



Spring is just around the corner !!

**This Month's Meeting**  
 Thursday, 7th February, 2013  
 2.00 p.m. - 4.00 p.m.  
**Anita Sackett**  
**"Holidays in the Fifties"**

# 2013-2014

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

Mondays	1st Monday	Art (Watercolours); Ceramics; Family History 1 & Beginners; Laptop Computing 1; Tai Chi; Visiting Essex Churches 4
	2nd Monday	Crib Club (evenings); Tai Chi; Visiting Essex Churches 1
	3rd Monday	Antiques; Laptop Computing 2; Tai Chi; Visiting Essex Churches 2 & 3
	4th Monday	Canasta (evenings); Tai 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; Visiting Essex Churches 5
	4th Wednesday	Calligraphy; Family History 2; Music Appreciation
Thursdays	1st Thursday	<b>U3A Monthly Meeting</b>
	2nd Thursday	Acoustic Guitar; Essex Social History 2; Knit & Natter; Rummikub (even'g); Serendipity 1 & 2; Theatre
	3rd Thursday	Book Reading 1; Discussion/Points of View; Papercrafts; Serendipity 4
	4th Thursday	Art Appreciation; Essex Social History 1; Family History 3; Strolling
Fridays	1st Friday	Keep Fit
	2nd Friday	Book Reading 2 & 3; Keep Fit
	3rd Friday	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

Well, I am home after spending Christmas and the New Year in San Diego, California with my family. As expected the weather was hot although, like you we did have a wet Christmas Day. I had forgotten how cold it is in England as I look out the window today at a thick covering of winter snow.

I hope you have thought about my words in the last Newsletter and have made a New Year's resolution to take a more active role in the running of Rayleigh U3A. This is a good time to remind you that our A.G.M will be held at the usual April monthly meeting followed by our speaker. If you would like to help, a nomination form for the Main Committee will be sent with the Newsletter or can be downloaded from the Rayleigh U3A website. We are especially looking for a member to join the Committee and take on the post of Volunteer's Co-ordinator and to arrange with the band of volunteers to meet and greet members attending our monthly and other meetings. If you are interested and would like more information please speak to me or Irene Carter and we can give you the details of the role.

DO, PLEASE HELP, IF YOU FEEL ABLE TO.

I must take this opportunity to remind you all about the Speaker's Lunch to be held in Saxon Hall on Wednesday, 6th March, when we are lucky to have the author Dee Gorden who will talk about her books "Essex Own" and "Essex Women". Her talk will be after a 2 course lunch at a cost of £17 which includes a raffle and all gratuities. For more information and tickets, please phone Maureen Huntly on 01268 777398 or e-mail her at [maureenhuntly@btinternet.com](mailto:maureenhuntly@btinternet.com)

Finally, I would like to welcome all new members who have joined us this year and wish them and all existing members an exciting, interesting and healthy New Year with the Rayleigh U3A.

**David Sheffield,**  
**Chairman – Rayleigh U3A**

## GROUPS/GROUP LEADERS

Acoustic Guitar Vera Ward	01268 755040	Lap Top 2	Bob White	01268 779709
Antiques/Collectables		Midweek Lunch	Margaret Bristow	
	Sheila Read 01268 778926	Music Apprec'n	Les Geale	01702 206966
Archaeology	Ian Haynes 01268 779749	Papercrafts	Janet Carlton	01268 452791
Art Appreciation	Barbara Curry 01268 775460	Poetry	Marian Allen	01268 743339
Art Water Col'rs	Sylvia Lester 01268 774201	Real Ale Group	Dave Filby	01268 770023
Bird Watching	Laurie Denney 01702 615370	Rummikub	Linda Tull	01702 478649
Book Reading 1	Doreen Blake 01268 774871		Julie Reader	
Book Reading 2	Marian Allen 01268 743339	Scrabble	Margaret Bristow	
Book Reading 3	Margaret White 01268 779709	Serendipity 1	Linda & David Clarke	
Calligraphy	Irene Tyson 01268 742942			01702 204559
Canasta	Chris & Dave Towell	Serendipity 2	Pam & Keith Dunt	01702 201747
		Serendipity 3	Pat & John Pomfrett	
				01702 230253
Ceramics	Brenda Perrott 01268 779590	Serendipity 4	Sue & Mike Cairns,	01268 743497
Crib Club	David Sheffield 01268 743586		Maureen Hayes	01702 473110
Digital Photography			& Peter Britton	01268 777525
	Brian Kersey 01268 743959	Singing for Health & Pleasure		
Discussions on Points of View			Joanne Baker	01268 742252
	John Edwards 01268 747208	Strolling	Connie Walker	01702 202225
Drama	Joanne Baker 01268 742252	Sunday Lunch	Maureen Goss	01268 777681
<u>Family History:</u>		T'ai Chi	Linda Robson	01702 555185
Beginners	Terry Taylor 01268 786405	Tenpin Bowling	Alan Hudson	01702 202158
Family History 1	Sue Taylor 01268 477720		Bob Wren	01702 525311
Family History 2	Pete Huntly 01268 777398	Theatre	Jean Mackenzie	01268 510570
Family History 3	Barbara Dale 01268 772018		Helena Maxwell	01268 772061
Flower Arranging	Irene Stokes 01268 774564		Sandra Wilson	01268 775184
Gardening (Slide Shows)		V.I.P.	Liz & Laurie Denney	
	Linda Clarke 01702 204559			01702 615370
Golf	Kay Nevin 01268 780855	<u>Visiting Essex Churches:</u>		
History - Local	Heather Flemmings	Group 1	Marian Allen	01268 743339
		Group 2	Elizabeth Baker	01702 331166
		Group 3	Brenda Perrott	01268 779590
	David Fryer-Kelsey	Group 4	Jan Churchill	01702 510296
		Group 5 (J)	Maureen Turner	01268 750967
		Walking 1	Roger Baker	01702 331166
<u>History - Essex Social:</u>		Walking 2	Les Poole	01268 773174
Group 1	David Carlton 01268 452791	Wine Appreciation		
Group 3	Joan Anderson 01268 774985		Harry Brickwood	01268 743838
Industrial Awareness				
	Janet Carlton 01268 452791			
Keep Fit	Janet Carlton 01268 452791			
Knit & Natter	Doreen Oliver 01268 743082			
Lap Top 1	Frank Bodey 01268 733616			

