



Newsletter Edition No. 89 - January 2019

Dear Members

Welcome to the first newsletter of 2019.

2018 has been a busy year for your Committee, trying to make your U3A a friendlier meeting place and ensuring that there are events for your education and entertainment in 2019. We now have a small team wearing red sashes to welcome everyone into the hall at monthly meetings and provide information and help. Our new loudspeaker system should make it easier for everyone to hear properly.

Our monthly speakers will talk about subjects ranging from An Unknown Palace in Essex to My Life in Ladies Underwear.

Talks for All will in future take place at Trinity Church Cloister Hall to give more seating capacity. They include Birds in Your Garden and Red Arrows. Study Days at Saxon Hall cover Japanese Costume and 65 Years in Horticulture.

There will be Pop - In Coffee mornings where you can meet and chat to other members informally, Quiz Shows and a Tiptree Outing and Cream Tea.

Full details are in our bi-monthly newsletter, on our website and on the notice boards at our monthly meetings.

Join our private Facebook page for members looking for others to join them in visits to the cinema and theatre and many other activities.

Included with this newsletter are the forms to renew your membership for 2019. 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, Amanda Lowe on 01268 784792 or amandalowe@rayleighu3a.co.uk. 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.

Sylvia, the wife of Brian Kersey passed away recently after a long illness. Brian is one of our most active Group leaders. Our condolences to Brian, family and friends.

Our next meeting will be on Thursday 3rd January 2019. 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 2018. Without them we could not function. Our best wishes to Sheila, who has been in hospital and our thanks to Viv for producing this newsletter.

The Committee of Rayleigh U3A would like to wish all our members a Happy and Prosperous New Year in 2019. May you long continue to enjoy the events provided for you.

Best Wishes, *David Fryer-Kelsey* Chairman

GROUP CO-ORDINATORS' REPORT

Another year has flown by and we have 59 Groups. It does seem as soon as we build up a number some fold.

Sadly, Serendipity 2 is no longer continuing having given 10 years of happy memories for members and Church Group 4 has also ended after many years.

We are coming to that period when a lot of our Group Leaders of course are 10 years older and cannot continue. This again does highlight that we need more members to come forward and share their interests and as a Group Leader you could share your role.

We have the Pop - In coffee morning on Thursday February 21st at 10.30am to 12-noon. It is the first one of the year and there will be refreshments and a raffle. It will be nice to catch up with each other. Please put your name down at our table.



A New Year's resolution: if you have an interest not already catered for why not share with others and derive full pleasure from it. As always there are boards on the table with suggestions.

Group Coordinators, Heather and David Fryer-Kelsey would like to wish you all a Happy and Healthy

WELCOME TO OUR MONTHLY MEETINGS

Starting at our January monthly meeting at the Mill Hall we shall have a new team of Rayleigh U3A members welcoming everyone into the hall. They will be wearing bright red sashes and name badges so that they can be easily identified. This new team will be welcoming members into the hall, checking membership cards and are there for any member who needs information or help at monthly meetings throughout the year.

Our Membership Secretary Amanda Lowe is also there at the usual table for any queries and information. There will also be a member sitting at the back of the hall whilst the speaker is on stage should anyone need urgent assistance.

We hope that having a team of members to assist other members will make these Monthly Meetings a friendlier environment.

NEWS FROM THE SECRETARY

The U3A Trust is holding an event at The British Museum on 4th February as follows:

Anglo-Saxon Manuscripts and Book Art: a day at the British Library hearing from experts about the sophisticated art found in manuscripts from the Anglo-Saxon kingdoms. The talks will explore the interconnected cultural world of illuminated manuscripts from Britain, Ireland and continental Europe. Welcome refreshments. 10.30am to 4.00pm. £24.00

Online Booking is available www.u3a.org.uk/events or call the National Office 0208 466 6139

If require any assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me at: debbiebamber@rayleighu3a.co.uk or call me on 07947 064799 if you have any questions.

Meet Your Committee (Part Four)

Debbie Bamber — Secretary

I joined Rayleigh U3A in 2018 and shortly afterwards, became Secretary. I belong to the Classic Novels Book Group and am hoping to join the Drama Group in the New Year. I am steadily learning about the U3A movement and am enjoying meeting new people, learning new things and using my skills to support our U3A and its members.



Wendy Edwards – Treasurer

I have been a member of Rayleigh U3A almost 4 years and joined the Psychology Group. When psychologist Linda Robson moved north, I was given the facilitators lanyard! Thankfully all the members are involved in running the group. It's a real team effort! I also belong to a Church Group, Serendipity Group and have tried Tai Chi. 2 years ago I joined the main Committee to help where I could. Within a year I became the Treasurer, both interesting and challenging!! I would encourage all U3A members to get involved. You will get to know far more members and have a greater sense of belonging.



Gwen Greenwood - Membership Assistant

I have been a member for almost 5 years. I joined a Church Visiting Group then became Membership Secretary for 4 years and helped on the Social Committee. This is my last year on the Committee supporting the new Membership Secretary. I would recommend being on the Committee to anyone who wishes to get to know how the Rayleigh U3A is run. I belong to Church Visiting, Patchwork, Family History and Serendipity Groups and the new Gardening Group. I have been on theatre trips and coach outings. I enjoy all these and through them I have made many friends and learnt a great deal.



GIFT AID

Rayleigh U3A is a Registered Charity and we can therefore claim from the Taxman 25p for each £1 of your annual subscription - £5 in total. If you have already completed a Gift Aid Declaration you do not need to submit another one.

If you have yet to submit a Gift Aid Declaration you can download the form from the Welcome page on our website or contact Pete Huntly, Gift Aid Coordinator at pa.huntly@btinternet.com or on 01268 777398 to request a form.

