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This Month's Meeting

Thursday, 5th April, 2012  
2.00 p.m. - 4.00 p.m.

**Zena Skinner**  
Iconic T.V. Star of the  
50's and 60's

Rayleigh U3A Website – [www.rayleighu3a.org.uk](http://www.rayleighu3a.org.uk)  
Registered Charity No. 1134068

Rayleigh Women

**GROUP ACTIVITY CALENDAR – BEING UPDATED APRIL – please check with group leaders**

Mondays	1st Monday	Art (Watercolours); Ceramics; Family History 1; Laptop Computing; Visiting Essex Churches 4
	2nd Monday	Crib Club (evenings); Visiting Essex Churches 1
	3rd Monday	Visiting Essex Churches 2 & 3
	4th Monday	Canasta (evenings)
Tuesdays	1st Tuesday	Birdwatching; Digital Photography
	2nd Tuesday	Midweek Dining 2; Tenpin Bowling; Wine Appreciation (evening)
	3rd Tuesday	Birdwatching; Dining Group 2; Singing for Health & Pleasure; Tai Chi
	4th Tuesday	Dining Group 1
Wednesdays	1st Wednesday	Golf (TBC); Walking 1; Drama
	2nd Wednesday	Archaeology; Golf (TBC); Scrabble
	3rd Wednesday	Crib Club; Drama; Local History; Real Ale; Visiting Essex Churches 5
	4th Wednesday	Calligraphy; Family History 2; Music Appreciation; Serendipity 3
Thursdays	1st Thursday	Serendipity 2; <b>U3A Monthly Meeting</b>
	2nd Thursday	Acoustic Guitar; Theatre 1
	3rd Thursday	Scrapbooking
	4th Thursday	Art Appreciation; Book Reading; Dining Group 1; Essex Social History 1; Family History 3; Tai Chi
Fridays	1st Friday	Keep Fit; Latin; Yoga
	2nd Friday	Keep Fit; Yoga
	3rd Friday	Keep Fit; Latin; Yoga
	4th Friday	Keep Fit; Walking 2; Yoga
Saturdays		Currently no groups
Sundays	2nd Sunday	Sunday Lunch 1
	3rd Sunday	Sunday Lunch 2

Please note dates may vary more with some groups than others, particularly with trips or outdoor activities.  
Check with Group Leader for Gardening, Golf, Serendipity, Visiting Historic Places & Theatre (usually Fridays).

**PLEASE ALWAYS CHECK THE DATE OF YOUR NEXT MEETING WITH YOUR GROUP LEADER**

## FROM THE CHAIR

Dear Members,

Our April meeting is our 5th Annual General Meeting when members have the chance to meet and approve the members of the Committee for 2012/13. After the formality of the AGM we will enjoy a talk from a well-known Chef from television Zena Skinner, entitled 'Wrens to Retirement'.

The Committee is looking forward to welcoming new members to our U3A at the New Members Coffee Morning to be held on Wednesday, 11th April in Holy Trinity Hall. This meeting is an opportunity for them to find out more about The University of the Third Age, to meet Committee Members and some Group Leaders plus a chance to meet other new members and make friends

You will find a copy of the Income and Expenditure Accounts with this newsletter which has been examined by an Independent Accounts Examiner for the year ending 31st December, 2011. A copy of the Minutes of the AGM held on 7th April, 2011 can be found on the Notice Board at the meeting for members to read. Copies will be available for any member who requests it from Secretary, Maureen Hayes. Members will be asked to approve these minutes at the AGM.

The AGM will also be when I step down from the role as your Chairman after four years in the post. The U3A has enhanced my retirement years, given me the opportunity to use the skills and expertise I gained in my working life and enabled me to make many friends and join groups that have given me great pleasure.

I look forward to becoming a Group Leader and shall also enjoy taking an active part to help organise events as part of a Social Events Committee."

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the Committee Members over those four years who have helped and supported me also the Group Leaders who are the core of our U3A. Not forgetting the volunteers, for without their help we could not function. Last but not least, thank you to all the members who gave me the opportunity to represent you as your Chairman.

I am sure you will join me in welcoming the new Chairman and Committee who will represent you in the coming years.

