



<b>Chairman:</b>	<b>Maureen Huntly</b>
<b>Vice Chairman:</b>	<b>Brian Kersey</b>
<b>Secretary:</b>	<b>Marian Allen</b>
<b>Treasurer:</b>	<b>Fred Carter    Membership Account (No. 1)</b>

**NB. Marian Allen has taken on the role of Secretary from Eileen Harrold who has stood down due to other commitments outside Rayleigh U3A. Sincere thanks to Eileen for all her hard work and to Marian for agreeing to take over the role for one year. Marian will remain as President.**

**NOMINATIONS FOR VACANCIES ON THE RAYLEIGH U3A COMMITTEE**

**Please ensure that the person you are nominating is willing to stand.**

**Vacancy for the position of Treasurer Social Account.**

To attend monthly Committee Meeting on third Friday morning in the month. Prepare figures for Committee for No.2 Account which is for banking payments for coach trips, social events and group trips, holidays and events and pay out for expenses incurred.

Nominee..... Proposed by..... Seconded by.....

**Vacancy for Trainee Newsletter Editorial Team**

To attend monthly Committee Meeting on third Friday morning in the month. To work with the present Editorial Team covering holidays etc. Computer literate, set deadlines for article submissions, review content, spelling, punctuation etc. Proof read. Liaise with Printing Company. Organise team of volunteers. Print address labels. Keep copies of previous newsletters. Summarise costs. Apply to Treasurer for payment cheques.

Nominee..... Proposed by..... Seconded by.....

**Vacancies for two Committee Members**

To attend monthly Committee Meeting on third Friday morning in the month. Fulfil duties requested by the Committee.

Nominee..... Proposed by..... Seconded by.....

Nominee..... Proposed by..... Seconded by.....

**Please return this form to Secretary Marian Allen at the February meeting or send to 20 Crown Hill, Rayleigh, Essex SS6 7HG**

NEWSLETTER 22

# Rayleigh



University of the Third Age

**FROM THE CHAIR**

Dear Members,

Despite the snow and icy conditions you still received your January Newsletter and notice of cancellation of our January Meeting thanks to the co-ordination of our Volunteer Team Terri and Sylvia, our Editorial team David and Janet who sent out the email version with a note saying our meeting was cancelled and thanks to our Treasurer Fred, Membership Secretary Irene, my husband and myself the rest were posted in good time for everyone to be kept informed. Great teamwork.

I am pleased to tell you that Sue Taylor, our Group Co-ordinator is progressing well since her operation on New Year's Eve and will be back in March when we are planning the 2nd Group Leaders Day which is to take place at Saxon Hall on Wednesday 10th March. We wish Sue a speedy recovery and look forward to seeing her soon.

In preparation for the AGM which is on Friday 9<sup>th</sup> April you will find a copy of the Nomination Form with the Committee Vacancy list which I hope you will use to put forward names of those members interested in becoming more involved in the running of the Rayleigh U3A. Remember you must get the person whom you have nominated to sign that they are agreeable to stand for that vacancy. The future of our U3A is in your hands.

If you have not sent in your membership renewal and still wish to remain a member then you must respond by the end of February. Our subscription fee is still £20 even though the U3A Trust is raising the Affiliation Fee by £1 to £3.50 per member. Your membership subscription also covers the hire of halls for our meetings, cost of the speakers, newsletter, National U3A Magazine and Sources Magazine, postage and correspondence and entitles you to participate in the interest groups as places become available.

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  
Chair Rayleigh U3A*

## GROUP CO-ORDINATOR'S NEWS

Due to Sue's absence this month, following her operation, there is no official Group Co-ordinator's News. However, you will be pleased to know that thanks to Sue's hard work before Christmas, two new groups are about to start. The groups are Drama and Serendipity II. Members who had shown an interest in joining these two groups are being contacted and the inaugural meetings are being planned. Also, Maureen Huntly is looking into the possibility of starting a Cookery Group. Further details of this group will be available shortly.

Finally, due to Sue's absence and for this month only, the February Group Activity List isn't being published. In the mean-time, if you have any queries regarding any of our groups please contact the appropriate Group Leader – see list at the end of the newsletter

## NEWS FROM OUR GROUP LEADERS

### DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHY

Happy New Year to you all. As you probably know Stratford House is now closed to us due to impending re-development in 2010. I have thanked Marion, the resident Warden, on your behalf for all her help in the past year with a bouquet and card.

I have been fortunate in securing a new venue for the coming year. Doreen Oliver, a relative of mine, has offered her large lounge at 69 Victoria Road at no cost to us. The parking is free and there is plenty of room along the road opposite.

