

# Ringmer U3A

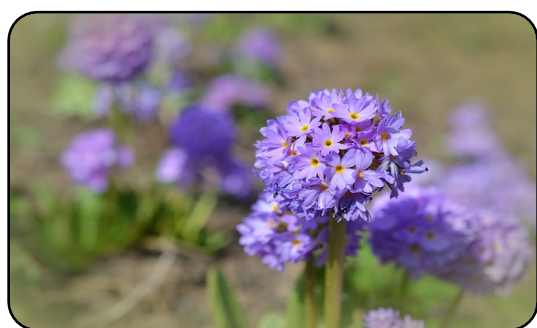
## Newsletter



THE UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE



Spring 2018 Edition



### Announcements

**Friday 9 February:**

Next E-Bulletin (no. 13)

**Friday 16 March:**

Copy deadline for Summer 2018 Edition of Newsletter

**Monday 9 April:**

Summer 2018 Edition of Newsletter published

### New Ringmer U3A website coming

I am starting work on the new website for the Ringmer U3A, which will replace the information currently on the Ringmer village website. It will link to all Ringmer U3A groups, and it will be up to each group to provide the details they want to be on the site. There will be information on meetings, group activities, contacts, outings, aims, news, etc.

It will be nearly impossible for me to do this alone, so I will be relying on each group to provide the information. I am open to suggestions as well.

Martin Whitlock



Val, Rita, Sue, Bob, Brenda, Jenny, Heather and Sue

## Group Reports

### Walking Group

*Lynne Booth*

It is a mystery, on the first Wednesday in each month, exactly where in Sussex we will be heading ... and whose car we will travel in.

It is a mystery, on the third Wednesday in the month, just how many possible 5 mile walking routes there are around the village... starting from the car park to get back in time for coffee before Ringmer Cafe closes.

It is a mystery every time we meet. What will this walk be? Up Downs, down Downs, over stiles, through inches of mud and gigantic puddles... or just maybe a long ramble over easy terrain with beautiful flowers and birds singing... in perfect weather conditions... or maybe not.

It is a mystery (I think) why you can find a small group of "diehards" huddled behind the village hall in even the most inclement weather. They wear

full waterproofs, carry poles, are muffled to the eyeballs and wear big boots. They are ready for anything this week's leader can throw at them. These are the U3A walking group's ultimate warriors.

It is magical to be introduced to new areas of beautiful countryside and to see stunning views in all seasons in such congenial company.

So, special thanks to the stalwarts who have planned the

walks and have always been ready to offer help ever since our first meeting, when we tentatively shared out the dates between us in The Green Man. Luckily membership has grown and some of the "newbies" have already taken a lead. You are the magic that has made the mystery walking group work.



On Mount Caborn. Jenny, Penny, Bob, Lynne, Sue

## Out and About Group

*Valerie King*

On Wednesday September 27th, fourteen of us visited the Ashdown Forest Centre to hear a presentation by Stephen Alton, the Conservation Officer.

The Forest is a mixture of woodland and heathland which is one of the rarest and most important habitats of Northern Europe.

First we learnt that the Forest was regulated by a 19<sup>th</sup> century Act of Parliament. This means that the Conservators are bound by the principles established in the Act, the two most important of which are at odds with each other: on the one hand, the Forest has to be free and open to members of the public, with no fencing allowed, while on the other hand, the Forest has to be protected against misuse and possible damage by visitors.

Consequently, the Conservators have to keep a balance between these two requirements. When over a million people visit the area in any given year, polluting the atmosphere with their cars, and the ground with their dogs and litter of all sorts, conservation of such a delicate habitat becomes a tough task.

We were also shown photographs of the rare flora & fauna, including many birds seen nowhere else, insects (butterflies, dragonflies, etc), reptiles, mammals (squirrels, badgers, German aurochs, Exmoor ponies, primitive cattle and a hardy breed of sheep, foxes of course and the occasional wild boar).

Last but not least we learnt about the management of the woodland and heathland, a huge task considering the acreage and the small size of the conservation team.

Funding is inevitably a problem, especially after Brexit

as the EU makes a considerable contribution to the upkeep of the Forest.

This probably means that fundraising will have to be envisaged and commercial methods adopted without compromising the nature of the environment. The Conservators do not want to encourage more visitors, as there are more than enough already! All this information gave us food for thought and made us realise how important it is to value this fragile heathland and forest which is only a few miles from Nutley.



