

Ringmer U3A



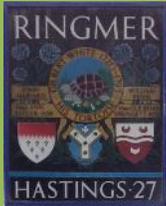
Newsletter

Open Enrolment Day

Tuesday, 14th August

Symons Hall

Ringmer Village Hall



Summer 2018 Edition



Annual General Meeting

Our AGM will take place from 2 - 4 pm on Wednesday 16 May 2018 in the Village Hall. The meeting will include reports from the Chairman, Treasurer, Group Coordinator and SUN Representative. This year we also need to approve an amendment to our constitution. On advice from U3A we need to amend our object clause to read:

the advancement of education, and in particular the education of older people and those who are retired from full time work, by all means including associated activities conducive

to learning and personal development, in Ringmer and its surrounding locality.

Your committee is also proposing to increase the maximum size of the Executive Committee from 10 to 12 to reflect our increase in membership.

We also propose to increase the time that members can serve on the committee to 4 years in any role and a maximum of 7 years in total.

(continued)

Announcements

Friday 1 June:

Next E-Bulletin (no. 14)

Monday 25 June:

Copy deadline for Autumn 2018 Edition of Newsletter

Friday 20 July:

Summer 2018 Edition of Newsletter published

You will then be given the opportunity to vote for members of the Executive Committee for 2018/19. Nominations, with proposer and seconder, must be given to the Secretary by Tuesday 17 April 2018.

More New Members

The Village Hall was packed with representatives from the various clubs and groups in the Village for the recent HUB (Village Groups' Fete). There was a great deal of interest in U3A and we had some 18 enquiries, many of which have or will join us. We are now rapidly approaching 200 members.



Answering questions at the Hub

The New Website

The Ringmer U3A website is now up and visible on the WWW. Here is the link: <https://u3asites.org.uk/ringmer/home>

It is early days and work will progress over the next few months. What is important is to keep it up to date and to that end both Keith and Martin will be doing some of the updating.

What is now needed is for some of the conveners to take on the role of updating their own group pages. So, if as a convener you feel you could do this, contact Keith or Martin and access/training to do this can be given. Any suggestions as to how we can improve the site, within the bounds of the U3A site builder software are also welcome.



The February workshop of the Computer Group

Group Reports

Computer Group

Ian Loughborough

With just under 200 members we must be one of the smallest U3As. However, that does not stop us being at the forefront of communications.

Almost all our membership -- 96% -- are on the Internet, although many struggle to keep pace with developments. So this January we set up a Computer group to help members share their experiences. In February we held a workshop, and in March we received a presentation about "Staying Safe On-line" from a cyber security expert. This enabled the development of a PDF file with advice that has been made available to all members on our web site. There is still room for more members !

Photography Group

Martin Whitlock

The Group continues to flourish, with a regular attendance of about 20 members. New members are always welcome to join our sociable group. The photographic skills of our members has improved so much over the last year.

We have produced a photo calendar for this year and propose to do the same again for 2019. We also have a yearly competition and meetings out and about with our cameras.

Out and About Group

Valerie King

We have to change both the date and venue of our Out & About Group Meetings. These will now be held on the first Wednesday in March, June, September and December.

Therefore the remaining dates in 2018 will be 6th June, 5th September and 5th December. The meetings will now be held at 10.30 am in the St Mary's Room, Ringmer Village Hall.



A Gathering of The French Groups

By Jenny Hill

All three French groups got together to meet one another over lunch on Tuesday, 20 March. The idea was to speak French most of the time, not sure that happened but people were very happy to get together and we all thank Deirdre Booth who opened her lovely house to us. A picture from the meal is below.

All groups are to continue to meet over the summer before, perhaps, spending time in France in August

2Garden Group

Marilyn Linehan

On the 13th March members of 2Garden visited the Apothecary in Lewes. It is a beautiful shop opposite St Anne's church at the top of the town. It is well worth a visit. Full details are on their website.

“We are a small batch distillery making natural scents, creams, aromatic waters and balms from flowers, bark, leaves, roots, blossom and moss that we grow or pick wild in the fields, mountains and gardens that we love in Sussex, Cyprus and Scotland.”

Amanda, the apothecary, welcomed us into her emporium and treated us to a lively and entertaining talk and demonstration. We tasted and sniffed the ingredients that go into her products, finishing up with a glass of their Fierce Botanic tonic water with ice and a tot of gin. As one of our members said,

“ I thoroughly enjoyed my visit and found the information about the distillery side of things totally fascinating as well as learning about the individual ingredients of tonic. It was good (mostly) to taste each of the components!! Didn't realize I'd be drinking G&T on a Tuesday afternoon, but the bus delivered me safely back to the village!”

