

MEMBERS' NEWS UPDATE APRIL 2025



The clocks sprang forward last weekend which helps us turn our back on the dark days of winter. I hope you enjoy this edition of the News Update which includes a member's contribution to welcome the seasonal changes and other interesting reports from groups. I am keen to receive any comments or ideas to ensure this Update appeals and represents our great u3a community.

Kathy Parker – News Editor

THORNGATE MEETING

Dr Cheryl Butler (an Honorary Fellow of the University of Winchester) gave the talk this month on **Literary Hampshire**. She took us on a fascinating journey from medieval times with Geoffrey Chaucer up to the present day listing so many famous authors, poets, philosophers, historians on the way. These writers had either lived in, or been inspired by, our beautiful county of Hampshire. By reflecting the times in which they lived in their literary styles and purposes, we were shown how published writing has evolved over the centuries to inform and challenge readers. I had not fully realised that the fiction novel, my favourite escape indulgence, is a relatively recent writing form. Fiction was deemed to be 'lies' so not worthy. The first footsteps into this literary form was through writing in the first person – biographical, or through letters. I look forward to another opportunity to hear more about the obvious depth of knowledge and research that Cheryl treated us to this morning.

Next Month on Wednesday 7th May our talk will be by Joe Marsden who will talk about 'Tangmere – the History of the Famous Battle of Britain Airfield'

NEWS FROM YOUR COMMITTEE

- **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING** Tuesday 29 April at 1030 – 1200 at Thorngate. You have received an email with 2024 minutes and the agenda. We urge you to come along and hear how the committee has been working for the last year. If you want to ask a question please send it to the secretary in advance. This will enable us to have information ready to answer your request. ***There will be complementary tea/coffee and cakes for all attending – we hope lots of you can make it.***
- **MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL** – Thank you to all who renewed their membership before the end of March. If you missed the deadline you can still renew as there is a short 'period of grace'. After that you would need to re-apply for membership again and this will also mean rejoining groups. Renewal can be still be done on line - details on the website. <https://gosport.u3asite.uk/members/>

- **EMERGENCY CONTACTS.** To comply with insurance requirements and to ensure safety for all members when involved in u3a activities, Group Co-ordinators should have an emergency contact for each member. ***This is not necessarily your Next of Kin*** but someone you would like contacted if you have an emergency and need support. These contacts are held on the Beacon Membership Database and are now collected when new members join.

However, there are some long standing members where this information is still missing. If this is the case those members will be alerted and asked to provide the information to the Membership Secretary. The contact details are held in confidence – safely on the database. Group Co-ordinators, or whoever is leading a session, will have access and may print out a list so it is to hand during sessions. It is especially important that this information is provided when involved in outside activities - ***but actually an incident can happen anywhere.***

PLEASE REMEMBER to inform the membership secretary of all changes to your contact details – phone numbers – home & mobile, email address, home address and emergency contact.

Tinou Neal - Membership

Secretary

- **PUBLICITY** There was a great response from members at the Thorngate meeting last month to take and circulate posters and leaflets as we aim to raise the profile of our u3a and to encourage new members. Publicity leaflets will continue to be available at monthly meetings. If you have any questions or suggestions about publicity for our u3a, including requesting leaflets or posters to spread the word, please email me publicity@u3agosport.org.uk .



Tricia Stevenson - Publicity

Do you and others you know in U3a Gosport manage to read this Update every month?

We can check your News Update is delivered to your email box, but we don't know how many of you manage to open and read it each month. If you do print it out, you may like to take it to a meeting and share it with other members who have more difficulty accessing it. Of course, members without online access can go to the Discovery Centre where there are computers available to access your email and the website where the Update is displayed.

A SPRING DITTY

*And so the time has come at last
With lighter evenings in our grasp.
A lighter heart, a lighter step -
The ease of Summer's not here yet
But oh the promise, that is here,
The yellows and the purples veer
Towards the bright but chilly sun
And show us what has just begun*

*For light to conquer dark and be
A balance of earth's gravity
To cheer us and remove the bother
Of layers and layers upon each other.
Arms and legs can face the day,
Nor wool nor cotton in their way.
Outdoors becomes a place of pleasure
Not a battle with the weather.*

*This air that brings the ides of March
And blossom to the birch and larch
Fills our lungs and motivates
To socialize with all our mates.
To visit hillside, paths and springs,
Old stone Neolithic rings.
Sacred circles near forgotten
When the cold was damp and rotten.*

*Now we want to be out there
Where Spring flowers are pure and rare,
Where Ostara spreads her skirt.
In what was hard and barren dirt
Now houses tiny little faces
Smiling upwards from sweet places,
Or where the roads and pavement merges
There you'll see them on the verges.*

*In the petrol fumes they sit
Crocus, primrose and cowslip.
Mother Earth won't be suppressed
By diesel engines and the rest.
She still produces daffodils
And celandines upon the hills.
The Vernal Equinox comes round
Ostara never lets us down.*

*Eggs and bunnies - folks don't see
The symbols of fertility.
So here's to Spring and you and me
And to us all a Blessed Be!*

Derry Rose



Derry has been a u3a Gosport member for 18 years. After enjoying and getting involved in a variety of courses with u3a she started

The Ladies' Songsters,

with the late David Maber, at Alverstoke Community Centre. She says it was a fun and successful little choir which continued for fourteen years until Covid struck..

