

Ringmer U3A



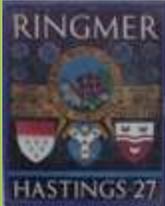
Newsletter

Enrolment – Key Points

Please read Ken's explanation on page 2.

Complete the enrolment form and send it to Ken with a cheque.

Contact the Convenor of any group you would like to join.



Autumn 2018 Edition

Announcements

Friday 12 October

Next E-Bulletin (no. 15)

Friday 23 November

Copy deadline for Spring 2019 Edition of Newsletter

Monday 10 December

Spring 2019 Edition of Newsletter published

Goodbye from the Editor

For personal reasons I have decided to give up editorship of this newsletter. It has been a privilege to have been in that role.

I am happy to say that Jon Elphick has agreed to be the new editor, and I wish him every success.

Contacting Committee Members

Now that the new website is active, you are asked to use <https://u3asites.org.uk/ringmer/contact> if you wish to send an e-mail to committee members. This uses the new Beacon software.

Open Day
(Enrolment)

Tuesday 14th
August

2 to 4 pm

Village Hall



Enrolment and Open Day

Tuesday 14th August

2 to 4 pm in the Village Hall, Symons Room

By the end of July, all Members should contact the Convenors of all the Groups that they belong to if they wish to remain in a particular Interest Group. If you do not notify your Convenor, your place may be given to someone else on Open Day.

Enrolment Forms are included in this newsletter. The preferred option is that it should be completed and dropped in or posted to me at 33 Springett Avenue, Ringmer, BN8 5HD by 14th August, together with your £8 subscription. Alternatively, you can hand them in at the Open Day on 14th August. Please remember that we ask everyone to pay their subscription by cheque made out to 'Ringmer U3A'. This is so that all monies go directly through the bank.

At the Open Day, Convenors will have a list of Members who have notified them of their wish to remain in the Group. They will therefore know if there are any vacancies for new Members. Groups often do fill up. If you are interested in a full Group, please leave your name with the Convenor as we try to start new Groups whenever there is enough interest shown.

Even though you may have pre-enrolled, we still encourage you to drop in at the Open Day to speak to Convenors and Committee Members, find out about other Groups you may be interested in, or declare an interest in a proposed new Group.

If you wish to join an extra Group you need to check with the Convenor that there is a vacancy.

I will have Membership Cards available at the Open Day for all those who have pre-enrolled. If I don't see you at the Open Day, I will give remaining membership cards to Convenors to pass on to you at the beginning of term.

Ken Boot-Handford

Ringmer U3A Membership Secretary



SUN Report

In the last year the Sussex Area Network (SUN) has provided many study days with subjects as diverse as Musical Memories, The History of Sussex Industries, Shakespeare, Maths and Everyday Life, and Art in Britain. These are held on Saturdays in various locations throughout Sussex and have been attended by several members from Ringmer.

“Sussex Myths and Spirits” is a Shared Learning Project for all U3As in Sussex.

Sussex has a rich tapestry of legends, mixing history with myth. The term 'spirits' can be widely interpreted as spiritual beliefs, ghostly spectres or brandy smuggling, or as the armed forces, writers, inventors etc. We have a wealth of traditional songs and customs from across the whole county, and local towns, including Ringmer, so if any group would like to get creative, they could have their work presented in a large event at Brighton University in June 2019. If you are interested please contact me.

Poetry Group and Readers Circle

We would like to continue both of these groups, but at present we do not have Convenors for either one. Interest will be assessed at the Open Day after which an initial meeting will be arranged to discuss the future.

If you cannot attend Open Day but are interested in joining either of these groups, then please contact Sylvia Coleman.

The “South East Forum (Kent, Sussex and Surrey U3As) Conference” was enjoyed by 80 members. This annual, one-day conference was held at East Grinstead in May, when the speakers covered subjects such as Accessibility for All and The Psychology of False Memory. There was also an Introduction to Beacon, a computer system for maintaining U3A records.

