

Rayleigh



THE UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE

Newsletter Edition No. 83 – January 2018

Dear Member

Included with this newsletter are the forms to renew your membership for 2018. We now have three methods of payment, but we would encourage you to consider paying your subscription by standing order. If you have any questions about this, please contact our Membership Secretary, Gwen Greenwood on 01268 774882 or gwenu3a@btinternet.com

We have received £1,242 in Gift Aid for last year's subscriptions. Many thanks to Pete Huntly for arranging this. If you have not already done so, please remember to fill in a Gift Aid Declaration when submitting your Renewal Form. Details are on the form.

The transfer of our U3A account to the Nat West Bank has been successfully completed.

The members Coffee Afternoon held at the WI hall on 6th November, arranged by Heather, was well attended and gave an opportunity for members, old and new to meet and talk. Several asked for a repeat and we will hold another on 22nd February.

The visit to Bury St Edmunds Christmas market arranged by Gwen Greenwood and Janet Moore was very enjoyable. The cold weather made a good reason to go into the many shops and open halls and I think much shopping was done.

Christmas lunch was again this year at the Westcliff Hotel. Our thanks to Jane Godfrey for arranging this and several other events during the year. She is now stepping down and a new team will be arranging social events in 2018.

The History of Coffee Study Day at Saxon Hall was interesting and popular. Maureen will be arranging the Jane Austen Literary Lunch in March. Sadly, this will be her last as she is stepping down. So, a new team will be in action in 2018. It seems to be all change at the moment.

Our next meeting will be on Thursday 4th January 2018. I hope to see many of you there. We always need help to arrange these events. If you can spare a couple of hours now and then it would be a great help. Please remember to bring and show your membership card when attending this and other events as we have had gate crashers recently and see no reason why they should take up seats intended for our members.

I would like to thank the Committee, Group Leaders and volunteers for all their support in 2017. Without them we could not function.

The Committee of Rayleigh U3A would like to wish all our members a Happy and Prosperous New Year in 2018. May you long continue to enjoy the events provided for you. Best Wishes

David Fryer-Kelsey Chairman

Congratulations to
David Fryer Kelsey and Heather Flemmings
on their wedding on Friday 10th November 2017

We wish them every happiness in the future.



IMPORTANT CHANGES TO MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL 2018

The Membership Renewal fee for Rayleigh U3A remains the same as last year at £20 per person, but this year you will have two free months as the cut-off date for payment has moved forward from the end of January to the 20th March.

There are now three methods of payment, but we would encourage you to pay your subscription by standing order or direct bank transfer. The standing order and bank transfer methods very substantially reduce the admin procedures that are required by our treasurer, compared to cheque payments. Our treasurer would very much appreciate your help in this matter. The standing order method only requires completion of one form.

Payment by Standing Order or Bank Transfer (preferred methods)

<u>Account Name</u>	<u>Sort Code</u>	<u>Account Number</u>
Rayleigh U3A	54-30-60	42232678

It is IMPORTANT that you add your FULL NAME and POSTCODE in the 'REFERENCE' field of the transaction, e.g. JANE SMITH SS6 8YZ

The completed standing order form should be sent or handed to your bank. It is also possible to make standing order payments through the online banking systems.

Standing Order and **Membership Renewal** forms are included on the last two pages of this newsletter and will be available at the January/February monthly meetings on the Information Desk. They will also be available for you to download from the Rayleigh U3A website using the username and password on the back of your membership card.

Payment by Cheque

Cheques should be made payable to **Rayleigh U3A**, and sent to the Membership Secretary (together with the completed Membership Renewal Form) at: 149 Bull Lane, Rayleigh, SS6 8NU, or can be handed in at the January/February/March monthly meetings.

If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact me by phone on 01268 774882 or email at gwenu3a@btinternet.com

Gwen Greenwood

Membership Secretary



THE UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE

RAYLEIGH U3A EDUCATIONAL EVENT

Tickets on sale at January Monthly Meeting

LITERARY

LUNCH

**MAUREEN STILLER - HON SEC JANE AUSTEN
SOCIETY OF THE UK**

***'Introducing Jane Austen – The Woman and
the Writer'***

**Saxon Hall, Aviation Way, Southend-on-Sea
SS2 6UN**

**Morning coffee/tea & biscuits and hot buffet
lunch and free raffle**

Wednesday 21st March 2018

11am – 2.30pm

TICKETS £16.00

GROUP COORDINATORS' REPORT

Some more fledgling groups have started: Table Tennis have had their first meeting and a Canasta Group is being formed.

