

MEMBERS' NEWS UPDATE AUGUST 2025



Happy summertime to all our members. Whether you are going away, staying in our seaside town, having visitors, looking after grandchildren or visiting family or friends, I hope the weather is kind and you have a wonderful time. This edition comes with a reminder about the **u3a Gosport 30 Picnic** and some great reports from very active groups. Not all groups meet in August so if you are not sure contact your Group Co-ordinator to check before you get on the bus!!

The **National u3a Website** has so much information. If you have some down time in the next few weeks it may be worth checking it out. <https://www.u3a.org.uk/> It can be particularly useful to log to the member section where there are lots of exclusive offers including discounts. You will need to register with a password.

THORNGATE MEETING

There is no meeting in August. The next meeting will be on Wednesday 3rd September at 10.30am. **Laurie Page** of Warsash u3a will talk to us about **PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY**. Our country is so fortunate to have a vast network of footpaths which have been preserved as rights of way for hundreds of years. We have the right to use them and landowners have to maintain them. As a walker I am very much looking forward to this talk. Laurie Page was Map Officer for Essex County Council and has written several walking publications for Countryside Books.

I am always surprised at how interesting our talks are so do put the date in your diary. Coffee afterwards in the Thorngate Bar for a chat and catch up with friends.

NEWS FROM YOUR COMMITTEE

THE ANNUAL MEMBER INFORMATION LEAFLET

This gives a full overview of the management of our u3a, including the current information about all our groups. It is being printed and will be available at the September meeting at Thorngate. If you are not attending this meeting leaflets can be collected by another person but they will be asked to sign off your name on the membership list. To avoid excessive printing & paper costs **we only print one copy per person** each year. Group Co-ordinators may also be asked to help distribute leaflets. ***In the meantime, full information about all groups should be up to date on the website.***

Tinou Neal & Judith Ridley

WHEN YOU GET IT - PLEASE REMEMBER THIS LEAFLET IS NOT FOR PUBLICITY.

IT IS FOR MEMBERS ONLY.

u3a GOSPORT 30 PICNIC

u3a Gosport is 30 years old this year!

I hope you have all put the Thursday 14 August in your diary. Maggie and the Helpful group under the guidance of Val Havard are working hard to prepare for what will be a fun event to commemorate the successes of your u3a. Members welcome from 11am

Guests will join us for cake cutting and a celebratory glass of something fizzy at 2pm.

(Please remember - we cannot bring our own alcoholic drinks into the Nicholson Gardens.) **Maggie Gavin**

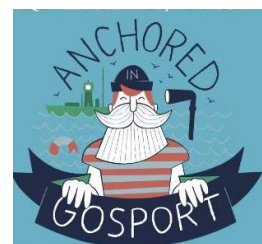
'There has been an excellent response to the request for help with setting up Gosport's 30th Anniversary Picnic from the newly formed **HELPFUL GROUP**. We look forward to a large gathering of our u3a members. We have had some offers of help for clearing up afterwards but we will appreciate other volunteers.

Thank you **HELPFUL GROUP**, your support is greatly appreciated'

Val Havard

HOW THE HELPFUL GROUP CAN AID OUR PUBLICITY

Increasing our overall membership is vital to sustain the life of our u3a. As a part of our publicity drive led by **Tricia Stevenson** we are planning to involve u3a Gosport in community events and we will need members to help make these events successful. The number of members in the **Helpful Group** is slowly growing and is encouraging the understanding, that by sharing the load with many members, we can make things happen. Our first community event:-



Anchored In Gosport on Saturday 30 August 10am to 4pm

'With our stall at this event **in the High Street** we have the opportunity to advertise and promote u3a Gosport, especially during its 30th Anniversary year. Some volunteers have already offered their time but we could do with a few more so that the stall can be manned by 2 people for 2 hour stints between 10am and 4pm. If you can help at this event please contact me.

If anyone is interested in joining the lovely people already in the Helpful Group, just send me a message via the website by clicking my name on the Helpful Group page.'

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

Val Havard

GROUP CO-ORDINATORS MEETING

A meeting was held this week for Group Co-ordinators. Our organization is complex and it is difficult to ensure we are all supporting each other; that we are operating within the ethos and necessary regulations of u3a; and that we can feel a sense of the whole organization.

But Group Coordinators are at the heart of how u3a happens, albeit that they meet with their groups in many different places and times. ***They are to be celebrated.***

Thank you to Group Coordinators who were able to come along and contribute to the meeting. Look out for more news in future News Updates. The minutes of the meeting will be circulated to Group Co-ordinators later.

Judith Ridley

NEWS MEMBERS' MEETING

We recently had a very good meeting at which new and prospective members were able to find out a bit more about what u3a Gosport has to offer. With the attendance of other active members, we were able to answer questions and explain about how the group membership works over a cup of coffee.



The next meeting is on Monday 1st September 10.30am at a table in the Discovery Centre. You will find it on a labelled table by the Fiction Shelves on the ground floor. You are entitled to a FREE hot drink at the expense of u3a. I hope to see you there.

John Draper Welfare Officer

REPORTS FROM GROUP CO-ORDINATORS

FOLK MUSIC GROUP

This group has been active in u3a Gosport for many years but finds itself at a new crossroads. Steve who has recently taken over is considering how to bring new ideas to the group.

'We are currently looking for new members. We meet on the second and fourth Wednesday of the month 2-4pm at HEDCA Coomb Road Gosport. You are welcome to come along and play or sing or read poetry. You can also come along just to listen. Please note that there are no meetings in August.'

