

Programme

January 23rd	Jane Glennie	Suffering Suffragettes
February 27 th	Wendy Page	Selsey on the Home Front part 2
March 27 th	TBA	
April 24 th	AGM Plus Robert Smith	London Slave Owners
May 22 nd	William Avonell	Weather Lore
June 26 th	TBA	
July 24 th	Sophie Duffy	
August	No meeting	Alternative event TBD
September 25 th	No meeting	Possible trip TBD
October 23 rd	TBA	
November 27 th	TBA	
December 11 th	No meeting	Christmas Lunch

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January

A belated Happy New Year to all our members. Let's hope 2026 will be kind to us all.

Shipping containers keep washing ashore, like oversized, rust-coloured beach sculptures nobody asked for. Locals wonder if this is some avant-garde public art and seagulls show zero respect. Recovery efforts continue as councils coordinate cleanups. Meanwhile, volunteer groups with names like, 'The Selsey Beach Litter Ninjas' have been helping tackle the debris with heroic determination. East Beach carpark hosts the official clean-up operation: More flashing lights than Blackpool and high-viz jackets in every shade known to man.

Elsewhere in the world, countries are being invaded, politicians are defecting and Luke Littler, aka 'The teenager ?? who turns grown darts pros into nervous wrecks' defended his World Darts Championship title at Alexandra Palace.

All this and Easter eggs are already in the shops!

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Just a short reminder that the Care Shop and their volunteers are there for all of us should we need them. Their help includes a range of welfare and safeguarding issues, including car sharing, plus help with all sorts of technology, banking, tax assessment, writing letters. If you have a problem, The Care Shop, is there for you!

Membership Fees

Membership renewal is due by the end of March. It would be very helpful if you could do so sooner rather than later. We are keeping fees at £15.00 (£11.00 for dual members) for another year. Janet will be available to collect cash or cheques at Open meetings.

Alternatively to:

Selsey u3a
Sort Code 60 - 05 - 24
Account number 21669201

Please put your name in the reference box.

Christmas Lunch

Thirty one members booked the lunch in the restaurant at Chichester College. The restaurant is larger than the café and better decorated.

Once again the menu provided plenty of choice and all meals were preordered. The meals were prepared, and served, by students attending the catering course and enjoyed by all. Each place setting had a small decorative bag which included a party hat and paper impregnated with flower seeds. Takeaway boxes were available for those who were unable to eat the three courses or unable to attend.

A seasonal quiz in four parts, prepared by Jo, was available on the tables. The final round involved the identification of tunes, played by Ronnie on a “Kazoo.” The raffle raised £59.00 and all prizes awarded.

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Please note that doors open for admittance at 1.30 pm. Why not bring along friends who are not yet members of Selsey u3a. Who knows? They might like to join. Guest entrance is £3 at present, a bargain and Jane Glennie’s talk, ‘Suffering Suffragettes’ is certain to be very entertaining.

VOLUNTEERS WANTED FOR TEA DUTY FOR THE FEBRUARY 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.

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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.

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Committee Request.

We are aware that telecommunications providers are offering competitive deals. The committee is keen to ensure members’ contact details are up to date. This includes notifying us if you have changed your emergency contact. 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. **Outdated information can waste valuable time if emergency responders are involved.**

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

Thank-you.

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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.

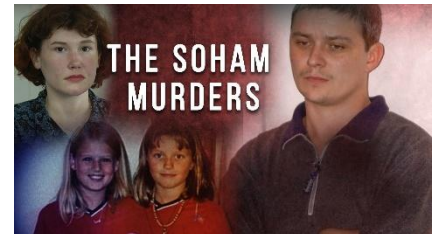
(Chris Rainer) 07580197648 email christinerainer914@gmail.com

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True Crime Interest Group

The True Crime interest group met in December. The case we covered was very familiar to us all, yet we were all shocked as we found out about the case in more details.

On August 4th, 2002, ten-year-old schoolgirls Holly Wells and Jessica Chapman disappeared in Soham, Cambridgeshire. Ian Huntley, the school caretaker of the local secondary school said in an interview that he was probably, ‘The last friendly face they saw.’ His girlfriend, Maxine Carr, who worked as a teaching assistant at the girls’ school, initially provided Huntley with a false alibi. After a massive investigation, involving a reconstruction of the girls’ last known



movements, CCTV footage and one of the largest and most intensive missing-children inquiries in the UK, their bodies were discovered on 17 August in a ditch near Lakenheath. Huntley was convicted of their murders in 2003 and sentenced to a whole-life term, while Carr was jailed for perverting the course of justice. The case exposed serious flaws in child protection and police information-sharing, leading to reforms such as stricter background checks and the Richard Inquiry, which strengthened safeguarding procedures for children across the UK.

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True Crime Interest Group

The True Crime Interest group met at the beginning of January. Our first case of the year featured, ‘The Dominici Affair.’

