



'Our Chirpy Little Friend'
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This Month's Meeting

Thursday, 2nd February, 2012
2.00 p.m. - 4.00 p.m.

Tom Hart Dyke

Rayleigh U3A Website – www.rayleighu3a.org.uk
Registered Charity No. 1134068

serendipity

GROUP ACTIVITY CALENDAR – Normal day each Group meets each month

| | | |
|------------|---------------|---|
| Mondays | 1st Monday | Art (Watercolours); Ceramics; Family History 1; Laptop Computing; Visiting Essex Churches 4 |
| | 2nd Monday | Visiting Essex Churches 1 |
| | 3rd Monday | Visiting Essex Churches 2 & 3; Creib Club (evenings) |
| | 4th Monday | Canasta (evenings) |
| Tuesdays | 1st Tuesday | Birdwatching; Digital Photography; Singing for Health & Pleasure; Tai Chi |
| | 2nd Tuesday | Tai Chi; Tenpin Bowling; Wine Appreciation (evenings) |
| | 3rd Tuesday | Birdwatching; Luncheon Group; Singing for Health & Pleasure; Tai Chi |
| | 4th Tuesday | Luncheon Group I; Tai Chi |
| Wednesdays | 1st Wednesday | Golf (April, July & September); Walking 1; Drama |
| | 2nd Wednesday | Archaeology; Golf (May, June, August); Scrabble; Essex Social History 3 |
| | 3rd Wednesday | Crib Club; Drama; Real Ale; Visiting Essex Churches 5; Local History; Serendipity 1 & 2 |
| | 4th Wednesday | Calligraphy; Family History 2; Music Appreciation |
| Thursdays | 1st Thursday | Tai Chi; U3A Monthly Meeting ; Theatre Group 1 & 2 |
| | 2nd Thursday | Acoustic Guitar; Tai Chi; Theatre 1; Essex Social History 2; Serendipity 1 & 2 |
| | 3rd Thursday | Papercrafts; Tai Chi; Book Reading 1; Serendipity 4 |
| | 4th Thursday | Art Appreciation; Essex Social History 2; Family History 3; Tai Chi |
| Fridays | 1st Friday | Keep Fit; Latin; Yoga |
| | 2nd Friday | Keep Fit; Yoga; Book Reading 2 |
| | 3rd Friday | Keep Fit; Latin; Yoga |
| | 4th Friday | Keep Fit; Walking 2; Yoga |
| Saturdays | | Currently no groups |
| Sundays | 2nd Sunday | Sunday Lunch I |
| | 3rd Sunday | Sunday Lunch II |

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,

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome all our members to the fifth year of Rayleigh U3A. Our first meeting was held at Holy Trinity Hall in 2007 when sixty nine people attended and today we have a flourishing membership of four hundred men and women.

Each year we have to prepare well in advance for the Annual General Meeting when we vote for the Officers and Members of the Committee. This year it is on Thursday, 5th April at Mill Hall. For your information you will find enclosed 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 the vacancy. The future of this U3A is in your hands.

Tickets will be available at this month's meeting for the **'Speakers Lunch'** at Saxon Hall on Friday, 24th February at £17.50 featuring the Author and Public Speaker Mr. Fran Sandham giving an illustrated talk entitled 'Traversa' – an incredible story. (See last month's Newsletter for further details.)

A few places are still available for the **'Book Tour Coach Trip'** on 21st March. (Trip to London Charing Cross, visiting sites where authors lived and wrote their books; chance to visit Antiquarian Bookshops, the National Portrait Gallery and the British Library. Includes morning coffee/ biscuits and lunch, all for £28.50). Tickets available from Maureen Hayes on 01702 473110.

There are places left on the five day **'Holiday to Cheshire and North Wales'**, costing £378 (for National Trust Members), leaving on 17th September, stopping off at the City of Coventry with a chance to view the Cathedral or Museum. Visits to National Trust Properties Erdig, Dunham Massey, Quarry Bank Mill Estate and Shugborough plus a trip on the Llangollen Steam Railway and a boat trip along the Pontcysyllte Aqueduct, which is the longest and highest cast iron aqueduct in the world. Walking tour of the ancient town of Chester with afternoon tea at The Chester Grosvenor Hotel (Michelin Star Hotel) and lots more. An exciting holiday put together with our members in mind.

Contact Holiday Organiser Fred Carter on 01268 66149 or e-mail efandicart@btinternet.com

Tickets will be on sale next month for the **Royal Variety Party Night** in celebration of The Queen's Diamond Jubilee to be held at Mill Hall on Friday, 8th June, 2012 - a night of entertainment, dancing and supper with a celebratory red, white and blue theme.