Sincerely,

*Maureen - Chair, Rayleigh U3A*

## GROUPS/GROUP LEADERS

Acoustic Guitar	Vera Ward	01268 775040	Lap Top Computing 2		
Antiques/Collectables				Claire Dawson	01268 786918
	Sheila Read	01268 778926	Latin	Dave Filby	01268 770023
Archaeology	Ian Haynes	01268 779749	Luncheon Group 1		
Art Appreciation	Barbara Curry	01268 775460		Margaret Bristow	
Art I - Water Colours			Music Appreciation		
	Sylvia Lester	01268 774201		Les Geales	01702 206966
Bird Watching	Laurie Denney	01702 615370	Poetry tba (on hold)		
Book Reading	Doreen Blake	01268 774871	Real Ale Group	Dave Filby	01268 770023
Book Reading 2	Marian Allen	01268 743339	Rummikub	Linda Tull	01702 478649
Calligraphy	Irene Tyson	01268 742942	Scrabble	Margaret Bristow	
Canasta	Chris & Dave Towell		Serendipity 1	Linda & David Clarke	
		01268 528937			01702 204559
Ceramics	Brenda Perrott	01268 779590	Serendipity 2	Pam & Keith Dunt	01702 201747
Crib Club	David Sheffield	01268 743586	Serendipity 3	Pat & John Pomfrett	
Digital Photography					01702 230253
	Brian Kersey	01268 743959	Serendipity 4	Sue & Mike Cairns,	01268 743497
Discussions on Points of View				Maureen Hayes	01702 473110
	John Edwards	01268 747208		& Peter Britton	01268 777525
Drama	Joanne Baker	01268 742252	Singing for Health & Pleasure		
Family History Beginners				Marjorie Sale	01702 346175
	Terry Taylor	01268 786405	Sunday Lunch Club		
Family History 1	Sue Taylor	01268 477720		Maureen Goss	01268 777681
Family History 2	Pete Huntly	01268 777398	Tenpin Bowling	Alan Hudson	01702 202158
Family History 3	Barbara Dale	01268 772018		Bob Wren	01702 525311
Flower Arranging	Irene Stokes	01268 774564	Theatre	Jean Mackenzie	01268 510570
Gardening Slide Shows				Helena Maxwell	01268 772061
	Linda Clarke	01702 204559	Theatre 2	Sandra Wilson	01268 775184
Gardening (Propagating)			V.I.P.	Liz & Laurie Denney	
	Harry Brickwood	01268 743838			01702 615370
Golf	Kay Nevin	01268 780855	Visiting Essex Churches:		
History - Local	Heather Flemings	01702 204943	Group 1	Marian Allen	01268 743339
	/ David Fryer-Kelsey		Group 2	Elizabeth Baker	01702 331166
		01702 203455	Group 3	Brenda Perrott	01268 779590
History - Essex Social			Group 4	Jan Churchill	01702 510296
Group 1	David Carlton	01268 452791	Group 5 (J)	Maureen Turner	01268 750967
Group 2	John Passfield	01702 203980	Walking 1	Roger Baker	01702 331166
Group 3	Joan Anderson	01268 774985	Walking 2	Les Poole	01268 773174
Industrial Awareness			Wine Appreciation		
	Janet Carlton	01268 452791		Harry Brickwood	01268 743838
Keep Fit	Janet Carlton	01268 452791	Yoga	Suzanne Middleton	
Knit & Natter	Doreen Oliver	01268 743082			01702 557389
Lap Top Computing 1			(J) = Joint with Rayleigh Grange		
	Frank Bodey	01268 733616			

## **DATES FOR YOUR DIARY**

<b>Wednesday, 11th April</b>	<b>New Members' Meeting – 10-12am</b> Holy Trinity Main Hall
<b>Friday, 8th June</b>	<b>Royal Variety Party Night £12.50</b> Tickets now on sale
<b>Mon 17th – Fri 21st Sept.</b>	<b>Holiday to Cheshire &amp; North Wales</b> Organiser: Fred Carter, 01268 766149 <a href="mailto:efandicart@btinternet.com">efandicart@btinternet.com</a>

