



**Ringmer Family History  
Group Newsletter  
October 2023**



Group web pages [www.ringmer.info/u3a/family-history](http://www.ringmer.info/u3a/family-history)

**Ringmer Family History  
Group  
Programme 2023/24**

- 26 September** Introductory Session and Bob's Challenges  
**31 October** Working Class Occupations  
**28 December (THURSDAY)** Social meeting with other u3a Groups  
**30 January** Dead-ends: session 1, sharing problems.  
**27 February** My Story  
**26 March** Visit to West Sussex County Records Office, Chichester  
**30 April** Dead-ends: session 2, problems solved!  
**28 May** a) private researcher  
b) other research methods  
**25 June** International Research  
**30 July** TBA

**ADMIN ROTA**  
Desk: Sylvia Coleman

Refreshments: Jo Miller  
Another required please.

**LIBRARY**

We welcome the donation of magazines and books you have finished with please.

**Tuesday 31st October 2023 in the  
Scout hut at 2.00pm.**

**PROGRAMME**

Today we will be looking at occupations which were common to many of our working-class ancestors.

The most common for men was agricultural labourer and John Howes will talk about what this work involved and cover allied jobs including those connected to plaiting. The majority of women worked as servants and Bob Cairns will discuss what this could mean in different levels of household and the hierarchy in the largest. John Saunders will examine jobs in the retail trade for both sexes and Rosemary Page and Pauline Lloyd will share their researches into those who worked on the Thames. As usual there will be an opportunity for members to share details of similar jobs undertaken by their ancestors and particularly on city/London street trades.

**WELCOME**

To a number of people who are joining us for a tester session today. I hope we will suit their palate and they decide to become regular attendees.

**BOB'S CHALLENGES**

1. Obtain birth, death and marriage certificates for your parents, grandparents and great grandparents. Track them through the censuses.
2. Create a biography for each with a minimum of 10 pieces of information. Include photographs, postcards, newspaper cuttings etc. Use FTM or similar and /or a manual folder.
3. Obtain birth, death and marriage certificates for all other ancestors' post 1837.
4. Pull together all your photographs and with other family members identify as many relatives/ancestors as possible. Write the information IN PENCIL on the reverse. Add to your family tree and folders.
5. Set the profiles in challenge 2 within a historical context. How did events impinge on your ancestors' lives, if at all?
6. Write your own life story history using the previous 5 challenges as a framework. Include information you wish you'd known about your ancestors. Add all the necessary documents and create a folder and put it where it will be found.