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This Month's Meeting
Thursday, 4th April, 2013
 2.00 p.m. - 4.00 p.m.
Mel Rees
'Brought to Book ... That's Life!'

Rayleigh U3A

GROUP ACTIVITY CALENDAR – Normal day on which each group meets monthly

Mondays	1st Monday	Art (Watercolours); Ceramics; Family History 1 & Beginners; Laptop Computing 1; T'ai Chi; Visiting Essex Churches 4
	2nd Monday	Crib Club (evenings); T'ai Chi; Visiting Essex Churches 1
	3rd Monday	Antiques; Laptop Computing 2; T'ai Chi; Visiting Essex Churches 2 & 3
	4th Monday	Canasta (evenings); T'ai Chi
Tuesdays	1st Tuesday	Birdwatching; Digital Photography
	2nd Tuesday	Knit & Natter; Poetry; Tenpin Bowling; Wine Appreciation (evenings)
	3rd Tuesday	Birdwatching
	4th Tuesday	Midweek Luncheon
Wednesdays	1st Wednesday	Drama; Walking 1
	2nd Wednesday	Archaeology; Golf (May, June, August); Scrabble; Essex Social History 3
	3rd Wednesday	Crib Club; Drama; Golf (April, July, September); Local History; Real Ale; Serendipity 3
	4th Wednesday	Calligraphy; Family History 2; Music Appreciation
Thursdays	1st Thursday	U3A Monthly Meeting
	2nd Thursday	Acoustic Guitar; Essex Social History 2; Knit & Natter; Rummikub (even'g); Serendipity 1 & 2; Theatre
	3rd Thursday	Book Reading 1; Papercrafts; Points of View; Serendipity 4
	4th Thursday	Art Appreciation; Essex Social History 1; Family History 3; Strolling
Fridays	1st Friday	Keep Fit
	2nd Friday	Book Reading 2; Keep Fit
	3rd Friday	Book Reading 3; Flower Arranging; Keep Fit
	4th Friday	Keep Fit; Walking 2
Saturdays		Currently no groups
Sundays	2nd Sunday	Sunday Lunch

Please note dates may vary more with some groups than others, particularly with coach trips and other outdoor activities. Check with Group Leaders' for Ind. Awareness, Golf, Serendipity, Visiting Historic Places, Theatre (usually Fridays) and V.I.P.

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

FROM THE CHAIR

It is amazing how time flies, another Rayleigh U3A year is coming to an end and you will be electing a new Committee at our sixth Annual AGM on Thursday the 4th April. I will be standing again and I am pleased to say that most of the current Committee will be seeking re-election. I also understand we have several members seeking election for the first time but I must especially thank those retiring Committee members who have to stand down having completed their full term.

Firstly, Fred and Irene Carter who have given many years of loyal service to Rayleigh U3A. They will be standing down and both will be sorely missed. Irene is our Volunteer Co-ordinator and has organised all the Volunteer Helpers, Meeters and Greeters and Refreshments for all our meetings. Fred was Treasurer for the first three years of his term on the Committee then he moved on to take responsibility for organising our speakers and holidays and to look after the audio equipment used for our monthly meetings.

(IS THERE ANYONE OUT THERE WHO WOULD BE WILLING TO LOOK AFTER THE AUDIO EQUIPMENT FOR FRED?)

Secondly, David and Janet Carlton are leaving the Committee and they are passing the baton of organising and distributing the monthly Newsletter to a new team. They have both worked tirelessly to get our Newsletter out on time every month. I thank them for their support and I wish Janet a speedy recovery when she has a new hip fitted this month.

Finally, on your behalf, I must thank all last year's Committee members for their support, new ideas and hard work, without which Rayleigh U3A would not have progressed and have been so successful.

This letter seems serious this month!!!

However, I would like to mention the New Members' meeting to be held on Wednesday, 10th April in Holy Trinity Church Hall from 10.00 am to 12 noon. All new members have been sent an invitation and can come along to hear more about the Activity Groups and perhaps be persuaded to start a new Group activity. I look forward to meeting you all, so do come along.

The other members I must thank are all the Group Leaders who organise and run the activities every month. All Group Leaders are invited to a Leaders meeting on Tuesday, 14th May at Saxon Hall between 10.00 am and 4.00 pm.