It was a really good afternoon and quite a change from our usual garden meetings and visits.





Celebrating Elsie

Now in her 100th year Elsie has decided that it is time to step down as Convenor of our Poetry Group. Elsie Bowler and her husband retired to Ringmer in 1980, but unfortunately her husband died soon afterwards. She went on to become active in the village and joined U3A in the late 1990's. With a keen interest in reading and writing poetry, she joined our Poetry Group. This group was formed in 1991 and was led by Margaret Diggle from 1993 until 2007 when, at the age of 102, she moved to Uckfield. Stella Claydon and Michael Voigt then led the group until 2011 when Elsie stepped in. Over the years the group has shown an interest in both serious and light-hearted poetry and has had a loyal band of members.

The group does not meet in the Summer, but will reform in September.

Another of Elsie's interests is listening to music and from 2000 she led the Music, later renamed Musical Appreciation Group for some thirteen years. Unfortunately this group no longer exists, but it could always be restarted if there is sufficient interest.

Elsie has given us a fine example of loyal service to the community. We wish her all the best and express our thanks to her for all her efforts throughout the years.

Final Thoughts From the Chairman

We are fortunate to enjoy the benefits of U3A, but there are some in our community who find it difficult to participate. Indeed there are probably some of us who struggle to hear what is said or to see a presentation. U3A is becoming more proactive in this matter and offers advice to us all via U3APLUS (<https://plus.u3a.org.uk>). When we arrange meetings and events we must consider the advice given and take appropriate action where possible. With a little effort and thought by us all we can help more of our members and potential members to access our activities. We may not always be able to act on all the advice given as we mainly meet in members' homes, but we must try. So next time we meet think about offering a seat nearer the speaker to someone who struggles to hear what is said.

Ian

Your Current Committee

Chairman	Ian Loughborough
Secretary	Kay Fitzgerald
Treasurer	Sue Hall
Membership Secretary	Ken Boot-Handford
SUN Representative	Jill Collins
Newsletter Editor	Stephen van Dulken
Group Co-ordinator	Sylvia Coleman
New Groups Co-ordinator	Wendy Morgan

Key to Chart Status

NMM: needs more members

WL: waiting list

SA: spaces available

*Number according to enrolment

Your Current Groups and Convenors

Group	Convenor	Phone	Status	No*	Meets
Astronomy	Brian Wignall		WL	18	Full no dates available will organise observation evening when weather allows.
Computer Group	Ian Loughborough		SA	34	1 st Thursday 14.00 every month, August to be decided
French 1	Jenny Hill		WL	10	8 th 22 nd May; 5 th 19 th June 10.00; informal meeting in July
French 2	Bridget Cross		WL	5	Every Thursday 10.00 No meeting August
Family History	Bob Cairns		SA	54	Last Tuesday 14.00 every month
Gardening Club	Jenny West Joan Wignall		WL	16	15 th May; 19 th June; 17 th July; 21 st August 14.30
2 Garden	Teresa Keen		WL	20	2 nd Tuesday 14.30 every month
Intermediate French	Denise Hadley		WL	7	1 st 15 th 29 th May; 12 th 26 th June 10.30
Knit & Natter	Margaret Eggleton Linda Perrott		SA	4	1 st Friday of the month with the exception of August 14.30
Knit One Chat One	Sue Hall		WL	9	4 th May; 1 st June; 6 th July 14.00
Mah-Jong	Julia Middleton		WL	9	Meets every Monday 10.00
Out & About	Valerie King		WL	47	Next meeting Wednesday 6 th June 10.30 in the St Mary's Room Ringmer Village Hall. Attendance charge of £1.00
Photography	Martin Whitlock		SA	27	Last Thursday every month 14.00
Poetry	No current convenor				Not meeting until September
Reader Circle	No current convenor				No meetings arranged
Scrabble	Julia Middleton		SA	4	20 th June; 18 th July 14.00 no meeting in May,
Short Walks	Jon Elphick		NMM	7	Monday every month walks start in the Drs Car Park Anchor Fields 10.15
Spanish	Conchita Wigley		WL	9	7 th 21 st May; 4 th June 10.30
Theatre Club	Ray & Jacque Churchill		NMM	39	Own programme
Walking	Lynne Booth		SA	25	Meets the 1 st and 3 rd Wednesday 13.30. Can take more member only 9 or 10 turn up
What the papers say	Sue Wilkinson		WL	5	28 th May, 25 th June 23 rd July 14.30; no meeting August