Steve Hudson

POETRY

Belinda Colby has been Group Co-ordinator for the long standing Poetry Group since 2018 and led a regular and diverse programme of sessions maintaining contact throughout Covid. After seven years Belinda has taken a deserved retirement. We thank her for all her hard work and enthusiasm which has helped the group explore many aspects of Poetry while she has led the group.

Sue Read although a very new u3a Gosport member has stepped up to keep the group going – Well done Sue. It often happens that members find themselves in the driving seat rather than let a group die, but of course a group's success can only be assured if all group members get involved to make things happen.

Sue is keen to keep the group going so sends this appeal to all members:-

'Now might be the time to think about joining this group as it takes a new direction. At our September meeting, we will be thinking about new ways to approach our mutual love of poetry. It should be fun! If you wish to come along, please contact me via the website group page.'

Sue Read



ALLOTMENT

The Allotment Group has been busy harvesting and watering - keeping everything going during the heatwave. Most crops have thrived but some have struggled. Potatoes, onions and summer cabbage have been particularly good. The recent rain has not come a moment too soon. Thoughts will soon be turning to autumn planting and enriching the soil for next year.



We now have a vacancy for somebody to join us. An opportunity to grow delicious organic vegetables as part of a lively group. Fresh air and fun guaranteed if not always perfect weather. Anyone interested please contact **me** via the link on the website. **Sandy Richardson**

TRAVEL - DAY TRIPS

This group has been set up by Fiona Meredith inspired by her experience in another u3a. It does not replace our long standing Day Trips group run by Maggie Gavin – it is just a slightly different approach. Fiona held a well attended inaugural meeting for interested members on July 3rd. The plan will be to meet monthly; have two study meetings to discuss potential trips; discover all about the place of the visit; and plan what to do during the visit. The aim would be to organise three trips a year.

Future meetings will be held on the 1st Thursday at 1030 in the Roberts Room in Gosport Museum starting on **Thursday 4th September**. It is hoped to plan the first Trip on **Thursday 4th December**. More news of this later.

If you are interested contact Fiona via the **Travel - Day Trips** page on the website.

https://gosport.u3asite.uk/u3a_groups/day-trip-travel-group/



ARCHAEOLOGY

The archaeology group visited the Royal Garrison Church Portsmouth recently. This was arranged as a follow on from our visit to the Fort Brockhurst store room where we saw artefacts from the Garrison church. Two volunteers gave us a pre-arranged guided tour and detailed history of the church. Well worth a visit.

Our next group meeting is on 24th September when we will discuss an archaeological topic of our own choice, new members are always welcome. *Julie Bennett*



PICKLEBALL

A first for our u3a Pickleball Group. We entered a u3a Pickleball team in the new local Pickleball league. On the 13th July our Intrepid team of Ian, Mebs, Gill and Karen had the challenge and fun of playing against higher ranked opponents from various clubs. The challenge was made more difficult as this was the first time three of our team had played on a hard court with a fast whiffle ball. They proved themselves very capable and met the trials head on.



Mebs Hansraj deserves a special mention as he won a prize for setting up a great play opportunity.

Our u3a team was cheered on by a number of fellow u3a Pickleball players who attended the event to provide fantastic support.



Please note our Pickleball group is not active during August but recommences on Monday the 1st Sept. If you would like to join us please contact me via the Group Page on the website

Jane McArdle

LOCAL HISTORY

At our July Meeting Lewis Sharp gave an enthusiastic illustrated account of the Palmerston Fort Society (PFS) involvement in the redevelopment of Fort Gilkicker. Having outlined a history of the Fort he presented us with archaeological evidence not yet in the public domain. Volunteers from the PFS visit weekly accompanied by a drone pilot and a photographer to record historical finds discovered by the developers. We learnt that the Fort was built with thick granite walls and had five inch thick wrought iron shields to protect the guns. Later six casemates were filled with concrete and 3 metres of concrete were added to the roof to support 4 powerful guns. All creating a challenge for the developers!



Our next meeting will be on Tuesday 12 August. Alexandra Miller, Chair of Gosport Living History Society will talk about Little Woodham. We have an optional visit to the 17th Century Village on Saturday 16 August. £5. Meet at 10:30

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
14/08/25 1200-1600	u3a Gosport 30 th Anniversary picnic	Nicholson Gardens
30/8/2025	Anchored in Gosport	Gosport High Street
1/9/2025 1030	New Members meeting	Discovery Centre
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
11/12/2025	U3a Gosport Christmas meal	The Castle

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
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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

GOSPORT MUSEUM AND ART GALLERY (GMAG)

As several of our groups meet in this building it is appropriate to draw your attention to some great activities going on there.

- **ECHOES OF APPLAUSE**- an exhibition featuring a journey through Gosport's Entertainment Heritage. On now until 27th September *Admission free (donations welcome)*
- **MUSIC IN THE MUSEUM** – local musicians provide an hour and half of many styles of music. 4th Friday each month 7.30-9pm. Doors at 7pm Tickets on line £6 + free drink.
- **COURTYARD SESSIONS** – Saturdays 9 & 23 August & 6 September 1-3pm. These are the last three of this Summer's open music sessions . No tickets – pop in and listen. Café open as well.

Check out the website and join the mailing list for future information.

<https://www.hampshireculture.org.uk/gosport-museum-and-art-gallery>

Thank you for all your contributions

The next News Update will be published on Friday 5th September.

The deadline for contributions is Monday 1st September. KP