GROUPS/GROUP LEADERS

Acoustic Guitar Vera Ward	01268 755040	Medicine & Science	
Antiques/Collectables		Maureen Huntly	01268 777398
	Sheila Read	Irene Carter	01268 766149
Archaeology	Ian Haynes	Midweek Lunch	Margaret Bristow
Art Appreciation	Barbara Curry	Music Apprec'n	Les Geale
Art Water Col'rs	Sylvia Lester	Papercrafts	Anne Windle
Bird Watching	Laurie Denney	Poetry	Marian Allen
Book Reading 1	Doreen Blake	Points of View	John Edwards
Book Reading 2	Marian Allen	Real Ale Group	Dave Filby
Book Reading 3	Margaret White	Rummikub	Linda Tull
Calligraphy	Irene Tyson		01702 478649
Canasta	Chris & Dave Towell		Julie Reader
		Scrabble	Margaret Bristow
		Serendipity 1	Linda & David Clarke
			01702 204559
Ceramics	Brenda Perrott	Serendipity 2	Pam & Keith Dunt
Crib Club	David Sheffield	Serendipity 3	Pat & John Pomfrett
Digital Photography			01702 230253
	Brian Kersey	Serendipity 4	Sue & Mike Cairns
Drama	Joanne Baker		01268 743497
<u>Family History:</u>			Maureen Hayes
Beginners	Terry Taylor		& Peter Britton
Family History 1	Sue Taylor		01268 777525
Family History 2	Pete Huntly	Singing for Health & Pleasure	
Family History 3	Barbara Dale		Joanne Baker
Flower Arranging	Irene Stokes	Strolling	Connie Walker
Gardening (Slide Shows)		Sunday Lunch	Maureen Goss
	Linda Clarke	T'ai Chi	Linda Robson
	Chris Towell	Tenpin Bowling	Alan Hudson
Golf	Heather Flemmings		Bob Wren
History - Local		Theatre	Jean Mackenzie
	01702 204943		Helena Maxwell
	David Fryer-Kelsey		Sandra Wilson
			01268 775184
		<u>Visiting Essex Churches:</u>	
		Group 1	Marian Allen
		Group 2	Elizabeth Baker
		Group 3	Brenda Perrott
		Group 4	Jan Churchhill
		Walking 1	Roger Baker
			01702 331166
			07867 588879
		Walking 2	Les Poole
		Wine Appreciation	
			Harry Brickwood
			01268 743838
Industrial Awareness			
	Janet Carlton		
Keep Fit	Iris McMillan		
Knit & Natter	Doreen Oliver		
Lap Top 1	Frank Bodey		
Lap Top 2	Bob White		

RAYLEIGH U3A COMMITTEE

Chairman:- David Sheffield - 01268 743586
e-mail - dave@djsheff.demon.co.uk

Vice Chairman:- Pete Huntly - 01268 777398
(Gift Aid & Study Day Co-ordinator and Webmaster)
e-mail - pa.huntly@btinternet.com

Membership Secretary:- Doreen Blake - 01268 774871
e-mail - rblake@uk2.net

Group Co-ordinator:- Bob Wren - 01702 525311
e-mail - bob_wren@hotmail.com

Secretary:- Maureen Hayes - 01702 473110
e-mail - mhayesghayes@talktalk.net

Newsletter editors:- Janet & David Carlton - 01268 452791
e-mail - janetcarlton@blueyonder.co.uk

Treasurer No1 A/C:- David Clarke - 01702 204559
e-mail - clarked@talktalk.net

Treasurer No2 A/C:- Margaret Read - 01268 761039
e-mail - margitcrip@yahoo.com

Speaker Secretaries:- Fred Carter - 01268 766149
Sylvia Mitchell - 01268 770139
e-mail's - efandicart@btinternet.com
sylviamitchell18@yahoo.co.uk

Volunteer's Co-ordinator:- Irene Carter - 01268 766149
e-mail - efandicart@btinternet.com

Events Co-ordinator:- Terry Gouldsmith - 01268 562803
e-mail - terrygouldsmith@live.co.uk

Halls Booking Officer:- Barbara Hodge - 01268 771820

I hope to see you all at the AGM and will try to make the meeting interesting and short. Don't forget we will still be having a speaker who will be Mel Rees. His subject will be, 'Brought to BookThat's Life'.

See you all on Thursday, 4th April and don't forget the May monthly meeting will be on the second Thursday, 9th May (NOT THE 2nd MAY) as there are local elections that day and the Mill Hall will be used as a polling station.

