



Study Day - November 2012
See Page 5

This Month's Meeting
Thursday, 3rd January, 2013
2.00 p.m. - 4.00 p.m.
John Vigar
"Country Houses"

Rayleigh U3A

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	U3A Monthly Meeting
	2nd Thursday	Acoustic Guitar; Essex Social History 2; Knit & Natter; Rummikub (evening); 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
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 trips or outdoor activities.

Check with Group Leader 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

I AM WRITING my article for the January newsletter in late November as I have to meet the Christmas deadlines and the Christmas holiday shut downs. I have just spent an exciting weekend in London watching the Lord Mayor's Show. This is the second time for me - the last was over 60 years ago with my father. It was magnificent, with the Mayor's Golden Coach followed by a procession of colourful floats nearly three miles long interspersed with marching bands. If you, like me, have not experienced this spectacle before or saw it many, many years ago, I urge you to make the effort next November!!!

Also coinciding with this weekend were the Remembrance Services taking place at the Cenotaph and all over London. It was especially busy this year as Sunday fell on the 11th Day of the 11th Month - 93 years since the first Remembrance Sunday. We attended a service at the War Memorial outside the Bank of England and another with The Western Front Association at St Lawrence Jewry Church in the Guildhall Yard. It was a very moving day to remember those men and women who had died so my family and I can live free and happy lives.

On a brighter note, Christmas is coming but by the time you read this note even that will have come and gone. I am spending Christmas with part of my family in San Diego, California. I expect it will be different to the typical cold, snowy or wet - U.K. Christmas as it is nearly always 'Hot and Sunny' in California. Christmas Day will be a visit to the beach, with either a B.B.Q. or a roast Virginia ham as they would have had roast turkey at Thanksgiving at the end of November.

Whatever Christmas you had, I hope it met your expectations and you enjoyed yourself with your family and friends. It's a bit late to wish you all a Happy Christmas but I do wish you all a Happy and Prosperous New Year. My final plea is to ask you all to start 2013 with a New Year's resolution and ask yourself "How can I help Rayleigh U3A prosper and progress into 2013 and beyond?".

Sincerely,

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 Geales	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
		01268 528937	Serendipity 3	Pat & John Pomfrett	
Ceramics	Brenda Perrott	01268 779590			01702 230253
Crib Club	David Sheffield	01268 743586	Serendipity 4	Sue & Mike Cairns,	01268 743497
Digital Photography				Maureen Hayes	01702 473110
	Brian Kersey	01268 743959		& Peter Britton	01268 777525
Discussions on Points of View			Serendipity 5	Pat Orme	01268 775996
	John Edwards	01268 747208	Singing for Health & Pleasure		
Drama	Joanne Baker	01268 742252		Joanne Baker	01268 742252
<u>Family History:</u>			Strolling	Connie Walker	01702 202225
Beginners	Terry Taylor	01268 786405	Sunday Lunch	Maureen Goss	01268 777681
Family History 1	Sue Taylor	01268 477720	T'ai Chi	Linda Robson	01702 555185
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		Sandra Wilson	01268 775184
Golf	Kay Nevin	01268 780855	V.I.P.	Liz & Laurie Denney	
History - Local	Heather Flemmings				01702 615370
		01702 204943	<u>Visiting Essex Churches:</u>		
	David Fryer-Kelsey		Group 1	Marian Allen	01268 743339
		01702 203455	Group 2	Elizabeth Baker	01702 331166
<u>History - Essex Social:</u>			Group 3	Brenda Perrott	01268 779590
Group 1	David Carlton	01268 452791	Group 4	Jan Churchiill	01702 510296
Group 3	Joan Anderson	01268 774985	Group 5 (J)	Maureen Turner	01268 750967
Industrial Awareness			Walking 1	Roger Baker	01702 331166
	Janet Carlton	01268 452791	Walking 2	Les Poole	01268 773174
Keep Fit	Janet Carlton	01268 452791	Wine Appreciation		
Knit & Natter	Doreen Oliver	01268 743082		Harry Brickwood	01268 743838
Lap Top 1	Frank Bodey	01268 733616			

(J) = Joint with Rayleigh Grange

NEWS FROM OUR GROUP LEADERS

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
14th January, 2013**

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

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. This will be on **Thursday, 21st March** at the Rayleigh WI hall, 10.00 to 12.00. Tea/coffee/biscuits will be provided. Cost - £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 more fantastic displays. Free parking, gift shop, tea/coffee. Cost - £7 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 - £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 3rd January. Cheques made payable to Rayleigh U3A.

