

MEMBERS' NEWS UPDATE JULY 2025



1995 to 2025



I am writing this Update while the sun is shining but I'm just a little pleased to be out of the heat. Our changeable weather is a challenge but in heatwaves we may have the advantage of a sea breeze and the opportunity for a dip in the ocean. I wonder how the Sea Dipping group is doing? This is a picture taken when the Extra Mile group crossed a ripening 'Field of Barley'

In this edition there are some important reminders for Group Co-ordinators and the Website. Our annual members leaflet will be published shortly. This is for **MEMBERS ONLY** and it is not to be handed out to non members as it contains contact information about all our wonderful Group Co-ordinators.

There is also a plea for members to put their name forward as occasional volunteers for the **HELPFUL GROUP**. The worldwide u3a movement is built on the principles of a members led organisation – members can make it whatever they want it to be, but success relies on member involvement. **Val Havard** has valiantly set up this group to recruit members to join a list of helpers for u3a Gosport community events. She hopes a **long list of willing people** will mean that the requests for help can be shared and individual commitment less frequent. We look forward to seeing lots of you at the **u3a GOSPORT 30** picnic on August 14th. **We will gather whatever the weather.**

Kathy Parker – News Editor

THORNGATE MEETING

On Wednesday 2nd July Sian Moore, ex French Teacher and Leader of at least 80 school visits gave us an amusing and entertaining account of **SCHOOL TRIPS AND (MIS)ADVENTURES.**

Sian who has a great love of the life and culture in France escorted countless children of all ages abroad, to open their eyes to different cultures. She, like the children learnt so much about the challenges of being a long way from home. Children learn to be responsible eg looking after their passport and she had to think on her feet eg when Brittany Ferries went on strike. We heard of many challenges that she faced and dealt with. Much of her experience was in the days before the excessive regulation and paperwork of today, make it hard to do anything adventurous with young people. **AND**, even harder to imagine, in the days before there was the mobile phone in your pocket. I am sure that Sian must be one of those teachers her pupils will always remember with love! A great talk!!



We would welcome any comments about the monthly meetings - the talks and the opportunity to meet up with members. Remember we have arranged for the Thorngate Bar to serve coffee after the talk.

NEWS FROM YOUR COMMITTEE

GROUPS' CO-ORDINATOR ROLE

Judith Ridley

A meeting will be held for Group Coordinators at Gosport Methodist Church, Stoke Road on Tuesday 29th July 2-4pm. An email has been sent. Please let me know if you can make it so I order enough cake! Thank you for replies received already.

GROUP CO-ORDINATORS ALERT

THE ANNUAL MEMBER LEAFLET will be printed this month. The group information is taken from the website. Please check your page details are correct. Report errors to Membership Secretary Tinou Neal ASAP – final date **Th 10 July**

Our u3a offers members a vast variety of brilliant activities making it a challenging and complex organisation. As Groups' Co-ordinator I am the committee member responsible for keeping the committee informed of the overall picture, so it is vital that all individual Group Co-ordinators let me know about any changes you make to your group arrangements. My role is closely linked to the Treasurer (which happens to be me) as well as Jennifer Bellamy for the Website and Judy Foster for the Beacon Database.

Please inform me of any of the following changes

1. Names of Co-ordinator(s) & (if different) website & beacon editor
2. Day, Times & Length of regular sessions
3. Occasional changes of date or cancellation of meetings
4. If you are thinking about closing or making final a closure of a group.

2,3&4 are especially important if your group meets in rented accommodation. The projected budget usually covers 10 months a year. If you cancel a session we need to ensure we do not pay for it!! The length of your sessions, which are costed by the hour / half hour can have a significant impact on the annual budget and also any months you do not plan to meet – ie if you miss August & December or if you are out on a visit.

Thank you Co-ordinators you are the beating heart of our organization

u3a GOSPORT WEBSITE

Jennifer Bellamy

The development of the new website has been a major project since last Autumn. We know that prospective members search the website to see what we do, so it is a vital and important way to advertise and celebrate what each group can offer.

After training sessions last winter some groups are successfully updating their pages but most are managed by me. If your group does not have an editor, contact me and I will update it for you with the information you want to be displayed. I must enter the information at the top but below each group can decide what to include below. eg

- How the group operates
- Photos of things you have done
- Dates for your future meetings and programme of activities

This link will take you to the Groups section. Scroll down to your group to open your page.

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

u3a GOSPORT 30 PICNIC

u3a Gosport is 30 years old this year!

We have arranged a celebration picnic at Nicholson Gardens just off Stoke Road Gosport on 14th August from 11am to 4pm. There will be free tea and coffee as usual, plus a glass of fizz and a slice of our 'birthday cake' for all. The park will be decorated for the occasion. There will be a raffle and a table quiz. We hope that the Mayor and Councillors will join us and Geoff will provide the music in the park. ***The event will go ahead even in inclement weather, bring your golf umbrellas etc!***

Maggie Gavin

Although the picnic starts at 11am, it would be very helpful if some people could arrive about 10am to help with things like putting out tables and decorating them - decorations are supplied by the u3a craft group/s. Balloons will need blowing up - no puff needed – but by people braver than me.

If you would be able to arrive early to help set up please let me know, either through the **Helpful Group** webpage or by phoning 01329 281824. Thank you. *Val Havard*

HELPFUL GROUP

You can find the HELPFUL GROUP in the group section of the website

The Helpful Group would like some help, in the shape of additional members.