FACEBOOK: Viv Smith will be sending emails to all who have expressed an interest in the Facebook workshops in mid-JANUARY to arrange dates.

COFFEE/TEA & CHAT: to include free raffle. Please note we are having our next coffee morning for all members on 22nd February at 10.00am at the W I Hall. The one after will be in the Autumn. We are getting a positive feedback. It is the opportunity you asked for, to integrate with other members. As we do need to know numbers, please put your name down on the board or contact us if you are interested.

CONNECT: The next CONNECT COFFEE AND CHAT is on 18th January at Cafe@Trinity from 10.30 to 12 noon. This is open to all who are by themselves and just want to have a natter and meet new people.

TABLE TENNIS: Please let us know if you wish to join this group. They have had two very enjoyable sessions at the Rayleigh Leisure Centre, but would love more members. Experienced players would be very welcome, to pass on their skills, and beginners are also very welcome. The winter 'Third Age Matters' magazine has the front-page comment, "Why table tennis is the sport of choice for older people" and inside is an article giving very good reasons why they advocate it. Elaine Woodcock is the Rayleigh U3A Group Leader.

CANASTA 2: Roy Fallis is the Group Leader. Please contact us, if you are interested in joining this group. Another article on page 78 of the winter 'Third Age Matters' magazine reports that a member, who booked a Saga holiday recently, had obtained a reduction of £25 when he/she asked for a U3A members' discount.

Hope the New Year will be a cracking year for members to join existing groups and, of course, form new ones.

David & Heather Fryer-Kelsey

Group coordinators

COME AND HELP YOUR U3A

We have a new manned table at the Thursday 4th January 2018 Monthly Meeting just inside the hall. Please come and have a chat as we desperately need your help to keep the Monthly Meetings running.

We will not be able to carry on with these meetings unless we get some more help. Just think – we have 10 Monthly Meetings a year so, if we get 20 volunteers, this would mean you would only need to help once every 2 years! We need help with putting up and taking down the display boards on the four tables, also the sound system and display equipment. Can you give up less than an hour or so of your time to help keep these Monthly Meetings running? We will be happy to chat about how you can help.

Jim Whitehouse can be contacted at our Monthly Meeting or Tel: 01702 512717 or email: jimwhitehouse@hotmail.com

SERENDIPITY 6 GROUP VISIT



On Wednesday 25th October 14 members of Serendipity 6 group visited the New Holland Agriculture Basildon Tractor Plant. We arrived at 10am and were greeted by Sue Hart our guide.

After coffee and biscuits, we watched a presentation outlining current and historical facts about tractor production in the UK, Basildon and the USA.

Following a brief safety talk, we were led, clad in high visibility safety jackets, into the production area. This is sectioned into progressive assembly units – a hive of activity. The workforce was busily engaged and in some areas, we witnessed aspects of robotic construction.

We rounded off our visit with lunch at the local Harvester in the Basildon Leisure Centre.

Marie & Ron Oatham

Photograph *Ann Surety*

SCRABBLE

If you have ever played Scrabble, why not join us? If you have not played before, but would like to try it, you are most welcome. It doesn't matter at what level you play; our aim is to meet with friends, keep our grey cells active and enjoy the game.

We meet the second Wednesday of each month at 2pm in Rayleigh for about two hours. Usually we have two games with a break for tea/coffee and biscuits between games.



Please contact **Margaret Bristow** through **Heather Fryer-Kelsey**

heatherflemings4@gmail.com, if you are interested or would like further information.

Margaret Bristow

VISIT TO BURY ST EDMUNDS



Our coach trip to Bury St Edmunds Christmas Fair on 24th November was very enjoyable – lots of market stalls, many shops, old and new, a fine old town centre with the Abbey ruins next door. Many people from all over go there each year; should be good for the local economy, but I wonder how many were spending? Not that many people toting carrier bags on the street. The children’s fair in the Abbey grounds had genuine reindeer but Father Christmas was on another stall. Still, great fun and nobody missed the coach home!

THIRD AGE MATTERS

Do you read the U3A magazine? In the winter 2017 issue there is a Reader Survey. If you want to indicate what you find interesting in the magazine please fill in the survey online (go to www.u3a.org.uk/survey), or scan the code with a smart phone/tablet, or post the paper version to the address on the form.