Summer School saw 180 members enjoying 4 days of tutoring with their choice of 13 different topics, including walks, knitting, jazz and learning the Ukelele, together with full board and lodging in a fantastic location close to the beautiful Chichester cathedral.

Jill Collins

Astronomy Group

Brian Wignall

The Astronomy group will not meet until August because the nights are too light to see the stars clearly. In August we plan to observe planets Saturn, Mars, Jupiter, Uranus and Neptune. The Perseid meteorites will also be present in the middle of August. In September we plan to visit the Herstmonceux Astronomy Festival and look through their telescopes. These plans depend on good seeing weather to be successful. On the second Wednesday in September we will start our Winter programme with a talk on the planet Mars.

We have three vacancies should anyone wish to join us.

Computer Group

Ian Loughborough

With just under 200 members we must be one of the smallest U3A groups. However, that does not stop us being at the forefront of communications. Almost all our membership (96%) are on the internet, although many struggle to keep pace with developments. So this January we set up a Computer group to help members share their experiences.

In February we held a workshop, and in March members received a presentation about “Staying

2Garden Group

Teresa Keen

We began our programme of meetings in February with a very interesting talk by Carol Blakiston on plants that you can grow and eat in small gardens. This included edible flowers and planting vegetables in troughs, window boxes and in ornamental borders. We came away full of ideas for our own gardens.

Our second meeting in March was to the apothecary in Lewes. Amanda Saurin made us extremely welcome and even provided us with tea and cake. We sniffed and sampled her products and were treated to a gin and tonic with her own Fierce Botanics tonic water.

In April and May we held two more in-house meetings in members' houses to discuss what is growing in our gardens and any problems we have been encountering and Liz Fine gave us an interesting and informative talk on William Robinson.

In June we made a visit to The Long House in West Dean, set on a slope with Friston Forest as a

Safe On-line” from a cyber security expert. Based on this, we made a PDF file that has been made available to all Ringmer members and is on our website. Since then we have had two presentations and held another workshop where members discuss issues of interest. It is true to say that even the most experienced members have learnt something new.

The computer group meets at 2 pm on the first Thursday of the month so do join if you feel that you might benefit or have something to share.



backdrop. The owners Robin and Rosie Lloyd made us feel extremely welcome. It is a beautiful and romantic garden overflowing with interesting plants in an incredibly peaceful setting backed by their own wildflower meadow. We came away inspired and full of ideas.

In July we will be visiting Sullington Old Rectory in Storrington and in October Brightling Down Farm Dallington. Our August, September and November meetings will be in-house. Our August meeting sees us visiting each other's gardens, which was a great success last year.

At our final meeting of the year we will review the year's programme and look ahead to 2019. Our upcoming meetings will be on: 7th August; 11th September; 9th October and 13th November. We do not meet in December or January. We would welcome new members.

Walking Group

Lynne Booth

We meet in the car park behind the parade of shops in Ringmer at 1.30pm, first and third Wednesday in the month. There is no pre walk information so you just need to be ready for anything !

The first Wednesday is a walk further afield, about a 2 hour walk of around 5 miles on any terrain! Transport will be shared. The third Wednesdays are local walks round Ringmer, leaving from the car park. This will be repetitive.... so don't expect many new routes ! Walks are without dogs.

We take it in turns to lead the group, and have agreed that the leader must always turn up at the car park in spite of the weather.... we could just have a coffee instead. We will support each other so that a "pre walk" to check a route could be done with another member of the group.

We usually have enough cars to ferry non-drivers to walks but we give a donation of £1 each to the driver towards petrol and wear and tear so just bring £1 each time in case you



A photo opportunity on The Cuckoo Trail



A rest on Black Cap Hill near Firle

need it. We sometimes manage to have a coffee at the end of a walk so you may also want to bring money for this.

Good walking shoes or boots will be needed. All members of the walking group walk at their own risk and share the running of the group

A big "Thank you" to everyone who has led a walk or just taken part. You have made the walking group an adventure and a pleasure.

