



Rayleigh News

University of The Third Age

Newsletter No. 2
January 2008

It gives me great pleasure to welcome you all to the New Year of Rayleigh U3A. Ours is a vibrant go-ahead group of people from diverse backgrounds encouraging each other to take up new challenges, interests, share knowledge and experience through groups, monthly meetings, and by visits to explore a chosen subject. In addition we are making friends and learning from each other. We are also looking to have a social programme of events throughout the year.

The Committee are pleased to announce that Marian Allen (Founder Steering Group Co-ordinator) has agreed to be Honorary President of the Rayleigh U3A.

The February meeting is our first Annual General Meeting (AGM), a formal meeting which is held once a year. This year we have to elect committee members. The existing Steering Group have been nominated have agreed to stand in their posts for a period of three years.

Maureen Huntly - Chairman; Brian Kersey - Vice Chairman; Joyce Green - Secretary; Fred Carter - Treasurer; Irene Carter - Membership Secretary; Sue Taylor - Groups Co-ordinator; Terry Taylor - Speaker Secretary/ Webmaster; Janet and David Carlton Editorial Team for Newsletter; Frank and Doreen Bodey - Refreshments/Hall; Betty Herbert - Hall hire.

If anyone would like to stand, we have vacancies for three General committee members. Nomination forms can be collected from the Desk or requested from myself on 01268 777398.

Please read the Constitution which you will be asked to approve at the AGM.

Finally, we hope you enjoy this month's social afternoon which should be great fun. Our thanks to Victor Patterson for providing the musical entertainment and quiz.

Maureen Huntly
Chairman

See over....

GROUP CO-ORDINATOR'S REPORT

During the first two months of its Inaugural Meeting the Rayleigh U3A are very proud of the fact that the following twelve groups are up and running.

Current Group Information

Along with the three already established groups (Visiting Essex Churches, Family History and Scrapbooking) the following new groups held their first meetings:-

The Walking Group had an encouraging start to its activities enjoying walks from Battlesbridge in November and Hockley in December. Roger would like to pay tribute to the enthusiasm of several ladies who, on a very windy wet morning in December, insisted on walking and all expressed their intention to walk again in January!

Planned walks for 2008 :-

<i>9th January</i>	<i>Roach Valley Way</i>	<i>Meet at Hockley Woods Car Park</i>
<i>6th February</i>	<i>Hadleigh Downs</i>	<i>Meet at Salvation Army Home</i>
		<i>Castle Lane,</i>
<i>Hadleigh</i>		
<i>5th March</i>	<i>Westley Heights</i>	<i>Meet at Langdon Hills Country</i>
<i>Park,</i>		<i>Basildon</i>

All Walks begin at 10.00am from the relevant car parks and last about 2 hours at a steady but gentle pace. More members are welcome but please telephone the Group Leader beforehand. Roger Baker - 01702 331166 (Mobile 07867 588879)

Gardening Group - Heather and Linda had their very successful inaugural meetings in November which were very keenly attended and members were invited to discuss what they wanted to do. Visiting gardens was the most popular choice with an interest shown in understanding how flowers and vegetables were judged at local shows etc. The first activity will be a slide show and talk by Harry Brickwood and David Clarke about a garden appreciation holiday in Somerset and Dorset. This will be held in the Cloisters rooms at Holy Trinity Church on the 14th January at 2pm. A trip is also planned for a visit to the RHS Westminster Early Spring Show in February (details to follow). Please contact Garden Group Leaders Heather Brickwood on *01268 743838* or Linda Clarke on *01702 204559* for further information.

Water Colours, Family History II, Visiting Essex Churches II, Acoustic Guitar and Digital Photography I and II also had their initial meetings in December and the schedules and contacts will be detailed in the February Newsletter.

See over....

In January we are launching the following groups and anyone interested in joining should put their name down on the form provided at the front of the hall. As you will see during our break the tables will be manned for you to ask questions and of course join the groups.

