



Spring 2022 Newsletter

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Wishing you a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year

Who would have thought when we started up our face-to-face meetings in September that we would now be facing another wave of this virus. It does make life difficult, particularly with the differing views on what we should or should not be doing. Clearly with the festive season upon us we all wish to socialise with our friends and relatives. Yet at the same time we are conscious of the need to take care and protect ourselves and others.

As I publish this newsletter there are no legal restrictions that say we cannot meet in groups. However, there is strong advice that we should minimise contact with others as much as possible. – Not just for our own safety, but also to reduce the spread and for others safety. It is therefore up to us all individually to assess who we meet and under what conditions.

Tim has kindly helped me compile this newsletter and you will see that we have been very active over the past few months. Let us hope that jobs and some restrictions can bring about a more healthy environment where we can once again meet freely without any concerns.

Meanwhile please do stay safe and have a Happy Christmas and New Year.

Jan



Gardening group visiting Glyndebourne

Group	Convener	Members	Meets (contact Convener to confirm)
2 Garden	Rita Price Marie-Claude Pullen	17	2nd Tuesday every month
Astronomy	Brian Wignall	18	second Wednesday
Beginners Spanish	Tim Polwart	3	
Computer Group	Keith Moore	28	2nd Thursday every month in Scout Hut from February onwards
Creative Crafters	tbd	4	
Family History	Bob Cairns Pauline Lloyd	52	Last Tuesday of every month 2pm
French	Bridget Cross	9	Every Thursday. No meeting August
Gardening Club	Jenny West Joan Wignall	17	
Knit One Chat One	Sue Hall	9	1st Friday of each month 2.00-4.00pm
Mah Jong	Sue Horne	7	Every Monday 10.00-12.00 hrs
Newsround	Kay Fitzgerald	7	4th Monday
Out and About	Judy Ellis Gillian Snitter	35	
Photography	Martin Whitlock	35	Last Thursday every month
Spanish Conversation	tbd	7	
Walking	Lynne Booth	15	1st and 3rd Wednesday every month
What the Papers Say	Susan Wilkins	6	4th Monday of the month, except Bank Holidays

Ringmer U3A Group's Report : December 2021

Please use Ringmer U3A website (<https://u3asites.org.uk/ringmer/home>) to find more information about groups.

Astronomy :. The Astronomy Group has not met inside over the past six months but we have met outside on three occasions in order to observe the night sky.

We will meet in the Church Hall in December for a Christmas Meeting and also plan to experiment with a Zoom Meeting which will transmit the view through my telescope to group members. We hope to view the Orion and Crab Nebulae at this observation session.

Plans for next year have not yet been formed but we will discuss our future course of action at the December Meeting.

Beginner's Spanish : A very small group being self-taught and part way through a BBC Spanish course.

Computer Group : Please note that there is no normal computer group meeting this month. We are again joining the Family History and Photography groups for a combined meeting on Tuesday 28 December at 2 pm in the Scout Hut. Full of fun and laughter as usual, so do come along.

Our first group meeting in 2022 will be in February, we already have some interesting topics lined up to look forward to. Meetings will normally be held on the second Thursday of the month at 2 pm in the Scout Hut.

With the ongoing uncertainty of COVID-19 the holding of our face-to-face meetings will of course be subject to government guidelines.

We look forward to seeing you on the 28 December, if you are unable to attend then may I and the rest of the planning team wish you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

Creative Crafters* : no report

Family History : The Family History Group resumed its face to face meetings in September. At the first meeting members were given a background to the group and its approach and were introduced to members of the Planning Group. In October Peter Christian visited us from London and shared his lifetime of research in looking at 'Maps On Line' and illustrated his talk with many local examples. At our November meeting Kate Palmer talked about 'The Coroners Service Ancient and Modern' and shared her own experiences in the Brighton Coroners Office.

In December we will share a social event with the IT and Photography Groups. In early January the Planning Group will set out the programme through to July 2022.

French Conversation : We have managed to keep going at almost full attendance, covering different scenarios in different tenses, with the odd game thrown in. We're hoping the virus doesn't get in the way in the new year, as continuity is important to retaining new things, which after a certain time of life becomes a little more tricky!

Garden Group : The U3A Garden Group are continuing to thrive. We currently have 17 enthusiastic members and the attached photograph was taken in the beautiful Glyndebourne Gardens in September whilst spending time with the Head Gardener Kevin. We are not

meeting again until March 2022 but already have a draft programme for 2022. With the small funds collected over the year, we have purchased and divided between the members, allium bulbs, which we have recently planted and will compare notes as we nurture them through until next Spring/Summer.