### Meetings:-

Tuesday mornings 10.30 – 12.30, 2nd February and 2nd March. I would appreciate a phone call from all those interested so that I can compile a list. We can accommodate a maximum of 12 comfortably.

I am hoping to expand the group to cover digital camcorders. David Windle has offered to help me. He is an experienced film maker who I have known for many years and has offered to help with all aspects of digital camera work.

**Brian Kersey – 01268 743959**

### SINGING FOR HEALTH AND PLEASURE

The Singing for Health and Pleasure group will resume on Monday, February 15th for a ten week session in a room at the Methodist Church in Eastwood Road, Rayleigh at 10am. The room is called "The Wesley Room" and the entrance is via the door on the left hand side behind the main church. It is at the end of the corridor with the kitchen in front and is then to the left.

The cost of the room, which has a piano, will be £30 per session which will be divided between the participants. Every-one is welcome to come along and obviously the more people there are then the cost will be less.

I look forward to seeing you all, and thank you for all the cards and good wishes sent to me after my hip replacement.

**Marjorie Sale – 01702 346175**

## THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH

It's never too late to have a second childhood

BUT

the second one is up to you and no-one else

**Chairman: Maureen Huntly – 01268 777398**

**E-mail – [Maureen@phuntly.freemove.co.uk](mailto:Maureen@phuntly.freemove.co.uk)**

**Membership Secretary: Irene Carter – 01268 766149**

**E-mail – [efandicart@btinternet.com](mailto:efandicart@btinternet.com)**

**Group Co-ordinator: Sue Taylor 01268 786405**

**E-mail – [susan.taylor106@tesco.net](mailto:susan.taylor106@tesco.net)**

## GROUP LEADERS

Acoustic Guitar	Vera Ward	01268 755040	Holiday Group	Brian Kersey & Barbara Dale	01268 743959 01268 772018
Archaeology	Ian Haynes	01268 779749	Latin	Dave Filby	01268 770023
Art Appreciation	Barbara Curry	01268 775460	Music Appreciation	Les Geales	01702 206966
Art I – Water Colours	Sylvia Lester	01268 774201	Scrabble	Maureen Huntly	01268 777398
Art II – Waters/Oils	David Taylor	01268 777952	Scrapbooking	Janet Carlton	01268 452791
Aviation	Phil Gendall	01268 750324	Serendipity – Experiences/ Discoveries around London	Linda and David Clarke	01702 204559
Bird Watching	Laurie Denney	01702 615370	Singing for Health & Pleasure	Marjorie Sale	01702 346175
Book Reading I	Joyce Green	01268 771263	Sunday Lunch Club I	Maureen Goss	01268 777681
Book Reading II	Doreen Blake	01268 774871	Sunday Lunch Club II	Sue Barrows	01268 776775
Calligraphy	Irene Tyson	01268 742942	Tai Chi	Sue Taylor	01268 786405
Computing	Keith Dunt	01702 201747	Ten Pin Bowling	Alan/Gill Hudson	01702 202158
Cross Stitch & Crochet	Jackie Lewis	01245 401123	Theatre	Jean McKenzie & Helena Maxwell	01268 510570 01268 772061
Debating	Maureen Huntly	01268 777398	Visiting Essex Churches (Group I)	Marian Allen	01268 743339
Digital Photography	Brian Kersey	01268 743959	(Group II)	Audrey Morris	01268 771644
Dining Group I	June Morris	01702 527506	(Group III)	Brenda Perrott	01268 779590
Dining Group II	Marion & Laurie Wretham	01702 555783	(Group IV)	Liz Denney	01702 615370
Drama	Joanne Baker	01268 742252	(Group V)	Maureen Turner	01268 750967
Family History – Beginners	Terry Taylor	01268 786405	Walking I	Roger Baker	01702 331166/ 07867 588879
Family History I	Sue Taylor	01702 206416	Walking II	Les Poole	01268 773174
Family History II	Val Taylor	01268 772018	Wine Appreciation	Harry Brickwood	01268 743838
Family History III	Barbara Dale	01268 562803	Yoga	Suzanne Middleton	01702 557389
French	Terri Gouldsmith	01268 743838			
Gardening	Heather Brickwood /Linda Clarke	01702 204559			
Golf	Kay Nevin	01268 780855			
Local History	Heather Flemmings	01702 204943			
Local History	David Fryer-Kelsey				
Local History	David Carlton	01268 452791			

**Please note the following (received from Rayleigh Grange U3A)**

Contact Sue Mahoney if you are interested

**COACH TOUR OF NORTHUMBERLAND**

**Thursday May 27th – Monday, May 31st**

*The above short holiday is being organised by Rayleigh Grange U3A who have extended an invitation to us to join them.*

