

Programme

October	24	Alan Jones	Life! A Library of Memories
November	28	Neil Sadler	An Odd Thing Happened Today At The Airport
December	12	Christmas Lunch	Chichester College Restaurant
January	23	Jane Glennie	Suffering Suffragettes

October

Welcome to October! The air is crisper, the leaves are turning, and there's a spark of creativity that comes with the change of seasons. As we step into this cosy month, we're excited to share new updates, ideas, and inspiration to help you make the most of Autumn.

Perhaps it's time to explore new interests. Why not check our currently running Interest Groups or consider starting up an interest group of your own? Peter Lunn is eager to run a Cryptic Crossword Group. (See his article later in this newsletter.) Is anybody interested in playing darts? This group could be, 'Where aim and friendship meet!'

Our Groups co-ordinator, Chris is only too happy to help.

(Chris Rainer) 07580197648 email christinerainer914@gmail.com

Christmas Lunch

Christmas is coming and we are looking forward to returning to Chichester College Restaurant. Thanks to all members who have submitted their menu requests and payments.

Hopefully members will eagerly join in the festive fun. Remember, let's make this day sparkle with our best Christmas looks. There will be sparkly and festive raffle prizes on offer. Don't miss out.

We await news on transportation details.

Our Regular request for volunteers

VOLUNTEERS WANTED FOR TEA DUTY FOR THE OCTOBER OPEN MEETING!

No volunteers could mean no refreshments.

I'm sure everybody who attends our monthly open meetings looks forward to and appreciates the refreshments available on arrival

The initial organisation is put in order by the committee. However, we rely on the good will of our members to offer their assistance to help prepare and lend a hand to enable this to happen. Additionally, refreshment volunteers attend the meeting for free and **will be given** a raffle ticket for the door prize.

We welcome offers of help from you all. Don't be shy! There will always be someone to support you.

Please notify Val Wright to offer your tea and coffee making skills for future meetings.

Our Usual Polite Request

Please can attendees of our open meetings, continue to remain respectful when speakers are addressing the audience and refrain from individual conversations. Thank-You.

Current Interest Groups

Amblers	9.30 Weekly, Wednesdays	Music appreciation	2.00 pm 2nd Monday of the month
Bus Explorers	10.00 a. m. 2 nd Tuesday of the month.	NB With regret, this group is not suitable for those with mobility issues and/or need to use “walkers” to enable them to walk.	
Computer	By arrangement	Sunday Lunch	12.30 1 st Sunday of the month
Family History	By arrangement	Topical discussion	10.00 a.m. 4 th Monday of the month
Film & Theatre	10.30a.m. 3 rd Tuesday of the month	World cuisine:	12.30 p.m. 3 rd Thursday of the month.
History	10a.m. 4 th Tuesday of the month	True Crime	2.00 p.m. 1 st Monday of the month

Please note: It is not the role of committee members or the groups co-ordinator to begin, lead or host groups. Members must take responsibility for this.

If a specific group is “full” that is, no additional members can be accommodated in a leader’s home etc then interested members can begin a second group. Members will then be emailed and a notice placed in the newsletter to inform others of new groups.

Anyone wishing to join an interest group must first contact Chris Rainer the Group Coordinator who will then contact group leader/coordinator to verify spaces in the group.

