

Ringmer U3A



Newsletter



Chairman's Message
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Reports from our Groups
AGM Notice

Summer 2019 Edition

Edited by Jon Elphick

Announcements

Wednesday 15 May
Annual General Meeting

Friday 15 June
Next E-Bulletin to be distributed

Friday 28 June
Copy deadline for the Autumn 2019
edition of the Newsletter

Friday 19 July
Autumn 2019 edition of the
Newsletter to be published

Changes to your Committee

Sue Hall has left the Committee after many years as our Treasurer. The position of Treasurer has been handed over to Sylvia Coleman, who has changed roles – her former post as our Group Co-ordinator has been assumed by Tim Polwart, who is a new member of the Committee.

We would like to thank Sue for all her hard work in ensuring that the finances of Ringmer U3A have been carefully looked after, and we wish Sylvia and Tim all the best in their roles.

Website update

Keep up to date by regularly visiting our website at <https://u3asites.org.uk/ringmer/home> where you will find lots of information on news, events and group activities. The site is quite young but we have come a long way with its content: our ambition is to increasingly provide more interesting and informative content for our members.

Resources page: This is a relatively new area of the website. Our intention is to add more content of broad interest to the group membership, which will also include guidance and group governance information.

News page: You can view and download the latest Newsletters and view E-Bulletins from our website. Visit the News page and follow the links. We also maintain a small archive of previous issues.

Convenors: Would you like to add and edit content on your group page? It is fairly simple to manage and update pages, and we will provide you with any assistance you need to get up and running. Interested?

If you have any questions, comments or suggestions for our website you can always contact me via the website contact page.

Keith Moore, Webmaster



From the Chairman

As you know it has always been my ambition to have more events where members from different interest groups can get together. Most U3As hold a monthly meeting which is open to all members, and the few events that we have held have always been very popular. Recently we had a speaker on “Lasting Power of Attorney”, and this was well attended. I am sure that a lunch or talk would be equally well received, but we do need some members to volunteer to organise it. It does not take much effort, particularly if several members help. Please do think about it.

Our Secretary, Kay, and I attended a national workshop recently on running your U3A. Several issues were raised which were then discussed by your Committee. Our Sussex U3A Network (SUN) Rep, Jill, and I then attended the SUN AGM. It has become clear to me from both of these events that we are a very healthy U3A group, and in a good position to meet the needs of our membership. Like many, though, we struggle to find new members to join our Committee.

We still have several Committee vacancies. Sue stood down as Treasurer on 1 April, and Sylvia has kindly taken on this role. Tim has joined us

and assumed the Group Co-ordinator role. I will be thanking Sue at our AGM. I also need to stand aside and let somebody else take the Chair. I would be happy to continue as Vice Chair if that is the wish of members. This way I could help the new Chair to settle in.

May I encourage you join our Committee. There have been some U3As that have had to cease because they did not have an adequate Committee, even though they had plenty of active Interest Groups. Please do not let us drift into that situation.

In the summer of next year (2020) Ringmer U3A will be celebrating its 30th anniversary. Let us do that in style! I invite all members to let the Committee know their views on what we might do to mark this special anniversary year.

As we approach the end of this U3A year and our Open Day (Enrolment) in August it is a good time to consider the possibility of new Interest Groups. Please let us have your views well in advance, so that we can put details in our next Newsletter.

Finally, my sincere thanks to all those who help to make this such a successful U3A.

Ian Loughborough

Report from the Sussex U3A Network (SUN)

SUN is organising a Shared Learning Project entitled ‘Sussex Myths and Spirit’. The results of this collaboration will be on display at Sussex University’s Jubilee Building on Saturday 13 July from 10am to 5pm. If any group is interested in joining this project, or visiting the exhibition, please contact me for further details.

The next SUN study day – ‘In the Picture’ – will be on 13 April in Horsham; it costs £8. The speaker, Peter Enser, will explore ‘The role of images in human communication from cave painting to selfie!’ Full details are on the [SUN website](#).

SUN has a budget available, and will pay for the hire of a room when two or more U3As get together for a joint meeting. So if you have an idea and would like to join with another U3A for a joint presentation, please contact me.