Out and About continued

On November 3<sup>rd</sup>, ten members of the Out and About group met in Clayton, a pretty village under the South Downs, to visit several sites of interest in the locality, one of which was the Clayton Tunnel.

After a risky crossing of the busy road we perched on the path over the railway bridge while two members of the group told us about the tunnel. The visible northern portal, shown below, is Grade 2 listed.

There was a terrible accident in 1861 involving three trains from Brighton, by then a popular resort. 23 people were killed and 176 injured. The tunnel is picturesque and worth a visit.



## Astronomy Group

*Brian Wignall*

We have met twice since September. At our first meeting we considered how water came to be so plentiful on earth, and at our second we heard about the discoveries made by the space probe Cassini. We have also observed the Constellations Cygnus, Lyra, Aquila, Equuleus, Delphinus and Sagitta.

There are 18 members of the group and we are full, with one person on the waiting list. We will have observation evenings when skies are clear and there are Astronomical events which interest us. We will not meet in the Summer months because the nights are so short, and observing has to take place so late at night.



## French One Group

*Jenny Hill*

We think this group has been meeting now for nearly ten years. We have become good friends and made some progress in our French.

Everyone has tried to bring along a bit of news, and this Autumn particularly the group has chosen and presented their own topics for discussion. These include Coco Chanel, a Maupassant story and its film version, the gardens of Normandie and some French personalities.

We do cover some grammar as it occurs but it is up to people to do some exercises and learning! I hope the Spring term will be as successful.

## Two Garden Group

*Teresa Keen*

*Marilyn Linehan*

It has been another interesting year for the 2Garden group. We have enjoyed three "in house" meetings, four visits to beautiful gardens, a tour of three members' gardens/ allotment and a visit to Eastbourne allotments.

We have been amazed at how differently people treat the area of land around their house.

King John's Garden, set in beautiful countryside near Etchingam, has been described as a romantic eight acre garden as beautiful as it is tranquil.

Holly House, on the edge of Ashdown Forest, has a much bigger garden than first appears with mature trees (planted by the current owner!), and winding paths lead one on to explore ever further down the hillside, followed of course by the climb back up.

Rose Cottage and 1 Woodside showed us what can be done to make more average size gardens exciting and interesting, and our last visit, to The Beeches in Barcombe, gave us the opportunity to explore a huge



Ringmer allotments

walled kitchen garden as well as the pleasure gardens surrounding the house. All the owners were more than happy to answer our questions and talk to us about how their gardens had evolved.

Our "in house" meetings gave us the opportunity to talk about what was happening in our gardens, to discuss gardeners who have influenced us, and gardens that we have visited independently.

One member researched Glynde College for Lady Gardeners, which we found particularly interesting. We have also enjoyed identifying herbs and talking about their uses.

We have invited members of the other garden group to join us on our outings and in turn have been invited to go with them on their visits. We particularly enjoyed the trip to Glyndebourne conducted by Kevin Martin.

At the time of writing we are about to have our last meeting of 2017 during which we shall think about our programme for next year.

We do not meet in December or January, and our programme therefore runs from February to November, which of course does not correspond to the U3A year.

## New Computer Group

We now have a Computer Group which will hold its first group meeting on Thursday 4 January 2018.

An inaugural meeting took place in the Scout Hall on Thursday 2 November 2017 to discuss the possibility of setting up a Computer group. The meeting was chaired by Ian Loughborough, the U3A Chairman, and 19 U3A members were present. Another 16 members had expressed an interest, but were unable to attend the meeting. It was agreed that:

- The group will meet in the Scout Hall at 2 pm on the first Thursday of each month. The first meeting will take place on Thursday 4 January 2018. Members will pay £1 every time they attend a meeting.

- A programme will be devised by a small planning team. Ian Loughborough will act as Convenor for the immediate future. Sylvia Coleman, Keith Moore, James Patmore, John Saunders & Hillary Smith

volunteered to join the planning team. The programme will include talks, presentations, workshops (various tables where members could discuss problems and solutions), short talks by members on difficulties that they have solved, guidance from experts and talks and demonstrations.

The group can take more members and if you are interested in joining this new group then contact Ian Loughborough

as soon as possible .

## Scrabble Group

We continue to enjoy our games. We also have room for a few more players. If you are interested, call Julie Middleton



## Joint December Family History/ Photography Group meeting

The December meetings of the Family History and Photography Groups will be a joint venture, on the 28 December at 14.00, at the Scout Hut.

Martin Whitlock will give a presentation on making the most of old photos in a digital age, and also a short demo on photo restoration. He also hopes to collaborate with Bob Cairns to plan a “fun event”!

