

# MEMBERS' NEWS UPDATE SEPTEMBER 2025



## u3a GOSPORT 30 PICNIC Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> August



Members came together for a sunny afternoon picnic in the Nicholson Gardens to mark 30 successful years of our u3a. We were joined by the Gosport Mayor, Councillor Kirsten Bradley for cake cutting and a glass of fizz. She took time to talk to lots of our



members and was genuinely impressed with the variety and imagination of our members who explore so many interests.



The Mastermind of the planning was Maggie Gavin one of our very long standing members. She has been a driving force for so many years not only within the groups she has been part of, but also by serving on your committee.

**Thank you Maggie.**

Val Havard and her army from the really HELPFUL group worked hard behind the scenes. Our own brilliant DJ - Geoff Piper provided music from our eras. The cake lighting was a GROUP effort !!



**THANK YOU TO ALL WHO HELPED MAKE THIS EVENT A GREAT SUCCESS**

## THORNGATE MEETING

Laurie Page of Warsash u3a (previously PRow Map Officer in Essex CC) gave us a comprehensive and informative talk about the UK's unique range of **PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY**. Walking is one of the best forms of exercise for fitness and wellbeing and costs very little once you have the right footwear!!



By being familiar with our footpath network and our brilliant OS map resources (first started in early 1800s) we can explore so much of our countryside. He also spoke about the many National Parks, National Trails and other notable local trails which walkers can enjoy.



Our next meeting is on Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> October when John Sherbourne will talk about the **DEVELOPMENT OF THE MUSICAL**

*John has visited us before including excellent talks about Cole Porter & Irvin Berlin. 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 has been printed and was available at Thorngate this week. They will continue to be available at future monthly meetings. You can ask another member to collect your copy 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.***

### PUBLICITY EVENTS

It was disappointing that the **Anchored in Gosport Fayre** was cancelled on Saturday 30 August because of the weather especially as Tricia Stevenson had put so much effort into organizing our participation. Other publicity events this Autumn will need volunteers:-

**GOSPORT HERITAGE OPEN DAYS in Holy Trinity Church from 12-21 September.** We will have a table with leaflets etc. but it won't be manned all the time. There are exhibitions on in the church all week. Contact Val if you have been there and know the best days or times for members to be there and talk to visitors,

**MICHAELMAS FAYRE – Alverstoke on Saturday 27 September** This will need some members to do 2 hour stints at a stall. Contact Val if available.

Thank you to those who are already offering their time to help at events – 17 members now!! If you would like to join the ranks of these generous volunteers

***Contact Val Havard via the HELPFUL GROUP page on the website***

## **NEW MEMBERS MEETING**

4 new members attended the coffee morning meeting on Monday 1<sup>st</sup> September. Thank you to other committee members who attended and shared their knowledge. The next one will be on Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> November.

*John Draper*

## **GROUPS' CO-ORDINATOR**

27 members attended the Group Co-ordinators Meeting in July. It was chaired by Fiona Meredith who is shadowing Judith Ridley as Groups' Co-ordinator as Judith was not able to make the meeting at the last moment. These meetings provide a rare opportunity for Group Co-ordinators to meet each other, to hear about developments across the whole organisation and to air their views when decisions are being made. Thank you to all who managed to attend, representing the interests of their groups and for making useful contributions.

## **MANAGING OUR GROUP NUMBERS**

In the Group Co-ordinator reports there is an appeal from one of our most successful groups, Bus Beer and Banter, who need to review their capacity.

It is our u3a policy that new members can join any groups that interest them. However, for some groups the numbers do need to be carefully managed - often for safety and other practical reasons. We do not like to introduce waiting lists but would rather encourage members to think about setting up a second group if numbers become unmanageable or impractical.

*Judith Ridley*

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

### **BUS, BEER AND BANTER**

Our successful group has grown steadily since our initial meeting in September 2021. We now have forty-nine members & regularly have twenty or more members joining us for the day. HOWEVER >>>> Organising such a large group of people on public transport is proving difficult & many pubs will not accept such a large lunch booking. Those pubs that will, tend to be the larger chains which are not really the pubs that B,B & B want to visit.

- Would anyone be interested in starting a second B, B & B Group on a different day?
- Or maybe a Bus Pass Group where members travel together but make their own arrangements for the rest of the day once they have arrived?
- Or perhaps you have another idea?

To contact the co-ordinators and for more information see the Bus, Beer and Banter page on the website [https://gosport.u3asite.uk/u3a\\_groups/bus-beer-and-banter/](https://gosport.u3asite.uk/u3a_groups/bus-beer-and-banter/)

*Maureen Mansfield & Tricia Stevenson*

If you are interested in setting up a new Group please contact our Groups Co-ordinator by clicking here [https://gosport.u3asite.uk/u3a-contact-form/?contact\\_id=9037](https://gosport.u3asite.uk/u3a-contact-form/?contact_id=9037)

*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.*

## **HISTORY GROUP - DATE CHANGE**

Due to circumstances beyond our control the meeting scheduled for Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> September has been re-scheduled for Monday 29<sup>th</sup> September, from 2.00-4.00pm, at the usual place in the Museum. We are sorry for the inconvenience caused to any members, but we hope to see as many of you there as possible. The topic is what we call 'Pick and Mix'. This is where you can bring along to the session anything from History of interest to YOU, to share with the group. This results in a large variety of topics discussed. If you are not a member of the group and think this is something you would enjoy, please contact me via the website or my number is on the u3a leaflet.