Wine Appreciation - Harry Brickwood

This informal, yet informative course, for wine enthusiasts helps to take the mystery out of selecting wines. Meetings will be monthly when you will be tasting an average of 8 wines and learning about different wine regions and grape varieties from around the world. The cost per session will start at £6.00 which will include the cost of the wine and hire of the hall etc.

Singing for Health & Pleasure - Marjorie Sale

Singing can be very therapeutic and of course great fun. A recent Radio programme suggested it would be a good idea for GP's to prescribe some of their patients to start singing!! Marjorie has lots of ideas, so please talk to her and put your name down to join her group.

Book Reading - Joyce Green

To discuss what you would like to get from this group please speak to Joyce with ideas and suggestions and I am sure between you this would become another popular group to join.

Art Appreciation

This group will be meeting in January - If you had shown an interest in this group you will be contacted to arrange the initial meeting.

FURTHER GROUP INFORMATION

As we progress into 2008 there are many more groups we are planning to set up. From the many suggestions at our inaugural meeting in October, the following groups will gradually be started. Of course we will be looking for more Group Leaders and we are sure once you start speaking to all our New Group Leaders, who are already up and running, you will find out how easy this can be.

After all, the groups are run by you the members. So please speak to Sue Taylor if you are interested in leading any of the following groups:-

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Theatre Visits
Cinema/Films
Cross Stitch & Crochet
Bridge/Whist
Poetry
Metal Detecting
Woodworking
Bowls

Essex/Local History
Travel/Holidays
Birdwatching
Discussion/Debating
Quilting
Politics
Languages (French/German/
Spanish etc.)
Art - Oils

NEXT MONTH'S MEETING

Looking to the future there are a number of items of equipment which we are hoping to buy which would enhance our meetings and group activities.

One of the first items we would like to buy is a notice board to display items of interest at our monthly meetings. For your information £2.50 of your annual subscription goes to U3A Head Office to cover insurance and administration costs and the rest pays for the hire of halls, refreshments, speakers' fees, printing costs, postage etc. throughout the year. Obviously, after all this has been allocated it does not leave much spare to pay for any items which we would like to buy.

To this end, starting next month, it is proposed that a bring and buy Book Stall and unwanted Gift Stall will be started - those unwanted Christmas gifts could find a good home! We hope you will bring contributions along to both of these stalls to the February meeting and purchase items from the stalls to help raise funds.

There are a number of volunteer vacancies to fill and we would love to hear from members who would be willing to fill the following vacancies:

Book Stall Gift Stall Refreshments Welcome Desk

Please telephone or see a member of the Committee if you are willing to be a volunteer.

See over....

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER - YOUR IDEAS AND COMMENTS

This is your newsletter and we would be pleased to hear your comments and ideas regarding Rayleigh U3A. Letters or e-mails to the Editor of our newsletter would be well received and could be printed at a later date.

Let's get to know each other

We hope to include photos of your group activities in future editions of the newsletter. Please take photos of your groups and various activities you are taking part in and forward them to the Editor so that they can be included.

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

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

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

To arrive no later than 15TH January, 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**

Rayleigh U3A will shortly have its own website, currently being designed by Terry Taylor, our Webmaster.

WATCH THIS SPACE!!

THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH

"Learn from Yesterday, Live for Today, Hope for Tomorrow."

Albert Einstein

REMINDER:

The next meeting will be on Friday, 1st February, 2008 from 2-4p.m.

This will be our Annual General Meeting and our speaker will be Ann Jolley telling of her experiences as a Contestant in Channel 4's Watercolour Challenge.

As mentioned in our last newsletter the meeting will be held in the hall at the back of Holy Trinity Church. Access to the hall will be through the Main Parish Room door and not the hall doors to allow the hall to be set up before anyone gains access. This will allow our members to be indoors whilst waiting.

CONTACTS

Chairman:- Maureen Huntly - 01268 777398

E-mail -

See over....

Maureen@phuntly.freeseve.co.uk.

Membership Secretary:- Irene Carter -01268 766149

E-mail -

efandicart@btinternet.com.

Group Co-ordinator:- Sue Taylor 01268 786405

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susan.taylorl06@tesco.net

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