



This Month's Meeting
Thursday, 5th January, 2012
 2.00 p.m. - 4.00 p.m.

Mel Rees
 My Family & Other Setbacks

January Summary

GROUP ACTIVITY CALENDAR – Normal day each Group meets each month

Mondays	1st Monday	Art (Watercolours); Ceramics; Family History I; Laptop Computing; Visiting Essex Churches IV
	2nd Monday	Crib Club (evenings); Visiting Essex Churches I
	3rd Monday	Visiting Essex Churches II & III
Tuesdays	1st Tuesday	Birdwatching; Digital Photography; Singing for Health & Pleasure; Tai Chi
	2nd Tuesday	Midweek Luncheon Group II; Tai Chi; Tenpin Bowling; Wine Appreciation (evenings)
	3rd Tuesday	Birdwatching; Midweek Luncheon Group II; Singing for Health & Pleasure; Tai Chi
	4th Tuesday	Midweek Luncheon Group I; Tai Chi
Wednesdays	1st Wednesday	Golf (April, July & September); Walking I
	2nd Wednesday	Archaeology; Golf (May, June, August); Scrabble; Essex Social History II
	3rd Wednesday	Crib Club; Drama; Real Ale; Visiting Essex Churches V
	4th Wednesday	Calligraphy; Family History II; Music Appreciation; Serendipity III
Thursdays	1st Thursday	Serendipity II; Tai Chi; U3A Monthly Meeting
	2nd Thursday	Acoustic Guitar; Tai Chi; Theatre I; Essex Social History
	3rd Thursday	Scrapbooking; Tai Chi
	4th Thursday	Art Appreciation; Book Reading; Luncheon Group I; Essex Social History I; Family History III; Tai Chi
Fridays	1st Friday	Keep Fit; Latin; Local History; Yoga
	2nd Friday	Keep Fit; Yoga
	3rd Friday	Keep Fit; Latin; Yoga
	4th Friday	Keep Fit; Walking II; 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

Happy New Year to you all,

Unbelievably it is a year since we started our monthly meetings at Mill Hall. 2011 was a very successful year with a varied programme of social events, holidays and group activities. I hope those of you who are on the Internet have had a chance to look at our new **Website** at www.rayleighu3a.org.uk which will be updated on a regular basis by our Webmaster, Pete Huntly and Site Editor, Maureen Hayes.

Please renew your **Rayleigh U3A Membership** as soon as possible as we have a waiting list of over one hundred people wanting to join. To those of you who have already sent in your renewal forms please collect your Membership Cards from the Membership Desk.

Members are advised that the **Annual General Meeting of Rayleigh U3A** in 2012 will be held on Thursday, 5th April at Mill Hall 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 2011 with the March 2012 Newsletter. Members should ensure that they bring copies of these documents to the AGM on 7th April as further copies may not be available at the AGM itself.

The Minutes of the last AGM held on 7th April, 2011 have been considered and agreed by the Committee. A copy will be posted on the Notice Board at the meetings in March and April 2012 for members to read (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 5th April, 2012.

Please see the list of dates for the Faiths & Beliefs Study Days. Tickets will be on sale at the January 5th Meeting for the Speakers Lunch on 24th February, our Book Lovers Coach Trip to London on 21st March (only a few places left) and the holiday to Cheshire in September.

A letter has been circulated to Group Leaders looking for talented U3A members to take part in our **Variety Night** at Mill Hall on Saturday, 14th April.

If you would like to read a poem, sing a song, dance the light fantastic, play the banjo or become a member of the Organising Committee then please contact our Organising Committee Member Janet Carlton on 01268 452791. **YOUR U3A NEEDS YOU!!!**

