

# u3a Ringmer

## Summer 2023 Newsletter

Our Website is <https://u3asites.org.uk/ringmer/home/>

### **Notes from the Chair**

Now that it's summer, I hope you are all able to relish the warmer weather and lighter evenings. I know that some of our groups are enjoying trips and outings – this week alone I have been to a garden and a vineyard!

As we approach our Open Day on August 16th, please let your convener know whether or not you are planning to continue in your groups into the next year. This will enable them to offer any spare places to newcomers at the Open Day. You might like to consider joining a new group for yourself, or if there are any subjects that we do not currently cover but you would like to see offered, why not consider starting up a new group. We need only a few like-minded people to get one going. If you have an idea for a new group, please contact me, or bring it to the Open Day. I am looking forward to seeing you all in the Village Hall at 2pm on 16 August.

Best wishes,

*Sarah*

*Sarah Boot-Handford*  
Ringmer u3a Chair

### **Interest Group Coordinator**

We are very pleased to announce that Penny Goulding has volunteered to act as our new Interest Group Co-ordinator.

## Group Activity

### **2 Garden Group**

Our group recently much enjoyed an outing to “The Beeches” in Barcombe. The owners of this extensive garden made us very welcome. First of all we were treated to a guided tour of the walled kitchen garden which is devoted to fruit, vegetables and cut flowers for the house. We admired the well maintained greenhouses and the immaculate beds, picking up ideas for our gardens/ allotments as we potted around. We then enjoyed the bright colours and jungle-y atmosphere of the Hot Border before crossing a stream and making our way towards the Rose Garden and the heuchera border. Some intrepid souls also explored the woodland walk. Some even more intrepid souls braved a whistle stop whizz around the lawn on a motorized pink upholstered settee. A really incongruous sight which caused much hilarity among those of us sampling superlative tea and cake.

Some of our members also went on an outing to a garden in the Ashdown Forest in May but unfortunately not this particular member; I am told that it was well worth a visit. Otherwise our meetings have been “in house” when we have shared our joyful achievements and asked for advice regarding our problems in our gardens.

*Teresa Keen*

### **Astronomy Group**

Summer is a time when we do not do Astronomy because the nights are very short and it is only possible to observe the sky in the small hours. We plan to have an observation evening in the middle of August when the moon is not too bright and we will be able to watch the stars appear in the night sky and hope to see the planets Saturn and Neptune, the Lagoon Nebula and the Andromeda Galaxy.

Our indoor meetings start on September 14<sup>th</sup> in Ringmer Church Hall. We always meet on the second Thursday of the month. We plan to look at the beginnings of our Universe and then, over the coming months, study our Solar System.

*Brian Wignall*

### **Beginner's Spanish**

Lessons are continuing with our Spanish learning all be it very intermittently!

The BBC course has almost been completed but the intention is to do a revision of it which will take a few weeks. The learning has been used on two holidays this year (Majorca and Valencia) and especially during a couple of nights in Cuenca where English isn't so widely used.

## **Computing and Home Technology**

Our u3a year has been very varied covering topics and activities for all levels of knowledge and skills. Our computing topics included using tools and software commonly in use, internet security, cloud computing and backups, and for some, topics they may not have been aware of previously.

Expanding the group to cover home technology this year has enabled us to introduce topics such as SMART devices, virtual assistants (AI), using devices to help save energy and a special meeting on solar energy open to all Ringmer u3a members.

In addition, we've held question and answer sessions with open discussion and lots of interaction and our last meeting in July was our first workshop for some time, finishing off with an end of year quiz.

Looking ahead our planning team are currently working on topics and activities for next year with some very good ideas and our first meeting will be in September.

We would like to thank all our members for their support during the year and to those who kindly gave their time to give talks on a variety of topics. Finally, we would encourage anyone with an interest in computing and home technology to come along to the Open Day and find out more about the group.

*Keith Moore*

## **Family History**

The family history group has had another successful year with a varied programme and an average attendance of 35.

The group year finished with an excellent talk by Ringmer's own Great War historian, Geoff Bridger, who gave a thorough and entertaining introduction to military research and especially WW1. Geoff's 50 years of experience shone through and our group began to appreciate his contribution to the material now available on the major web-sites.