Full details of all these events at www.rayleigh3a.org.uk

Best wishes to you all,

Maureen – Chair, Rayleigh U3A

GROUPS/GROUP LEADERS

| | | | | | |
|-------------------------------|----------------------|--------------|----------------------------------|----------------------|--------------|
| Acoustic Guitar | Vera Ward | 01268 775040 | Lap Top Computing 1 | | |
| Antiques/Collectables | | | | Frank Bodey | 01268 733616 |
| | Sheila Read | 01268 778926 | Lap Top Computing 2 | | |
| Archaeology | Ian Haynes | 01268 779749 | | Claire Dawson | 01268 786918 |
| Art Appreciation | Barbara Curry | 01268 775460 | Latin | Dave Filby | 01268 770023 |
| Art I – Water Colours | | | Luncheon Group 1 | | |
| | Sylvia Lester | 01268 774201 | | Margaret Bristow | |
| Bird Watching | Laurie Denney | 01702 615370 | Music Appreciation | | |
| Book Reading | Doreen Blake | 01268 774871 | | Les Geales | 01702 206966 |
| Book Reading 2 | Marian Allen | 01268 743339 | Papercrafts | Janet Carlton | 01268 452791 |
| Calligraphy | Irene Tyson | 01268 742942 | Poetry | Doreen Bodey | 01268 733616 |
| Canasta | Chris & Dave Towell | | Real Ale Group | Dave Filby | 01268 770023 |
| | | 01268 528937 | Scrabble | Margaret Bristow | |
| Ceramics | Brenda Perrott | 01268 779590 | Serendipity 1 | Linda & David Clarke | |
| Crib Club | David Sheffield | 01268 743586 | | | 01702 204559 |
| Digital Photography | | | Serendipity 2 | Pam & Keith Dunt | 01702 201747 |
| | Brian Kersey | 01268 743959 | Serendipity 3 | Pat & John Pomfret | |
| Discussions on Points of View | | | | | 01702 230253 |
| | John Edwards | 01268 747208 | Serendipity 4 | Sue & Mike Cairns, | 01268 743497 |
| Drama | Joanne Baker | 01268 742252 | | Maureen Hayes | 01702 473110 |
| Family History Beginners | | | | & Peter Britton | 01268 777525 |
| | 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 | V.I.P. | Liz & Laurie Denney | |
| Gardening (Propagating) | | | | | 01702 615370 |
| | Harry Brickwood | 01268 743838 | Visiting Essex Churches: | | |
| Golf | Kay Nevin | 01268 780855 | Group 1 | Marian Allen | 01268 743339 |
| History - Local | Heather Flemings | 01702 204943 | Group 2 | Elizabeth Baker | 01702 331166 |
| | / David Fryer-Kelsey | | Group 3 | Brenda Perrott | 01268 779590 |
| | | 01702 203455 | Group 4 | Jan Churchill | 01702 510296 |
| History - Essex Social | | | Group 5 (J) | Maureen Turner | 01268 750967 |
| Group 1 | David Carlton | 01268 452791 | Walking 1 | Roger Baker | 01702 331166 |
| Group 2 | John Passfield | 01702 203980 | Walking 2 | Les Poole | 01268 773174 |
| Group 3 | Joan Anderson | 01268 774985 | Wine Appreciation | | |
| Industrial Awareness | | | | Harry Brickwood | 01268 743838 |
| | Janet Carlton | 01268 452791 | Yoga | Suzanne Middleton | |
| Keep Fit | Janet Carlton | 01268 452791 | | | 01702 557389 |
| Knit & Natter | Doreen Oliver | 01268 743082 | (J) = Joint with Rayleigh Grange | | |

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

| | |
|----------------------------|---|
| Friday, 24th February | Annual Speaker Lunch £17.50 Tickets now on sale |
| Wednesday, 14th March | Essex University, Southend Campus “What makes us Happy?” Tickets on sale at the March monthly meeting £12.50 |
| Wednesday, 21st March, | London Book Club Tour £28.50 Tickets now on sale |
| Friday, 8th June | Royal Variety Party Night £12.50 Tickets on sale at the March monthly meeting. |
| Mon. 17th – Fri. 21st Sept | Holiday to Cheshire & North Wales organiser Fred Carter. |

COMMITTEE CONTACTS

Chairman:- Maureen Huntly - 01268 777398
e-mail - maureenhuntly@btinternet.com

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

Group Co-ordinator:- Sue Taylor - 07791477720
e-mail - susan.taylor106@tesco.net

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

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

GROUP CO-ORDINATOR'S NEWS

Towards the end of last year we saw several new groups start up including Canasta, Poetry, Social History II, Social History III and a second Lap Top Group. This year I hope to get more new groups going including Fine Dining, possibly Astronomy and yet another Serendipity Group. I have also had suggestions for a new Book Club but specifically non-fiction and Biographies etc. Another suggestion was for Table Tennis – so if you are feeling energetic and might be interested please put your names down at the next monthly meeting and I will look into this one to see if it is feasible. I guess anything is possible!