**If you are interested please contact Sue Mahoney on 01268 780051 or e-mail her at [Pemberwell@aol.com](mailto:Pemberwell@aol.com) as soon as possible**

**The cost is £415.00 per person and is excellent value for money**

*They are using the De Vere Slaley Hall Hotel at Hexham as a base and visiting Hadrian's Wall, Lindisfarne, Farne Islands, Bamburgh Castle Alnwick, Victorian Cragside and on Day 5 Durham Cathedral*

This all looks first class to me. There will be the same local Blue Badge Guide accompanying you throughout the Tour. They have extended the closing date to allow us to join them so be quick if you are interested

----- Brian Kersey -----

**DATES FOR YOUR DIARY**

**Thursdays, 18th February & 6th May** – Olympic London – All tickets now sold.

**Mondays, 22nd March & 24th May** – Magic Circle – Tickets on sale at February meeting

**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, 2010**

**NATIONAL OFFICE**

**19 East Street, Bromley, Kent BR1 1QH  
Tel: 02084666139  
e-mail: [national.office@u3a.org](mailto:national.office@u3a.org)  
Web site: [www.u3a.org.uk](http://www.u3a.org.uk)  
Resource Centre: e-mail: [resource.centre@u3a.org.uk](mailto:resource.centre@u3a.org.uk)**

**RAYLEIGH U3A WEBSITE**  
[www.rayleighu3a.org.uk](http://www.rayleighu3a.org.uk)

**March Meeting – Friday, 12th March, 2010 – 2.00 p.m. – 4.00 p.m.  
Ann Hardy – The Theatrical Costumier**

**GARDENING GROUP**

All members of the Rayleigh U3A are regarded as being members of the Gardening Group

**Garden Visits 2010**

**Beth Chatto & Tudor Roost** – Monday 14th June

Our first call will be Tudor Roost which is a private garden near Fingringhoe. This has a ¼ acre garden which is densely planted for all year round colour from its plants, climbers, shrubs and trees. Beth Chatto's garden needs no introduction – just to say that I am sure you will enjoy the visit. Places are still available and you can book at the Gardening desk. Could those members who have put their name down for this please pay at the February meeting.

**Norfolk Holiday** – (FULLY BOOKED)  
Sunday/Monday 8/9 August

Any questions call  
**Heather Brickwood – 01268 743838**

**YOGA GROUP**

The yoga class is continuing to meet on a regular basis. We have a new venue at the Cedar Centre, Castle Road, Rayleigh. The class is now held on Fridays from 10:00am - 11:30am.

We have space in the class for new members. If you are interested either come along to the class or for more information please call Suzanne 01702 557389 or e-mail [suzannemiddleton@sky.com](mailto:suzannemiddleton@sky.com)

**THEATRE GROUP**

On the 19th November 23 of us went to the Thursford Christmas Spectacular staying overnight at the Oaklands Hotel, Norwich. We travelled by coach with Kirbys arriving in time for a lovely lunch then went on to Thursford arriving about 5pm. A wonderful sight greeted us in the

middle of the countryside, trees decorated with many lights and the village a blaze of coloured lights. Many of us wandered through the shops while others took a walk in the Winter Wonderland which was very impressive. Then on to the show which was definitely a Spectacular one. We all left the show with smiles on our faces having thoroughly enjoyed the fabulous singing, dancing and various other acts. All of us agreed we had a wonderful time. The next day we were all dropped off in Norwich for several hours then on home to Rayleigh. A thoroughly successful trip organised by Jean. Many thanks for your hard work. Perhaps in another couple of years we may organise another trip.

At our last Theatre Group meeting on the 27th November we had further discussion of the proposed programme for next year. Suggestions were:-

- 1 "Classical Concerts" at the Cliffs Pavilion or the Palace Theatre in February & April. Helena to arrange.
- 2 "Calendar Girls" at the Cliffs Pavilion on 3rd March 2010. 22 on list. Jean to arrange.
- 3 "Mamma Mia" at the Ambassador on a Friday 5pm in May. 15 on list. Helena to arrange.
- 4 "A Shakespeare play" at the Globe in June or July. 29 on list. Jean to arrange.
- 5 "The Mill at Sonning" for a dinner and show in August or September. 36 on list. Helena and Jean to arrange once the programme becomes available.
- 6 "Christmas Concert" at the Albert Hall (2010).
- 7 "The Mousetrap" Date to be agreed. 29 on list. Sandra and Helena to arrange.
- 8 "Warhorse" New London Theatre. Now on until October 2010. Possible date now in May.