David Sheffield,
Chairman – Rayleigh U3A

NEWS FROM OUR GROUP LEADERS

TENPIN BOWLING

After I had missed six months bowling at our tenpin bowling group, it had to snow and the session was cancelled. It will have to wait until next month now for me to be able to run the group. The date for the next bowling session will be on 9th April at CJ'S in Hockley at 2.00 pm.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Bob Wren (especially considering all he does in the U3A) for taking the group for the last six months.

Kind Regards.

Alan Hudson – 01702 202158

LOCAL HISTORY GROUP

Get all the latest details of the group on our blog

<http://lhgu3arayleigh.blogspot.com>

For our June visit we take a coach to Stowmarket to see the Museum of East Anglian Life. The coach will deliver us to the museum in the centre of Stowmarket where tea/coffee and other refreshments are available in the Osier Cafe. (Not included in price).

Discover the history and natural world of East Anglia on a beautiful 75 acre site. Learn about fascinating East Anglian crafts and traditional Gypsy culture, get steamed up with the powerful engines, meet friendly animals, including rare breeds of cattle and sheep.

Explore 15 splendidly restored historic buildings including Abbots Hall built in 1709 and containing a number of rooms illustrating life through the ages. As you walk out of the gates of the Hall you are in the centre of Stowmarket, an ancient Suffolk market town. Visit the market place, the ancient buildings and the beautiful church and try one of the many drinking and eating establishments.

The cost is £19.00 per person which covers the coach fare, a gratuity for the coach driver and entrance to the museum. **Wednesday, 19th June, 2013** at 9.00 a.m. from Kirbys Coach Depot. Also picking up at Websters Way and Rayleigh railway station.

Book and pay at our table by the bar at the monthly U3A meetings in the Mill Hall.

Cheques made payable to Rayleigh U3A.

David Fryer-Kelsey – 01702 203455
Heather Flemmings – 01702 203455

THEATRE GROUP

“One Man, Two Guvnors” at the Theatre Royal on Wednesday, 1st May at 2.30 pm. Please meet at Rayleigh Station at 9.45 am to go by train and bus to the Strand for lunch at Bistro 1 for 12.00 noon followed by a walk to the theatre in the Haymarket. Please let Helena know if you are not joining us for lunch.

“Chorus Line” at London Palladium on Wednesday, 22nd May. Please ensure you arrange to pay Sandra the coach fare - £12.00 - by the **April monthly meeting latest**, together with your pick up point - Kirby’s Depot, Webster’s Way or Rayleigh Station. Departure times to be advised with your tickets. Lunch at Bistro 1. Please advise if you are not joining us for lunch.

“Cats” at The Cliffs Pavilion on Wednesday, 9th October. £24.00 per ticket can be paid any time until, or at the July meeting. Requested tickets not paid for by this time will be cancelled.

“The Bodyguard” on Friday, 7th June. The date is still to be confirmed and further information will be available at the April meeting.

“Father of the Bride” at The Mill, Sonning on Thursday, 4th July. One ticket available. Please pay the remaining cost of £30.50 by the **May monthly meeting** to Helena or Jean. Unfortunately, the cost of the coach and tickets have increased this year. Please let us know your pick up point. Either Kirby’s Depot, Websters Way or Rayleigh Station. Departure times in next Newsletter.

Jean Mackenzie, R750 Kings Park Village, Canvey Island, SS8 8QS,
Tel: 01268 510570 or 07719800735,
email: j.mackenzie123@btinternet.com

Helena Maxwell, 5 Warwick Close, Rayleigh, SS6 8PH, Tel: 01268 772061 or 07952574907; email: maxbox@talktalk.net

Sandra Wilson, 1 Katherine Close, Rayleigh, SS6 8U, Tel: 01268 775184,
[email sandra.alanwilson@yahoo.com](mailto:sandra.alanwilson@yahoo.com)

MEDICINE AND SCIENCE

This is a new group. We are currently compiling a programme of visits and speakers.

In February we toured around the sites of hospitals in London from Roman times to the present day finishing with a visit to the Welcome Foundation Museum in Euston Road.

On Monday, 25th February a number of Group members attended three lectures at the Royal Institution (Ri) in London. The University of the Third Age teamed up with the Ri for an afternoon of fascinating science talks. David Smith looked at ‘life saving chemistry’ whilst Daniel Bor explored ‘the brain and consciousness’. Helen Scales asked “Are there really plenty more fish in the sea?”.

