



Rayleigh News

University of The Third Age

Newsletter No.21

January 2010

FROM THE CHAIR

Happy New Year to you all,

I always feel that the New Year is a new beginning when we should take the opportunity to count our blessings for all we have achieved and look to the future with excitement and an open mind. Since its conception, each year the Rayleigh U3A has evolved as a vibrant, exciting, interesting group of people who aim to make new friends, start new groups, look at existing groups with renewed enthusiasm and be supportive to other members. That is what makes us so successful and why people continually want to join our U3A.

Please remember to renew your membership as soon as possible. To those of you who have kindly already sent in your renewal forms please collect your new Membership Cards from the Membership Desk.

Members are advised that the **Annual General Meeting of Rayleigh U3A** in 2010 will be held on 9th April at Holy Trinity Church, Rayleigh, at 2.15 p.m.

Members may nominate Officers and Committee Members and give Notices for Motions to be considered at the AGM so long as such matters are proposed and seconded by two current members (and, in the case of nominations, confirmation from the person being nominated that they are willing to stand for the position) and delivered in writing to the Secretary at least 8 weeks prior to the date of the AGM. Committee vacancies will be listed in the February Newsletter when nominations from the membership may be put forward. Members will be provided with a copy of the Agenda for the AGM, and a copy of the audited financial statements of Rayleigh U3A for the year to 31st December 2009 with the March 2010 Newsletter. Members should ensure that they bring with them to the AGM on 9th April these copies of the Agenda and financial statements sent to them in March as further copies may not be available at the AGM itself.

The Minutes of the last AGM held on 6th February 2009 have been considered and agreed by the Committee. A copy will be posted on the Notice Board at the meetings in March and April 2010 for members to read (and the Secretary will make available a further copy for any member who requests it). Members will be asked to approve these Minutes at the AGM on 9th April 2010.

Our first speaker of the year is Colin Banks and his talk is entitled 'Man of Hats'.

Best wishes to you all,

Maureen

Chair Rayleigh U3A

Group Co-ordinator's News

What a great year we had, 2009 ended with a total of 46 Groups. All very popular and still a few with waiting lists. Most groups had "wound down" leading up to Christmas and what we have to look forward to in the New Year are even more groups starting up, including a second Serendipity and Theatre group.

It would be a shame if these "second" groups are unable to get going if we do not have members coming forward to be Group Leaders who have shown an interest in joining a group. Our meeting on the 7th December for second Serendipity and Theatre groups will hopefully persuade someone to help run these groups (jointly) and I will be able to let you know the outcome at our January meeting and subsequently February Newsletter. PLEASE CONTACT ME IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN BECOMING A GROUP LEADER.

Drama and Cookery will be starting in January and Tai Chi starts its second session on the 5th January. There are still a couple of places available on this very popular group as two of our members are moving away from the area. Please let me know if you would like to join. For more information please contact Joanne Baker for Drama and Maureen Huntly for Cookery.

Please let me know if there are any particular groups that you interested in starting up and we can promote these at our monthly meetings and in our Newsletters.

May I take this opportunity to wish you all a Very Happy and Healthy New Year

Sue Taylor
Group Co-ordinator

NEWS FROM OUR GROUP LEADERS

Archaeology

The Archaeology Group started off in May, 2009. So far, we have examined Iron Age and Roman pottery from local estuary mud, visited Hadleigh Castle to see if we could learn anything new, taken part in a summer excavation organized by a local archaeological society (Rochford Hundred Field Archaeology Group) and carried out our own excavation at a property bordering Hockley Woods.

The Hockley excavation has drawn us into quite an investigation, linking the house to local grand residences Bullwood Hall (before it was a prison) and Whitbreds, and to large 19th century landowners. But why was it built? As part of the quest to solve the mysteries thrown up, we are meeting local historical author Lesley Vingoe.

We are also trying to find a copy of the very rare book "Recollections of Southend-on-Sea and Neighbourhood" written by Miss Augusta Saumarez Tawke in 1915 and published in 1934. Can anybody help?