Heathfield U3A will be hosting an event on Saturday 20 July (10am to 3.30pm) to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the lunar landing of Apollo 11. Full details of the displays, speakers and activities will be on the [SUN website](#).



Jill Collins

Photography Group

The Photography group continues to be very well supported, but we still have room for new members. We have an interesting programme and cover everything from beginners to the more advanced photographers. We share our skills and photographs on chosen subjects, and have occasional outings; we also invite guest speakers.

At Christmas we arranged a lively and most enjoyable joint meeting with the Family History and Computer Groups. This has now become an annual event – one which we very much look forward to.

In the New Year we picked up our cameras again and our themes for the first three months of 2019 have been Winter, American landscape photographer Ansel Adams and Textures, demonstrating the wide range of subjects covered by the group.

In April John Price, an award-winning Ringmerian, will share some of his work with us.



Amost striking and colourful image from the Group's Winter collection

Contact me via the Ringmer U3A website if you have an interest in photography, at whatever level, and would like to join us. We meet on the last Thursday of every month in the Ringmer Village Scout Hut, from 2 to 4pm.

Martin Whitlock

Family History Group

2019 has got off to a good start.

At the January meeting six members shared a story about one of their ancestors. As usual we had a wonderful range of exposés from the past 200 years.

February saw the popular return of Jayne Shrimpton, a nationally known writer and fashion historian, who gave a superb presentation on dating family photographs from 1840 to 1940.

We now look forward to an extra meeting on 15 April when Martin McDowell, from Northern Ireland, will present 'A Beginner's Guide to DNA'. This will be an open meeting, starting at 2pm in the scout hut. All U3A members are welcome – there will be a £2 charge to help cover our visitor's costs.

Bob Cairns

Knit One, Chat One

Our spring term meetings have been well attended, industrious and convivial as always.

As reported in the December newsletter we held a successful joint meeting with members from the Knit & Natter Group and Ringmer U3A's latest handicraft group, Creative Crafters.

We plan to hold another of these joint meetings at the end of the summer term when we can have a catch-up, look at each other's work, and hopefully learn some new handicrafts.

If this summer is as good as last year's we may be able to hold our meetings outdoors in members' gardens, while enjoying each other's company with a nice cup of tea.

Sue Hall



The Astronomy Group pictured during a meeting at a member's home

Astronomy Group

The Astronomy Group will continue its monthly meetings until May. We will not be holding regular meetings during the summer months, because the nights are too light to allow stargazing unless observations are carried out after midnight. At the beginning of May we will visit an airfield near Ringmer where we can enjoy good views of the sky to look for galaxies in the constellation Virgo and the planet Jupiter.

Our regular meetings will start again on the second Wednesday in September.

Brian Wignall

Computer Group

The Group continues to meet on the first Thursday of the month, with regular attendance of some 20–25 members. Since the last newsletter there have been presentations on Microsoft Word 2013, desktop publishing and sound recording. In addition a successful Password Workshop was organised outside of the regular meetings.

Future sessions will include a presentation on Excel and one on using Camera Computer and Sewing Machine to Create Textile Art. At every meeting there is a general table where members can discuss any computer problems or issues they may have.

The planning team meets regularly to discuss the content of the forthcoming programme for our Group meetings. All information on these future presentations can be found on the Computer Group's page of the Ringmer U3A website, under the CG calendar. Also to be found on the website, in the CG News section, is information relating to computer technology. If a particular presentation is of interest to any U3A member they are very welcome to join us at a meeting – just let me know by e-mail.

Sylvia Coleman

Mahjong Group

The Mahjong Group meets for a game every week. We all enjoy ourselves a great deal, and have a great deal of fun.

Until recently we had nine members in the group. However we have just lost two; they travelled every week from Coleman's Hatch, until their local U3A – East Grinstead – started its own Mahjong Group. A game requires four people to play satisfactorily,

but we were over-subscribed anyway, so we now have a full quota. It is helpful to have extra players, though – to fill the gap in the case of absences – although we cannot accommodate more than two tables in anyone's house. A larger group would necessitate using larger premises, which might be problematic to arrange.