Derry has definitely been inspired by the lovely spring weather that keeps us all looking forward.



GROUPS' CO-ORDINATOR NEWS

➤ **GROUP CHANGES** Our very comprehensive website provides information to existing and prospective members who may be looking for groups to join. It is also vital for committee members with administrative roles to refer to when running our u3a. All changes to named Group Co-ordinators, meeting times etc must be reported to the Groups Coordinator and the Website Administrator so that the available information to members, the public and committee is kept up to date.

Recently there have been some changes in the following groups. Barrie Bullimore has agreed to take over the **Walking for Softies** and Steve Hudson has taken over the **Folk Group**. See the website for information about both groups. From the Group Page you can send an email enquiry to their Group Co-ordinator.

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

Judith Ridley – Groups Co-ordinator

REPORTS FROM GROUP CO-ORDINATORS

THE HELPFUL GROUP

Thank you to all who have put their name forward to be part of this group. The aim is to compile a list of members as our first port of call for helpers but we appreciate they will not necessarily be available to help with all events.

We could do with a few more, keen to help us enrich the life of our community. To register your interest email Val via the Helpful Group on our website:-

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

DAY TRIPS GROUP

This group is starting up once more with the first coach trip planned for Friday 30th May to Lacock Abbey and village on Friday 30th May 2025. Lacock in Wiltshire, is a Country House with monastic roots, there are gardens, museum and gallery, stable yard café and National Trust shop. The charming village of Lacock is a short walk away and has little changed in 200 years.

- The cost of the coach trip is £42 including £2 driver tip
- National Trust members- no further cost
- Non National Trust members would pay a further £22 entrance fee.

(if we have 15 or more non National Trust members, entry reduced entry to £19)

Pick up points (*Timings may be affected by traffic conditions*)

OUT Castle Tavern 7.45am; Waitrose 7.55am, War Memorial Hospital 8.05am

BACK Lacock 4.30pm War M Hospital 7.30pm Waitrose 7.40pm Castle Tavern 8.10pm

If you are interested contact Maggie Gavin or Linda Dorsett from the Day Trip page on the website https://gosport.u3asite.uk/u3a_groups/day-trips/

ARCHAEOLOGY



GREEK STATUE – 350-250 BC
Probably represents mother goddess Demeter or Kybele.
Made either in Athens or Greeks colony in Asia Minor
(modern day Turkey)



The archaeology group were very fortunate to be able to visit Fort Brockhurst which holds many local archaeological and historical artefacts including collections from English Heritage. This privately arranged visit was facilitated by one of the group.

New members would be most welcome to join our group on the 4th Wednesday of the month at 10.30 in the Gosport Museum and Art Gallery.

Julie Bennetts - Group Co-ordinator.

LOCAL HISTORY

Our next meeting will be on Tuesday 8th April at Gosport Museum from 1-3:30. The topic will be to Research a Local Historic House of your choice. You can choose to find out information about a notable building such as Thorngate Hall, Monckton House or St Vincent House or you can choose something far more modest such as the Thatched House in Alverstoke Village, your local vicarage or even your own home. We are sure you will discover many interesting facts and stories to share with the group. Looking forward to meeting you all

Liz and Ian Backhouse - Group Co-ordinators.

ALLOTMENT



The lovely weather has spurred us on with planting and seed sowing. The plot continues to thrive thanks to everyone's hard work!

Sandy Richardson - Group Co-ordinator

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 Co-ordinator	Judith Ridley	Groupcoord@u3agosport.org.uk
Welfare Officer	John Draper	Wefare@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://gosport.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:- Thank you for the contributions this month – it is wonderful to learn about the activities of our groups. If you haven't sent anything in yet - or recently - please think about it. It does not need to be long or even anything very unusual. I aim to fill 3 pages for group submissions which I hope will give members a window on our amazing and diverse association.

Send your features to Newsed@u3agosport.org.uk by the weekend before the monthly 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. Pictures preferably in jpeg format.

THE DEADLINE FOR MAY'S EDITION IS MONDAY 4TH MAY

This is a bank holiday so email your contributions earlier if they are ready.

Thank you Kathy Parker

NON u3a EVENTS THAT MAY INTEREST MEMBERS.

SACRED AND SECULAR – A Tapestry of Instrumental & Vocal Music on April 5th 7-9pm at St Faith's Church. Lee on the Solent. Funds in aid of St Faith's organ refurbishment. £10 with Light Refreshments. Doors open at 6.30pm.

SPITHEAD ARTS "The Green Man in English Churches" Tuesday 22nd April at 6.55pm. at Bay House School. explores how the image had evolved from pagan times and what meaning we can draw from it. Guest entrance is £7 -deductible from the annual fee if you to join.

LEE CHORAL SOCIETY Messiah parts 2&3 Saturday 10th May at 7pm. Tickets £15
Come & Sing with the choir - rehearsal at 2pm and join in the concert Book 07766 912219
Music hire available.

If you know about any relevant local events please send details by email. They will be included if there is space when all our News is included

KP 02/04/2025