I will be leaving forms out as usual for you to fill out and if there is anything else you would like to see on our list, please let me know.

Sue Taylor – Group Co-ordinator (07791477720)

NEWS FROM OUR GROUP LEADERS

PAPERCRAFTS

(Scrapbooking and Card making)

As the methods of card-making are akin to scrapbooking you may be interested to know that some of our members also enjoy producing handmade cards to give to family and friends on various occasions and find it to be another enjoyable hobby. We have, therefore, decided to change the name of our group to “Papercrafts” and we would like to invite Rayleigh U3A members to join us if you are either already a card-maker or if you would like to learn. Our Papercraft Group will still encompass scrapbooking but will now include cardmaking of different styles and ideas. We are a small friendly group and would welcome new members. We meet on the third Thursday of the month at Clay Cottage, Hockley.

Please give me a call if you are interested and would like further information.
Janet Carlton – 01268 452791

LOCAL HISTORY

Get all the latest details of the group on our blog. <http://lhqu3arayleigh.blogspot.com>

Thursday, 29th March Paul Taylor will give a talk illustrated with slides about the Southern Belle at the WI Hall. Southern Belle was a charabanc which took parishioners on an extensive mystery tour

of surrounding areas. Very good pictures of locations/scenery and the people on the charabanc wherever it stopped.

10.00am to 12.00, £4 per head to include tea/coffee/biscuits. Please pay at the next U3A meeting on 2nd February.

Please note the change of date from Thursday 22nd March.

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.

Wed. 16th May Coach trip to Sutton Hoo and Woodbridge. Fully booked. Book visits with Heather Flemmings, at the monthly U3A meetings, or email heatherfl@lineone.net or phone – 01702 203455.

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

David Fryer-Kelsey – 01702 203455
Heather Flemmings – 01702 204943

TENPIN BOWLING

Due to holidays I was unable to send details of our Christmas meeting, so here is a quick recap. It was a brilliant afternoon. Everyone wore Christmas hats and there were chocolates for every one. Our winners for December were Alan Brown, John Capel and Peter Goodwin.

January starts our fifth year (it doesn't seem possible!). In January we had 22 members and they couldn't believe it was our fifth year. Our winners were Mike Edwards, Graham Godfrey and Lilian Dennis and our new award for the bowler with the lowest score went to Jane Godfrey. Jane said she will do better next time.

The bowler of 2011 went to John Capel.

Our next meeting will be on Tuesday, 14th February at CJs Hockley at 2pm.

Alan Hudson – 01702 202158

KEEP FIT

Now is the time to join and beat the Winter Blues

After all the overindulgence of the Festive Season we are raring to get back to normal to help shed those extra pounds and start feeling the benefit of our weekly workout. We would be very pleased to welcome new members to our Group so if you are interested in knowing more and would like to come along to a taster session please give me a call. Our sessions are fun so don't be shy – give it a try!!! We meet weekly at Cully's Gym in Hockley.

Janet Carlton – 01268 452791

INDUSTRIAL AWARENESS

For those of you who have shown an interest in joining the Industrial Awareness Group, you will be pleased to know that the much delayed inaugural meeting has been arranged for Tuesday, 14th February in the meeting room at Mill Hall between 10.00am - 12 noon. Members who have shown an interest in this Group will be notified but if you have not already given your name in the past and would like to find out more please give me a call and I will add you to the list.

Janet Carlton – 01268 452791

THEATRE GROUP II

As many of you know Kathy has moved to Clacton and I have family illness so I'm not able to commit to running the Group for at least the early part of 2012. Jean and Helena, Group I, have agreed to enlarge their group. So, everyone in Group II who would like to join Group I, please contact me with full details, i.e. address, post code, phone and e-mail and I will pass the information on to them. They ask for an annual payment of £2.00 per member. This helps to pay towards the cost of room hire etc. In fairness to others this must be paid before becoming a member of their group. Payment can be made at the monthly meeting in February. As this may be a very busy meeting, please have all information written down, together with your money, and I will contact you when I have spoken to Jean and Helena.