Julia Middleton

Creative Crafters

We began our journey independently last January. We met up, and no crafting was done! We were all too busy performing 'show and tell'. We had a lovely afternoon discussing what we do aroundcrafts, and how we want to progress the group. Since that meeting we have been lucky to have two new members join us. These both offer alternative skills.

The group was all set to meet up in February but 'snow stopped play' – the roads around the village were a little treacherous and the last thing we needed to be doing on a February afternoon was stitching someone's leg up after slipping on the ice! (Blanket or slip stitch?) We met again at the beginning of March and the conversation didn't stop. Some were sewing cushion covers, some were knitting and others were making felt eggs.

There are some who have skills that others want to learn, so advice and support is offered. We have decided to carry on with our own projects for the next few weeks; then we will look at what we want to learn and do as a group, and if willing one of the members will teach. Exciting times ahead!

Julie Terry



Some of the lovely items made by Creative Crafters



2Garden Group

We meet throughout the year on the second Tuesday afternoon of each month from 2.30 to 4.30 (with a break during December and January).

Currently there are 16 members, some of whom host our 'home meetings' when we discuss 'all things gardening'. This includes 'what is looking good in my garden now', sometimes with photo evidence, and 'any garden problems'.

These informal meetings are ideal for sharing skills and information, whatever your garden size and whether or not you have any expertise, as well as providing the opportunity to share surplus seeds, plants and produce. We also share information about 'a garden I have enjoyed visiting', again with photos and brochures. Lastly, around 4pm, we

enjoy refreshments and a time to catch up with each other!

This year we have arranged group visits to four gardens under the National Gardens Scheme (NGS), and we are looking forward to exploring a variety of large gardens, often after an introductory talk by the owners. Towards the end of each visit we all get together for some home-made cake and tea/coffee before departing for home, sometimes with plants and produce that most gardens have available to purchase. Hopefully we will also be inspired to try something new in our own, smaller gardens and, perhaps, we will have picked up some handy hints and tips on the way.

Rita Price

Out & About Group

At our Group meeting on 6th March the members present suggested a varied programme of events for the coming few months. Where possible we travel by public transport or share cars.

The visits that we have planned include a visit to see the Exhibition of Hats by Stephen Jones at Brighton Pavilion, the Art Exhibition at Charleston Farmhouse, a joint visit with the Gardening Club to a popular garden centre, and in July a visit to Lavender Fields near Chichester. We will also continue with our regular coffee morning get-togethers.

On 14 February we enjoyed another visit to Uckfield Picture House to see the classic Hitchcock film *North by North West*, followed by cream tea in the restaurant opposite. This is always a popular outing.

Valerie King

Short Walks Group

The Group continues to meet twice a month for a leisurely walk around the footpaths of Ringmer, or at a nearby place of interest. Our walks last for no more than 90 minutes.

