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## **Message from the Chair**

Hooray! It is, at last, Spring! Not yet quite warm enough to go out without a coat, nor has it stopped raining long enough to get much gardening done but all the signs are there. The magnolias and daffodils are in flower, evenings are getting lighter and the shops are full of Easter eggs.

Of course, with Spring comes the knowledge that our AGM is only weeks away. If you can, please find time to come to the Village Hall on 22 May to support your committee as they give their annual reports, and to hear what is planned for the coming year.

Whatever you are doing this season, please enjoy it !  
Best wishes  
Sarah

## **Annual General Meeting**

**Ringmer u3a will hold its Annual General Meeting on  
22<sup>nd</sup> May in the Village Hall between  
14:30 and 16:00 hrs**

***Please do attend to hear what has been going on in the last year and what is being considered for the next. Your comments would be most welcome at this meeting.***

## **'SCAMS' Presentaion**

Please note that the Age UK 'Scams' meeting mentioned in the Winter Newsletter has been re-arranged and will now be held as below. This meeting is open to all members :-

Date: Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> May

Venue: Ringmer Village Hall

Room: The Jack Hart Hall

Time: Hall is booked for 2pm to 4pm, proposed talk start time is 2:30pm

The Age UK talk by Tracey Firth (approx. 45 minutes) will be followed by some time for Q&As and general discussions.

## **Group Activity**

### **Art History Group**

We meet on the first Friday afternoon of the month at 2.30pm. We are a relatively new group and would welcome new members.

We look at and seek to find out about art movements or paintings/artefacts that members of the group are interested in. We have so far considered Cave Painting and The Bayeux Tapestry and it's creation and history. Our next topic is Celtic Art and the Lindisfarne Gospels.

We meet at Quince Cottage, North Road, Ringmer BN8 5JP.

Contact: Joan Wignall

Email address: brianandjoanwignall@hotmail.com

### **Astronomy Group**

The Astronomy Group has continued to meet monthly. Owing to Brian Wignall's ill health the Convenorship is now shared between Peter Smith and Brian. We are extremely grateful to Peter for stepping in to help. Without his help it would not have been possible for the group to continue.

For our December Meeting we had a guest speaker, Professor Stephen Wilkins. Professor Wilkins works at Sussex University and among other significant contributions to Astronomy leads research into the development of galaxies. After the talk we enjoyed our annual Christmas Social.

During January and February group members have led on Star Classification, Magnetism and studies of planet Mercury and Jupiter. In March we will revisit Einstein's theories of gravity and learn more about the planet Venus.

The very poor weather since the New Year has made observation evenings impractical. It is planned to hold these evenings as soon as the weather allows.

Brian Wignall

### **DNA Group**



A special DNA meeting has been arranged in May with a guest speaker. See page 8 for full details.

Ian Loughborough

## **ECO Group**

Now with Easter celebrations underway we may be thinking of new growth in our gardens. In our group we have talked about taking cuttings and ways of saving seeds, and how to make use of some of the many containers that we seem to end up with, as either seed trays or mini cloches. We discussed ways of limiting the use of detergents in our washing machines after hearing Mary Parker's excellent talk on river and stream pollutants. And recently learned about bumble bees courtesy of Hillary Smith. We are a versatile friendly group who sit in a circle and don't have to (or want to) sit or think in straight lines!

Why not come along some time and help us think 'outside the box' ?

Above all have fun !

David Matthews

## **Family History Group**

A very popular and group with many interesting topics. The on-going meeting plan is as follows:-

**30 April** Dead-ends: session 2, problems solved!

**28 May** a) private researcher  
b) other research methods

**25 June** International Research

**30 July** TBA

## **Newsround 2**

Our small group has now got to know one another rather well and so we are able to relax and discuss topics which are challenging and provocative. It is difficult to find optimistic news items but we all participate in as much depth as possible and often have a good laugh. We do have to learn that we can't solve the problems of the world!!! The last meeting included discussing the use of mobile phones by children, reviving memories of both our own childhoods and those of our children.

We meet once a month at 10.30 on the last Monday in the month and everyone brings along a couple of topics they have found interesting over the previous weeks. No one hesitates to take part and opinions vary, making the sessions very stimulating and inclusive. The number in the group works very well, as we meet in one another's homes, always treated to super biscuits and cookies. We all go home feeling uplifted and having used our brains and discursive powers.

Jenny Hill

## **Photography Group**

Ringmer u3a Ringmer u3a Photography group continues to flourish with two new members in 2024. We now have 33 members most of whom attend our monthly meeting on a regular basis. We show images on a set subject each month. So far in 2024 we have covered "Taken with a Flash", "Time", and Electricity". Group members using their own interpretation on the subjects.

We have also introduced “10 of my favourite images”. Where group members show and talk about 10 of their own favourite images and what makes them so special.

The group also enjoy looking at famous photographers’ images and the history behind them, as well as the technical side of photography.

We are a very friendly group, and new members are welcome to come along, it matters not what you think your skill with a camera or phone maybe, there is always room to learn from others. Now the better weather is on the horizon we hope to plan some outdoor visits with our cameras/phones.

Martin Whitlock

## **Poetry Group**

The Poetry Group now has eight members, which we feel is a nice number for reading poems aloud. In December we read poems on the subject of ‘Christmas’ (of course) in January we struggled somewhat with ‘New Beginnings’, had a lot of fun with ‘Animals’ in February and enjoyed the coming of ‘Spring’ in March. Here is one of the shorter poems we read, that we would like to share with you:

No coats today. Buds bulge on chestnut trees,  
and on the doorstep of a big, old house  
a young man stands and plays his flute.

