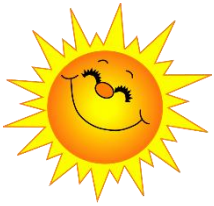


MEMBERS' NEWS UPDATE JUNE 2026



We are now officially in the meteorological season of summer. There is no doubt we felt it a couple of weeks ago but since then, the temperature has dropped and, fortunately for our gardens, we have welcomed some rain.

The Chair writes...

What a wonderful AGM we had and thanks go to the Committee for organising it. If you were there, you will know that I was elected Chair for a 3-year term and our grateful thanks go to George Cantrill for his unending hard work as our previous Chair. We have a strong Committee, but if you feel you would like to join it, then please do meet me for a coffee and a chat. Our membership number needs to increase and if you could 'Bring a Friend' to a Group or Meeting as a guest, that's the way to increase our membership.

I hope to get around all the Groups in my tenure, but if there is anything special you wish to have me see or hear, then do get in touch.

Thank you for all you do: keep up your enthusiasm for u3a.

Every good wish, John

PS I am delighted to let you know that following recent appeals at the AGM and in last month's Update, Terry Hunter has agreed to take on the role of Welfare Officer and has a committee email address listed on page 6. Thank you Terry.

THORNGATE MEETING

Julie Pullinger's brilliant talk under the intriguing title of "Tax, Care and Toy Boys" unpicked the complexities and risks to our assets because of Inheritance TAX, CARE costs, and the financial implications of second marriages/partnerships -TOY BOYS or GIRLS. The talk was clear and very well structured, enabling members to recognise issues related to their own situation. She covered financial allowances for inheritance; the thresholds for means tests related to care costs; and the risks to your beneficiaries if you take on a new partner. While many of us were able to think – yes I've thought about, or done that – undoubtedly, we have gone away with things we need to do or double check. It was immensely useful and members were able to complete a request for a free consultation. Her contact details:-

Julie Pullinger, Estate Planner, 07960 036309, 01903 765427, julie.pullinger@coop.co.uk

The next monthly meeting's talk entitled **A stroll around Portsdown Hill** by Nigel Gossop, will be held on Wednesday 1st July starting promptly at 1030. Nigel is a well known local speaker who has been a book collector, researcher and keen writer for more than forty years. He has carried out comprehensive research into many local history topics which he offers in a range of talks relevant to Hampshire, West Sussex and Dorset. He grew up in Farlington and has always had a fascination for our dominating Portsdown Hill.



NEWS FROM YOUR COMMITTEE

POLICY PROCEDURES WORKING PARTY (Led by Jennifer Bellamy)

This was not a get together for fun and frivolity but a group of your committee members who have met to ensure we keep your u3a safe and compliant with all sorts of legal requirements. *We do bring biscuits!!!* u3a Gosport policies and procedures have been available on our website for a long time and they are all being checked and reviewed at present.

Why do we have them?

'Policies and procedures are an essential part of any organization. Together, policies and procedures provide a roadmap for day-to-day operations. They ensure compliance with laws and regulations, give guidance for decision-making, and streamline internal processes.'

(Power DMS – a policy management company)

Policies and procedures can be accessed from the members page of the website. Scan down to the bottom of the page for the tab but this link takes you directly to the Policy page which you can see is under construction.

<https://gosport.u3asite.uk/u3a-gosport-policies/>

One really important aspect of any large and complex organisation is to ensure that, as members interact, there are no difficulties that may lead to upsets or discord. So, alongside our Complaints Procedure – a long and wordy document - we have produced a simple signposting flowchart called '**What is bothering you?**' It would enable anyone who is unhappy about something to work out how they can sort out the problem so they can continue the enjoyment of being a full member of u3a Gosport where our motto of **LEARN, LAUGH, LIVE** takes place in a polite and respectful environment. This is the direct link to the flowchart:

<https://gosport.u3asite.uk/wp-content/uploads/2026/05/Complaints-flow-chart.pdf>

AGM DECISIONS

John, our new Chair has referred to the very supportive feeling at our AGM for our committee, whose members in their various roles try and make sure our u3a goes from strength to strength. The issue of finances are always sensitive especially in our current economic climate, but Judith our Treasurer gave a detailed and very open review of our finances highlighting how so many costs are constantly rising. Our main income for the next 12 months is now in the bank and costs are committed. Judith can see that balancing the budget will be very tight - even though the membership fee was raised this year. Two proposals were put to the members at the meeting

- 1. Membership Fees will rise to £35 for the next membership year 2027-2028**
- 2. Attendance at Thorngate for the monthly talk will increase to £2 from September 2026.**

Coming together at Thorngate is a time for all members to feel part of a united organisation and we hope many of you will continue to meet others, make friends, and enjoy our interesting talks.