## **COMMITTEE CONTACTS**

*Chairman:- Maureen Huntly - 01268 777398*  
*e-mail - [maureenhuntly@btinternet.com](mailto:maureenhuntly@btinternet.com)*

*Membership Secretary:- Doreen Blake - 01268 774871*  
*e-mail - [rblake@uk2.net](mailto:rblake@uk2.net)*

*Group Co-ordinator:- Sue Taylor - 07791477720*  
*e-mail - [susan.taylor106@tesco.net](mailto:susan.taylor106@tesco.net)*

*Secretary:- Maureen Hayes - 01702 473110*  
*e-mail - [mhayesghayes@talktalk.net](mailto:mhayesghayes@talktalk.net)*

*Newsletter editors:- Janet & David Carlton - 01268 452791*  
*e-mail - [janetcarlton@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:janetcarlton@blueyonder.co.uk)*

## **GROUP CO-ORDINATOR'S NEWS**

It has been an excellent four years for me being part of the Rayleigh U3A. Setting up all the Groups has been a pleasurable although sometimes slightly challenging task. Having said that I have enjoyed every minute of it and have made so many friends along the way. I will be sad to step down from the role of Group Coordinator but due to family commitments taking up so much of my time it is something I have to do. However, I will be involved in other ways and hope to enjoy being part of other groups in the future.

I would like to add a big THANK YOU to all the Group Leaders and Committee Members who have not only supported me during this time but have also become good friends and I wish you all success for the future.

I will be passing all information concerning new groups, waiting lists etc. to whoever takes over this role and I am sure over the coming months you will see more new groups starting up.

Best wishes to you all

**Sue Taylor**

## **NEWS FROM OUR GROUP LEADERS**

### **TENPIN BOWLING**

Our last meeting was held on 21st February and our winners were Graham Godfrey, John Capel and Maureen Goss. The new Lowest Score Trophy went to Brian Dennis.

Winners for March were Sid Sharod (winner for the first time), John Capel and Lilian Dennis. The Lowest Score Trophy went to Jane Godfrey. Numbers for March were slightly down but everyone had an enjoyable afternoon. The next meeting will be on Tuesday, 17th April at CJs in Hockley at 2.00pm.

New members are always welcome and if you would like to know more about the Group please ring me.

**Alan Hudson – 01702 202158**

### **THEATRE GROUP**

On 19th February, some of our members spent a very enjoyable evening of music by the Russian State Symphony Orchestra.

As a contrast, on 23rd February a large group went to the Palace Theatre, Westcliff for the annual staging of the Agatha Christie Theatre Group's play this year, namely "Murder on the Nile". With some fine acting from well-known actors, the play kept us guessing until the end.

We spent a very pleasant musical evening at the Cliffs Pavilion on 29th February listening to Hayley Westernra who is currently on tour with her band and the London Chamber Orchestra. As an extra bonus Hayley also had with her a young Italian tenor, Gianluca Paganelli, who sang solos and duets with Hayley. Both have such fine voices. It was a wonderful evening.

On 10th March a small group went to Chelmsford to see "The Merry Widow". It was wonderful singing by top professionals and was a great night out, albeit a trifle risqué at times!

Tickets have been booked by Sandra for members to see "She Stoops to Conquer" on the 20th March. This is a filmed performance at Southend by the National Theatre.

There are two tickets available for our annual coach trip to The Mill at Sonning. Please contact either Jean or Helena if you are interested.

Seven seats have been booked by Jean to see "Acorn Antiques" at the Palace Theatre on Saturday, 16th June. This should be an amusing afternoon.

Enough interest has been shown to book to see "Billy Elliot" at the Victoria Palace Theatre in London. The suggested date is October 25th. Tickets will cost in the region of £22.50. Anyone interested in going to see this, please contact Jean a.s.a.p. Further details will be given at the next meeting on 5th April.

Sandra has booked "The Wizard of Oz" at the London Palladium for ten people in June.