I watch the silver notes fly up  
and circle in blue sky above the traffic,  
travelling where they will.

And suddenly this paving stone  
midway between my front door and the bus stop  
is a starting point.

From here I can go anywhere I choose.

“New Season” by Wendy Cope, from Serious Concerns

Sarah Boot-Handford

## **Walking Group**

We have managed to walk on almost every one of our planned program of walks...in spite of the very challenging weather in the past few months. Finding walks sheltered from the strong winds and dry underfoot. We often seem to have Wednesday afternoon luck, dodging the showers and enjoying the sunshine....albeit briefly! The walk leaders have done an amazing job.

## Ringmer u3a Easter Newsletter

It was wonderful to see the spring flowers on the roadside verges on the recent circular road walk from Chidingly church and the start of the wood anemones between the trees. A dozen members turned out and the weather was kind.



A happy (and mischievous ?) walk.

At the other end of the scale.... In February three of us walked in the pouring rain on the paths through Laughton Woods. Two of us managed to stay dry in our waterproofs and over trousers.



After our last walk in March we gathered at The Anchor for our planning meeting. I was very grateful to Sue Santilhano and to Rita who will provide technical support, for offering to take on the role of convenor for the group from me. Too often groups fold when a successor can't be found.

I hope that everyone will continue to laugh, learn and enjoy good company.

Lynne Booth

## **What the Papers Say**

We don't really live up to the title of our group 'What the Papers Say' as we discuss so many different subjects that we think are relevant either locally, nationally or internationally.

Each member chooses a subject to be discussed by the group - and not knowing the subjects beforehand means we have to have a fair amount of knowledge of what is going on in the world either from the televised news reports, papers, social media or general chat. Our discussions can go off on tangents with everyone contributing their thoughts, knowledge and hopes. We don't always agree but that makes for healthy discussions and stretches the mind and memory.

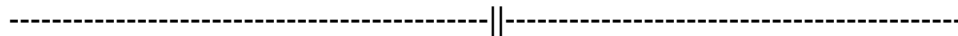
It's not as serious as the title suggests as we so often have a good laugh - mainly at ourselves! We meet every fourth Monday in the month at 2 p.m. and take turns at hosting - because we are a small group this doesn't present a problem.

## **Wine Appreciation Group**

The Wine Appreciation Group continues to happily enjoy wines from all around the world. In December we shared the wines we would be serving for Christmas, ranging from Prosecco for an aperitif, through red and white wines to enjoy with a Christmas meal to an after-dinner Sauternes. All delicious!

We have tried Greek wine, with not a retsina in sight and, in February, German and Austrian wines. The appearance of a Riesling brought forth many a recollection of our youthful experiments with Blue Nun. Most recently we have been tasting the wines of California, and one from a vineyard further north in Washington State. Next month, we are heading south again, to Spain.

Sarah Boot-Handford



Group List			
2 Garden	Tuesday pm second Tuesday each month	Art History	First Friday each month
Astronomy	Thursday 7:30pm second Thursday each month	Beginners Spanish	Meeting dates/times TBA
Computer & Home Tech	Second Thursday each month	DNA	Meeting dates/times TBA
ECO	Third Thursday each month	Family History	Tuesday pm last Tuesday of each month
Gardening Club	Tuesday pm third Tuesday each month	Mah-Jong	Monday am every Monday
Newsround	Monday am fourth Monday each month	Photography	Thursday pm last Thursday of each month
Poetry	Second Wednesday each month	Walking Group	Wednesday pm first and third Wednesday
What the Papers Say	Monday 14:30hrs fourth monday	Wine Appreciation	Wednesday 2:30 pm 2 <sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of each month



## “Illustrated DNA Talk”

Monday 13 May 2024

2 pm in the Scout Hall

### How DNA Tests can help with Family History Research

by Martin McDowell

Taking a DNA test to help with family history research is becoming more popular. However, what tests should you take and who provides them. Then you need to know how to interpret your test results. The answers to these questions and much more will be provided during this illustrated DNA talk. Martin will mainly talk about the Autosomal (Family Finder) test, but he will also cover the Y-DNA test and there will be an opportunity to ask questions.



Martin is the education officer of the North of Ireland Family History Society and a member of the executive committee of the Family History Federation. He has years of experience and has delivered many such talks throughout his career.

Common Ancestor  
DNA Match  
Shared Matches

You do need to email Ian to reserve your place and you will need to pay £3 at the door. Refreshments will be provided during the short break. This talk is open to all Ringmer u3a members and others who have been personally invited. Ian can be contacted through the Ringmer u3a DNA Group [web page](#).

Centimorgans (cMs)  
Clusters  
Ethnicity Estimate

### Ringmer u3a DNA Group

This talk is hosted by Ringmer u3a DNA Group. This group is an off-shoot of the Family History Group and it meets 3 or 4 times throughout the winter season. The next scheduled meeting will be in October 2024. Meanwhile you can find out more about this group on their web pages at the Ringmer u3a website. [Just click here](#). You can also see the Group's newsletters and other advice on these pages. You can apply to join this group at the Ringmer u3a Open Day in August. Please do contact the Convenor, through the group web page, if you have any questions or queries.





# Ringmer Repair Café?

**Come to the Open Meeting on  
FRIDAY APRIL 19  
2.30 – 4.00**

**in the Church Room at St Mary's Church.**

**Find out about Repair Cafés, see if you can offer to support to set one up in the village by offering: practical skills, administrative help, serving tea, coffee and cake and/or being part of a group willing to move this forward.**

**Contact: 07552487694**

*Be part of helping to meet the climate emergency by reducing waste, reusing equipment/materials, saving the CO2emissions (and money!) involved in buying new.*