David Fryer-Kelsey – 01702 203455

Heather Flemmings – 01702 204943

GARDENING – Slide Shows

Monday, 28th January, 1.45pm start, Cloister Rooms, Trinity Church, £3.00.

Barry Kaufmann-Wright –
"The Resilience of Nature".

Linda Clarke - 01702 204559

lindaclarke46@talktalk.net

THEATRE GROUP

Following the Theatre Group meeting in November, plans are being made for the following:-

1. "The 39 Steps" Please collect tickets at the January monthly meeting **Sandra**
2. "One Man, Two Guv'nors" - May 1st - already booked and paid for, further details at March meeting **Helena**
3. Sonning "Father of the Bride" - 4th July. **Jean** organising, Please send deposit of £20.00 per person to **Helena** by January 3rd meeting latest.
4. "Kiss Me Kate" Those who expressed an interest in this show have been contacted directly. **Sandra**

Several other suggestions will be acted upon in the New Year. For further details please see us at the Theatre Group table in the Bar area.

In November, 14 of the Group saw "Fiddler on the Roof" at the Cliffs Pavilion. An excellent production much enjoyed by those who attended.

On November 29th, 48 of us went to The Adelphi Theatre in London to see "Top Hat". A beautiful Theatre and a fabulous performance. We all came away smiling and humming the tunes.

December 1st saw 24 of us at the Palace Theatre, Westcliff to see "Driving Miss Daisy". Another enjoyable local show.

November 2012 saw the Palace Theatre, Westcliff celebrate its 100th Anniversary with "100 Shining Hearts". Jean Mackenzie was able to realise a lifetime ambition to 'Tread the Boards' at the Palace playing Queen Victoria (see photo on page 7), amongst other parts, in this production

which included members from various sections of the Community. BRAVO Jean!! The next Theatre Group meeting, booked for Friday, 8th March, is still to be confirmed. Anyone who is on the Theatre Group list and no longer wishes to be contacted, please let us know in order that we can keep our records up to date.

Thank you for all the good wishes you have extended to us for Christmas. Jean, Helena

and Sandra wish you all a Happy and Healthy New Year.

Jean Mackenzie 01268 510570
j.mackenzie123@btinternet.com
Helena Maxwell 5 Warwick Close,
Rayleigh SS6 8PH 01268 772061
maxbox@talktalk.net
Sandra Wilson 01268 775184 1
Katherine Close, Rayleigh SS6 8UH
sandra.alanwilson@yahoo.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!'**

TENPIN BOWLING GROUP LEADER

**Alan Hudson, pictured in November just
before his operation**

**You'll be pleased to know that Alan is
making a good recovery and hopes to be
back bowling in the New Year**



RAYLEIGH U3A COMMITTEE

Chairman:- David Sheffield - 01268 743586
e-mail - dave@djsheff.demon.co.uk

Vice Chairman:- Pete Huntly - 01268 777398
(Gift Aid & Study Day Co-ordinator and Webmaster)
e-mail - pa.huntly@btinternet.com

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

Group Co-ordinator:- Bob Wren - 01702 525311
e-mail - bob_wren@hotmail.com

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

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

Treasurer No1 A/C:- David Clarke - 01702 204559
e-mail - clarked@talktalk.net

Treasurer No2 A/C:- Margaret Read - 01268 761039
e-mail - margitcrip@yahoo.com

Speaker Secretaries:- Fred Carter - 01268 766149
Sylvia Mitchell - 01268 770139
e-mail's - efandicart@btinternet.com
sylviamitchell18@yahoo.com

