

Autumn 2021 Newsletter

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Well here we are at the start of another u3a year. Last year has been very difficult, but now, hopefully, we can start to get back to our normal routine of meetings. Please do try and come along on Open Day (Wednesday 18 August between 2 and 4 pm). We have booked the large Jack Hart Room so that we will have plenty of space and we can have all the doors open.

Virtually all legal restrictions have been lifted, but we are still advised to be cautious and wear masks in crowded, confined spaces. We have not received any specific guidance from National u3a office so we can only act on the advice and guidance issued by the government. Each interest group must decide what arrangements they are happy with so please do let your Convenor know your views. No doubt any concerns that you have now might change with time, particularly if the virus poses less of a hazard in the months ahead.

I hope to see you at our Open Day. Meanwhile do stay safe and think carefully about the interest groups that you would like to join and how you might help Ringmer u3a.

Best wishes,

Ann



Open Day and Enrolment



Wednesday 18 August 2021

2 to 4 pm Ringmer Village Hall

Enrolment form distributed with this Newsletter



and on our website



Stay Safe, Stay in Touch

Enrolment for 2021/22

Before the Open Day all members should contact the Convenors of the Group to which they belong to confirm that they wish to remain in that particular Interest Group. If you do not notify your Convenor, your place may be given to someone else on Open Day.

At the Open Day, Convenors will have a list of members who have notified them of their wish to remain in their respective Groups. They will therefore know whether there are any vacancies for new members. Groups often do fill up. If you are interested in a Group which is full, please leave your name with its Convenor – 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 our Convenors and Committee Members, find out about other Groups you may be interested in, declare an interest in a proposed new Group and enjoy a cup of tea with other u3a members. If you would like to join an extra Group you need to check with its Convenor that there is a vacancy.

Enrolment Forms are included with this newsletter. The preferred option for payment is a bank transfer (details on the enrolment form) with the completed form emailed to me at ringmeru3amembership@gmail.com. Payment can also be made by cheque, which should be dropped in or posted to me at the address on the membership form together with your completed form. Alternatively you can hand the form and cheque in at the Open Day on 18th August.

Please remember that we ask everyone to pay their subscription by bank transfer or by cheque made out to 'Ringmer U3A' rather than by cash. This is so that all monies go directly through the bank.

Please read and complete the membership form carefully. Due to the laws on privacy and data processing there are now several questions to be answered on the form.

This year we will only supply membership cards on request, on receipt of a stamped addressed envelope. Instead of sending out cards we will be sending an e-mail confirming your membership. Our Convenors can see on the Beacon system that you are a member, so a membership card is only needed if you are planning to visit another u3a.

If you have any questions I can be contacted by e-mail via the Ringmer u3a website.

Ken Boot-Handford

Ringmer U3A Membership Secretary

From Your Committee

Your committee held a Zoom meeting on 12 July at which they agreed the arrangements for the Open Day on Wednesday 18 August. It was agreed to delay this year's AGM until later in the year when hopefully we can all get together safely and with confidence. You will be given at least 3 weeks notice of the date. You will be pleased to hear that our finances continue to be healthy and that our website continues to receive a good level of interest. We will continue with our Zoom account for the time being and review it in the Autumn.

The committee agreed that Deirdre Booth will take over as Chair sometime after the Open Day and that Ian will continue as Vice Chair. The committee is concerned at the lack of a volunteer to take over the role of Newsletter Editor as this will be Ian's last issue. We also need more members to join the committee as there are several vacancies.

Ringmer u3a Interest Groups

This last year has been difficult for our Interest Groups. None have been able to meet in the normal way or hold meetings on a regular pattern. Hopefully we will soon be able to get back to our usual routine.

This year it is extremely important that you contact your Convenor or the Convenor of any interest group that you wish to join. Below is a list of our Interest Groups and more information can be found on our [website](#). You can contact a Convenor through the website.

Finally, do come along on Open Day and do remember to complete the Enrolment Form.

Group List			
2 Garden	Tuesday p.m. Second Tuesday each month	Astronomy	Wednesday p.m. Second Wednesday each month
Beginners Spanish	Meeting dates/times TBA	Computer Group	Thursday p.m. First Thursday each month
Creative Crafters	Friday p.m. First Friday of the month	Family History	Tuesday p.m. Last Tuesday each Month
French	Thursday a.m. Every Thursday	Gardening Club	Tuesday p.m. Third Tuesday each month
Knit One Chat One	Friday p.m. First Friday each month	Mah-Jong	Monday a.m. Every Monday
Newsround	Monday a.m. Fourth Monday each month	Out and About	4 x per year
Photography	Thursday p.m. Last Thursday of each month	Short Walks	Monday a.m. 2nd Monday am 4th Thursday pm
Spanish Conversation	Meet once a fortnight	Walking Group	Wednesday p.m. First and Third Wednesday
What the Papers Say	Monday p.m. Fourth Monday 1430hrs		

Committee Members Needed

Vice Chair: We have a vacancy for a 2nd Vice Chair who could possibly take over as Chair in the future. The role is whatever you want to make it.