You can still contact me with any queries as I shall still be involved with their group.

Thank you for all your support in 2011. I hope you enjoyed the shows and plays you saw.

Sandra Wilson – 01268 775184

sandra.alanwilson@yahoo.com

THEATRE GROUP I

If you want to continue with the Theatre Group please send your annual registration subs of £2.00 which helps with the hire of the halls and expenses. Please pay at the monthly meeting or send them to Helena Maxwell or to Sandra Wilson.

HAYLEY WESTERNRA on Wednesday, 7th March, 7.30pm at the Cliffs Pavilion. Please contact Helena about arranging lifts. There are 9 members going.

PHANTOM OF THE OPERA on Thursday 17th May at 2.30pm at Her Majesty's Theatre, Haymarket. There may be a few tickets available price £26.00 so check at the Theatre Table or contact Helena. Cheques payable to Rayleigh U3A by 3rd February at the latest please.

CASH ON DELIVERY – The Mill at Sonning on Thursday, 19th July.

Please note change of date. We have several seats available so please check at the Theatre Table on the 3rd February. Cost

ESSEX UNIVERSITY LECTURE

Essex University Southend Campus have planned another open Lecture especially for members of the University of the Third Age. Lecturer - Professor Elaine Fox BA. PhD. Department of Psychology. Subject matter - 'What makes us happy?' Wednesday, 14th March at 4.00pm. Further details shortly and in the March Newsletter. Places can be booked at **March Meeting.**

Marian Allen.

MONTHLY MEETINGS

The Committee are aware that members enjoy time at the beginning of the Monthly Meeting to chat with friends, buy tickets, check on group activities and buy from the Book Stall. With this in mind we have decided to open the doors to members at 1.45pm when drinks and biscuits will be available until 2.30pm. The Chair's Welcome and Notices will then take place followed by the Speaker at 2.45pm giving time for questions before close at 4pm.

We hope you will find this satisfactory.

Our Chirpy Little Friend - see front cover

This friendly little Robin joined the Birdwatching Group last week in one of the hides at Two Tree Island. They all felt guilty as none of them had any nibbles for him. The picture was taken by Anne Windle on her mobile phone. She then downloaded it and sent it to the editor. Isn't she clever!

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

janetcarlton@blueyonder.co.uk

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

To arrive no later than
Saturday, 14th February, 2012

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

ROYAL VARIETY PARTY NIGHT

We are delighted to announce that we will be holding a red, white and blue themed event in celebration of the **Queen's Diamond Jubilee** entitled Royal Variety Party Night to take place at Mill Hall on Friday, 8th June, 2012 from 7.30pm until 11.30pm to include a variety of entertainment from our drama, singing, guitar groups plus John Pomfrett, our very own Member of the Magic Circle, who will be Master of Ceremonies and treat us to some fascinating magic.

Buffet Supper will be served followed by dancing and professional musical entertainment from Pete George. Tickets will be £12.50 and on sale at the March Meeting. Tickets will be limited on a first come first served basis.

FAITHS AND BELIEFS

The Faiths and Beliefs Sessions commenced in January and are taking place in the Women's Institute Hall, Rayleigh. Ministers from local Christian denominations, the Salvation Army and the Seventh Day Adventists have been invited to speak. There are still a few tickets remaining at £8.00 for all three sessions with a discount for fewer sessions. Please send a cheque made payable to "Rayleigh U3A" together with a stamped addressed envelope to Marian Allen, 20 Crown Hill, Rayleigh Essex SS6 7HG or telephone 01268 743339 for further information.

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

FROM THE MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY

We would like to thank all members for renewing their membership and hope that you all will enjoy the programmes and activities in the coming year.

Doreen Blake - Membership Secretary

will be about £50.00 in total for a 2 course lunch, play and coach. £20.00 deposit required by the 3rd February and the remainder in May/June. Contact Theatre Table or Helena.

NEXT THEATRE GROUP MEETING for both Group I and Group II is on Friday, 17th February at 10.30am – 12 o'clock at the W I HALL, RAYLEIGH.

Helena Maxwell, 5 Warwick Close, Rayleigh, SS6 8PH, Tel: 01268 772061 / 07952574907 or email: maxbox@talktalk.net
Jean Mackenzie, R750 Kings Park Village, Canvey Island, SS8 8QS. Tel: 01268 510570 or 07719800735, email: j.mackenzie123@btinternet.com

VIP GROUP

BLETCHLEY PARK - 40'S THEMED DAY
Sunday, 27th May,

A trip to Bletchley Park is being arranged in May. With the threat of war looming a small team of scholars, turned code-breakers, arrived at Bletchley Park to crack the Nazi Enigma code. The odds of their success were 150,000,000,000,000,000,000 to 1.

