!

Publicity officer Tricia is also updating our publicity materials. New banners and leaflets are being printed (you'll soon be asked to take one to any friend who's not discovered the delights of U3a yet) and Facebook watchers should look out for a new Gosport U3a Facebook page that Tricia is organising.

I'm pleased also to announce that Kathy Parker has agreed to take over the production of the Outlook from next month. Kathy has been a brilliant and long-standing supporter to Gosport U3a and is much more adept than me in IT presentation so it's good to have her back on the team.

All this said, I must still remind you that the AGM is not far off and we'll be looking for more support to help keep our U3a afloat. Thanks are due to the few that have come forward with offers of help but more is certainly needed. Drop any of us a line if you think you'd like to help.

Best wishes,

**George Cantrill**

### **THORNGATE MEETING -**

If you missed the talk by Peter Greenaway this week, you missed the treasure trove of visual history that he brought of Gosport and the changes that have taken place or occurred by natural social and unplanned incidences over our lifetime.

Aided by his 'technician' granddaughter, Holly, we saw the effects on the locality of 'modernisation', new concepts, ravages of war, on the infrastructure of Gosport and any old "Gosportians" in the audience were able to wallow in the nostalgia of childhood, shopping, fun times and buildings long lost to memory. The good news is that he has much more to show us, so I've invited him back in December – make sure that you have that one in your diary!

Our speaker for March will be a representative from Hampshire Fire and Rescue Service. This meeting will also be an ideal opportunity (unless you do it online) to renew your membership. Annual fee remains unchanged at £28.

**George Cantrill**

## **GROUP REPORTS AND NEWS FROM GROUP LEADERS**

### **ARCHAEOLOGY**

Our January group meeting discussed the discovery of China's first emperor Qin Shi Huang's Terracotta Army. Three members had visited the excavated sculptures in China and some of us had seen an exhibition at the British museum in 2007.

We enjoyed a good meeting with much discussion.

**Julie Bennetts**  
Group coordinator

### **BOARD GAMES GROUP**



Towards the end of last year, a few members of the Tuesday u3a Board Games group had the opportunity to test out a new Gosport Board Game, called *Last Orders*.

There is obviously a lot of talent in Gosport with several people being involved in the design and development of the game, funded by the National Lottery, and involving Gosport Heritage and Hampshire Cultural Trust.

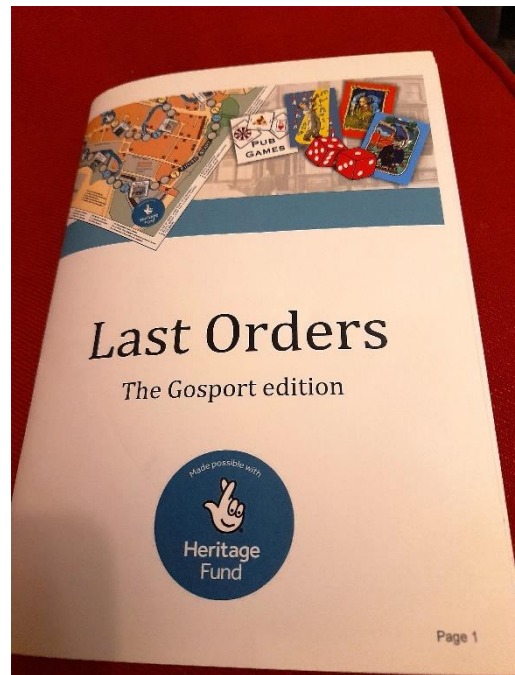
The u3a members who were able to test the board game were also invited to the launch of the game on 22nd January at The Fox Tavern, which is the oldest pub in Gosport, and has been trading since at least 1735.

*Last Orders* is centred around Gosport town centre pubs, and has a list around the border of the 78(?) pubs that are, or used to be, in the heart of the town centre.

There are mini games to play, within the *Last Orders* board game, based on old (some still current) pub games which use dice or cards. Some people at the launch of *Last Orders* hadn't seen or played the game before, but everyone seemed to love it with many people asking about buying it, which I had asked about.

The original idea was for it to be available to play in town centre pubs in Gosport, and it was said it couldn't go on general sale due to it being funded by the National Lottery. I will keep people informed if I hear anything in the future, because I think it is an excellent game. I would recommend people to play if they have the opportunity.

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



## **CLIMATE CHANGE GROUP**

At our last meeting on 13<sup>th</sup> January we watched a video of the *Earth Shot* project where five organisations won prizes of £1 million pounds each to help set up their project. It proved a very interesting meeting.

Our next meeting, held at the Gosport Museum, will be on Monday, 10<sup>th</sup> February at 10.15 am when we shall be discussing COP29. We look forward to any new members who would like to join in our many different topics.

**Pauline Potter**

## **CRAFT GROUP**

The Craft group have now taken the Sewing Group under their wing and continue to cover a wide variety of crafts.

Members wanted to make things for charities, so we have made links with GWMH League of Friends and plan to attend their meeting in February.

We have also linked up with *Embracing Age* a charity in Hampshire who send cards, gifts etc to residents in care homes who have no relatives or little contact. Zoe Jones will be coming to meet our Group in February when we will be working with clay. We always welcome new members to our Group, so come along and join us on 24th February at the Museum.

**Maggie Gavin**

## **DANCE GROUP**



I have attached a photo of the dance group doing the Cha Cha Cha stroll.

All newcomers / beginners are welcome at our meetings on the fourth Tuesday of each month.

**Pat Luke**

## **HISTORY GROUP**

It was great to see so many members who had battled the storm to get to the first meeting of the year. We called this week our 'Pick and Mix' week.

We encouraged members to choose their own topic and bring it along to share with the group, this is different from our usual meetings where a topic is previously set. This enabled members to choose anything they are interested in and this leads to very interesting discussion. Some of the topics discussed were Roman Festivals; The history of coffee houses; 14<sup>th</sup> December 1972; Hannah Snell; 10 moments in history since 1066; Indian headdresses and Robert Burns. I think we all learnt something!

If you are interested in joining us for our February meeting just call me on 07763441602 or email me on [lindadorsett6@gmail.com](mailto:lindadorsett6@gmail.com)

**Linda Dorsett**

## **MAH JONG**

**HAPPY CHINESE NEW YEAR!**



**2025**

Entered the Year of THE SNAKE on January 29th

**Do you want to Learn a New Game?**

**Spaces available at MAH JONG**

*Denise Davies*

## **PICKLEBALL**

Pickleball is so enjoyable and addictive that the majority of the U3A Pickleball group players now arrange extra games during the week.

The group is presently at maximum numbers but I'm happy to coach at other times if several people want to learn to play and be added to our wait list. I don't charge for coaching only cost for the court. Paddles will be provided.

***Please email Jane McArdle or Nick Blundan for further information.***

## **UKELELE GROUP**

We had a great meeting of the Ukulele group this month. Many members turned up and the singing and playing was fantastic.

We meet on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of the month and if you are interested in joining up for an afternoon of fun please contact Richard on 07711556260.

*Richard Glaysher*

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

**And a non-u3a event that may be of interest to members:**

### **HIDDEN CANVASSES: Street Art and the City**

This month's illustrated talk at Spithead Arts will be at Bay House starting at 7pm on Tuesday 25th February. Guest entry is £7, deductible from the annual membership fee, should you decide to join.

There's more to the world of street art than Banksy - Hidden Canvasses is a beginner's guide to the biggest art movement since pop art. The speaker Doug Gillen explores the key stages in street art's growth examining the different elements that comprise the scene with no rules. (March's talk will be "Faber and Faber: it's History & Designs")