(Chris Rainer) 07580197648 email christinerainer914@gmail.com

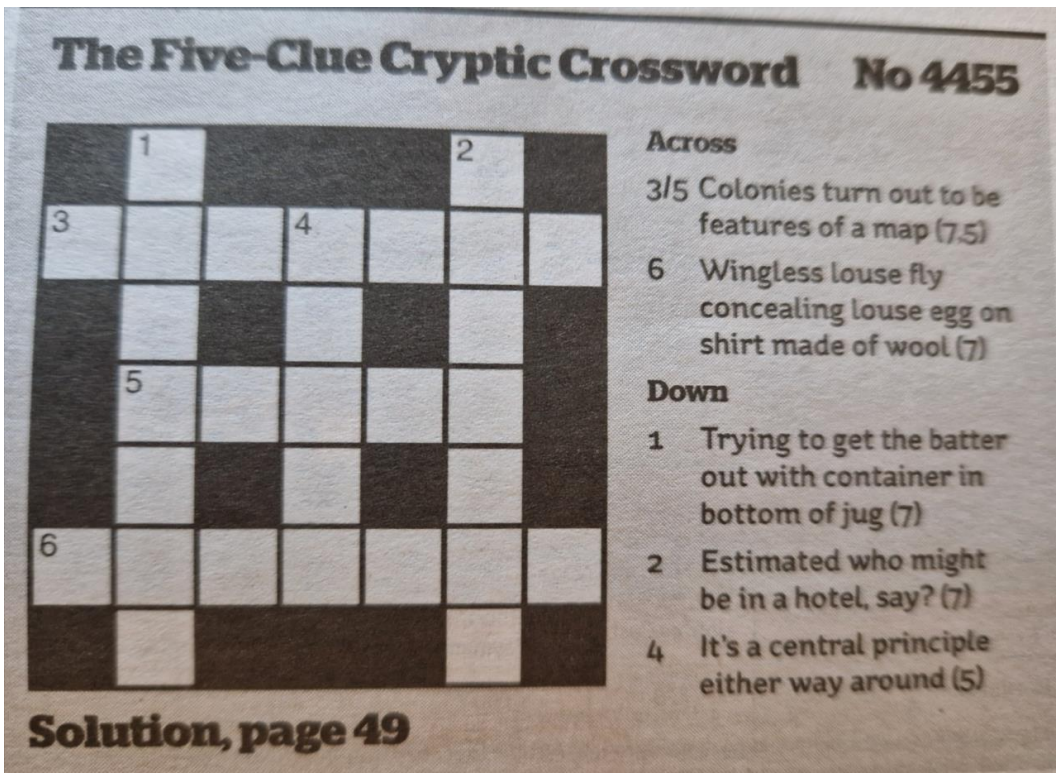
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NEW GROUP - CRYPTIC CROSSWORDS AND SUDOKU

If you'd like to learn how to complete cryptic crosswords, then why not join our new Cryptic Crosswords and Sudoku Group and learn all the 'tricks of the trade'.

Day and time of meeting to be discussed.

Come along and share your skills with us. Please contact Chris Rainer for joining details. PL



True Crime Interest Group

In the talk given at the September Open Meeting, we were told that the first murderer in the UK, to be convicted by DNA profiling in 1988, was a baker, named Colin Pitchfork. This conviction was due to the in-depth research by British geneticist, Sir Alec Jeffreys. It seemed fitting, therefore to take a more detailed look into this case, now referred to as, 'One of the most important criminal cases in modern forensic history.'



In **1983**, 15-year-old **Lynda Mann** was raped and strangled near the village of Narborough. Despite a police investigation, no suspect was identified.

Three years later, in **1986**, another 15-year-old girl, **Dawn Ashworth**, was found raped and murdered in a similar manner in the nearby village of Enderby. The similarities suggested a single offender.



Around this time, **Dr. Alec Jeffreys**, a geneticist at the University of Leicester, had developed **DNA profiling**, a revolutionary new technique that could identify individuals by their genetic code. Police obtained DNA samples from both crime scenes and found they were from the same man — but not from their initial suspect, who was later cleared through DNA testing (the first exoneration using DNA evidence).

To find the real killer, authorities conducted an unprecedented **mass DNA screening** of over **5,000 local men**. Pitchfork, aware he might be caught, persuaded a co-worker to give a blood sample in his place. This deception was eventually uncovered when someone overheard and reported the scheme. Pitchfork was arrested in **1987** and, after testing his DNA, police confirmed it matched both murders.

In **1988**, Colin Pitchfork **pleaded guilty** to two counts of rape and murder and two counts of indecent assault. He was sentenced to **life imprisonment** with a minimum term of **30 years** (later reduced).



After more than three decades in prison, Pitchfork was **released on parole in 2021**, sparking public outrage. However, within months, he was **recalled to prison** for breaching his license conditions, citing concerns about his behaviour and risk to the public. Watch newspaper headlines and TV news, as a parole hearing postponed from May 2025, is to be rescheduled any day soon.

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Amblers

We're a resilient group and those not in plaster, hospital, on a cruise or in Guatemala continue to meet and amble around the Selsey area. We marvel at how nature changes and developments to properties. Whatever the weather, there's always a welcome cup of tea at the end of our stroll. We may not move fast, but we always get there - eventually.