**Jean Mackenzie**, 750 Kings Park, Creek Road, Canvey Island, SS8 8QS  
Tel: 01268 510570 or 07719800733  
E-mail: [j.mackenzie123@btinternet.com](mailto:j.mackenzie123@btinternet.com)

**Helena Maxwell**, 5 Warwick Close, Rayleigh, SS6 8PH  
Tel: 01268 772061 or 0795257490  
E-mail: [maxbox@talktalk.net](mailto:maxbox@talktalk.net)

**Sandra Wilson**, 1 Katherine Close, Rayleigh, SS6 8UH  
Tel: 01268 772061 or call 01268 775184  
E-mail: [alan-sandra@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:alan-sandra@hotmail.co.uk)

## LOCAL HISTORY

Get all the latest details of the group on our blog

<http://lhgu3arayleigh.blogspot.com>

**Wed 18th, April** sees us at the Chelmsford Museum in Oaklands Park. This contains the Bright Sparks exhibition about Chelmsford industry, also the story of Chelmsford from the Ice Age showing how people lived. Then there is the Essex Regiment Museum showing its history from its origins in 1741. All housed in a beautiful Victorian house in 12 acres of park. Option to adjourn to Hylands Hall afterwards for tea/coffee.

£1 per head. 10.30am onwards.

**Coach Visit to Lavenham and Sudbury on Wednesday, 19th September 2012**

U3A members who are not in our group are welcome. The coach will deliver us to Lavenham where tea/coffee is available at a cost of £2.25 in the Guildhall. Our guides will take us round the town and to the Church. The coach will then take us to Sudbury where you may explore, shop and eat to your heart's content.

The cost is £15.00 per person which covers the coach fare, a gratuity for the coach driver, donation to the Church and the guides' fee. If you want tea/coffee at Lavenham there is an additional charge of £2.25.

If you are interested please collect a reservation form from our table at the next meeting on 5th April.

Book visits with Heather Flemmings at monthly U3A meetings, email [heatherfl@lineone.net](mailto:heatherfl@lineone.net) or phone 01702 204943.

Pay David Fryer-Kelsey at monthly U3A meetings or post to 113 Greensward Lane, Hockley, and Essex, SS5 5HS. Cheques made payable to Rayleigh U3A please.

**David Fryer-Kelsey – 01702 203455**

**Heather Flemmings - 01702 204943**

## VISIT TO BARNARD'S FARM

Hullbridge U3A have invited Thorpe Bay and Rayleigh U3As to join them at Barnard's Farm which is situated on the A128, Brentwood Road, West Horndon on Wednesday, 2nd May.

Normally the farm only opens twice a year under the the National Gardens Scheme but they do occasionally accommodate special groups. Entrance is £6 on the day and the money goes to an NGS Charity which aids nursing care.

There is much on offer at the farm so if you are interested in visiting Barnard's Farm on this occasion and would like to know more please add your name/telephone number/e-mail address to the list on the Members' Information Table or see Terry Gouldsmith at the monthly meeting.

**Terry Gouldsmith – Events Co-ordinator**

**Telephone: 01268 5652803**

**e-mail: [terrygouldsmith@live.co.uk](mailto:terrygouldsmith@live.co.uk)**

*Other visits and events are being considered for the future and you will be notified as soon as more details are known*

Please send items for inclusion in the May Newsletter to:-

**[janetcarlton@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:janetcarlton@blueyonder.co.uk)**

**Janet Carlton  
35 Curlew Crescent,  
Basildon, SS16 5HR  
Tel:01268 452791**

**To arrive no later than  
Wednesday, 14th April, 2012**

### NATIONAL OFFICE

19 East Street, Bromley, Kent  
BR1 1QH

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Resource Centre: e-mail:  
[resource.centre@u3a.org.uk](mailto:resource.centre@u3a.org.uk)

## This month's guest speaker

### **Zena Skinner**

#### "Wrens to Retirement"

Following our Fourth AGM we have the iconic TV star of the 50's/60's Zena Skinner

The original TV cook will tell us about her experiences on 'joining up' during the war until her retirement following a successful TV career



## **VIP Group**

Arrangements have been made to visit Eltham Palace on Wednesday, 11th July. Tickets will be £15 and will be on sale at the May monthly meeting.

Built for millionaires, Eltham Palace reflects the glamour of 1930s fashionable society. Erected in 1936 by the Courtauld family you can admire one of the finest Art Deco influenced homes in the country. Take time to sit and watch some home movie footage of the Courtaulds entertaining and enjoying their wonderful home.