Ian Haynes - 01268 779749

Serendipity

On Thursday 12th November we had an excellent day at The Natural History Museum. The Dinosaurs were wonderful, especially the working models, and some were full size (scary). The technology was mind blowing. The Tree of life was on the ceiling and wasn't noticed at first, and initially we did not see poor little Ida, as she was so small we had to search for her. The giant Redwood was magnificent as were the Treasures of the World - all the minerals and semi precious stones in their natural state. An excellent pub lunch with wine made us very mellow for the return journey home. Next trip in January will be The Bank of England with a few places still available for our group members. The trip to the Royal Opera House in February is now full.

Linda and David Clarke - 01702 204559

Gardening Group

GARDENING SLIDE SHOWS

On October 26th, at the Cloisters, we enjoyed a slide show given by our U3A member Sheila Morgan. Sheila worked for many years at Hyde Hall and has had exhibitions of her pictures in the information centre. She talked about her visit to Inacullin, a near tropical island off the coast of Ireland. Her cards were made using a most surprising method, previously unknown to me, which involved freezing flowers in stages and then taking a photo - very impressive.

Many thanks to Sheila for such an enjoyable time.

November 23rd – A slide show was given by David Clarke entitled “Our U3A Gardening Year” which included the Malvern Spring Flower Show, Glen Chantry RHS Spring Show at Westminster and many more.

MONDAY 25TH JANUARY 2010 1.30 PM FOR 1.45PM IN THE CLOISTERS, £3.00 WITH REFRESHMENTS

We are very lucky to have Peter Webb to amuse us with his humorous tale of The Good Life. This comes highly recommended from friends in the Burnham on Crouch Gardening Group. This is open to all members of the U3A but there is a limit of 50 people on the Cloisters Rooms. First come first served.

Linda Clarke (Gardening Slide Shows) - 01702 204559

Local History Group

Dates for 2010

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

Fri 19th March at 10.30 a.m., 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.

Wed 14th April at 10.30 a.m., 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 we will have the chance to see fallow deer, herons, kingfishers and other wild life in the woodland. £8 to include train. Tour takes 2 hours.

Please note that the above prices are for 2009 there might be a slight increase for 2010

Please note that you can stay longer after both the above trips if you wish, 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.

Heather Flemmings - 01702 204943

David Fryer-Kelsey - 01702 203455

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

Message from the Committee

The Committee of the Raleigh U3A would appreciate members of the U3A from not prolonging their time in the Cafeteria on the Meeting Day. They should vacate the Underspire and allow the volunteers to clean the cafeteria space before the U3A take it over at 2p.m.

Thank you

Rayleigh U3A Committee

Book Stall

Please Note that due to the congestion and lack of space experienced at our monthly meetings in the Underspire Room it has been decided to not continue with the Bric-a-Brac part of the stall. This has been a successful source of revenue, especially in the early days of Raleigh U3A but now that we are moving on with the continued success of our U3A it has been decided not to continue with the Bric-a-Brac. DVD's, videos and jigsaws will continue to be sold.

The Book Stall continues to thrive with the proceeds going towards speakers and administration costs for our U3A. Thank you to Doris and Brian Lambert for their efforts in making this popular part of our monthly meetings a success. This has become an integral part of our meetings and would be sorely missed without their help in continuing to run the stall.

Newsletter

Grateful thanks to two of our volunteers - Terri Gouldsmith and Sylvia Ketch - who have volunteered to take on the task of organizing the newsletter ready for distribution each month. This is quite a mammoth task to ensure members receive their copies. Thank you Terri and Sylvia - we are extremely grateful to you both.

Janet and David Carlton - Newsletter Editors

Volunteers - in general!

We are grateful to all our band of volunteers who are always so willing to help with so many tasks which may need doing - refreshments in particular, each month. A rota system is in operation for refreshments each month to enable each of our volunteers to take turns ensuring our teas, coffees and biscuits are ready at our meetings. Thank you to you all.

If you are interested in becoming a volunteer - we can never have too many. It really helps to spread the load - please contact June Morris our Volunteer Co-ordinator to find out more.

Some visits and events to look forward to

Lunch with an Antiques expert, Auctioneer and Valuer - Friday, 29th January, 2010

Tickets cost £15.00 and have been on sale since the October meeting. For further details please see the Notice Board and enquire at the Ticket Desk.

Olympic London - Thursday, 18th February, 2010 - and Thursday, 6th May

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!!

