



Rayleigh News

University of The Third Age

Newsletter No.3

February 2008

HEADLINES

Our last meeting in January was, once again, very well attended and we had more members signing up on the day. At the point of going to press we have 178 members and 15 groups up and running. Quite an accomplishment in such a short space of time! Feedback from the new groups is so exciting and this is only the beginning!

Thanks should go to Victor Patterson for providing an amusing musical quiz at the last meeting. So many of the questions took us all down memory lane and we found ourselves reliving episodes of The Archers, Dick Barton-Special Agent and Billy Cotton's Band Show – not forgetting adverts for Murray Mints, Fairy Liquid and many more!

Also, thanks to Marian Allen, our Honorary President, for providing the scrummy celebratory cake to celebrate the launch of Rayleigh U3A. Thank you, Marian, it was delicious and appreciated by us all.

We hope you enjoy this copy of your monthly newsletter. It is still in its embryonic state and with your help and ideas will gradually grow into what you want to see in a newsletter. Please let us have your comments and ideas about what is already being produced and what you would like to see in the future.

BOOK AND GIFT STALL

As announced in last month's newsletter, the Book and Gift Stalls are being launched at this month's meeting. Profits from these stalls will go towards enhancing our monthly meetings and group activities so please help to support this venture. Many thanks to Doreen and Brian Lambert who have volunteered to run these two stalls.

MANY THANKS

Many thanks to Vera Henderson, Betty Nott and Steve Webb for volunteering to help Doreen and Frank with refreshments and to June Morris on the Welcome Desk and Doreen Oliver and Doreen Blake acting as Welcomers/Ushers at our meetings.

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NOTES FROM THE CHAIR

Dear Members,

Our membership is growing each day as word passes around as to how good the monthly meetings are and the variety of subjects that are on offer in the groups. This is amazing considering we have only had three monthly meetings. We have benefited greatly from having such expertise within our membership. Well done to you all for your enthusiasm, organizational skills and knowledge as Group Leaders.

Please remember we can never have too many groups so if you speak Italian, love the theatre or would like to delve into Essex Industries then pick up the phone and ring our Group Co-ordinator, Sue Taylor, and let her know on 01268 786405.

The Annual General Meeting is important as we have to consider our constitution and the formation of our committee and look towards future growth and success for our members.

We are always available to listen to your views and ideas. All you have to do is call 01268 777398 and the Committee will listen.

Best wishes to you all – Maureen Huntly - Chairman

GROUP CO-ORDINATOR'S NOTES

New Groups for February

A great deal of interest has been shown in the following groups and we would like to get them up and running during February.

Languages- French, Italian, Spanish or German (Leaders Required)

I have been approached by several members who are interested in joining a Language Group – with help from our National Resource Office, local library and using the Internet, I am sure we can get these groups up and running. Of course we will need leaders to come forward to host these groups and I would appreciate any volunteers speaking to me if they are interested in becoming a Group Leader.

Theatre Visits (Leader Required)

Once you have had an initial meeting – each member of the group could organise a trip to the theatre – this could be local or London etc. It's for you as a group to decide.

Cinema (Leader Required)

This can be either going to the cinema or watching films at home with your group and perhaps discussions after – all sorts of possibilities for you to come up with.

Cross Stitch and Crochet (Jackie Lewis–New Leader)

Both crafts are becoming very popular again. Maybe you can renew your own skills or learn from scratch.

Bridge or Whist (Leader Required)

A lot of interest shown here, so please come forward.

Bowls (Leader Required)

Several people have shown an interest, but we do need a member to come forward as Group Leader to start this group.

Please add your names to the lists provided in the hall, or contact me if you are unable to attend the meeting, if you are interested in joining any of the above groups. Once we get group leaders assigned, we can get you going.

A chart giving details of the 15 groups already up and running is attached at the end of the newsletter.

Sue Taylor
Group Coordinator

WALKING-GROUP

21 members enjoyed the Group's January walk on a lovely bright, if not breezy, Winter's morning. The walk in February will now take place on Thursday 7th February (NOT on 6th February as originally publicised) and we will meet at the Salvation Army Home Farm car park which is at the end of Castle Lane, Hadleigh, near the castle at 10.00 a.m. In March, we shall revert to the customary Wednesday morning

(March 5th) meeting at Langdon Hills Country Park, Basildon, for a walk over Westley Heights. Come and join us for a little Winter's exercise, Roger Baker (Walking-Group Leader) Tel: 01702 331166 or Mobile 07867 588879

WINE APPRECIATION

The first meeting of this group has been organised for the evening of Tuesday the 19th of February.

There are a few spaces available so if you are interested in joining this group please put your name on the list at the meeting on Friday the 1st of February, or contact Harry Brickwood on 01268 743838.

GARDENING-GROUP

A digital photographic show was held on the 14th January at Trinity Church Hall. To our delight, about 40 people attended and the show commenced at 2pm. David Clarke showed some beautiful pictures of gardens taken on a tour of Somerset and Dorset. After a short break for tea and chocolate biscuits we enjoyed more pictures of flowers, this time from Harry Brickwood's own garden. On Tuesday 12th February a party of about 16 people will be going to the RHS Flower Show in Westminster. We shall depart from Rayleigh or Hockley Stations and hope to be home again before the rush hour begins. On Monday 3rd March there will be a visit to Hyde Hall, meeting at Trinity Church at 1.30pm. We hope to see the early spring flowers and then take tea and cake in the barn. As we now have 47 members we shall unfortunately have to put new members on a waiting list.