Visit the Great Hall built in medieval times as part of the original Eltham Palace, the

boyhood home of Henry VIII. Plus there are 19 acres of grounds to explore.

There is a small restaurant at Eltham Palace (40 seats) or you can enjoy a picnic in the grounds. In the afternoon we will take a short trip to Greenwich where you will have free time. The price includes entry, audio guides to Eltham Palace and gratuities.

<u>Pickups</u>	Kirby's depot	8.50 am
	Webster's Way	8.55 am
	Rayleigh Station	9.00 am

**Laurie Denney - 01702 615370**

## **HEADLINES AND ACTIVITIES**

### Front Cover

As you are aware our Chairman - Maureen Huntly and Group Co-ordinator - Sue Taylor, are stepping down from their posts. Both Maureen and Sue were members of the original Rayleigh U3A Steering Group and have worked tirelessly to bring our U3A to its present high standard. I'm sure you would all like to join the Committee in thanking them for all they have done for Rayleigh U3A. Maureen and Sue are both looking forward to forming new Groups as Group Leaders in the future and intend to take an active part as volunteers at social and other events taking place throughout the year.

Thank you Maureen and Sue.

### Our guest speaker next month is Gordon Thorburn

#### "From Pen to Paper"

Gordon is a unique Author. Some of his works include:-

A book about a special police dog called Cassius. One about Americans who flew with RAF Bomber Command in WW2 called 'No Need to Die' and he has recently finished a book on vegetable gardening entitled 'Classic Allotments'.



## **SECRETARY'S NOTES**

You may be interested in the following items/events taking place shortly and notified to me by the U3A Trust. Full details on any of these items can be found on the U3A Trust website at [www.u3a.org.uk](http://www.u3a.org.uk) or feel free to telephone me on 01702 473110 or email [mhayesghayes@talktalk.net](mailto:mhayesghayes@talktalk.net) to find out more. Full information will also be displayed on the Secretary's Notice Board at the Monthly meeting.

**The Rhythms of Life** - How Our Biological Clock Ticks. – 22nd May, 2012 – London - Tickets £14.50.

**U3A Photography Competition** – The theme is “Seasonal Britain” Cities and Hamlets; Land and Sea; Parks and Gardens; Flora and Fauna etc.... throughout the year. Closing date 8th May, 2012.

I have a copy of the Minutes of the 28th Annual General Meeting of the Third Age Trust which was held in Nottingham on September 18th, 2011. If anyone would like a copy please contact me.

Our own AGM will be held on the 5th April – The minutes will be posted on the Notice Board but if anyone would like a copy of the Minutes of the 2011 AGM please let me know.

**Maureen Hayes – Secretary – 01702 473110**

### **U3A ITEMS FOR SALE**

U3A Notelets (pack of 10)	£2.00 per pack
U3A Badges	£1.00 each
U3A Key rings	£1.50 each

These items can be bought from Doreen Blake,  
Membership Secretary at Monthly Meetings.

## **ROYAL VARIETY PARTY NIGHT**

**As announced last month, we shall be holding a red, white and blue themed event entitled Royal Variety Party Night to celebrate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee. This will take place at Mill Hall on Friday, 8th June, 2012 from 7.30pm until 11.30pm and will include entertainment from our Drama and Singing and Groups, Hadleigh U3A Ukulele and Singing Groups, plus John Pomfrett, our very own Member of the Magic Circle, who will be Master of Ceremonies and will be treating us to some fascinating magic.**

**Following the entertainment, a Buffet Supper will be served followed by dancing and professional musical entertainment from Pete George. Tickets will be £12.50 and are currently on sale. Tickets will be limited and are being sold on a first come first served basis.**

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### **PLEASE NOTE: Monthly Newsletter**

*As from May the Newsletter will no longer be e-mailed but will be available on our Website for all our members who currently receive the Newsletter by e-mail. The Newsletter is password protected to ensure it can only be accessed by members of Rayleigh U3A. The username and password have already been issued to those on e-mail. In May and June those currently receiving the Newsletter by e-mail will be sent instruction on how to open and download the Newsletter from our Website. Those who currently receive a hard copy in the post will still continue to do so.*