Their success shortened the war by at least two years. Now you can see Colossus, the world's first computer and view an exhibition about the theft and subsequent recovery of the Abwehr Enigma, stolen in 2000. A variety of events will be hosted on this themed 40's day. Tickets include an audio guide. However, free guided tours take place throughout the day which you can join at your own convenience.

Ticket price of £27.00 will include driver's gratuity. **TICKETS NOW ON SALE**

Laurie Denney – 01702 615370

HEADLINES AND ACTIVITIES

PLEASE NOTE

The Variety Night planned to take place on 14th April has now been replaced by the Royal Variety Party Night to take place on Friday, 8th June 2012.

NEW RAYLEIGH U3A WEBSITE

This is now online and can be found at www.rayleighu3a.org.uk Please take a look.

I would appreciate any feedback on the site and in particular any notification from Group Leaders of any amendments or additions required regarding the days that groups meet as detailed on the "Groups" page so we can ensure this is all correct. This page is an area that can be developed further and this will be on the agenda at the next Group Leaders Day.

It is the Committee's intention to phase out e-mailing the newsletter within the next few months as it will be published on the website. Please have a look at the newsletters on the website and let me know if you have any issue with this. It is password protected to ensure it is only accessible by members of Rayleigh U3A. The username and password have already been issued to those on e-mail. Those who receive a hard copy in the post will still continue to do so.

You can either e-mail me at pa.huntly@btinternet.com., send a message via the contact page on the website or ring me on 01268 777398.

Pete Huntly – Webmaster

THIS MONTH'S GUEST SPEAKER

Tom Hart Dyke



Star of three television series on the making of the world garden is a plant collector whose enthusiasm for orchids led him into an adventure few people would survive unscathed.

Held captive by guerrillas in the mountains of Central American danger zone the Darien Gap. Tom Hart Dyke kept hold of his sanity by dreaming of building a garden filled with plants from every corner of the globe. He would recreate a map of the world, with indigenous plants growing in their native countries - a profusion of nature's weirdest and most wonderful flora that would amaze and delight all who saw it.

This is his story of captivity.

Safely back home in Kent after his ordeal, Tom was inspired. If he built his dream he could finally lay his demons to rest and at the same time revive the failing fortunes of his family home, Lullingstone Castle.

NEXT MONTH'S SPEAKER

Dr Todd Landman



Next month's speaker, Dr. Todd Landman from the University of Essex, has published numerous books, articles and chapters primarily on politics and human rights. He has travelled to over 35 countries working on a variety of training and capacity building projects for national, international, public and private organisations. He appears regularly in the media, at public events and as an entertainer. He combines his interest in philosophy, history, politics, science and the unknown to provide a unique form of mystery entertainment.

He will talk on Rational Intuition.

RAYLEIGH U3A – 2012

OUR YEAR OF CELEBRATION FOR THE SPOKEN & WRITTEN WORD

ANNUAL SPEAKER LUNCH

'TRAVERSA'

A solo walk across Africa from the Skeleton Coast to the Indian Ocean

On 24th February, 2012 we welcome Author and Public Speaker, Mr. Fran Sandham, to speak at our Annual Speaker Lunch. The critically acclaimed author Fran took on the challenge of a lifetime by walking solo across Africa (at least solo apart from a disastrous donkey!!)

He had no backup, no support team, no one to carry his gear, no sponsors, no film crew, no journalists, no fuss, no cheering crowds and no string attached. Above all it was a one-way ticket – no safety nets, no get-out clauses and nothing to fall back on.

He is a lively and engaging speaker whose journey on foot across Africa needs to be heard to be believed. Further details www.traversa.co.uk

Join us to hear his incredible story at Saxon Hall on Friday, 24th February, 2012. The price of the ticket - £17.50 - includes a two course lunch with tea/coffee and mints, raffle and gratuities.

Tickets on sale now

Please send a cheque for £17.50 made payable to Rayleigh U3A with a sae to: Secretary: Maureen Hayes, 14 Agnes Avenue, Leigh-on-Sea, SS9 3SX. Tel: 01702 473110 with your menu choices as follows:-

Main Course

Lamb Roast or Scampi, Chips & peas or Vegetarian Option

Dessert

Trifle or Blackberry & Apple Crumble or Ice Cream

Tea/Coffee & Mints