Geoff Bridger being questioned by David Matthews

There will be a few vacancies on the group next year and, as usual, we are happy for beginners to join as much as we are people with a lot, or a little, experience.

*Bob Cairns*

## **Proposed New DNA Group**

For many years we have had a large very successful Family History Group that has helped members to build their family trees. In 2019 the group had a presentation on the use of DNA in family history research. Many members went on to take a DNA test, but some decided not to. Some meetings have dealt with this subject, but it has been decided that it might be better to form a separate group. The existing Family History Group will of course continue, but it will not cover DNA.

It is anticipated that the new DNA group will meet 3 times a year, probably October, January and March, however, that will be up to the members of the new group to decide. The group will meet on a different day to the existing Family History Group as it is anticipated that most members will wish to attend both groups. Ian Loughborough will initially act as Group Convenor as he has had the lead for DNA on the existing group.

If you are interested in joining this new DNA Group then please let Ian Loughborough know on Open Day (Wednesday 16 August) or contact him beforehand through our website.

## **Photography Group**

Ringmer u3a photography group continues to flourish and its meetings on the last Thursday of each month are very well attended.

The group continues to show digital images taken on specific subjects each month and technical skills are also discussed. The group also explores famous photographers, both past and present. We are a very friendly group and new members are always welcome. It does not matter what type of photographic equipment you use; it can be anything that takes photographs! We recently visited the Roger Bamber “out of the ordinary photographic exhibition” at Brighton and Hove Museum and art gallery. Well worth a visit to see the work of a local professional photographer.

*Martin Whitlock.*

## **Walking Group**

I know that we have walked twice a month as a group but I can't always remember where! This makes a report hard to write. About five mile walks are usual with beautiful flowers in the spring on familiar and much loved walks along with some new routes.



We braved the elements at Rottingdean along the undercliff.



We walked to see the bluebell woods behind the Gliding Club fields. It was unexpectedly muddy and little did we know, as we posed sitting on the old water trough, what was to come.

Then there was the walk that they did without me. They all enjoyed it and maybe you can recognise where it was from the photograph above.

From September 2023 the Walking Group will be limited in size. Any new members will be encouraged to participate in leading a walk once every six months. This can be shared with a fellow member for mutual support i.e. remembering where we are going.

Once again, thank you so much to everyone who has summoned the nerve to guide us on a walk. We've enjoyed every one.

*Lynne Booth*

### **What The Papers Say**

What a busy time we have discussing so many issues that are happening in the wider world, in our country and in our community. Never a dull moment!

Although each member brings a topic to the group that is discussed it's amazing how one subject leads to many diverse areas. All group members contribute to the discussions using life experiences, general knowledge and news awareness. We don't always agree but that makes for healthy discussions. Everything we discuss is in complete confidence so we can feel open with our opinions. We meet on the fourth Monday of each month at 2pm for at least two and a half hours and sometimes longer! We are a small group and take it in turns to host the meeting. At the present time our group is full.

*Sue Wilkins*

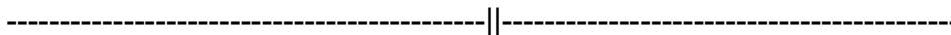
### **Wine Appreciation Group**

Over the last three months, we have been exploring Australia and New Zealand's wines, living La Vie en Rosé and, most recently, enjoying a visit to Hidden Spring Vineyard in Horam. This is an old

vineyard that, for 10 years, was in use as a campsite but has recently been replanted with grape varieties that are particularly suited to the English climate. We enjoyed tasting a variety of white and rosé still and sparkling wines that have been grown there in the last few years, guided by their vintner, Alex. She also showed us around the winery where we were able to see the three thousand and four thousand litre tanks in which the wine is made.

Next month we are taking a slight detour into tasting gin.

*Sarah Boot-Handford*



Group List			
2 Garden	Tuesday pm second Tuesday each month	Astronomy	Thursday 7:30pm second Thursday each month
Beginners Spanish	Meeting dates/times TBA	Computer & Home Tech	Thursday pm second Thursday each month
Eco Group	Thursday p.m. 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
Walking Group	Wednesday pm first and third Wednesday	What the Papers Say	Monday 14:00hrs fourth monday
Wine Appreciation	Wednesday 2:30 pm 2 <sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of each month		