*Linda Dorset*

## **BOARD GAMES - CHANGES**

There has been a change of times to both Board Games groups. 1st Tuesday 2pm - 3.30pm. 3rd Friday (earlier) 6.30pm - 8.30pm. The Tuesday Board Games group has relocated from the cafe (Friday evening group is still in the cafe) to a room in Gosport Museum. Having a room means more games can be played and it will better facilitate members being able to bring their own games to play. A new u3a member at the New Members Coffee Morning expressed an interest in playing Bridge - people are welcome to play card games at the Board Games group, or use the group to set up their own games.

Please contact me through the Groups webpage if you are interested in joining either of the Board Games group.

*Val Havard*

## **CRYPTIC CROSSWORD SOLVERS**

Our group are very excited that a cryptic crossword we produced is going into print in the Autumn issue of the 'U3A Matters'. Please look out for it! We are especially proud, as this group started as a beginners group and, together, we learnt about the various types of clue and how to solve cryptic crosswords. Since we completed the initial more structured learning process, we have been completing cryptic crosswords - our brains process ideas differently, so between us we always manage not only to complete a crossword but to understand how the clues worked. Alongside this, we decided it would be fun to write our own clues for a crossword and to submit it to the u3a magazine, hoping it might be used. It has taken a while, but it has now gone to print.

**LOOK OUT FOR**



The answers will be provided in the magazine, but it would be great if you could give the crossword a go, without peeping at the answers. Let us know how you got on - email Jennifer via the group page on the website. Also, if you cannot see how the clue was constructed, whether or not you got the answer, then please let the group know and we will explain!

*Jennifer Bellamy*

## **TRAVEL - DAY TRIP GROUP**

This newly formed group will be making its first Day trip on Thursday 4th December. The full details were shared at the meeting on Thursday 4th September followed by an email to all group members. The proposed outing will be to Salisbury including a guided tour of the cathedral and the cost will be £33. We need to attract members from across our u3a to this outing to cover transport costs. If there is anyone else interested in joining the group or just this outing, contact Fiona Meredith. from this group's page on the website. *Fiona Meredith*



## **DANCE GROUP**

Here are members of the Dance group at the last meeting. We are looking forward to meeting again on September 23rd where we will do our latest dance “**House of Bamboo**”. New members welcome. Contact **me** via the group page on the website *Pat Luke*

## **5-6 MILE WALKING GROUP**

Despite it being a very hot day 10 members took part in a very enjoyable walk from Hambledon led by Peter. The 5 mile walk through shady woodland and across open fields, took in wonderful views of the countryside including some friendly residents who shared their field with us for our picnic lunch stop *Linda Clachan*



## **UKULELE GROUP**

The U3A ukulele group restart meeting will be at HEDCA 1430-1600 hrs on Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> September. Players of all abilities who want to practice their craft in a group of like minded people are very welcome to come and join us. We aim to have fun playing and singing a wide range of tunes. Although we are not a teaching group we will try to support novices in any way we can. *Richard Glaysher and Linda Dorsett*

## **FINE DINING GROUP**

**A FREE SPA DAY** (open to all members) If you are interested in a free Spa Day and willing to drive a mini-bus for u3a group's Day Out, please contact Jan on 07771646180 or e-mail [u3afinedine@gmail.com](mailto:u3afinedine@gmail.com) for more information. *Jan Damerell*

## **DATES FOR THE DIARY**

<b>DATE/TIME</b>	<b>EVENT OR ACTIVITY</b>	<b>LOCATION</b>
12-21/9/2025	Gosport Open Heritage Days	All over Gosport
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
1/11/2025	New member meeting	Discovery
5/11/2025	Monthly Meeting	Thorngate Hall
<b>11/12/2025*</b>	<b>u3a Gosport Christmas Meal*</b>	<b>The Castle*</b>

*\*An email with the menu will be sent to members shortly.*

## **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/>*

The **National u3a Website** has so much information. It is worth checking it out.

<https://www.u3a.org.uk/>

It can be particularly useful to log on to the member section where there are lots of exclusive offers including discounts. You will need to register with a password.

## **NON u3a EVENTS THAT MAY INTEREST MEMBERS**

**GOSPORT HERITAGE OPEN DAYS - 12-21 September.** This mammoth event has been running in Gosport since 1994 when the town organised a 2 year pilot for the events which are now happening all over the country. Many of our historic building are opened up and there are walks, talks and exhibitions in many locations – and it's all free. Pick up a leaflet from the Discovery Centre.



*Thank you for all your contributions  
The next News Update will be published on Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> October.  
The deadline for contributions is Monday 29<sup>th</sup> September.  
Earlier is better please especially for a larger piece. KP*