## Final Thoughts From the Chairman

Life seems so busy these days and I sometimes wonder how I had time to do paid work. The list of things that I want to do each year just gets longer and longer. When I took over as Chairman I planned to visit each activity group to get a feel for what we all get up to. Unfortunately that never happened, and here I am coming to the end of my term in office. However, I am pleased to see that we have gone from strength to strength and our membership has been about 180 for several years. We have also just risen to 21 activity groups. We offer a wide range of things to get involved in and I am sure that there will be more to come in the future.

I do feel that we would benefit from a general meeting each term that would allow us all to meet more of the membership. This could be a talk, lunch or just coffee and chat. It does though need some members to agree to organise it. The task is not great particularly if several friends did it together. You will get plenty of help and advice from the committee. Please do contact me if you feel that you can help us in this way. Maybe it could be your New Year's resolution! One member has already responded to an earlier request for help and I am pleased to welcome Kay Fitzgerald onto the Committee as Secretary.

I wish you and your family all the best for 2018, and hope that Ringmer U3A continues to meet your needs.

Ian



## New SUN representative Jill Collins

I am your new representative for SUN, the Sussex U3A Network [www.sussexu3anetwork.org.uk](http://www.sussexu3anetwork.org.uk) and in my role I attend four meetings annually to discover what is happening at other Sussex U3As, and to help arrange county-wide events. SUN organises excellent study days through-out the year on diverse subjects, details being included in the Ringmer

newsletter. They are very good value at £8 and are held at various locations in Sussex.

SUN also organised a very successful away day to The Weald and Downland Museum for U3A members in September this year. Full details are on the Sussex U3A Network website.

I have also recently joined the committee for the South East U3A Forum ([www.u3asites.org.uk/south-eastu3aforum/home](http://www.u3asites.org.uk/south-eastu3aforum/home)) which organises events across Sussex, Surrey and Kent. The three main events are the Conference at East Grinstead, the Summer School at the University of Chichester and workshops for U3A organisers and interest group leaders. I will report back to your committee, including information in our newsletters.

One event coming up is a summer school at the University of Chichester, 18-21 June, which can be residential or day-only. There will be 13 courses available. The price will be £150 (non-resident) to £320. The website will have more information in December, or e-mail me

## 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
Committee Member:	Lynne Booth

Key to Chart Below: Status:

NMM, needs more members

WL, waiting list

SA, space available

The WL groups are full so we would like to start another group if someone volunteers to be convenor. NMM means just that – the group really needs more members to be successful.

## Your Current Groups and Convenors

Group	Convenor	Status	Nos	Meets
Astronomy	Brian Wignall	WL	18	2 <sup>nd</sup> Wed 7.30 pm
Computer	Ian Loughborough	SA	29	New Group, 1 <sup>st</sup> Thursday 14.00
French 1	Jenny Hill	WL	10	January 9 <sup>th</sup> & 23 <sup>rd</sup> , February 6 <sup>th</sup> & 20 <sup>th</sup> , March 6 <sup>th</sup> & 20 <sup>th</sup> , April 10 <sup>th</sup> & 24 <sup>th</sup> , 10.00
French 2	Bridget Cross	WL	6	Every Thu 10.00
Family History	Bob Cairns	SA	51	Last Tues of month 14.00
Gardening Club	Jenny West Joan Wignall	WL	16	March 20 <sup>th</sup> & 17 <sup>th</sup> April 14.30
2Garden	Teresa Keen Marilyn Linehan	WL	20	No meeting January, then every 2 <sup>nd</sup> Tuesday 10.00
Intermediate French	Denise Hadley	WL	6	January 6 <sup>th</sup> & 30 <sup>th</sup> , February 13 <sup>th</sup> & 27 <sup>th</sup> , March 13 <sup>th</sup> & 27 <sup>th</sup> , April 7 <sup>th</sup> , 10.30
Knit One Chat One	Sue Hall	WL	9	1 <sup>st</sup> Friday 14.00
Knit and Natter	Linda Perrott	SA	4	1 <sup>st</sup> Friday 14.30
Mah-Jong	Julia Middleton	WL	8	Every Monday 10.00 except Bank Holiday
Out & About	Valerie King	WL	47	Planning meeting quarterly, next 1 <sup>st</sup> March
Photography	Martin Whitlock	SA	19	Last Thursday 14.00
Poetry	Elsie Bowler	WL	8	2 <sup>nd</sup> Thursday 14.15
Reader Circle	Janet Beime	WL	8	4 <sup>th</sup> Thursday 14.15
Scrabble	Julia Middleton	SA	4	3 <sup>rd</sup> Wednesday 14.00
Short Walks	Jon Elphick	NMM		New Group, meetings to be decided
Spanish	Conchita Wigley	WL	9	Mondays every fortnight, starting January 15th
Theatre Club	Ray & Jacquie Churchill	NMM	39	Own programme, next meeting January 11 <sup>th</sup> 14.30
Walking	Lynne Booth	SA	24	1 <sup>st</sup> & 3 <sup>rd</sup> Wed 1.30 pm
What the Papers Say	Sue Wilkins	SA	5	January 22 <sup>nd</sup> , February 26 <sup>th</sup> , March 26 <sup>th</sup> & April 23 <sup>rd</sup> , 14.30