If any Theatre Member wants to see any of the above and are not already on a list, please contact the relevant organiser to add your name.

#### **Reminder:**

As we are moving our meeting to the Cloisters, Holy Trinity Church, we will need every Theatre Member to pay an annual fee of **£2.00** to cover the costs of hiring. If you have not re-registered as a Theatre Member please confirm your interest and send your payment to Helena or Jean by the 8th February 2010 latest.

Please make cheques payable to *Rayleigh U3A*.

Our next Theatre Group Meeting is on **FRIDAY, 26th FEBRUARY 2010** at 10.30-12 noon in the Cloisters, Holy Trinity Church, Rayleigh.

**Jean Mackenzie - 01268 510570**  
**Helena Maxwell - 01268 772061**

#### **LOCAL HISTORY GROUP**

##### **Dates for 2010**

**Friday 19th February.** To kick off the New Year to have a meeting to discuss 2010 itinerary and have slide show together with a narrative of the history and legends of Old Leigh. This will be held in the Cloisters at Trinity Church at 10.00a.m. **£3** per head to include tea and coffee

**Friday 19th March at 10.30 am.**  
**Kelvedon Hatch (Secret Government Bunker).**

An ordinary bungalow hides the entrance to an amazing labyrinth of rooms built into a hillside, encased in 10 feet thick reinforced concrete and 100 feet underground. No guide. Digital wand so each of us can go at own pace. Set in beautiful woodland

open to the public. Refreshments, souvenir shop and toilet facilities. £6 per head. Tour takes approx 2 hours. Access is only from the A128 Ongar to Brentwood road at Kelvedon Hatch.

**Wednesday 14th April at 10.30 am.**  
**Waltham Abbey/Royal Gun Powder Mills**

Kept secret for over 300 years the fascinating stories of what went on behind closed doors is still unfolding at the Royal Gunpowder Mills. Step back in time. Land Train tour includes guide with tales of the site. Also will have the chance to see fallow deer, herons, kingfishers and other wild life in the woodland. Has cafe, picnic areas, gift shop, and toilet facilities. £8 to include train. Tour takes 2 hours.

Located between Waltham Abbey and Waltham Cross, off Highbridge Street. Entrance at top end of Beaulieu Drive.

**All cheques payable to 'U3A Rayleigh' please.**

**Please note that the above prices are for 2009. There might be a slight increase for 2010.**

Both the above trips you can, if you wish, stay longer as there are attractions/exhibitions,

If you are interested in any of the above please come and see us at our table at the monthly U3A meetings, telephone or e-mail.

**Heather Flemmings - 01702 204943**  
*heatherfl@lineone.net*

**David Fryer-Kelsey - 01702 203455**  
*davefk@lineone.net*

**Please remember to look on the Notice Boards in the Main Hall for any further news/ photos and other group information.**

#### **HEADLINES FROM THE EDITORIAL TEAM**

##### **Please Note – Date of next monthly meeting**

The date for our March monthly meeting is Friday, 12<sup>th</sup> March – see Programme of Events 2010. You will know that our monthly meetings are normally the first Friday in each month but March this year will be an exception due to the Church having made a long-standing booking for the first Friday in March.

##### **U3A – Nationally – “What’s going on?”**

##### **U3A Summer Schools (National and Regional)**

For more information concerning this year’s Summer Schools please enquire at the Secretary’s Desk in the Underspire Room.

**For other U3A National and Regional news see the Notice Board**

##### ***Some visits and events to look forward to***

##### **Olympic London – Thursday, 18th February, and Thursday, 6th May 2010**

There was an overwhelming request for tickets at the November meeting so two visits have been arranged. Both coaches are now fully booked - something to really look forward to. If you have booked to go on either of these trips please telephone or e-mail Janet Carlton – 01268 452791, [janetcarlton@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:janetcarlton@blueyonder.co.uk) – to say where you would like to be picked up. The choices are Kirby’s Depot (leaving at 8.45 – cars can be parked there until you return), Webster’s Way (leaving at 8.50) or Rayleigh Railway Station (leaving at 9.00).

##### **Magic Circle – Monday, 22nd March and Monday, 24th May 2010**

As you probably know, tickets for the above two dates to visit the Magic Circle will go on sale at our February meeting. If you are unable to attend the meeting and would like tickets please telephone Janet Carlton – 01268 452791.

##### **“Watch this space”!!**

Plans are being made to hold another Quiz Night in the early Autumn. Also, following on from our very successful Anniversary Celebration last year, another Anniversary Celebration is being arranged later in the year. Dates and further details soon,

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