2 Garden : This group has managed to meet in members gardens and is now planning further meetings.

Knit One, Chat One : This group is faring well. No meeting was held in September as nearly all but two members were either away or had other commitments. However we were able to meet in October, November and December with good attendance. It was good to be back together again and everyone has been in good spirits.

While this group is full, sufficient interest has been shown to suggest that an additional knitting group could be formed so please contact Tim Polwart if you are interested.

Mahjong : The mahjong group meet every week and are as enthusiastic as ever !

Newsround : This group has been meeting again since July, though with a holiday in August. We now have one male new member who would appreciate company!

Out & About : We resumed Out and About meetings in September, with a small group visiting The One Garden in Stanmer Park in Brighton. This is a new walled garden developed in conjunction with agricultural students from Plumpton College. We saw a delightful mix of autumn blooms, fruit and vegetables and interesting planting schemes. There was also a water garden and a contemplative garden with lots of benches available to sit and enjoy the plants. We also enjoyed tea in the very pleasant outdoor cafe. We travelled by sharing car's.

In October, again sharing cars, we visited the Charleston Farmhouse Gallery to see a retrospective of Duncan Grant's work, which he produced around a century ago at Charleston. We also visited the gardens, and of course the cafe, which served lovely refreshments.

In November we visited the Brighton Pavilion Ice Rink Cafe to have lunch, and watch the skaters of varying abilities, which was fun. On this occasion we travelled by bus from Ringmer. As it was a lovely sunny day, after lunch, some of us enjoyed a stroll along the seafront.

We have also had a very successful coffee morning at the Forge Cafe in Ringmer, and plan another later this month. Also in December we have a Christmas lunch planned at The Kings Head pub in Horsebridge, which should be very enjoyable.

Next year we are hoping to have further trips in the area.

Photography : This group held its first face to face meeting on the last Thursday of September in the Ringmer Scout hut. It had 18 members attending with just a few apologies mainly due to holidays! Apart from a few IT issues due to lack of recent use the meeting was very successful. It seems the group is back to normality.

Short Walks* : Throughout the last active year this group has had poor attendance and without some improvement it is likely to stop. While a small number of walks have been planned recently attendance remains poor. As a result this group has stopped and is not shown on the chart below.

Spanish Conversation* : Whilst interest remains good this group lacks a convenor. Volunteers are needed please !

Walking : We are meeting twice a month as usual leaving the village car park promptly at 1:30. Group members have lead some lovely walks and we have been really lucky with the weather.

Ready for anything, we have been up over the Downs in the local area, done road walks when it is really wet and appreciated the beautiful views and the autumn colours.

On the first of December we walked a circuit around Rise Farm in Lewes to Iford and back. The skies looked black when we started but the sun came out and the late afternoon light made for some great photos....and some not so great, as we tried a group selfie.....spot the rainbow in the distance.





What the Papers Say : This group has just started to meet face to face in a well ventilated space - complete with extra jumper etc. It makes it easier for us as there are only six in the group. The group meets on the fourth Monday of the month at 2pm unless it falls on a Bank Holiday and then we discuss options. The group is presently full.

2 Garden :

After a very mixed year with some meetings held via Zoom, others held in members' homes and gardens and the November meeting cancelled, we were delighted to hold an impromptu meeting on the first Tuesday of December.

Following a discussion about the possible way forward for 2022, we held a Christmas quiz, designed for light-hearted fun rather than intellectual garden knowledge. Christmas refreshments were kindly provided by our host and the photo of some of our members was taken then.

We are looking forward to meeting again on our normal second Tuesday of the month in February with a programme of events for 2022.

Convenors Sought

Each group is led by a convenor (some sharing roles) and the role of these is vital to the continuation of each group. We are now seeking replacement convenors for several groups, marked with *. These roles are not especially challenging especially if shared and can be good fun. If you would like to help or are unsure about what is involved then please do contact Tim Polwart the Groups Coordinator.

Pictures from Out & About



STOP PRESS: We have one u3a 2022 Diary left for sale. If you are interested then please contact our Treasurer, Sylvia Coleman, as soon as possible.

And finally.....

I go on and on about more members volunteering to join the committee, but to no avail. I will continue as Vice Chair for the time being, but we do need a new Chair to take Ringmer u3a into 2022. This Newsletter edition will though be my last. I have too much on to do justice to the role of Editor, even though there are only three editions a year. This edition would not be out at all if it were not for Tim's help. I am happy to initially help the new Editor, but it is really time for me to hang up my Editor's hat. So, if we want a Newsletter published at Easter 2022 we need a volunteer.

Ann



Wishing you a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year

