

Autumn 2022 Newsletter

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**Open Day and Enrolment for
2022/23**

**Wednesday 17 August 2022
2 to 4pm Ringmer Village Hall**

The Vital Role of the Convenor

All our Interest Groups have a Convenor who acts as the point of contact between the group and the committee. The Convenor also oversees the Interest Group's meetings and programme. In some cases the role is split between two group members and with some of the larger groups there is a small programme planning team to help run the group's programme. It need not be an onerous job and other members of the group can help by taking on certain tasks. It is though an essential role and an Interest Group cannot exist without a Convenor. This year some Convenors are standing down and a new Convenor for that group will be required if it is to continue. Committee members can help and advise a Convenor, but they cannot perform the actual task. You will be informed if a new Convenor is needed for your Interest Group. If that is the case then please consider carefully whether you could help the group by taking on that role. Maybe you have a friend in the group and together you could take on this vital task.

New Interest Groups

Ringmer u3a is always willing to set up a new Interest Group if there is sufficient support for it and a Convenor can be found. Perhaps you have a specific interest that you would like to share with others. One possible new group is Climate Focus or a similar topic. You might have read the article on pages 42 and 43 in the latest edition of Third Age Matters (Issue 52). It covers a range of issues relating to our planet such as sharing experiences of going greener at home. There could also be interest in a second 'Newsgroup' or a 'Board Game' group ?

If sufficient members have registered an interest in forming a new group by Open Day (17 August) then Ian will arrange an Inaugural Meeting to discuss arrangements and help identify a Convenor.

New Interest Group Coordinator needed

We need a volunteer to take on the role of Interest Group Coordinator. Tim carried out this role, but had to stand down when he took over as Newsletter Editor. Full details of the job can be found on our website. Basically, you would act as the link between the Committee and Interest Convenors. Ian is currently standing in, but cannot continue in the long term. If you feel that you could help with this role then please do contact Ian or Tim to discuss what is involved.

Group Activity

2 Garden Group

Our group holds ten meetings a year on the 2nd Tuesday afternoon of every month, except December and January, from 2.30 - 4.30. There are six meetings when we meet in members homes and, when weather permits, gardens. It's been particularly enjoyable to see such a variety of ways and styles members choose to cultivate their gardens. We share our joys and woes of gardening, pooling our wide varieties of experiences and sharing excess produce, seeds and plants. Refreshments are provided by the host, to which members contribute and excess funds are sent to our chosen charity each year.

During the summer, the remaining four meetings are set aside for outings to other gardens, mainly under the National Gardens Scheme, within a reasonable radius of Ringmer. Each year, we aim to visit a variety of styles of gardens, sharing cars, and as we visit 'by arrangement', our group is given a personal tour and talk by the garden owner followed by home made cakes and tea/coffee. The photo was taken recently and, after two years of Covid restrictions, we are so happy to have been able to resume our outings this year.



We are currently ascertaining whether we shall have any vacancies in this group.

Astronomy Group

The Astronomy Group has met monthly during the past year initially on Zoom but more recently in the Church Hall. We plan to meet in the Church Hall in the future but because of prior bookings we will have to meet on the second Thursday instead of the second Wednesday of the month from now on. Our talks have included an input on Cosmology given on Zoom by Leigh Edwards the U3A Science Advisor. A review of Modern Astronomy and an information session on the James Webb telescope were given by Steve Linehan, one of our members. We have met outside on several occasions to view the stars and have taken several photographs of interesting objects including one of the Whirlpool Galaxy. At this time there are no Astronomy Meetings as the nights are too light. We will start again in September. Anyone interested would be welcome to join us.

Beginners Spanish

This group is working through the BBC course weekly. It has finished for a summer break and will be recommencing mid September.

Computing and Home Tech

Our planning team recently decided that with the ever-increasing rise of technology in the home including computer/ processor-based products/appliances to include "Home Tech" in our topics and therefore changed our group name accordingly. We've also had to update our group web pages and are in the process of updating our YouTube introductory group video. We had planned to end our year with a "taster" of home tech topics at our July meeting, unfortunately we had to cancel the meeting due to COVID-19 concerns, so the planned topics "Saving Energy the SMART way" and "The Automated House" along with a poster/flyer challenge will be re-scheduled for the new u3a year. Looking back over the year we've had a diverse number of interesting talks and topics. We also had a few members give talks to the group which were well received including a talk by Bob Cairns on "Auction Sites". So, our last meeting for this year was in June and our next meeting will be in September, the start of a fresh year with new topics to cover, come and join us!

Family History Group

The group has had another busy year with one of the highlights being the third talk in recent years by Jayne Shrimpton on May 31st. Jayne is a nationally known fashion historian and photograph consultant who writes for the leading FH magazines and advises the Who Do You Think You Are series makers. She appeared on screen in the Ruth Jones episode last year. This time Jayne gave an entertaining and informed talk 'Wearing the Trousers' which looked at women's struggle for sartorial freedom and ranged from 18th century female pirates, via Mrs Bloomer, pit-brow lasses, bold cyclists to Land army Girls of the first and second world wars. Not unsurprisingly given Jayne's reputation we had our largest audience since before Covid. As usual Jayne followed her talk by helping group members date their photographs with her expert knowledge of fashion.