As well as Gosport u3a's 30th Anniversary Picnic there is expected to be more publicity about Gosport u3a this Autumn. Examples of this would be a Gosport u3a stall at some events. Ideally for these events, some from 10am to 4pm, we would like there to be at least 6 volunteers so 2 people at a time could man the stall for 2 hours. At present, with currently only 7 members, we would struggle to find enough volunteers for the different events. There is no regular meeting for the Helpful Group, instead an email is sent out as and when volunteers are needed. Members who can help are asked to respond. It just means helping out, if and when, you can. Please click my name on the Helpful Group webpage to join, if you can give some of your time with any u3a events. ***Thank you.*** *Val Havard*

RECENT GROUP CHANGES

- **Thursday Fine Dining group at 141** is now closed.
- **New Group proposal - Day Trip Travel Group** – Members have received an email about this new group idea. They will have held their first meeting by the time this Update reaches you – more news later.

PUBLICITY

Tricia Stevenson

u3a Gosport now has a Facebook page which you can see by clicking this link

<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61577048890723>

If you are on Facebook please 'Like' or 'Follow' the u3a Gosport Facebook page & 'Share' it with your Facebook friends. ***The page will develop over the next few months.***

REPORTS FROM GROUP CO-ORDINATORS

STARGAZING

I would like to introduce you to the Stargazing group which started earlier this year. I am a complete beginner - I could find the moon, but always enjoyed looking at the night sky. Our small group look at what we have seen over the previous month and what we should look out for the following month. As a beginner, I don't try to take in too much in one go, so Antony, who leads the group, suggests what I might look out for that can be seen with the naked eye (no equipment



necessary!). The group also caters for those who have more experience in star gazing - we learn from one another about all the amazing movements in the sky. Fancy giving us a try? Then contact Antony via the link on the Stargazing group page on the u3a Gosport website. New members would be most welcome.



Jennifer Bellamy – a group member

LOCAL HISTORY

“The Local History group is looking forward to a talk by Lewis Sharp on Tuesday 8 July. He will be talking about Palmerston Forts, with special reference to Fort Gilkicker. Although Lewis has offered to talk to us for free, a donation to the Palmerston Fort Society would be appreciated.

On 12 August our topic for research will be Little Woodham, 17th Century Village. Alexandra Morris, the chairman of the society will be joining our meeting. On Saturday 16th August we have another outing, this time to Little Woodham in the Alver Valley.

We will meet at the entrance at 10:30. Admission £5 for over 65's.”

Liz & Ian Backhouse

GENEALOGY

Due to the holiday commitments of several members, there will no meeting on Friday 18th July. The next meeting will be on Friday 19th September in Gosport Discovery Centre . *I look forward to seeing you then!*

Bev Harris

CINEMA GROUP

Many members may be unaware of this group organized by Kathy Kanji from u3a Solent. She organises a private viewing of a current film at Reel Cinema in Fareham for our local u3as. It often involves several screens. Look at the details on the Cinema Group Page. All you have to do is send an email from the group page to Kathy Kanji and you will be placed on her emailing list for each month's screening. ***On July 10th the film is 'The Salt Path'***

PICKLEBALL GROUP



Pickleball is becoming more and more popular nationally and this is reflected locally in that we now have 22 active members.

When our local U3A Pickleball group began we played on one court, now we regularly play doubles on three courts.

A number of our members are presently forming a four player team to play in a local Pickleball club league and some U3A members can now be seen playing in social games throughout the week.

Pickleball does not require previous racket sports skills but a degree of mobility is required. Coaching is provided but more importantly everyone assists new players with the rules, scoring and game strategy.

If you are Interested in this fun sport we play on Mondays, 2pm to 3pm, at the Gosport Leisure Centre. Come along or contact me from the page on the website *Jane McArdle*

BOARD GAMES

There are 2 active Board Games groups. The 1st Tuesday group, now meeting in the Family room in Gosport Museum & Art Gallery, is quite full with a good level of attendance. The second group meets on the 3rd Friday 6.45- 8.45pm in the Museum café and could easily take new members. Contact Val Havard via the group page on the website

Val Havard



***Thank you for all your contributions –
The next News Update will be published on Friday 1st August
The deadline for contributions is Friday 25 July***

But earlier would be helpful as I go on holiday before Aug 1st

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 easily contact the Group Co-ordinator by clicking on their name to open up a secure email link

DATES FOR THE DIARY

DATE/TIME	EVENT OR ACTIVITY	LOCATION
7/7/25 10.30 to 11.30	New Member meeting	Discovery Centre
29/07/2025	Group Co-ordinators meeting	Stoke Road Methodist Church
14/08/25 1200-1600	u3a Gosport 30th Anniversary picnic	Nicholson Gardens
30/8/2025	Anchored in Gosport	Gosport High Street
3/9/25 1030 to 1200	Monthly meeting	Thorngate Hall
27/9/2025	Michaelmas Fyre	Around St Mary's Church, Alverstoke
7/10/2025 1030-1200	Monthly meeting	Thorngate Hall
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

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

SPITHEAD ARTS The next lecture on Tuesday 22nd July will be "The Art of the Cartoonist" by Harry Venning. Hear from a cartoonist and comedy writer about the history of his profession and learn about the tricks of the trade. Harry will be drawing live to illustrate points such as where to put eyebrows for maximum effect! It is at Bay House, starting at 7pm and guests are welcome for £7, which is deductible should you decide to join Spithead Arts

If you know about any relevant local events please send details by email. They will be included if there is space when all our u3a News is included .

Kathy Parker 3/7/25