On April 22nd we will be planning our programme for the year. Our guest will be Ann Dimmick speaking about “Nursing in the 1950’s” an entertaining and interesting chat about the era of “The Midwife”.

New members are welcome. Contact Group Leaders, Maureen Huntly and Irene Carter.

Maureen Huntly – 01268 777398
maureenhuntly@btinternet.com or

Irene Carter – 01268 766149
ifandcart@btinternet.com

NATIONAL OFFICE

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e-mail: national.office@u3a.org

Web site: www.u3a.org.uk

Resource Centre: e-mail: resource.centre@u3a.org.uk

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Wednesday, 10th April	“New Members Coffee Morning” Holy Trinity Hall
Tuesday, 14th May	“Group Leaders Day” Saxon Hall
Thursday, 27th June	“Highgrove” Coach Outing

**Other visits and events are being considered
for the future and we will let you know
as soon as more details are known**

GOLF

We will be playing from May to October on the second Tuesday of each month starting at 2pm. Please note that as the May date clashes with the Group Leaders' meeting it will be played on the first Tuesday.

Our provisional timetable is as follows:-

May 7th - Bunsay Downs
(9 holes main & 9 holes Badgers)
June 11th - Dunton Hills

(either par 3 or main course)
July 9th - Little Burstead
August 13th - Belfairs
Sept 10th - Dunton Hills
(either par 3 or main course)
Oct 8th - Three Rivers - Jubilee course

We have decided on afternoon golf because we should be able to obtain favourable deals to play.

Dave Towell – 01268 528937

HEADLINES AND ACTIVITIES

ADVANCE NOTICE

**The Sixth Annual General Meeting of
the Rayleigh U3A
is to take place on Thursday, 4th April, 2013
at Mill Hall, Rayleigh
commencing at 2.00pm
followed by our speaker
Mel Rees
whose talk is entitled
'Brought to Book ... That's Life!'**

KNIT AND NATTER - Doreen Oliver, who is Group Leader of Knit and Natter, has a passion for knitting and constantly raises funds knitting toys for Bosom Pals - Breast Unit charity at Southend Hospital. Back in the Summer she knitted the toys pictured on the front page of this newsletter which will raise funds for the Help for Heroes charity. See Doreen at our monthly meetings to see more toys and to talk about joining the Knit and Natter Group. Members of the Group knit squares which are joined together making blankets which are then sent to Africa. Doreen says that the Group is always glad to receive donations of knitting wool so if you are having a clear out they would welcome any unwanted skeins of wool.

Gift Aid Update

Thank you to all those of you who have already completed their Gift Aid Declaration forms.

As a reminder, to take part in the Gift Aid Scheme you must pay an amount of Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax for each tax year at least equal to the tax, which we as a registered charity, will claim from HM Revenue and Customs on your annual subscription. In our case this is £5. Even if you do not complete an annual tax return you may be paying tax, which is deducted, from your pension, interest on savings accounts or dividends.

You can cancel your declaration at any time by notifying us, and should do so, if your circumstances change and you no longer pay sufficient tax.

Pete Huntly – Gift Aid Co-ordinator

Tel: 01268 777398 pa.huntly@btinternet.com

NEXT MONTH'S GUEST SPEAKER

Thursday, 9th May

Jules Pretty

Jules is Deputy Vice Chancellor of Essex University

His subject will be

"THE LUMINOUS COAST" (Suffolk and Norfolk)

OOPS!!!

What a faux pas!!! Those of you who received printed copies of the monthly Newsletter last month will have noticed the spelling mistake on the front page. We do all know that it's " 'i' before 'e' except after 'c' " but somehow we didn't spot the mistake until after the Newsletter had been printed and was ready for posting. Fortunately we were able to rectify the mistake before the newsletter was sent to Pete Huntly for entry on the Web site.

Janet and David Carlton - Editors

"PLEASE NOTE"

OUR NEXT MONTHLY MEETING WILL BE HELD ON THURSDAY, 9TH MAY WHICH IS THE SECOND THURSDAY OF THE MONTH AND NOT OUR USUAL FIRST THURSDAY. THIS IS DUE TO LOCAL ELECTIONS BEING HELD AT MILL HALL ON THE FIRST THURSDAY THAT MONTH.