Best wishes to you all, *Maureen - Chair, Rayleigh U3A*

GROUPS/GROUP LEADERS

Acoustic Guitar	Vera Ward	01268 775040	Latin	Dave Filby	01268 770023
Antiques/Collectables			Luncheon Group I (Midweek)		
	Sheila Read	01268 778926		Margaret Bristow	
Archaeology	Ian Haynes	01268 779749	Luncheon Group II (Midweek)		
Art Appreciat'n	Barbara Curry	01268 775460		Marion & Laurie Wrentham	
Art I – Water Colours				01702 555783	
	Sylvia Lester	01268 774201	Music Apprec'n	Les Geales	01702 206966
Bird Watching	Laurie Denney	01702 615370	Real Ale Group	Dave Filby	01268 770023
Book Reading	Doreen Blake	01268 774871	Scrabble	Marg'et Bristow	
Book Reading II	Marian Allen	01268 743339	Scrapbooking	Janet Carlton	01268 452791
Calligraphy	Irene Tyson	01268 742942	Serendipity I	Linda & David Clarke	
Canasta	Chris & Dave Towell			01702 204559	
		01268 528937	Serendipity II	Pam & K. Dunt	01702 201747
Ceramics	Brenda Perrott	01268 779590	Serendipity III	Pat & John Pomfrett	
Crib Club	David Sheffield	01268 743586			01702 230253
Digit'l Photog'y	Brian Kersey	01268 743959	Serendipity IV	Sue&Mike Cairns,	01268 743497
Discussions on Points of View				Maureen Hayes	01702 473110
	John Edwards	01268 747208		& Peter Britton	01268 777525
Drama	Joanne Baker	01268 742252	Singing for Health & Pleasure		
Family History Beginners				Marjorie Sale	01702 346175
	Terry Taylor	01268 786405	Sunday Lunch Club I		
Family History I	Sue Taylor	01268 477720		Maureen Goss	01268 777681
Family History II	Pete Huntly	01268 777398	Tai Chi (J)	Sue Taylor	01268 786405
Family History III	Barbara Dale	01268 772018	Tenpin Bowling	Alan Hudson	01702 202158
Flower Arr'ging	Irene Stokes	01268 774564		Bob Wren	01702 525311
Gardening Slide Shows			Theatre	Jean Mackenzie	01268 510570
	Linda Clarke	01702 204559		Helena Maxwell	01268 772061
Gardening (Propagating)			Theatre II	Sandra Wilson	01268 775184
	Harry Brickwood	01268 743838	V.I.P.	Liz & Laurie Denney	
Golf	Kay Nevin	01268 780855			01702 615370
History - Local	Heather Flemings	01702 204943	Visiting Essex Churches:		
	/ David Fryer-Kelsey		Group I	Marian Allen	01268 743339
		01702 203455	Group II	Elizabeth Baker	01702 331166
History - Essex Social			Group III	Brenda Perrott	01268 779590
Group I	David Carlton	01268 452791	Group IV	Jan Churchiill	01702 510296
Group II	John Passfield	01702 203980	Group V (J)	Maureen Turner	01268 750967
Group III	John Anderson	01268 774985	Walking I	Roger Baker	01702 331166
Industrial Awareness					07867 588879
	Janet Carlton	01268 452791	Walking II	Les Poole	01268 773174
Keep Fit	Janet Carlton	01268 452791	Wine Apprec'n	Harry Brickwood	01268 743838
Knit & Natter	Doreen Oliver	01268 743082	Yoga	Suzanne Middleton	
Lap Top Computing I					01702 557389
	Frank Bodey	01268 733616			
Lap Top Computing II					
	Claire Lawson	01268 786918			

(J) = Joint with Rayleigh Grange

U3A DIARIES

There are a few 2012 U3A Diaries still on sale at the Reception Desk at a cost of £2.00.

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 January, 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

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

NEWS FROM OUR GROUP LEADERS

LOCAL HISTORY

Get all the latest details of the group on our blog.

<http://lhgu3arayleigh.blogspot.com>

Paul Taylor will give a talk illustrated with slides about the Southern Belle. WI Hall on **Thursday 29th March, 2012**. 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 note the change of date from Thursday, 22nd March.

Wednesday, 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.

Coach trip to Sutton Hoo and Woodbridge on **Wednesday, 16th, May**.

First stop Woodbridge where you may visit the various attractions, eat, drink and shop. Then on to Sutton Hoo where refreshments are available. Enter exhibition, visit Tranmer House, walk around site – your choice. Leave Kirby's at 08.00am.