On 4 August 1952 a British family, Sir Jack Drummond, his wife Anne, were found shot dead, and their daughter Elizabeth, bludgeoned to death, in a layby near the village of Lurs in Provence, France, while on a camping trip. The family had stopped near the Dominici family farm, owned by Gaston Dominici, a local farmer, who became the prime suspect. Gaston Dominici was arrested, tried, and controversially convicted of the murders in 1957, though he always maintained his innocence. The physical evidence linking Gaston

Dominici to the murders was minimal and often contradictory. For example, eyewitness accounts were unclear, and forensic analysis at the time was limited. Some evidence suggested the possibility of other perpetrators. The case drew enormous media attention due to its mystery, the isolated rural setting, and doubts about the evidence and trial.

The trial was criticized for procedural flaws. Gaston Dominici's defence argued that he was not given a fair chance to contest the charges, and there were questions about how the police handled the investigation. It remains one of France's most famous unsolved murder controversies.

The group had many questions. To name a few: Were the murders random or targeted? Jack Drummond was a British biochemist, was there any connection to his work or just a tragic coincidence? Could political or espionage angles have played a role? (He was a high-profile scientist during wartime!)

At the end of the session, we wrote down our own verdicts and we wait to see the results at our next meeting. Thanks to Simon for an excellent afternoon.

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Amblers

On 14th January the Amblers went on one of their "bus trips".

After catching the 51 into Chichester we then caught the bus over to Bognor where we had a much needed "pit stop" for tea/coffee at the Clock House Cafe in the High Street.



Well refreshed and ready for some exercise we had a good bracing walk along the sea front making our way to The Friary Arms, Shripney Road. We had booked a table in order to enjoy a celebratory, albeit slightly late due to previous weather conditions and holidays, group Christmas lunch.



As usual at the Friary Arms the food was delicious, all of us enjoying our individual choice of meal before heading back to catch the bus (as it had started to rain and walking was out of the question!) back into Chichester and then onwards to Selsey.

All members of the group agreeing it had been a good day out with plenty of exercise as well as good company and food...VW

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NEW YEAR, NEW GROUP - CRYPTIC CROSSWORDS AND SUDOKU

It's 2026, so, 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

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World Cuisine



January 2026: Lunch at Smith & Western, Chichester. Generous portions, classic burgers, and bold, Western-themed décor throughout. Even ordering lightly still results in a very filling meal. It's unapologetically indulgent and well executed for what it aims to be. A solid choice if you're hungry and in the mood for something hearty.

OPEN MEETING

Friday 28th November 2025 at 2.00 pm in the Selsey Centre

RECORD

Attendance: **34 members** **4 visitors**

1. Welcome:

Ronnie welcomed everyone, including our visitors, to the meeting.

2. Notices:

Christmas lunch on Friday 12 December. The coach will leave the Selsey Centre at 11.30 promptly. If parking at the Centre, please use the rear spaces.

3. Speaker:

Unfortunately, our original speaker had to cancel due to family illness, so after several frantic choices including quizzes or bingo had been ruled out, Jo and Ronnie have concocted a Last-Minute Emergency Talk entitled **Life's Little Misadventures**.

Jo started with stories of leaving golf shoes and school homework books on the car roof before driving off. She remembered how at 6 years old she had a water pistol ring that was tried out at the school assembly which was followed by a visit to the headmaster's study! School prefects were allowed into the staff room to set out coffee and biscuits for the break, but they got discovered eating the biscuits and jumping on the chairs. At secondary school she and her friends hated cross-country running so hid in the bushes then joined in later. Unfortunately on one occasion they lost track of time, two of her friends won the race and then had to represent the school at County level. Ronnie remembered as a child when their flat was being redecorated she had tried to "help" but her efforts landed her in trouble instead. She and her friends also got locked in Battersea Park and had to climb over a 6ft gate to get out. None of them ever told their parents of the incident but they made sure they never got locked in again.

As adults they organised school trips to Euro Disney but forgot to shut the front door behind them. Fortunately they weren't burgled and a good neighbour ensured the door was closed. Jo went to a cousin's wedding and managed to burn a hole in her veil. Both travelled to Amsterdam but failed to find either the red-light district or the wacky-baccy stores, but they did find a brewery. The latest incident was on their recent trip to Guatemala when Ronnie's rollator was rendered useless by the cobbled streets and spent the entire holiday in the hotel. To add insult to injury it wasn't loaded onto the plane at Miami and finally arrived back in Selsey by special delivery.

Several other members also shared some of their stories.

Kathleen thanked both Jo and Ronnie on behalf of us all for their entertaining talk.

4. Quiz answers:

Jo gave us the answers to the Quiz on Travel.

5. Admission draw:

The Prize of a £10 voucher from T&T Fruits was won by Chris Rainer.

6. Raffle draw:

Tickets were drawn and all prizes were claimed.

7. Next Meeting:

Ronnie reminded members that there is no December Meeting but our next Open Meeting will be 23rd January and the talk will be **“Suffering Suffragettes.”**

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

Meeting closed at 3.15pm

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Contact Information

Selsey u3a Telephone number:	Membership:	Janet Topping	0778 304 0407
Groups Coordinator:		Chris Rainer	0758 0197 648
Newsletter:		Jo Azulay	<u>joanneazulav195@aol.com</u>