

## MEMBERS' NEWS UPDATE MAY 2025



Like everyone, I have been touched by the tributes made to the veterans and families who have shared their memories of WWII action, life at home and the relief when peace in Europe was declared. It was not forgotten that in the Pacific conflict still continued.

What an amazing week we had when Spring launched temporarily into full blooded Summer at the beginning of the month – blue skies and soaring temperatures sent everyone out to enjoy life – in gardens, the countryside or on the beach – time to clean up the BBQs! In this edition you will find news of the AGM with an updated list of committee members and their roles. We also have a range of Group Reports so you can learn about the fantastic activities going on in our u3a. Thank you to everyone who has made contributions to this and past News Updates – please keep them coming and if you haven't sent anything in before please think about it – a few sentences in an email is all I need to start your news.

*Kathy Parker – News Editor*

### THORNGATE MEETING

This Month Joe Marsden gave an interesting talk about 'Tangmere – the History of the Famous Battle of Britain Airfield' Tangmere was an important airfield from WWI becoming an RAF base until 1974. It was very active throughout WWII when some well-known pilots flew their dangerous missions from Tangmere - including Douglas Barder. We learnt how Special Operations made undercover flights dropping operatives into France during the occupation. After the war the airfield was the location for trialling and setting world speed records. Ex military personnel and aviation enthusiasts rescued the overgrown site and eventually opened the Museum in 1982. The museum has many planes, replicas, simulators and cockpits for visitors to see and try but also an incredible collection of exhibits, records and stories of heroic actions of airmen who served at Tangmere. It has won many awards of Excellence on Trust Pilot. Located just the other side of Chichester - do make a visit.



The talk on Wed 4 June 'The SS Great Britain, the Concorde of its Day' by Philip Unwin.



## **WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS FROM JOHN DRAPER**

If you have recently joined Gosport u3a, you may have joined a few of the Committee Members and me for a New Members' Coffee Morning. We had 12 Members at the last meeting, which proves that they are needed and also popular.

Because of the May Day Bank Holiday, there won't be another one until Monday, 7th July, and then 1st September. The meeting is held in the Fiction Shelves (large oblong white table) at the Gosport Discovery Centre. The time of the meeting is 10.30am-11.30am. It is free to attend - you even get a free hot drink from the Cafe. Do come along and let me know if you are attending one of the meetings. It will be good to see you.

*John Draper - Welfare Officer*

## **GROUPS AND THE WEBSITE**

At heart of u3a Gosport are the many and varied groups that share their interests, learn new things and enable members to join in experiences. Group Co-ordinators are the driving force but in so many groups members step up and get involved, bringing further variety and making it a very democratic process. For new members it can be a bit of a minefield. Our website is the key reference point and this Update will include reports from groups and any new events or changes to keep you up to date.

### **HOW TO FIND OUT MORE ABOUT ANY OF OUR GROUPS**

The website has a page for every group. Members can find out how groups are run and make direct contact with most Group Co-ordinators from a link on that page by email. Some Co-ordinators prefer to list their phone numbers. Use the link below to take you to the page at the start of the Group section of the website then scroll down on that page to find the group you want.

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

## **REPORTS FROM GROUP CO-ORDINATORS**

*If you need to contact a Group Co-ordinator after reading one of the following reports use the link above to get to the group page.*

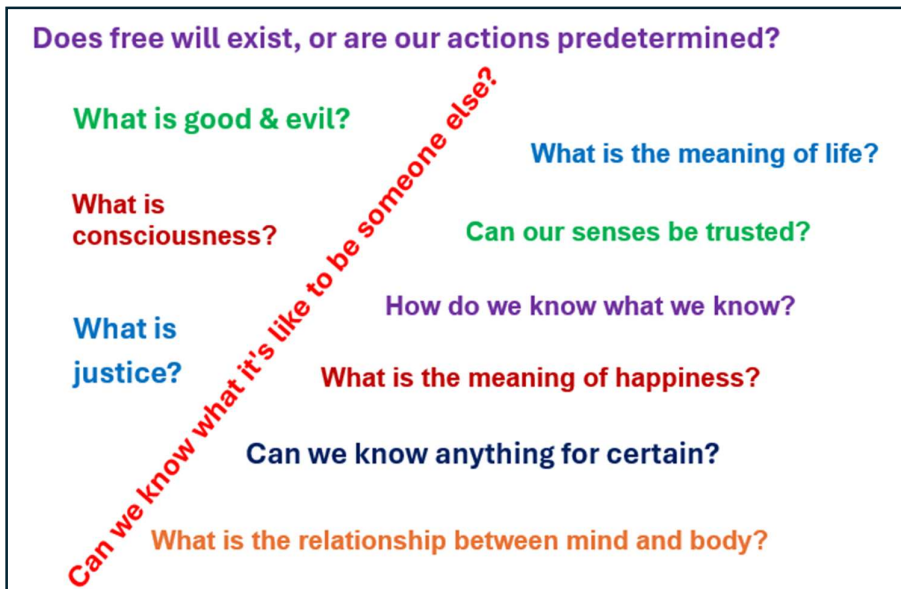
**POETRY GROUP** Over the last few months we have been concerned with Nature, firstly with Wild Animals, from Tiger Tiger onwards, then Small Beasties and Reptiles. It was most enjoyable to find that creatures like snakes, snails, and even flies have their moments immortalised in poems. We finished with Endangered Nature, with moving descriptions of the threats to our world.

The next couple of months will be general themes first Youth and then Old Age.