Members at the meeting were informed of these proposals and there was opportunity for questions and comments. The general feeling was very positive - members recognised that prices are rising everywhere and many expressed that the membership cost is very good value for the extensive range of activities available to explore. **Both proposals were accepted.**

To contact any committee member go to the Contact page on our website or find their email address on the back page of this Update
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GROUPS' COORDINATOR - NEW TO THE COMMITTEE ROLE

I have shadowed Judith over the past year and am very grateful for her support. I have now stepped into the role of Groups' Coordinator. This means doing my best to keep in touch with what's going on across our groups and sharing updates with the committee so we can support you properly. It's a big role, but I'm delighted to help our groups continue to thrive.

I have already been working with several groups who are going through changes, but it is *vital* that you contact me if you are considering any alteration to the way your group operates. This ensures we can communicate clearly with members and keep everything running smoothly.

RECENT DEVELOPMENTS AND CHANGES:-

PAINTING and CROCHET - Following our recent appeals, it has been decided to pause both groups until September. These groups have run successfully for many years, and we very much hope they will restart in the autumn. If you are still interested, please contact Judy Foster via the groups' pages on the website.

CLASSICAL MUSIC Sandy Richardson has kindly taken over as Coordinator from John Draper. A big thank you to John, who started this very popular group and has led it with great dedication.

CLIMATE CHANGE Has also taken a pause but I will be meeting up with the coordinator about the possibility of starting again in September

SINGALONG - A small choir has now been formed for members from the Singalong group. They will meet additionally in My Space on the 3rd Thursday of the month. At present Ian Orr the coordinator is inviting the members of the Singalong group only.

NEW GROUPS A couple of members have come forward with exciting ideas for new groups, so do look out for more information in future Updates and in direct emails to all members.

We always welcome new ideas, but it is essential that you approach me, Groups' Coordinator, in the first instance. This allows us to explore the practicalities and viability of setting up and sustaining a new group. All proposals must be brought to the committee for approval before anything can be launched and I can support you through this.

Fiona Meredith

NEW MEMBERS MEETING

On Monday, 1st June, I welcomed 2 newly enrolled Members and 4 prospective Members who had heard about the Meeting through the Website. I chaired a New Members' Meeting at the Discovery Centre in Gosport and was joined by Terry Hunter who is going to take on this role for the committee. Terry has attended many meetings in the past and between us, we 'marketed' the u3a and gave advice about which Group might be of interest to people. We talked about the General Meeting and talked about individual Groups.

We hope all found the Meeting interesting and that the prospective Members will join us.

The next New Members' Meeting on Monday, 5th October and then Monday 10th December.

John Draper

FUTURE NEWS UPDATES

Because of personal holiday dates and because there is no monthly meeting in August the next 3 Updates will be adjusted

JULY UPDATE – Early because of Editor holiday - Published on June 26th

AUGUST UPDATE – No Thorngate meeting in August - Published on July 31st

SEPTEMBER UPDATE – Return to usual pattern – ie after Thorngate Talk. Published September 4th.

The deadline for each Update will be the Monday before publication. Thank you for all your contributions. Please keep them coming.

Kathy Parker

REPORTS FROM GROUP CO-ORDINATORS

ALLOTMENT GROUP

Our friendly, fun-loving Allotment Group at Rectory Allotments is looking for new volunteers to join them. The group cares for a



well-established 10-rod plot (250 sq metres) where members grow a wonderful mix of fruit, flowers and vegetables in a peaceful, attractive setting.

The group meets on Thursdays. However, we are flexible and hope to add a second day in the week to meet — and maybe Sundays too. During the summer months we have a rota for watering.



If you're interested in gardening, and growing and eating fresh fruit and vegetables, you'll be warmly welcomed. No experience is needed. Everything is shared — ideas, tasks and of course the produce — and the group is known for its supportive, sociable atmosphere.