Committee Secretary: We need a volunteer to assist the Secretary and take the minutes at the four Committee Meetings each year.

Newsletter Editor: We need a new Editor to take over in December 2021. The Newsletter is only published 3 times a year and the format can be changed to suit most software programmes. Ian is happy to give guidance if needed.

Publicity: We need a volunteer to look after publicity and to maintain the group display board. This is a job that you can basically do as much or as little as you wish.

Without Portfolio: We can always co-opt a member onto the committee at anytime so that they can see what happens and hopefully take on a specific responsibility in the future.

As you can see we do need more help on the committee if Ringmer u3a is to continue to thrive. Please do consider helping out.

New Convenors needed

It has been a difficult year, but Open day and Enrolment enables us to kick off the next u3a year in a positive mood. There are some Interest groups that will need a new group Convenor – in particular Out & About, Short Walks and Spanish Conversation. We will continue to take names for these groups, and any potential new groups. If we cannot find volunteers to take on the Convenor role then we will hold an initial meeting of those members that are interested and discuss the way ahead. The task of Convenor need not be an onerous one, particularly if it is a shared responsibility.



The South Downs from Gote Lane

A Deserted Archive by Ian

On Saturday 10 July, just 9 days before COVID-19 restrictions were lifted, I made trip to the National Archives at Kew. I have been there many times before, but this time I needed a new Readers Ticket. I had to book a slot in advance and I did this one week before- getting the last slot. I also had to pre-register for my Readers Ticket and book the items that I wished to see by five days in advance.

We were staying overnight in Hampton Wick so on the day I walked over Kingston bridge to catch the 65 bus. The traffic was very heavy and there were lots of shoppers. A normal busy weekend in London. Nearer to Kew I could hear and see the planes landing at Heathrow almost every minute.

When I entered the foyer three staff welcomed me. After booking in one took me to my designated locker and then up to the first floor to collect my readers ticket. That process was very easy and armed with my ticket I was able to enter the Reading Room. There I collected my items and took my designated seat in an almost empty room. I was looking at the War Diaries for the 1st Battalion Scots Guards. I captured the necessary images on my iPhone. I was not allowed to take any papers into that room so I used my phone for everything. Having completed my research I left the room to have lunch. Downstairs was deserted as the restaurant was closed on a Saturday. Fortunately, I had brought my own lunch so I went outside and had lunch at their tables. It was an extraordinary visit to an almost totally deserted place. Quite eerie.

It is well worth visiting the National Archives, but you do need to plan your visit carefully. Our Family History Group is a good place to start as there are lots of members who have been there and can offer advice. Maybe we could reintroduce the Kew coach trip if there is enough interest.

Editor for Ringmer Church and Village News Wanted

Do you want to be involved with the many events that happen in our beautiful village? If yes, what better way is there than publishing them in our village magazine which reflects how we live our lives in Ringmer and beyond.

The magazine covers most activities for all ages including church and local community groups and organisations. As editor you would receive contributions from these groups and be responsible for presenting them in a concise and formatted way in the magazine. The contributions are normally sent to you in an email which are then cut and pasted into the magazine or hand-written which would require typing-in. Either way, the articles would require your editing skills to ensure the correct use of grammar, spelling, etc. They must also be inserted in the magazine under appropriate headings; for example, most community groups would be inserted under the heading 'Local Organisations News'. A template with all headings and much more would be provided with format styles such as text sizes, fonts, and margins. When the editorial has been completed and proof read, it is converted into a print-quality pdf and emailed to the printer (Action Press in Burgess Hill) who are responsible for combining the editorial pages with the advertising pages (prepared by the advertising manager) and covers before printing the final document. Before this happens, a proof copy is sent to you for a final check.

To enable you to perform all these duties, you should be familiar with use of Word, Adobe Acrobat and Photoshop Elements (for the processing of any photos to published with the text). Communication skills in the use of email and telephone are also required.

If you are interested in volunteering for the job or would like further information, email Edwina Morris at ringmerparishmag@btinternet.com