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BOOKMARKS

Bundles of bookmarks advertising our u3a were put on tables at the September open meeting. Please can members distribute them to friends and neighbours to try to promote membership.

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Emergency Contact Details

Please can all members check their emergency contact details and let Janet Topping know of **any** changes. This is especially important for quick communication in an emergency, providing accurate information for decision making, preventing sensitive information sharing and ensuring the right people can be reached quickly. In addition a second emergency contact may prove useful if the first contact is unavailable.

Outdated information can waste valuable time if emergency responders are involved.

Janet's email address is: jmtopping@aol.com

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Stop Press

Iain from Bognor u3a has asked me to circulate the following information:

Bognor Regis are taking a five day trip to Southern Belgium in May 2026
[yes I know it is a long way off] staying in Namur and visiting the surrounding area , plus TWO River Meuse Cruises.
Cost a mere £685!
Full details on our website or from me Iain at

<lesgrionettes@yahoo.co.uk>..... don't hesitate and miss out!

Bognor has regular trips to Northern Europe, from what I remember Normandy was one.

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OPEN MEETING

Friday 25th September 2025 at 2.00 pm in the Selsey Centre

RECORD

Attendance: **46 members** **6 visitors**

1. **Welcome:**

Ronnie welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. **Notices:**

As we approach Remembrance Sunday we have again arranged for a wreath to be laid. Last year Hilary kindly volunteered and we are looking for another volunteer this year. (Subsequent to the meeting Keith Wheway volunteered).

A new interest group – Cryptic Crosswords led by Peter Lunn is trying to get off the ground so if anyone is interested in joining this group please talk to Peter after the meeting.

We have also put copies of our new u3a bookmarks on the tables so please take them and pass them on.

Finally, please remember the Christmas lunch. Deposits or full amounts can be paid today or left at the Town Hall.

To begin the meeting Karen Pirks and Janet Sorrell from the Community Care Shop will briefly talk about the services available.

3. **Community Care Shop**

The Selsey Care Shop aims to help all ages, from children acting as carers to the very elderly. The support provided aims to help those of any age with some of life's common problems.

The Buddy scheme has volunteer drivers to take patients for hospital appointments. Get reimbursed for petrol so no cost to yourself so if interested in becoming a volunteer please contact the Care Shop.

4. **Speaker:**

Unfortunately, our original speaker had to cancel but at almost the 12th hour, Jo Azulay agreed to talk to us about her True Crime group and give us a little taster of what happens on the 1st Monday of each month.

Jo explained that cold case files are criminal acts that have not been solved but are still open. In the past much evidence was circumstantial with no right to reply from the accused. DNA profiling was discovered in 1984 and the first conviction using this evidence was in 1986. She took us through two cases:- The Starlight Disco fire in 1981 outside Dublin where 48 people died, over 200 were injured and in spite of blocked exits and many flammable materials inside, the owners were found not negligible and even got an award for compensation. Arson was the first judgement but in April 2024 a new inquest declared the victims were unlawfully killed although no prosecution has yet followed.

The second case is that of Joan Woodhouse. Joan worked in London, but her body was found in Arundel and due to uncovered evidence, the police put her down as a “good time girl” although it was known she lived a very strict and religious life. Although a local man was charged there was no conviction and the case remains unsolved. As there was concern regarding the dogmatic approach of the first investigation, a second investigation followed with no new evidence revealed. Finally the family opened a private prosecution but the prosecution evidence was very flimsy and the suspect was released. The presumption was that he was guilty but got away with the crime.

Jill thanked Jo on behalf of us all for her very interesting talk.

5. Quiz answers:

Jo gave us the answers to the Quiz “When things sometimes go wrong.”

6. Admission draw:

The Prize was won by a visitor, Stephen Mitchell.

7. Raffle draw:

Tickets were drawn and all prizes were claimed.

8. Next Meeting:

Ronnie reminded members that our next Open Meeting will be 24th October, and the talk will be on “**Life! A Library of Memories.**”

At the Open Meeting on 28th November, the talk will be entitled “**An odd thing happened today at the airport**”.

Ronnie thanked everyone for their attendance and invited them to pack up their chairs.

Contact Information

Selsey u3a Telephone number:	Membership:	Janet Topping	0778 304 0407
Groups Coordinator:		Chris Rainer	0758 0197 648
Newsletter:		Jo Azulay	joanneazulay195@aol.com