If you'd like to get involved, please contact groupcoord@u3agosport.org.uk



TRAVEL – DAY TRIP GROUP

OUR NEXT TRIP ON THURSDAY 2ND JULY IS TO THE WATERCRESS LINE.

We are looking forward to a glorious summer outing on the Watercress Line — steam-railway charm, Hampshire scenery, and time to explore the lovely towns of Alresford and Alton. We still have a few places and full details are on the Travel Group page of the website.

For more detailed information and to book: Contact Fiona via the Travel Group-Day Trip page on the website or Judith Ridley on her Treasurer email address page 6.

I hope we get a full coach again. Our trips are very popular so let us know if you would like to come as soon as possible.



Fiona Meredith

LOCAL HISTORY

In May we welcomed Mike Williams who gave us an illustrated lecture about Press Gangs. We learnt that they were not a new phenomenon but could be traced back to the Roman era and the Punic Wars when men were captured to row the galleys. However this was a temporary war time measure.

We learnt that the Impress Service had groups of naval recruiters who forcibly conscripted men into the military services, most notoriously the Royal Navy in the 17th to 19th centuries. The pressed men faced brutal conditions on board with constant threat of punishment and high incidence of disease. In the Napoleonic Wars 75% of British sailors were pressed men.

This month our group will look at Prison Hulks and Rat Island. As this is a members' research meeting we look forward to hearing the tales that they have unearthed.

SINGALONG GROUP

Our Group Coordinator, Ian Orr, arranged a special treat for our session on Wednesday 3rd June. An invitation was extended to all Gosport Members and many new singers attended.

Eliot Mead joined us for the session at Holy Trinity. Eliot is a talented singer and musician who runs several successful Portsmouth Cathedral choirs and we were pleased that he agreed to join for a few of our songs. He introduced us to a very professional warm up and we hope Singalong may explore this sort of experience again in the future.

Fiona Meredith



**To find out about any of our 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

TO ALL GROUP CO-ORDINATORS

Some website pages have been updated since my last prompt - Thank you. This helps new and prospective members who are keen to find new interests. Please keep checking that your Group's page is up to date, especially if you list future events. When writing this Update I often cross reference information for accuracy or additional details so it ensures I represent each group accurately.

Contact our Website Master - Jennifer Bellamy if you need help.

FOR THE DIARY

DATE/TIME	EVENT OR ACTIVITY	LOCATION
1/7/2026 at 10.30	Monthly Meeting - A virtual stroll on Portsdown Hill	Thorngate Hall
2/7/2026 full day	Travel Group Day Trip	Watercress Line
2/9/2026 at 10.30	Monthly Meeting- Story of the Fair-Trade movement	Thorngate Hall
5/10/2026 at 1030	New Members Meeting	Discovery Centre
7/10/2026 at 1030	Monthly Meeting – Sinking of the Bismark	Thorngate Hall
10/12/2026 at 1030	New Members Meeting	Discovery Centre

COMMITTEE MEMBERS AND ROLE HOLDERS 2026 - 2027

Chairman	John Draper	Chair@u3agosport.org.uk
Vice Chair	Vacant	
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	Fiona Meredith	Groupcoord@u3agosport.org.uk
Welfare Officer	Terry Hunter	Welfare@u3agosport.org.uk
News Update Editor	Kathy Parker	Newsed@u3agosport.org.uk
Publicity	John Draper (Temp)	
Speaker Secretary	George Cantrill	Speaker@u3agosport.org.uk
Website Administrator	Jennifer Bellamy	Webadm@u3agosport.org.uk
Helpful Group Co-ordinator	Val Havard	helpful@u3agosport.org.uk

Committee members aim to check emails each week. If your enquiry is urgent and you don't get a reply, or if the post is vacant, contact another committee member. Committee members may place an 'out of contact' message e.g. if they are on holiday so if your email is urgent contact another committee member.

You can 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. SHOES - Our relationship with footwear revealed. This Exhibition is on until 25 July. Free exhibition – donations welcomed.

If you know about any events in the local area, that you think may be relevant for our u3a members please let Kathy know the details for inclusion here.

Thank you for all your contributions – keep them coming!!

The next News Update will be published on Friday 26 June 2026
 The deadline is Monday 22nd June 2026 but earlier the better - to guarantee your space

Kathy Parker, News Update Editor