£19.50 per head or £13 for National Trust members. Some seats available. U3A members who are not in our group are welcome.

Book visits with Heather Flemmings, at monthly U3A meetings. email heatherfl@lineone.net or phone 01702 204943
Pay David Fryer-Kelsey at monthly U3A meetings or post to 113 Greensward Lane, Hockley, Essex, SS5 5HS. Cheques made payable to Rayleigh U3A please.

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

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

SCRAPBOOKING

If you are interested in finding out more about our Scrapbooking Group and feel you may like to join this friendly group please give me a call. We would welcome new members and meet on the third Thursday of the month at Clay Cottage in Hockley.

Janet Carlton – 01268 452791

THEATRE GROUP I

On 18th November we held another programme planning meeting with 30 attending. If you want to continue with

Theatre Group 1 please send your registration subs of £2 to help with the hire of the halls and expenses sending them to Helena Maxwell, 5 Warwick Close, Rayleigh, SS6 8PH.

THURSFORD – This took place on 11th November with Kirby's and was a great success with 26 members enjoying the trip. Many thanks to Jean for organizing it.

GHOST – Thursday, 19th January at The Piccadilly Theatre at 2.30 pm. 50 tickets have been booked with 47 going by coach. We have booked a coach with Kirby's so please tell us your pick-up point.

We have arranged a lunch for 45 at Bistro 2, 75 Beak Street, Soho. A two course lunch, -drink with tip should be under £10. A few members have not registered their names for lunch. Some members pick up points also have to be registered. Leaving Kirby's Depot by 9.30 am, Websters Way at 9.35 am and Rayleigh Station at 9.45 am. Please inform Helena about lunch and pick-up point at the next main meeting on 5th January, 2012.

DEATH ON THE NILE, (Agatha Christie) at the Palace Theatre on Thursday, 23rd February. 20 tickets at £18.80 each have been booked and 11 so far taken. Please book with Jean asap if you are interested.

HAYLEY WESTERNRA – Wednesday, 7th March at the Cliffs Pavilion. Please let Helena know if you are interested in going.

PHANTOM OF THE OPERA at the Haymarket. We are hoping to book for 10th or 18th May. So far we have 17 members interested. Tickets should be about £26. Please let Helena know a.s.a.p. if you are interested.

NEXT THEATRE GROUP 1 MEETING – We are hoping to book for **FRIDAY** 10th or 17th February at 10.30am at W I

HALL, RAYLEIGH To be confirmed by 5th January.

Jean Mackenzie – 01268

510570/07719800733

Helena Maxwell – 01268

772061/07952574907

THEATRE GROUP II

In November we had a very enjoyable trip to London. Eighteen saw "Legally Blonde" and fifteen saw "Warhorse". Two very different shows but both were excellent.

At the time of writing we are looking forward to seeing "The Holly and The Ivy" at the Palace Theatre, Westcliff in December.

As some of you know, Kathy is leaving the area in the near future and I have family illness which means I am not able to commit to running the group in the New Year. Jean and Helena (Group 1) have agreed to add those still interested in belonging to the Theatre Group to their list.

If you have not received an explanatory letter from me by the time you receive the Newsletter please collect one from the Theatre Group desk at the January meeting.

Kathy and I thank you for all your support in 2011 and wish you a Happy and Healthy New Year.

Sandra and Kathy.

Sandra Wilson – 01268 775184

Sandra.alanwilson@yahoo.com

GOLF GROUP

We would like to ensure that the U3A Golf Group continues during the year 2012. If you have a set of golf clubs why not join us?

We play an 18-hole round of golf at Dunton Hills Par 3 course once a month between April and September. This is an interesting course finishing with a

FAITHS AND BELIEFS

The Speakers for the Faith and Belief Sessions commence in January and will take place in the Women's' Institute Hall, Rayleigh. The hall has now been booked as have Ministers from local Christian denominations, the Salvation Army and the Seventh Day Adventists will speak. There are still a few tickets remaining at £8 for all three 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 for further information 01268 743339.

FLOWER ARRANGING GROUP

For the first time, members from the Flower Arranging Group provided the table decorations for our Christmas Lunch which was held on the 2nd December at Saxon Hall.