Jon Elphick

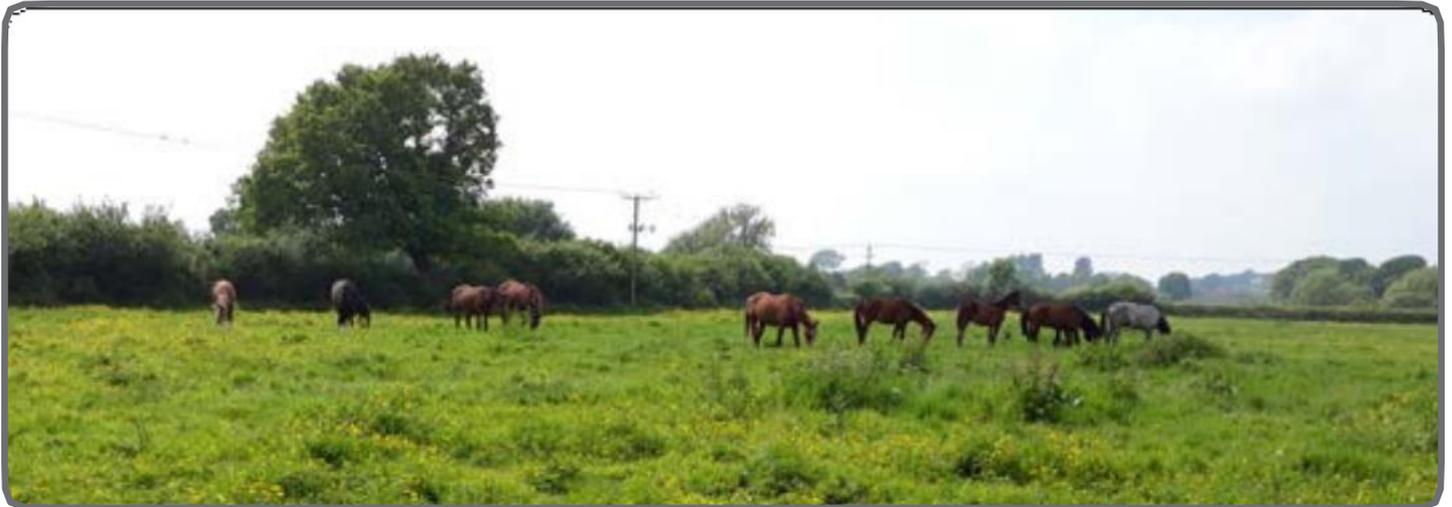
What the Papers Say

There is so much to discuss internationally, nationally and locally; it's difficult to know where to start. In one meeting our subjects can go from the housing development in Ringmer, to the plight of refugees, to the inevitable Brexit issues! There is never a dull moment.

Our friendly group works well because it is small, and this gives everyone a chance to talk and listen. We learn such a lot from each other as we mix serious and light issues.

Sue Wilkins





Annual General Meeting (AGM)

Our AGM will take place on Wednesday 15 May 2019 in the Village Hall (Symonds Room) starting at 10.30am. The minutes of the last AGM have been agreed by your Committee and are on our website. Anyone without access to the Internet can obtain a copy from our Secretary, Kay Fitzgerald.

Please also contact Kay by 17 April if you have a

nomination for the Committee, or a matter that you wish to raise.

This year the AGM is being held in the morning, so refreshments will be available in the Rogers Room from 10am at the usual Wednesday 'Coffee Break'. Please do come along: it is your opportunity to hear what is going on, and to elect your committee.

Ringmer Library

A note to all U3A members who don't use Ringmer's local community-run library.

We are a friendly library that offers a huge selection of fiction and nonfiction books. If we don't have the volume you want, we have a facility for ordering books from the East Sussex Library Service.

There is also a Computer-



**RINGMER VILLAGE
LIBRARY**

Buddy morning – you can book a session and we will help you to improve your skills, or learn new ones.

The library's opening hours are:
Tuesday and Thursday 2pm to 5pm
Wednesday and Saturday 10am to 12 noon.

Membership is free. Do come along – you'll be made very welcome!

Your Current Committee	Key to Chart Status
Chairman Secretary Treasurer Membership Secretary SUN Representative Newsletter Editor Group Co-ordinator Webmaster	Ian Loughborough Kay Fitzgerald Sylvia Coleman Ken Boot-Handford Jill Collins Jon Elphick Tim Polwart Keith Moore
Committee members can be contacted via the U3A website	
	WL: Group is currently full – there is a waiting list SA: Spaces are available Numbers according to Beacon

Your Current Groups and Convenors

Group	Convenor	Status	Members	Meets
Astronomy	Brian Wignall	SA	17	8 th May. One vacancy.
Computer Group	Sylvia Coleman	SA	36	First Thursday of every month (meeting in August undecided). New members welcome.
Creative Crafters	Julie Terry	SA	5	First Friday of each month.
Family History	Bob Cairns	SA	55	Last Tuesday of every month. Can take one or two new members.
French Conversation	Bridget Cross	SA	6	Mondays in each others' houses 14.00–15.30. One space available
Gardening Club	Jenny West; Joan Wignall	WL	18	Tuesdays 21 st May; 18 th June; 16 th July; 20 th August.
2 Garden	Rita Price; Marie-Claude Pullen	SA	16	14 th May, 11 th June, 9 th July 13 th August. Spaces for four more members
Knit & Natter	Margaret Eggleton; Linda Perrott	SA	7	First Friday of every month at 14.30 with the exception of August. One place available.
Knit One, Chat One	Sue Hall	WL	9	3 rd May; 7 th June; 5 th July 14.00–16.00. No meeting in August.
Mahjong	Julia Middleton	WL	9	Every Monday at 5 Harvard Road and sometimes at 21 Tile Kiln, at 10.00 excluding bank holidays.
Out & About	Valerie King	WL	41	St Marys Room at 10.30 on the First Wednesday in June September and December.
Photography	Martin Whitlock	SA	31	Last Thursday every month in the Scout Hut. New members welcome.
Short Walks	Jon Elphick	SA	20	Mondays at 10.15: 13 th May; 10 th June; 8 th July; 12 th August. Thursdays at 14.30: 23 rd May; 27 th June; 25 th July; 22 nd August
Spanish Conversation	Conchita Wigley	WL	9	13 th May; 27 th May; 10 th June
Walking	Lynne Booth	SA	24	First and third Wednesday at 13.30 in the car park behind the shops. Can take more members but they must be prepared to organise the occasional walk.
What the Papers Say	Sue Wilkins	WL	6	Fourth Monday of every month at 14.30, excluding bank holidays.

