

# MEMBERS' NEWS UPDATE JUNE 2025



*This year we celebrate the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary  
of the start of our u3a in Gosport.*

**1995 to 2025**

Many of you will remember our 25<sup>th</sup> celebration in 2020, especially the Open Day we had in the Gosport Museum on 7th March. This was just before the major refurbishment of the Centre but, more memorable, 2 weeks later Covid hit us all and we had orders to stay at home!!! So many plans were abandoned.

However, we are not going to miss the chance to celebrate this 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in style. So far we have planned the annual picnic on Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> August in the Nicholson Gardens.

I know we have some very long standing members. I would like to draw together some past memories from members so I can collate a special edition of this Update later in the year. So please send in your memories. I will be at the Thorngate meetings if you want to speak to me.

*Enjoy reading this Update – there are some great things going on. Kathy Parker – News Editor*

## **THORNGATE MEETING**

### **'The SS Great Britain, the Concorde of its Day'**

Philip Unwin gave a fascinating talk about Isambard Kingdom Brunel's visionary design and the building of this historic ship. There were many challenges both in the build and in the early sea trials but over the 4 decades of extensive travels around all our great oceans it circumnavigated the globe 34 times. Eventually at the end of her useful working life she came to the Falkland Islands and was abandoned in 1933. Fortunately her importance for the history of ship building was noted and with a generous

donation in 1970 by Jack Heyward, she returned to Bristol towed on a barge!!! It took 20 years to restore her to the magnificent ship attracting thousands of visitors today.

***A visit is highly recommended.***

***A note from Richard Lovett (French Group) who was looking forward to this talk..***

***'I was actually at Port Stanley, Falkland Isles when the ship was loaded onto a Dutch barge for transport back to UK.'***

**Next month Sian Moore will be sharing some of her Memories of a French Trip**

*I apologise for a spelling error in the name Douglas **Bader** in the last Update report about Tangmere. I hope I did not cause offense to the legacy of this hero from WWII. KP*



## **NEWS FROM YOUR COMMITTEE**

### **SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING**

At the AGM there were discussions regarding the annual membership fees. It was agreed that the Committee would discuss this further at their next meeting on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> May. The committee has called this Meeting to put the following proposal to the membership.

**'Due to the increase in costs, such as with the meeting venues and Third Age Trust fees, the annual fees should be increased to £30 for the next financial year.**

There were no objections from the floor or in email replies to the treasurer and a vote was taken. The result was unanimous in favour with no objections or abstentions.

*This will be effective for the membership year beginning 1<sup>st</sup> April 2026. Subscription renewals will be due from January 2026.*

### **U3A GOSPORT 30**

The Nicholson Gardens are booked for a tea party to take place on Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> August from 12-4pm. We hope to arrange a variety of activities so watch this space. Our own DJ Geoff Piper will provide music and we hope to invite some Gosport Personalities and - maybe – a representative from local News.

Contact committee members to let us know if you can do anything to make this a great event to celebrate 30 years of u3a Gosport.

### **GROUPS' CO-ORDINATOR ROLE**

Last month we reported that no one was appointed at the AGM to this role. We are pleased to let you know that we have had some interest from a member to find out more about the role. Judith Ridley has agreed to continue overseeing the role while this person SHADOWS her in the hope that a Groups' Co-ordinator will be appointed in due course.

### **SUPPORT YOUR COMMITTEE**

Members are invited to come to a committee meeting - to listen in and find out how members of the committee carry out their roles. If you decide you would like consider being more involved it is possible to SHADOW a current committee member as they carry out their role. This would give current committee members the confidence that they are supported and that they can serve their term without being forced into carrying on indefinitely. It also means that the transition of roles is a smooth and seamless process. **Contact any committee member.**

*See page 6 for the list of committee members, roles & email addresses*

## HOW DO WE MANAGE COMMUNICATION WITHIN OUR U3A?

We have 2 major tools which help us manage member's contact details & communications.