NATIONAL U3A NEWSLETTER

Have you signed up to the national U3A email newsletter? If you wish to receive news, event details and regional updates direct to email inbox, please visit www.u3a.org.uk/email and fill in your details.

DATES for your DIARIES

Thurs 18th Jan 2018	CONNECT COFFEE AND CHAT	10.30am - 12 noon CAFE@TRINITY
Thurs 22nd Feb 2018	NEW YEAR COFFEE MORNING	10.00am - 12 noon WI HALL, BELLINGHAM LANE RAYLEIGH
Wed 21st Mar 2018	LITERARY LUNCH 'Jane Austen, the Woman and the Writer'	11.00am - 2.30pm SAXON HALL, AVIATION WAY SOUTHEND SS2 6UN
Thurs 31st May 2018	NEW MEMBERS' MEETING	9.30am - 12 noon TRINITY CHURCH HALL RAYLEIGH
Thurs 28th June 2018	NEW MEMBERS' and GROUP LEADERS' MEETING	10.00am - 12 noon WI HALL, BELLINGHAM LANE RAYLEIGH

STANDING ORDER PAYMENT FORM (due before/on **20th March 2018**)

Rayleigh U3A Registered Charity No. **1134068**

Complete the details below and send to your Bank/Building Society

Name of your Bank/Building Society	
Branch Address	
Post Code	
Account Name	
Account Sort Code ____ / ____ / ____	Account Number

Please pay Nat West Bank (Rayleigh Branch) Sort Code: **54-30-60** A/c No: **42232678** for the credit of **Rayleigh U3A** the sum of **£20.00** (Twenty Pounds) or **£40** if paying per couple on **20th March 2018** and each succeeding year until further notice.

Quote Ref: (Insert your <u>FULL NAME</u> and <u>POST CODE</u> e.g. JANE SMITH - SS6 8YZ)	
Signature	Date

YOUR DETAILS TO BE INSERTED BELOW

Title	First Name	Last Name
Address		
Post Code	Telephone Number	
Email		

N.B. STANDING ORDER PAYMENTS CAN BE MADE THROUGH ONLINE BANKING SYSTEMS

BANK TRANSFER PAYMENT – ONLINE BANKING

Enter the following details and schedule a payment of **£20** or **£40** (if paying per couple) by **20th March 2018**

Payee RAYLEIGH U3A

Sort Code: 54-30-60 **Account No:** 42232678

Payment Reference: Insert your FULL NAME and POST CODE - e.g. JANE SMITH SS6 8YZ



RAYLEIGH U3A Registered Charity No. 1134068

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL FORM 2018 (due before/on **20th March 2018**)

To renew your membership please complete this form. The membership fee is £20 per person.

BLOCK CAPITALS PLEASE

Mr / Mrs / Ms - First Name(s) and Title(s)	SURNAME
Address	
	POST CODE
Telephone	Mobile
Email address	

MY/OUR MEMBERSHIP is to be renewed by STANDING ORDER/BANK TRANSFER/CHEQUE to RAYLEIGH U3A amount £20 / £40(for a couple) {please select your chosen options} (if required, a standing order form is on the previous page).

THE COMPLETED STANDING ORDER FORM is to be SUBMITTED TO YOUR BANK

Payment by Cheque (please use other methods if possible)

Completed membership form together with cheque payable to RAYLEIGH U3A is to be sent to the membership secretary Gwen Greenwood (address is below), or can be handed in at the Jan/Feb/Mar monthly meetings.

DATA PROTECTION ACT 1988. By renewing my/our membership of Rayleigh U3A, I/we consent to the holding of my/our membership records on a secure database for the administration of Rayleigh U3A in accordance with the published Rayleigh U3A data protection and privacy policy, which is displayed on the secretary’s notice board at monthly meetings and is available on the Rayleigh U3A website.

Signed **Date**

YOUR COMPLETED MEMBERSHIP FORM can be handed in at the January/February/March monthly meetings. Alternatively, it can be posted to the membership secretary **Gwen Greenwood, 149 Bull Lane, Rayleigh** (Tel: 01268 774882 – email gwen3a@btinternet.com)

GIFT AID - Rayleigh U3A is a Registered Charity and we can therefore claim back tax on subscriptions paid by UK taxpayers. If you have already completed a Gift Aid Declaration you do not need to submit another one.

If you require a Gift Aid Declaration Form, please contact **Pete Huntly, Gift Aid Coordinator on 01268 777398 or email (pa.huntly@btinternet.com).**