## Ringmer U3A Calendar for Spring 2018

Am = Ambling  
 AS = Astronomy  
 BFr = Basic French  
 Fr = French  
 Fr2 = French  
 FH = Family History  
 Ga = Gardening

2Ga = 2 Garden  
 Kn = Knit One, Chat One  
 2Kn = Knit and Natter  
 Ma = Mah-Jong  
 OA = Out & About  
 Ph = Photography

Po = Poetry  
 PS = What the papers say  
 Re = Readers Circle  
 Sc = Scrabble  
 Sp = Spanish  
 Th = Theatre Club  
 Wa = Walking

Day	January	February	March	April
Mon	<b>1 New Year</b>			<b>2 Easter</b>
Tue	2			3
Wed	3 Wa 1.30pm			4 Wa 1.30pm
Thu	4 Fr2 10am, CG 2pm	1 Fr2 10am, CG 2pm	1 OA, Fr2 10am, CG 2pm	5 Fr2 10am, CG2pm
Fri	5 Kn 2pm, 2Kn 2.30pm	2 Kn 2pm, 2Kn 2.30pm	2 Kn 2pm, 2Kn 2.30pm	6 2Kn 2.30pm
Mon	8 Ma 10am	5, Ma 10am	5 Ma 10am	9 Sp10.30 am, Ma 10am
Tue	9 Fr1 10am	6 Fr1 10am	6 Fr1 10am	10 2Ga 10am, Fr1 10am
Wed	10 AS .30pm	7 Wa 1.30pm	7 Wa 1.30pm	11 AS 7.30pm
Thu	11 Fr2 10am, Po 2.15pm, Th 2.30pm	8 Fr2 10am, Po 2.15pm	8 Fr2 -10am, Po 2.15pm	12 Fr2 10am, Po 2.15pm
Fri	12	9	9	13
Mon	15 Ma 10am, Sp 10.30am	12 Sp 10.30 am, Ma10am	12 Sp10.30 am, Ma10am	16 Ma10am
Tue	16 InFr 10.30am	13 2Ga 10am, InFr10.30am	13 2Ga 10am, InFr10.30am	17 Ga 2.30pm, InFr 10.30am
Wed	17Wa 1.30pm, Sc 2pm	14 AS 7.30pm	14 AS 7.30pm	18 Wa 1.30pm, Sc 2pm
Thu	18 Fr2 10am	15 Fr2 10am	15 Fr2 10am	19 Fr2 10am
Fri	19	16	16	20
Mon	22 Ma 10am, PS 2.30pm	19 Ma 10am,	19 Ma 10am, Sp 10.30 am	23 Sp10.30 am, Ma 10am PS 2.30pm
Tue	23 Fr1 10am.	20 Fr1 10am	20 Fr1 10am, Ga 2.30pm	24 Fr110am, FH 2 pm
Wed	24	21 Wa 1.30pm, Sc 2pm	21 Wa 1.30pm, Sc 2pm	25
Thu	25 Fr2 10am, Re 2.15pm, Ph 2.00pm	22 Fr2 10am, Re 2.15pm, Ph 2pm	22 Fr2 10am, Re 2.15 pm	26 Fr2 10am, Re 2.15 pm, Ph 2 pm
Fri	26	23	23	27
Mon	29 Ma 10am, Sp 10.30am	26 Sp 10.30 am, Ma 10am, PS 2.30pm	26 Sp10.30 am, Ma 10am, PS 2.30pm	30 Ma10am
Tue	30 InFr 10.30am, FH 2pm	27 InFr10.30am, FH 2pm	27 IFr 10.30am, FH 2pm	
Wed	31	28	28	
Thu			29 Fr2 10am, Ph 2pm	
Fri			<b>30Easter</b>	