Volunteer's Co-ordinator:- Irene Carter - 01268 766149
e-mail - efandicart@btinternet.com

Events Co-ordinator:- Terry Gouldsmith - 01268 562803
e-mail - terrygouldsmith@live.co.uk

Halls Booking Officer:- Barbara Hodge - 01268 771820



On a bitterly cold day in December the birdwatchers ventured to walk around the Hanningfield Reserve stopping off at several hides where the wind howled through the open hatches making it a short stop off . The trees now bare of leaves were pretty short on birds too, although a few squirrels were seen scurrying around but we did capture some winter scenes. We soon turned to walk back to the visitors centre in the sunshine, then off to the fishing lodge for a nice lunch in the warm, Most welcome !!

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Thurs. 3rd January First Monthly Meeting of 2013

Thurs. 4th April AGM followed by a Speaker

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

Rayleigh U3A 'Festival of Words' Study Day

at Saxon Hall on Wednesday 14th November 2012

On Wednesday, 14th November, 2012 the Rayleigh U3A Book Groups organised a very successful Study Day for over 130 people entitled "Festival of Words" with four invited guest speakers to celebrate the power of the spoken and written word by communication and learning.

Words create conversation and stories using emotive, descriptive and thought provoking sentences. A human way of spreading the 'word' imparting news and information.

The speakers were Patrick Wilkins a retired senior Fraud Squad Detective who is a Wandsman at St. Paul's Cathedral and recently climbed to the base camp of Mount Everest. Roz Hall poet and Comedienne, author and raconteur and winner of the Frinton Literary Festival's poetry prize and opening the afternoon session Dr Adrian May a lecturer at the University of Essex for Creative Writing and is a poet, songwriter, lyricist and performer of folk music.

One of 'The Times' list of top ten wordsmiths, Author and Historian Barbara Erskine, whose books are as atmospheric as words can create closed our memorable day talking about her latest book 'River of Destiny'.

They each took us on a personal journey giving us a professional voice evoking memories, laughter, song and the written word.

A very successful day enjoyed by a receptive audience (from Rayleigh, Basildon and Billericay, Leigh-on-Sea, Hullbridge, Thorpe Bay, and Canvey Island U3A's) and amazing speakers who all stayed to the end because 'they were having fun'.

Pete Huntly

OUR SPEAKER FOR JANUARY - John Vigar

John Vigar is involved in several charitable organisations. He is a Trustee of Friends of Friendless Churches. This society cares for redundant churches in England and Wales that would otherwise have been demolished or converted to an unsympathetic use. In England it cares for churches that do not meet the criteria to be vested in The Churches Conservation Trust whilst in Wales it is the statutory body funded by Church and State to preserve the most important redundant churches. John lectured for the University of Kent from 1992 to 2010 teaching a variety of architectural and social history studies, and has worked on a sessional basis for many other academic institutions. He has been a regular tutor at Denman College (the national college of the Women's Institute near Oxford) for over 30 years. An enthusiastic and popular approach to his subject ensures that he has a large following of regular students.

John has written a number of books covering a wide variety of historical subjects on Kent. I discovered him during my research for a speaker for our church visiting group and originally intended to ask him to give his talk entitled "Murder, Sex and Mayhem in English Churches" but maybe we shall save that for another time.

February's Speaker - Anita Sackett
"Holidays in the Fifties"

Fred Carter – Speaker Secretary

U3A 2013 DIARIES

**Please note that U3A Diaries for 2013
are now on sale at the Reception Desk
at a cost of £2.00.**



THEATRE GROUP LEADER

**Jean Mackenzie, treading the boards
as Queen Victoria at the Palace
Theatre in November.**

**The theatre was celebrating 100
years of being open.**

REMINDER

If you have not yet renewed your membership and wish to do so I must have your form and cheque by the 31st January, 2013 please.

Please do not delay as this is the cut - off date. Cheques sent now will not be paid in until the 31st January.

Cheques made payable to "Rayleigh U3A" please.

We have a waiting list for people wishing to join our U3A. Places will be allocated at the beginning of February.

Doreen Blake - Membership Secretary

Tel: 01268 774871