(J) = Joint with Rayleigh Grange

## **DATES FOR YOUR DIARY**

<b>Wed 6th March</b>	<b>“Speakers Lunch” Saxon Hall</b>
<b>Wed 10th April</b>	<b>“New Members Coffee Morning” Holy Trinity Hall</b>
<b>Tue 14th May</b>	<b>“Group Leaders Day” Saxon Hall</b>

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

## **SPEAKER’S LUNCH**

An enjoyable social event with good food and good company to be held at

Saxon Hall on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> March 2013, 12 for 12.30pm

Guest Speaker is the

**Celebrated Essex Author Dee Gordon**

Her books are available from all good book shops and Amazon

**Talk entitled ‘Essex Own’ and ‘Infamous Essex Women’**

**£17**

(2 course lunch, raffle and gratuities)

Dee Gordon will be talking about many of the Celebrities featured in her books *Essex’s Own* and some of the lesser known "Infamous" women in *‘Infamous Essex Women’*. The County has spawned a huge range of talent along with a number of women involved in darker episodes in history, both ancient and modern

Dee will also be bringing samples of her other local history books plus the just-published *‘Little Book of the 1960s’* - signed copies of which will be offered at a discount"

For Tickets telephone Maureen Huntly on 01268 777398 or

Email : [maureenhuntly@btinternet.com](mailto:maureenhuntly@btinternet.com)

## **GROUP CO-ORDINATOR’S NEWS**

Our monthly meeting at the Mill Hall sees around 50% of our membership in attendance; at over 200 this is near the maximum it can hold. Without apology, I will repeat here my message of the day, to continue our Chairman’s Christmas theme of a new year’s resolution.

Having raised the profile of a Co-ordinator’s table at the monthly meetings, I now have over 200 names listed on 16 or more activities of people saying that they want to take part in these activities – anything from Art to Walking. The resolution I’m suggesting is FOLLOW YOUR INTEREST in 2013 and be proactive. Let’s get you together with like-minded people to actively pursue your new interest. If you are prepared to assist each other, please let me (or any committee member) know and we will try to help you to facilitate your needs.

I’d like to thank Connie Walker for the success of the new Strolling group which meets on the fourth Thursday each month. Due to family commitments, the instigator of Serendipity 5 is now unable to proceed, so I would like the 4/5 individuals who said they would assist to please contact me, to examine our options in setting up this new group.

The Group Leaders’ Day has been booked for 14th May at Saxon Hall, 9.30am – 4.00pm. I will be emailing all concerned to ascertain the numbers able to attend that day, as we need information for catering and other facilities.

**Bob Wren**  
**Group Co-ordinator**

Tel: 01702 525311  
[Bob\\_wren@hotmail.com](mailto:Bob_wren@hotmail.com)

## **MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY**

The Committee would like to thank all members who have renewed their membership and hope they will enjoy the Events and Groups we have for 2013.