Garden Group

The U3A Garden Group continue to enjoy their monthly meetings, visiting local gardens, a talk by Vivienne Macey on Alliums, a planned visit to Marchants plants later this month and maybe a visit to Stanmer Park in August - these are some of the items on our 2022 programme. We will be following up two possible new members who recently made enquiries at the Village Hub. This would bring our membership to 16 which is the maximum we can currently accommodate. The attached photograph was taken recently in one of our member's lovely garden where we enjoyed tea and cake - thank you Sue.



Knit One Chat One

This group has decided that they will no longer continue to meet. We thank Sue Hall for her work as Convenor over the past eight years. Initially the group knitted items for their grandchildren, but as the years have progressed some members were finding it difficult to knit something useful. Any members who are interested in joining a knitting group should contact Ian either before or at Open Day and register their interest.

Mah Jong

This group is meeting regularly.

Newsround Group

Our small, friendly group was formed during the lockdown and initially convened by Ann Davis and then Kay Fitzgerald to whom we are all grateful.

We now have seven members, only one gentleman. We meet monthly on a Monday morning in each other's houses and therefore need to stay a small group. Over the last year we have discussed a great number of news topics, trying each time to find items other than politics, although not shying away from controversial discussion. It has been very stimulating to learn about news items favoured by other people and subjects which might not always catch our own individual attention.

Out and About Group

The Ringmer Out and About Group have had a successful and varied programme this year, enjoying many different visits and excursions, supported by a loyal group of members.

We started in September with a trip to the One Garden in Brighton, followed by a visit to Charleston Farmhouse Gallery and gardens. Nearer Christmas, we had lunch at the Brighton Ice Rink and of course we had our usual Christmas lunch at The Kings Head pub in Horsebridge, enjoyed by many members.

We continued our visits, some by public transport, and some by using shared cars, to such places as the Pallant Gallery in Chichester, Brighton Museum and Brighton Pavilion. Recently we visited Herstmonceux Gardens and we plan to go to Michelham Priory next week, followed by a visit to Devil's Dyke for lunch. All our trips include lunch or tea, which is very popular. This successful group is now in need of a new Convenor: volunteers are sought. We wish the Out and About Group every success for the future.

Photography Group

Ringmer u3a Photography group is a thriving group, with 36 members on the books! We regularly get over 20 attending our meetings in Ringmer Scout Hut on the last Thursday of each month. Many of our members have been with the group since it started some years ago. We are all still learning the art of photography and the group produce some stunning images which we display at our meetings.

At our last meeting several of the group visited Farleys House and Gallery. The home of Lee Miller and Roland Penrose. Both key personalities of 20th Century Art and Photography. An enjoyable afternoon wandering round the gardens full of sculptures, and a visit to the Lee Miller photography gallery, followed by tea at the Chiddingly community shop.

New members are still welcome.

Walking Group still rambling on...

We are still walking twice a month thanks to our brilliant walk leaders. We even explored the area around High Hurstwood with our newest recruit, Hilary, who lives in Uckfield. It was a beautiful spring walk with the rhododendrons and azaleas coming into flower.

We also discovered a circular walk from the woods behind The Forge at Halland. They are full of wood anemones and bluebells. We passed through the stud and the community allotments at East Hoathly and emerged eventually to a great view across Terrible Down towards Ringmer.

This coming year we will sadly have to limit the group size to about a dozen actively involved members. We need to manage numbers to ensure that a limited number of full cars are necessary for the trips out of the village. This is a result of the rising fuel prices and an awareness that we ought to reduce our use of fossil fuels.

We do want to hang on to our “not quite walking” friends who are recovering from hip and knee problems....and don't worry....a dozen covers all the regular walkers.

Thank you so much to our wonderful walk leaders who enable us to share the beauty of East Sussex.....and to have a good chat and a laugh.



Wet, but still smiling !



... and having a good walk

What thePapers Say

Our 'What the Papers Say' group continues to meet every 4th Monday of the month at 2p.m. Each member brings an item of news to discuss which can be national, international or local. We all contribute to lively - but not argumentative- discussion.

As you can imagine there is no lack of subjects and nothing is off limits.

Our group continues to be full.

Group List			
2 Garden	Tuesday p.m. second Tuesday each month	Astronomy	Thursday 7:30p.m. second Thursday each month
Beginners Spanish	Meeting dates/times TBA	Computer & Home Tech	Thursday p.m. second Thursday each month
Family History	Tuesday p.m. last Tuesday of each month	Gardening Club	Tuesday p.m. third Tuesday each month
Mah-Jong	Monday a.m. Every Monday	Newsround	Monday a.m. fourth Monday each month
Out and About	4 x year	Photography	Thursday p.m. last Thursday of each month
Walking Group	Wednesday p.m. first and third Wednesday	What the Papers Say	Monday 14:30hrs fourth monday

Open Day

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.

There are two ways of paying and submitting the enrolment form:

Our preferred way is to pay by bank transfer (details are on the form - make sure you add your name as reference!) and send me an email with a scan of the completed form, (if you can't scan the form just send me an email with all the information the form asks for). The email address to use is ringmeru3amembership@gmail.com

or

The more traditional way by writing out a cheque to Ringmer U3A and delivering the cheque with the completed form to me. My address is on the form.

I will send you an email confirming membership - note that this may be a couple of weeks after you renew, to give time for the Treasurer and I to tie the payments and forms together.

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