Please contact Garden-Group Leaders Heather Brickwood on **01268 743838** or Linda Clarke **01702 204559** for further information.

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LAST MONTH YOU WILL ALL HAVE RECEIVED A COPY (PRINTED IN BLUE) OF OUR PROGRAMME OF EVENTS FOR 2008. WE HOPE YOU WILL FIND THIS USEFUL AND INFORMATIVE DURING THE COMING YEAR.

WHAT'S ON IN ESSEX and DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Friday, 8th February – 12.30p.m. Chelmsford Cathedral The Essex Police Choir
(Refreshments available from noon
Or bring your own packed lunch)

Various events throughout February South Essex R.S.P.B. Tel: 01268 559158 for
(various venues) more information

Did you know that Queens Theatre, Hornchurch currently have a "Jump the Q" offer which expires Friday, 14th February? They are offering four shows for just £10 each, which is excellent value when compared with the price of one West End ticket. In addition, if you join their Matinee Club, which is FREE, you can go to a pre-show talk given by either the director or producer of the show, have 50p off the price of a programme and a free post-show cup of tea or coffee with an opportunity to meet the cast.

Further details can be obtained from their Box Office on 01708 443333 or visit the web site at www-queens-theatre.co.uk. e-mail: info@queens-theatre.co.uk.

Friday, 16th May Rayleigh U3A Quiz Night at Trinity Church Hall
Further details to follow

MATURE TIMES

The Voice of your generation

Copies of this free newspaper will be available each month at our meetings. This is an informative newspaper packed with interesting articles on Campaigns, news, entertainment and competitions

WWW.MATURETIMES.CO.UK

Available on line every fortnight, also available in large print

Terry Taylor - our Webmaster - has been working tirelessly to complete our Rayleigh U3A Website. The design is now complete but there are a few refinements to be made. The good news is that our website will very soon be available on-line.

KEEP WATCHING THIS SPACE

Please send items for inclusion in the March newsletter to:-

Janet Carlton,
35 Curlew Crescent,
Basildon, SS16 5HR

Tel: 01268 452791
janetcarlton@blueyonder.co.uk.

To arrive no later than 15TH
February, 2008

NATIONAL OFFICE

19 East Street, Bromley, Kent BR1
1QH

Tel: 02084666139

e-mail: national.office@u3a.org

Web site: www.u3a.org.uk

Resource Centre:

e-mail:

resource.centre@u3a.org.uk

THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH

Improvement is Limitless and Ageless

REMINDER:

The next meeting will be on Friday, 7th March from 2-4 p.m. in Holy Trinity Church Hall. Brian Kersey will talk about our newly formed Digital Photography Group and there will be a presentation given by Saga Group Holidays followed by an illustrated talk.

CONTACTS

Chairman:- Maureen Huntly - 01268 777398

E-mail - Maureen@phuntly.freemove.co.uk.

Membership Secretary:- Irene Carter - 01268 766149

E-mail - efandicart@btinternet.com

Group Co-ordinator:- Sue Taylor 01268 786405

E-mail - susan.taylor106@tesco.net

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University of the Third Age – Rayleigh Branch -February Group Activities

Group	Leader	Telephone No:	Meeting Date	Place	How Often
Acoustic Guitar	Vera Ward	01268 755040	31 st January – 10.30	Vera’s House	Monthly
Art Appreciation	Kathleen Downs		21 st February, 2pm	Kathleens’s House	Monthly
Art – Water Colours	Sylvia Lester	01268 774201	Tba	Sylvia’s House	Monthly
Book Reading	Joyce Green	01268 771263	21 st February, 2pm	Rayleigh Library	Monthly
Digital Photography – Beginners	Brian Kersey	01268 743959	Thursday	Brian’s House	Monthly
Digital Photography – Advanced	Brian Kersey	01268 743959	Thursday	Brian’s House	Monthly
Family History I	Sue Taylor	01268 786405	7 th February	Visit to London Metropolitan archives	Monthly
Family History II	Val Taylor	01702 206416	7 th Feb	As above Joint Visit with FHI	Monthly
Gardening	Heather Brickwood Linda Clarke	01268 743838 01702 204559	Tba	Flower Show, Westminster Hall tba	Monthly
Scrapbooking	Janet Carlton	01268 452791	21 st February 10.30	Iris’ House	Monthly -3 rd Thurs
Singing for Health & Pleasure	Marjorie Sale	01702 346715	5 th February 2pm – 4pm	Cloisters East Hall at Trinity Church	Monthly
Visiting Essex Churches I	Marian Allen (Frank & Doreen Bodey)	01268 733616	11 th February	Rawreth Church	Monthly
Visiting Essex Churches II	Audrey Morris	01268 527506	18 th February	Ashingdon Church	Monthly
Visiting Essex Churches III	Brenda Perrott	01268 779590	28 th January (Inaugural Meeting)	Brenda’s House	Monthly
Walking	Roger Baker	01702 331166 mobile: 07867 588879	6 th February (Hadleigh Downs) 10.00	Meet at Salvation Army Home Farm, Castle Lane, Hadleigh	Monthly
Wine Appreciation	Harry Brickwood	01268 743838	19 th February, 7.30pm – 9.30pm	Guides Hall, Bulwood Approach, Hockley	Monthly