The arrangers were:-

Joanne Baker, Janet Carlton, Liz Denney
Jane Godfrey, Doreen Little, Stella Lutterloch, Cindy Merritt, Libby Plato, Carol Shrubsole.

The flowers looked stunning as members walked into the room and everyone was very impressed by the high quality of work. Irene Stokes is Group Leader and is to be congratulated for teaching members of the Group and helping them reach such a high standard especially as the Group was only formed at the beginning of 2011.

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, 24th February 2012 | Annual Speaker Lunch £17.50
Tickets now on sale |
| Wednesday, 21st March, 2012 | London Book Club Tour £28.50
Tickets now on sale |
| Saturday, 14th, April 2012 | Variety Night |
| Monday, 17th – Fri. 21st Sept. | Holiday to Cheshire & North Wales organised by Fred Carter. |

Don't be disappointed - Book now



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 emailing 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 email. Those who receive a hard copy in the post will still continue to do so.

You can either email 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

PLEASE NOTE

A 2012 U3A Diary was found at the U3A Christmas Lunch at Saxon Hall. Please contact Maureen Huntly 01268 777398 to claim.

VARIETY NIGHT

You will see from Maureen's notes on Page 2 that a meeting will be held at Mill Hall, on Friday 6th January in the Meeting Room at 10.30 to discuss the Variety Night and for an Organising Committee to be formed. Would those of you who would like to be part of this committee please let me know so that we can have an idea of how many people to expect. Please give me a call if you have any queries.

A letter was recently sent out via e-mail to Group Leaders and Members concerning the above meeting. For those of you who don't have access to the Internet, you will find a copy of this letter on the notice board at the meeting on Thursday, 5th January. Please give me a call if you would like to know more.

Janet Carlton – 01268 452791
janetcarlton@blueyonder.co.uk

drink in the Club House. This has proved to be a really enjoyable event with a lovely group of people.

Dates for 2012 :-

11th April: 16th May: 13th June: 11th July: 15th August: 12th September. For more information please give me a call.

Kay Nevin - 01268 780855

INDUSTRIAL AWARENESS

The Industrial Awareness Group will be holding its inaugural meeting in February as soon as a hall can be booked. Members who have shown an interest in this Group will be notified as soon as a hall has been arranged.

Janet Carlton – 01268 452791

VIP GROUP

BLETCHLEY PARK - 40'S THEMED DAY

Sunday, 27th May, 2012 (Bank Holiday)
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. PLUS 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 will include driver's gratuity £27. **TICKETS ON SALE AT THE JANUARY MEETING.**

Laurie Denney – 01702 615370

HEADLINES AND ACTIVITIES

YOUR U3A MEMBERSHIP FOR 2012

To remain a member in 2012 please ensure you complete your Renewal Form and return the whole form to me as soon as possible with a cheque made payable to Rayleigh U3A for the appropriate amount. Please note that Membership will deem to have lapsed if Renewal Application Forms have not been received by 28th February, 2012.

Many thanks.

Doreen Blake - Membership Secretary

This month's guest speaker:-

Mel Rees

Mel is the author of a number of books under his pseudonym Anthony Mann. He portrays a sort of grumpy old man or Victor Meldrew. Mel started to write under his pseudonym during 1989 and has written five paperback books which have been self-published under the name Trouser-Press. Four of his books are in a series of semi-autobiographical, humorous looks at life. There are also two talking books in the same vein. A novel written under his own name tells the story of a group of steam enthusiasts who belong to a fictional Surbiton Railway Club. Most of the humour found in his books results from observations of life, linked with the absurd, the overstated and the self-delusions of those who control our everyday lives. It is all here and less!!! He will talk to us about his family and other setbacks.



And next month's speaker: **Tom Hart Dyke**



Star of three TV series on the making of the world garden at Lullingstone Castle, a young plant collector whose enthusiasm for orchids led him to the Darien Gap in Central America where he was captured by guerrillas and held hostage for nine months. He will tell how he kept his sanity under the stress of his captivity

Sylvia Mitchell and Fred Carter

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