Ceramic Bargain Hunt

Neil Morgan is planning to run a six-session course for us this autumn, looking at 20th century ceramics. It will cover how to identify them; what is worth collecting; valuation; how to care for, or repair them; and where to buy or sell them. It will be free as the plan is to meet in members' homes. If you are interested, please ask at the Open Day.

Out and About Group

Valerie King



Eight of us visited Butlers Farm, Herstmonceux on the 15 June. Irene Willson, our host, greeted us warmly and gave us a very enjoyable talk about the history of Butlers Farmhouse, the previous owners and famous visitors to the house. We were guided around the garden and admired her herbaceous borders, secret garden, swimming pool area, orchard, poison garden, lawns and meadow.

We then all returned to the very attractive terrace (which has lovely views over garden and surrounding countryside), for tea and strawberries/cream sponge. We also met June

who has been helping Irene in the garden since they moved to the house in around 1994, and we sang Happy Birthday to her, although in actual fact her birthday was the next day. Peter, Irene's husband joined us on the terrace. Irene also talked about the Yellow Book (National Garden Scheme Booklet). She is the East Sussex County Organiser. Irene's garden will be open to the public on Sat/Sun 11/12 August. The cost is £6. Peter and his friends will be playing Jazz on the back lawn, and if the weather is good there is nothing better than having afternoon tea there and listening to the music. I thoroughly recommend it.

Final Thoughts from the Chairman

Our membership is almost 200 which shows how popular we are in Ringmer. However, as the U3A year draws to a close several Convenors have decided, for various reasons, to stand down and we do need volunteers to step forward and take on this crucial and rewarding role. I must first though express my most sincere thanks to Janet Beirne (Reader Circle), Elsie Bowler (Poetry), Ray & Jacquie Churchill (Theatre Club), Denise Hadley (Intermediate French), Jenny Hill (French 1) and Julia Middleton (Scrabble) for their contributions over the years in making these groups such a success. They will all be hard acts to follow, but some members must take up the baton if these groups are not to disappear. At present we have no successors.

At Open Day (Enrolment) we will assess what interest there is in continuing with these groups. If

you are interested in remaining with or joining one of these groups then please let Sylvia or me know. If there is sufficient interest we will then arrange an initial meeting.

Finally, Stephen has decided to step down as Editor. I am most grateful to him for the excellent newsletters that he has produced. The newsletter is a key way of keeping us all informed of what is going on and he has certainly achieved this. I am pleased to announce that Jon Elphick has kindly volunteered to take over and I thank him for taking on this essential role.

Ian

Your Current Committee

Chairman	Ian Loughborough
Secretary	Kay Fitzgerald
Treasurer	Sue Hall
Membership Secretary	Ken Boot-Handford
SUN Representative	Jill Collins
Newsletter Editor	Jon Elphick
Groups Co-ordinator	Sylvia Coleman
New Groups Co-ordinator	Vacant

Key to Chart Status

NMM: needs more members

WL: waiting list

SA: spaces available

*Number according to enrolment

Group	Convenor	Status	No *	Meets
Astronomy	Brian Wignall	SA		Second Wednesday in the month 19.30
Computer Group	Sylvia Coleman	SA		First Thursday of the month at 14.00 in the Scout Hut
French 1				No current convenor
French 2	Bridget Cross	SA		Starting the second Thursday September and meeting every week from 10.00 to 11.30.
Family History	Bob Cairns	SA		Meets last Tuesday of the month at 14.00 in the Scout Hut. Looking or 5/6 new members
Gardening Club	Jenny West Joan Wignall	WL		Meeting 18 th September and 16 th October at 14.30
2 Garden	Teresa Keen	SA		11 th September; 9 th October and 13 th November. We do not meet in December or January. We would welcome some new members
Knit & Natter	Margaret Eggleton Linda Perrott	SA		First Friday of the month September to December one place available
Knit One Chat One	Sue Hall	WL		7 th September, 5 th October, 2 nd November and 7 th December
Mah-Jong	Julia Middleton	WL		Every Monday at 10.00 with the exception of Bank Holidays
Out & About	Valerie King	WL		5 th September and 5 th December 10.30 St Mary's Room, Village Hall
Photography	Martin Whitlock	SA		Last Thursday of the month 14.00 in the Scout Hut
Poetry				No current convenor
Reader Circle				No current convenor
Short Walks	Jon Elphick	NMM		Second Monday of each month 10.15 and Fourth Friday at 14.30, starting at the Doctors' Surgery, Anchor Fields. Walks are at a leisurely stroll pace, and last no longer than 90 minutes
Spanish	Conchita Wigley	WL		Starts 10 th September
Theatre Club				No current convenor
Walking	Lynne Booth	SA		First and third Wednesday throughout the year at 13.30
What the papers say	Sue Wilkinson	WL		24 th September; 22 nd October; 26 th November; at 14.30. December undecided