### **The Beacon Database & The u3a Gosport Website**

Both systems have been designed for, and are used by, most u3as in the UK. They ensure we comply with privacy and data protection regulations while sharing information about our activities. It is helpful to understand the purpose of each system.

- **COMMITTEE COMMUNICATION WITH MEMBERS** : Most of you will be aware that emails sent to all the members, including the distribution of the News Update, are sent via our own u3a **Gosport Beacon Data Base**. Access to this database is limited and managed by the Beacon Administrator. Your details are kept confidential - the system generates the emails from the details you have given to the membership secretary. Great news - your email address does not need to be held on a multitude of individual members' home computers.
- **GROUP CO-ORDINATORS' COMMUNICATION WITH MEMBERS - Beacon** is the safest to use for communications with group members. Each email is sent confidentially (bcc blind carbon copy). It is also the perfect way to keep the group's membership list up to date, with access to emergency numbers etc. It also helps if the group co-ordinator is indisposed in some way, the group members can be contacted by a committee member.
- **MEMBERS' COMMUNICATION TO COMMITTEE AND CO-ORDINATORS**  
The **u3a Gosport website** has full public access so is available to both existing and potential members. It contains details of future events, how to renew membership, contact details, News Updates and information about all our current groups. From the website members, and potential members, can send secure emails to Committee Members and Group Co-ordinators.

Some groups have chosen a group member to be the author of their website page, otherwise the Web administrator will make any updates. Just let Jennifer know via [Webadm@u3agosport.org.uk](mailto:Webadm@u3agosport.org.uk).

Also, point out any broken links or other issues with the website you come across.

Adding groups to Beacon, or obtaining help/training with using Beacon is by contacting Judy on [Beaconadm@u3agosport.org.uk](mailto:Beaconadm@u3agosport.org.uk)

## REPORTS FROM GROUP CO-ORDINATORS

### **CLASSICAL MUSIC**

The Classical Music Appreciation Group meets every month on the 4th Wednesday at 2pm in Gosport Museum.

This last month we had 8 attendees and we usually average that and up to 12 each month.

Some members are very knowledgeable about the subject whilst others just come and listen.

Every month we have a theme and May's was 'Spring' when we listened to music including by Schumann, Vaughan Williams, Delius. Surprisingly, no one brought 'Spring' by Vivaldi!

If you would like to come, you would be most welcome, just let me know. *John Draper*



## DAY TRIPS GROUP - OUTING TO LACOCK ABBEY & VILLAGE



A great hot and sunny day out was enjoyed by 25 u3a members and guests to Lacock Abbey. The charming, picturesque village, famous for many film sets, was a step back in

time.

This was our first u3a coach trip since covid and we hope more members will join in future planned trips. *Maggie*



## READING GROUP RECOMMENDS *THE WAGER* BY DAVID GRANN

Our reading group continues to enjoy (or not, as the case may be) the varied fiction or non fiction we read each month. We like to explore books, often outside our 'comfort zone' as we all have different likes and dislikes. A recent book was one that most of the members would not have chosen for themselves, but found it engrossing.

The April book was called 'The Wager' by David Grann. It was named after HMS Wager, a British naval vessel, shipwrecked on an island in the 1700s after suffering several horrendous storms going round Cape Horn at the southernmost tip of the South America. The island had no animals, insects or plant life to eat, except a type of celery, which proved a good antidote for scurvy which was killing the crew. The only food source (apart from supplies on the wrecked vessel) was obtained from the inhospitable sea or the occasional sea birds. Amazingly, despite the fact that they were emaciated and weary before the ship broke up, a few sailors managed to make their way back to England. Their story was told via their logs, reports and evidence given at the subsequent court martial - had there been a mutiny? The author wrote the book as a story although it contained meticulously researched details woven into the retelling of the shipwreck and survivors. It is recommended by the group.