Ringmer U3A Calendar for Summer Term 2019

AS = Astronomy (Brian)
CG = Computer Group (Sylvia)
CC = Creative Crafters (Julie)
Fr = French (Bridget)
FH = Family History (Bob)
Ga = Garden Club (Jenny)

2Ga = Garden (Rita & Marie)
Kn&Nat = Knit and Natter (Margaret & Linda)
Kn = Knit One, Chat One (Sue)
Ma = Mahjong (Julia)
OA = Out & About (Valerie)

Ph = Photography (Martin)
PS = What the Papers Say (Sue)
Sp = Spanish (Conchita)
SW = Short Walks (Jon)
Wa = Walking (Lynne)

Dates and times are subject to change, so keep in touch with your Convenor. All the Convenors can be contacted via the Ringmer U3A website.

Day	May	June	July	August
Mon		3 Ma 10.0; Fr 14.00	1 Ma 10.00; Fr 14.00	
Tue		4	2	
Wed	1 Wa 13.30	5 OA 10.30; Wa 13.30	3 Wa 13.30	
Thu	2 CG 14.00	6 CG 14.00	4 CG 14.00	1
Fri	3 Kn 14.00; CC 14.00; Kn&Nat 14.30	7 Kn 14.00; CC 14.00; Kn&Nat 14.30	5 Kn 14.00; CC 14.00; Kn&Nat 14.30	2 CC 14.00
Mon	6 Bank Holiday	10 Ma 10.00; Sp 10.30; Fr 14.00; SW 10.15	8 Ma 10.00; SW 10.15; Fr 14.00	5 Ma 10.00; Fr 14.00
Tue	7	11 2Ga 14.30	9 2Ga 14.30	6
Wed	8 AS 19.30	12 FH visit	10	7 Wa 13.30
Thu	9	13	11	8
Fri	10	14	12	9
Mon	13 Ma 10.00; SW 10.15; Sp 10.30; Fr 14.00	17 Ma 10.00; Fr 14.00	15 Ma 10.00; Fr 14.00	12 Ma 10.00; SW 10.15; Fr 14.00
Tue	14 2Ga 14.30	18 Ga visit	16 Ga 14.30	13 2Ga 14.30
Wed	15 AGM 10.30 Wa 13.30	19 Wa 13.30	17 Wa 13.30	14 Open Day 10.00
Thu	16	20	18	15
Fri	17	21	19	16
Mon	20 Ma 10.00; Fr 14.00	24 Ma 10.00; Fr 14.00; PS 14.30	22 Ma 10.00; Fr 14.00; PS 14.30	19 Ma 10.00; Fr 14.00
Tue	21 Ga 14.30	25 FH 14.00	23	20 Ga 14.30
Wed	22	26	24	21 Wa 13.30
Thu	23 SW 14.30	27 Ph 14.00; SW 14.30	25 Ph 14.00; SW 14.30	22 SW 14.30
Fri	24	28	26	23
Mon	27 Bank Holiday Sp 10.30?		29 Ma 10.00; Fr 14.00	26 Bank Holiday
Tue	28 FH 14.00		30 FH 14.00	27 FH 14.00
Wed	29		31	28
Thu	30 Ph 14.00			29 Ph 14.00
Fri	31			30