Magic Circle - Monday, 22nd March - and Monday, 24th May

Those of you who attended the monthly meeting in November will know that following our extremely entertaining speaker/magician Paul Clancey's appearance it was announced that a visit to the headquarters of the World famous Magic Circle would be arranged. Those of you at the meeting will know that tickets will go on sale at the January meeting with the usual first come, first served arrangements with members attending the meeting taking priority. We are anticipating another bumper request for tickets so two trips have been arranged.

The day will consist of a two hour tour consisting of the following:- On arrival at the Magic Circle, we shall have tea/coffee and biscuits. There will then be a short 10 minute talk about the history of the Magic Circle after which we shall be taken on a guided tour of the building seeing various artefacts, memorabilia, magical posters, the public Museum and the Devant Room. We will then have a live close up magic performance in the Devant Room. After a short break we will be shown to the Magic Circle Theatre for a live stage performance to witness the magical secrets of the world famous Magic Circle. Following our tour we shall be met by our coach driver to be driven a short distance to the restaurants and cafes at St. Pancras Station. For your information, there is also a modern complex of shops at St. Pancras for the shopaholics among us (including an M & S where you could buy some sandwiches) plus sculptures to look at.

Following lunch our coach driver will meet us at St. Pancras for the journey home following what is sure to be an interesting day.

The cost of the visit will be £24 which includes the cost of the Magic Circle tour, coach and gratuities. If you are unable to attend the meeting and would like a place on this trip please send your cheque made payable to Rayleigh U3A to Janet Carlton, 35 Curlew Crescent, Basildon, SS16 5HR. Allocation of places is strictly on a first come, first served basis with members attending the meeting taking priority over postal applications. Please mark the envelope "Magic Circle" and enclose a stamped addressed envelope. The envelopes will be opened after the meeting. Thank you.

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

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Friday, 29th January - Antiques Lunch - See Notice Board and enquire at Ticket Desk.

Thursday's, 18th February & 6th May- Olympic London – All tickets now sold.

Monday's, 22nd March & 24th May - Magic Circle – See page 5 for further information.

Tickets on sale at January meeting

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, 2010

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 WEBSITE

www.rayleighu3a.org.uk

February Meeting -Friday, 5th February, 2010

2.00 p.m. - 4.00 p.m.

Bill Ogley - "Biggin on the Bump"

**The story of an airfield inhabited by the shadows
of extraordinary men and women, RAF, Biggin Hill**

THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH

The key to happiness is having dreams –
the key to success is making dreams come true

Chairman:- Maureen Huntly - 01268 777398

E-mail - Maureen@phuntly.freeserve.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

Newsletter editor;-Janet Carlton 01268 452791

E-mail - janetcarlton@blueyonder.co.uk

Activity List – January 2010						
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Art I – Water Colours Visiting Essex Churches I & IV	Bird Watching Singing for Health & Pleasure Tai Chi	Art II– Water & Oil Cross Stitch/Crochet Walking I	Yoga			
Family History (Beginners)	Midweek Dining II Singing for Health & Pleasure Tai Chi Ten Pin Bowling Wine Appreciation (Evenings)	Art II– Water & Oil Aviation Family History II (Group 1)	Serendipity Yoga	U3A MONTHLY MEETING Latin		
Visiting Essex Churches II & III	Bird Watching Digital Photography Dining Group II Singing for Health & Pleasure Tai Chi	Archaeology Art II – Water & Oil Calligraphy Debating Visiting Essex Churches V	Scrapbooking Yoga	Local History		Sunday Lunch Group II
Gardening Scrabble	Dining Group I Singing for Health & Pleasure Tai Chi	Art II – Water & Oil Music Appreciation Family History II (Group 2)	Art Appreciation Book Reading I Family History III Social History Yoga	Computing Latin Theatre Walking II		

PLEASE NOTE MEETINGS ARE IN THEIR REGULAR "DAY OF THE MONTH" SLOTS BUT DATES MAY VARY WITH SOME GROUPS – IF IN DOUBT CONTACT THE GROUP LEADER

Serendipity – Contact Leader – Various dates each month

Theatre – Contact Leader – Various dates each month – usually Friday

This timetable is correct at time of printing but please always check with your group leader as to the date of your next meeting

GROUP LEADERS

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