**Doreen Blake – Membership Secretary**  
**Tel: 01268 774871**

## NEWS FROM OUR GROUP LEADERS

### LOCAL HISTORY GROUP

Get all the latest details of the group on our blog

<http://lhqu3arayleigh.blogspot.com>

Our next meeting will be a slide show and talk about the Local and Surrounding Area given by Paul Taylor. He is a fantastic fount of knowledge, has a great collection of slides and is always interesting. **Thursday, 21st March, 2013** at the Rayleigh WI hall, 10.00 to 12.00. Tea/coffee/biscuits will be provided. Cost is £2.00 per person.

On **Wednesday, 10th April** we will visit the Combined Military Services Museum in Maldon from 10.30 onwards. This is a hidden gem of a museum holding an amazing collection including Firearms, Spy Equipment, Special Forces weapons (including a Cockleshell Heroes canoe), English Civil War arms and armour plus other fantastic displays. Free parking, Gift Shop, Tea/coffee available. Cost is £6.00 per person.

We go to Beeleigh Abbey near Maldon on **Wednesday, 15th May**. The grounds include three acres of spacious and peaceful gardens in an historic and rural setting. The backdrop has the remains of a 12th century abbey incorporated into a mainly 17th century private residence. The gardens lead down to the River Chelmer. Tour of the house followed by your own time to explore the gardens. Tea/coffee/cakes and biscuits included. Wheelchair access to the ground floor only. Cost is £16.50 per person.

This visit is now fully booked but we can add you to our reserve list.

Please book and pay for these visits at our table at the next monthly U3A meeting on 7th February. Cheques made payable to Rayleigh U3A.

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

### THEATRE GROUP

As many of you know, Jean went into hospital for another operation in January and Helena's husband (Bill) was seriously ill over Christmas. Therefore, we shall be limiting the number of trips we organise for the time being. We wish both Jean and Bill well and a speedy recovery.

Anyone willing to 'lead' a trip please contact me (Sandra) and I will do the administrative work.

Twenty-four of us saw "Driving Miss Daisy" at the Palace Theatre in December. It was an excellent play although it tested our powers of hearing!

Please collect tickets for "The 39 Steps" if you haven't already done so.

"One Man, Two Guvnors" Please collect tickets from Helena at February meeting.

"Sonning" Deposits paid.

I am trying to organise a trip to the London Palladium to see "A Chorus Line". I will contact those on the 'interested list' direct. Anyone who would like to be added to this list please see me at the February meeting.

Our agent is waiting for new dates for "The Bodyguard". More details when available.

Next Theatre Group meeting on Friday, 8th March is still to be confirmed.

Best wishes to all – **Sandra Wilson**.

**Jean Mackenzie 01268 510570**  
[j.mackenzie123@btinternet.com](mailto:j.mackenzie123@btinternet.com)

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

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

### TENPIN BOWLING

The New Year started quietly as we had CJ's small bowling centre all to ourselves. With 17 members enjoying our first game of the year, Graham Godfrey retained the monthly winners' trophy, with Roy Lewis gaining the wooden pin (our light - hearted equivalent of the wooden spoon). The bumper bars lane winner was Lillian Dennis. Please note that from February, we will be altering the day we meet. This will change from the Second Tuesday in the month to the SECOND MONDAY IN THE MONTH.

This will allow our group leader, Alan Hudson, to join us, as this will synchronise with his dialysis appointment days. We have room for more to join us for some friendly fun and a bit of exercise for £5, including a cuppa. All will be welcome on Monday, the 11th February at 1.45pm. Give us a call if you have any queries.

**Alan Hudson – 01702 202158**  
**Bob Wren - 01702 525311**

### DISCUSSIONS ON POINTS OF

#### VIEW

**"Grumpy ol' U3A members OR**  
**"Discussions on Points of View.**

The first very enjoyable meeting of our new group was held on Thursday, 16th June, 2012. We hold informal and light-hearted discussions on the burning (and lukewarm) issues of today. We are not grumpy or moaners so we have temporarily adopted the name "Discussions on Points of View" for the group, rather than "Grumpy ol' U3A members". We meet at 2.00 pm on the third Thursday of the month so if you fancy a chat (or a rant) in comfortable surroundings then you will be very welcome to join us. Why not come along and give us a try?

Please contact me at:-

**John Edwards – 01268 747208**  
[john@ebmq.com](mailto:john@ebmq.com)

## 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 2pm followed by our speaker Mel Rees whose talk is entitled 'Brought to Book ... That's Life!'**

#### Our guest speaker for March 7th is June Chapman

She quotes - 'I will be including in my talk portraits (painted from life) of many people well known for their theatrical performance.

These were originally shown in my one-woman exhibition in the Olivier Gallery of the National Theatre and also in the Guildhall London. Now they are in museums and institutions celebrating their sitters' connection.'