Ringmer U3A Calendar for Autumn Term 2018

AS = Astronomy (Brian)
CG = Computer Group (Sylvia)
Fr2 = French (Bridget)
FH = Family History (Bob)
Ga = Garden Club (Jenny)
2Ga = Garden (Teresa)

KnNat = Knit & Natter (Margaret)
Kn = Knit One, Chat One (Sue)
Ma = Mah-Jong (Julia)
OA = Out & About (Valerie)
Ph = Photography (Martin)
Po = Poetry

PS = What the papers say (Sue)
Re = **Readers Circle**
Sp = Spanish (Conchita)
SWa = Short Walks Group (Jon)
Th = Theatre Club (Ray)
Wa = Walking (Lynne)

Dates and times are subject to change so always keep in touch with your Convenor

Day	September	October	November	December
Mon		1 Ma 10.00		3 Ma 10.00; Sp10.30
Tue		2		4
Wed		3 Wa 13.30		5 OA 10.30; Wa 13.30
Thu		4 Fr2 10.00; CG 14.00	1 Fr2 10.00; CG 14.00	6 Fr2 10.00; CG14.00
Fri		5 Kn 14.00; 2KnNat 14.30	2 Kn 14.00; KnNat 14.30	7 Kn 14.00; KnNat 14.30
Mon	3 Ma 10.00	8 Ma10.00; SWa 1015; Sp10.30	5 Ma 10.00; Sp 10.30	10 Ma 10.00; SWa 10.15
Tue	4	9 2Ga 14.30	6	11
Wed	5OA 10.30; Wa 13.30	10 AS 19.30	7 Wa 13.30	12 AS19.30
Thu	6 CG 14.00	11 Fr2 10.00	8 Fr2 10.00	13 Fr2 10.00
Fri	7 Kn 14.00; KnNat 14.30	12	9	14
Mon	10 Ma 10.00; SWa 10.15; Sp 10.30	15 Ma 10.00	12 Ma 10.00; Swa10.15	17 Ma 10.00; Sp10.30
Tue	11 2GA 14.30	16 Ga 14.30	13 2Ga 14.30	18
Wed	12 AS 19.30	17 Wa 13.30	14 AS 19.30	19 Wa 13.30
Thu	13 Fr2 10.00	18 Fr2 10.00	15 Fr2 10.00	20 Fr2 10.00
Fri	14	19	16	21
Mon	17 Ma 10.00	22 Ma 10.00; Sp 10.30 PS 14.30	19 Ma 10.00; Sp 10.30	24
Tue	18 Ga 14.30	23	20	25 Christmas Day
Wed	19 Wa 13.30	24	21 Wa 13.30	26 Boxing Day
Thu	20 Fr210.00	25 Fr2 10.00; Ph 14.00	22 Fr2 10.00	27
Fri	21	26 SWa 14.30	23 SWa 14.30	28 SWa 14.30
Mon	24 Ma 10.00; Sp 10.30; PS 14.30	29 Ma 10.00	26 Ma 10.00; PS 14.30	31
Tue	25 FH 14.00	30 FH 14.00	27 FH 14.00	
Wed	26	31	28 Wa 13.30	
Thu	27 Fr2 10.000; Ph 14.00		29 Fr2 10.00; Ph 14.00	
Fri	28 SWa 14.30		30	