*Jennifer Bellamy*

## EXTRA MILE WALKERS GO TO THE ISLAND



What a cracking day we had on the IOW. Ferry then train to Brading; climb up to Culver; coast path to Bembridge Lifeboat; low tide beach walk; Bembridge Causeway to the Dover; uphill to St Helens then bus to Ryde and ferry home. Some very fit members did a 10min sprint down the pier to catch an earlier ferry while the rest took some liquid refreshment!!

Kathy Parker

## CLIMATE CHANGE

Last month we had an interesting discussion on "Biofuelling the Future". For our next meeting on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> June at 10.15 am in Gosport Museum, we are going to discuss "Cleaning the Waters" and that can be either seas or rivers or both. New members would be most welcome. We meet on the second Monday of each month excluding August.

*This group continues to research, explore and discuss a wide range of topics related to this big and most pressing challenge for the environments of our world. They would love some more members!!!* [https://gosport.u3asite.uk/u3a\\_groups/climate-change/](https://gosport.u3asite.uk/u3a_groups/climate-change/)

## LOCAL HISTORY

Our group goes from strength to strength with over 20 members attending each month. On 10 June the U3A Local History Group are meeting at 2pm at Clayhall Cemetery for a guided tour by Monica Shilling, followed by Tea and Cakes. All welcome.

Looking forward to 8 July, our next meeting will be an illustrated talk by Lewis Sharp from the Palmerston Fort Society, with special emphasis on The History of Gilkicker Fort. Although Lewis has offered to talk for free he would appreciate a donation towards the Society. Meet at 2pm in the Robert's Room at Gosport Museum. *Liz & Ian Backhouse*

**To find out about any of our 47 groups visit the group section of the website. Follow this link and scroll down to find the page for each group.**

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

**From each group's page you can contact the Group Co-ordinator**

**Thank you for all your contributions – the deadline for July's News Update is Monday 30<sup>th</sup> June**

## DATES FOR THE DIARY

DATE/TIME	EVENT OR ACTIVITY	LOCATION
2/7/25 1030 to 1200	Monthly meeting	Thorngate Hall
7/7/25 10.30 to 11.30	New Member meeting	Discovery Centre
<b>14/08/25 1200-1600</b>	<b>u3a Gosport 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary picnic</b>	<b>Nicholson Gardens</b>
30/8/2025	Anchored in Gosport	Gosport High Street
27/9/2025	Michaelmas Fyre	Around St Mary's Church, Alverstoke
17/10/2025	Info Fest	Thorngate Hall

## COMMITTEE MEMBERS AND ROLE HOLDERS 2025- 2026

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
Groups Co-ordinator	Judith Ridley (TEMP)	Groupcoord@u3agosport.org.uk
Welfare Officer	John Draper	Welfare@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/>*

## NON u3a EVENTS THAT MAY INTEREST MEMBERS

### A STUDY INTO THE HEALTH AND WELLBEING OF ADULTS WHO GREW UP IN FOSTER OR RESIDENTIAL CARE

We have been contacted by Dr. Jonathan Taylor who is leading a research project conducted by the Nuffield Department of Population Health at Oxford University:-



*' Researchers are holding focus groups to understand the health and wellbeing concerns of people who spent all or part of their childhood in foster or residential care. If you spent time in care in England as a child and are now aged fifty or above , and would like to find out more, please contact Jono Taylor by :*

*Email: [Jonathan.Taylor@ndph.ox.uk](mailto:Jonathan.Taylor@ndph.ox.uk) or Telephone 01865 617912*

**MILESTONES MUSEUM BASINGSTOKE** (One of Hampshire Cultural Trust's Museums) is offering a reduced entry of £10 instead of £21.50 until 11<sup>th</sup> July. - A living history museum recreating Victorian and early 20<sup>th</sup> century streets. See the website <https://www.milestonesmuseum.org.uk/>

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 .

*Kathy Parker 4/6/25*