After that we are looking to explore the different forms of poetry. We would recognise a limerick, a ballad or a sonnet, and maybe a haiku, but could we spot a villanelle, an acrostic or a Pindaric ode? We shall have a lot of fun finding out!" *Belinda Colby – Group Co-ordinator*

## PHILOSOPHY

The word '*philosophy*' translates directly from Ancient Greek as '*love of wisdom*'. It is the exploration of fundamental questions about existence, knowledge, values, reason, the nature of the mind, language, reality, seeking to understand the world & our place within it.



We meet once a month for an hour & a half to discuss topics chosen by our members. In March & April 2025 we discussed '*The Philosophy of Artificial Intelligence*'.

**New Members Welcome.**

*For more information use the link on page 3 to see our webpage & make contact*

## PSYCHOLOGY, CRIMINOLOGY & FORENSICS STUDY GROUP



On April 1<sup>st</sup> a few members of the Group joined members of u3a Stubbington's four Criminology Groups to visit the True Crime Museum in Hastings. The weather was fine, the museum was very interesting & we had a few hours to explore Hastings.

The PC&F Study Group have been studying '*Investigating a Murder with Forensic Psychology*' since January 2025 & we should soon find out who murdered Leonard.

We have had several enquiries from members wishing to join the Study Group. When we complete the current module, we will know if there are any spaces available for

new members. If you are interested please email [triciatullibody@gmail.com](mailto:triciatullibody@gmail.com) & we will let you know if & when spaces become available.

*For more information use the link on page 3 to see our webpage & make contact*



## **BUS BEER & BANTER GROUP**

Our Group tends to stay closer to home during the winter months. We explored Gosport pubs in January; Old Portsmouth & Southsea in February; Wickham & Bishops Waltham in March & Romsey in April. We look for pubs with a good selection of real ales, usually having lunch in the first pub & then visiting two or three more pubs or tap rooms for a drink. You don't have to drink beer to join us. We have members who don't drink alcohol & members who prefer a glass of wine or a gin. Subject to successful recces we will be visiting Poole, Christchurch, Brighton & Sandown - Isle of Wight over the Summer. Despite the Group's name we do sometimes travel by train. BB&B has proved to be a popular Group, but we can squeeze in a few more folk if you would like to join us. Email [u3abusbeerbanter@gmail.com](mailto:u3abusbeerbanter@gmail.com) to be added to our members list & receive emails with details of each outing.



*Maureen & Tricia – Group Co-ordinators*

***For more information use the link on page 3 to see our webpage & make contact***

## **DANCE**

We had a VE theme to celebrate VE Day in May. We danced to Glen Miller Band as well as doing the jitterbug jive!!

Jim & Pat have been booked to do the jitterbug jive at a VE event in their village in Dorset!

*Pat Luke - Group Co-ordinator*



## **LOCAL HISTORY**

The group continues to thrive with a good number of enthusiastic participants. Many make a very active contribution through their local knowledge and research. The topic for May 13<sup>th</sup> will be "Crossing the Harbour". Ian will be giving a short presentation on the history of the harbour crossing, and we look forward to hearing about your experiences and memories of the Gosport Ferries. In June we have a Guided Tour of Clayhall Naval Cemetery. Members should meet at the Cemetery main gate at 14.00. The tour will be followed by afternoon tea and cakes. We meet on the second Tuesday of each month at 14.00, normally in the Roberts Room at Gosport Museum.

*Liz and Ian Backhouse - Group Co-ordinators*

## **DAY TRIPS GROUP**

The visit to Lacock is going ahead on Friday 30<sup>th</sup> May although there are still lots of places. 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. It is unfortunate that both transport and National Trust entry costs have increased but we hope to manage great day out with friends.

***If you are interested contact Maggie via the link on page 3***

## COMMITTEE MEMBERS AND ROLE HOLDERS 2025- 2026

At the AGM on 29 April 2025 the following members were re-elected or formally elected\* on to the committee with the following roles

Chairman	George Cantrill	Chair@u3agosport.org.uk
Vice Chair	John Draper	Vicechair@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
<b>Groups Co-ordinator</b>	<b>VACANT</b>	
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. If members need an urgent reply or do not get a response to emails, they should contact another committee member.***

## NON u3a EVENTS THAT MAY INTEREST MEMBERS

**CHRISTIAN AID QUIZ** at Bridgemary Methodist Church, Gregson Ave PO13 0PP on Sat 17<sup>th</sup> May at 2pm.  
£5 Contact Jean 02392 342301 Get a team together. Tea, cakes, raffle - and lots of fun.

**SPITHEAD ARTS** Creating Paradise: The History of the English Garden - an illustrated talk by Barbara Peacock on Tuesday 27 May at 6.55pm

**LEE CHORAL SOCIETY** – Parts 2&3 of Handel's Messiah with soloists. 7pm Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> May £15. Tickets on the door.

**TURKTOWN HERITAGE PROJECT** Bee Schmitt is leading a group sponsored by a heritage grant, to find out why Gosport is known as Turktown. This group meets in the Roberts Room at the Gosport Museum, For details of the group and the next meeting please contact Bee at the Museum.

**GOSPORT'S OLDER PEOPLE'S FORUM** – Spring Open Meeting **YOUR MONEY AND YOUR LIFE** – Putting your house in order. Friday 16 May 10-12am (coffee from 9.30) Council Chamber Town Hall  
An independent organisation giving all older residents of Gosport an opportunity to have their voices heard. Email [gospportopforum@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:gospportopforum@hotmail.co.uk) to be added to their mailing list.

***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***

***Please email your contributions for June's News Update at any stage during the next month.***

***THE DEADLINE FOR JUNE'S EDITION IS MONDAY 2<sup>nd</sup> JUNE***

*Thank you Kathy Parker*