EVENT CINEMA

Thrilling theatre, mesmerising music and sensational ballet 'LIVE PERFORMANCES' are being screened in local cinemas (Odeon, Southend and Cineworld, Basildon) during the coming months, from:

THE BOLSHOI BALLET, MOSCOW

THE METROPOLITAN OPERA HOUSE, NEW YORK, USA

THE NATIONAL THEATRE, LONDON

THE ROYAL OPERA HOUSE, COVENT GARDEN

Details of future screenings shown on the venues' websites are listed below. Advance bookings can be made directly with the cinemas {senior prices from £21.25 at the Odeon, Southend and £16.50 at Cineworld, Basildon, [Festival Leisure Park]}.

It's been suggested that some members may wish to meet prior to attending performance(s) for a coffee/bite to eat. There are many options at both venues. If there are enough members wishing to go to any of the performances, it may be possible to organise a group booking. At present there are seats for sale, but there is no guarantee how long they will be available for.

DATE	VENUE	FROM	START TIME	DURATION
Tues 19 Feb	Odeon Southend	Royal Ballet, London Don Quixote	19.15	200 mins
Tues 11 Jun	Odeon Southend	Royal Ballet, London Romeo & Juliet	19.15	200 mins

Sun 20 Jan	Odeon Southend	Bolshoi Ballet, Moscow La Bayadere	15.00	200 mins
Sun 10 Mar	Odeon Southend	Bolshoi Ballet, Moscow The Sleeping Beauty	14.00	170 mins
Sun 7 Apr	Odeon Southend	Bolshoi Ballet, Moscow The Golden Age	14.00	140 mins
Sun 19 May	Odeon Southend	Bolshoi Ballet, Moscow Carmen Suite	16.00	140 mins

DATE	VENUE	FROM	START TIME	DURATION
Tues 22 Jan	Odeon Southend	Royal Opera, London The Queen of Spades	18.45	200 mins
Wed 30 Jan	Odeon Southend	Royal Opera, London La Traviata	18.45	200 mins
Tues 2 Apr	Odeon Southend	Royal Opera, London La Forza Del Destino	18.15	200 mins
Tues 30 Apr	Odeon Southend	Royal Opera, London Faust	18.45	200 mins

Tues 15 Jan	Odeon Southend	NT Live The Tragedy of King Richard 2nd	19.00	Not given
Tues 14 May	Odeon Southend	NT Live All My Sons	19.00	165 mins

Sat 12 Jan	Cinema World Basildon	Met Opera, New York Adriana Lecouvreur	17.55	238 mins
Tues 22 Jan	Cinema World Basildon	Royal Opera, London The Queen of Spades	18.45	200 mins
Wed 30 Jan	Cinema World Basildon	Royal Opera, London La Traviata	18.45	200 mins
Sat 2 Feb	Cinema World Basildon	Met Opera, New York Carmen	17.55	216 mins
Tues 19 Feb	Cinema World Basildon	Royal Ballet, London Don Quixote	18.45	200 mins
Sat 2 Mar	Cinema World Basildon	Met Opera, New York La Fille du Regiment	17.55	175 mins
Sat 30 Mar	Cinema World Basildon	Met Opera, New York Die Walkure	17.00	294 mins
Tues 2 Apr	Cinema World Basildon	Royal Opera, London La Forza del Destino	19.15	200 mins
Tues 30 Apr	Cinema World Basildon	Royal Opera, London Faust	18.45	210 mins
Sat 11 May	Cinema World Basildon	Met Opera, New York Dialogues des Carmelites	17.00	189 mins
Thurs 16 May	Cinema World Basildon	Royal Ballet, London Triple Bill	19.15	180 mins

If you are interested or want further information please contact Sheila by email at sh.fa.40@gmail.com or phone 07724095299.

If any members have photographs of recent events, visits, interest Group activities, outings or U3A holidays in 2018 and in the future, we would be interested in including them on the Rayleigh U3A website. Please send them to our Webmaster, Pete Huntly, at pa.huntly@btinternet.com including a short description e.g. who is in the photograph, what the event/activity was and the date taken please.

NEWS AND PHOTOS FROM AROUND THE BRANCH

On 6th December, members of the **Art Group** had a day out to an exhibition of miniature paintings at the Mall Galleries in London. The paintings were amazing. There was also an exhibition of oil paintings and demonstrations. The group had a lovely day and it has given us a lot of ideas. We had lunch afterwards and it was a great day. Happy Painting!

Amanda Lowe – Rayleigh Art Group.



Rayleigh U3A Christmas Lunch 2018

96 Rayleigh U3A members enjoyed Christmas lunch at the Saxon Hall on 5th December. After the festive meal entertainment was provided by the Daisy Bowlers.

Walking Group 2

Under the leadership of Les Poole, walk regularly on the last Friday of the month. Here we see them in the depths of the woods at Little Baddow on a lovely sunny day in November. Afterwards a well-deserved lunch and chat at the General Arms Pub.



Church Visiting Group 2

Members at their 2018 Christmas Lunch at the Royal Oak, Stambridge.

Wednesday 22nd May 2019

11.00am—3.30pm at SAXON HALL

Japanese Costume & Textiles by Suzanne Perrin MA

11.00 Tea and Coffee.

11.30 Introduction to the Kimono & Samurai Attire

13.00 Two Course Set Lunch

14.00 (approx) Costumes for Theatre, Festivals & Religions & examples of Japanese Textiles followed by Free Raffle

The art of the kimono from court dress through changing styles and bold designs that wove signs, symbols and stories into the fabrics from the early 1600s to the mid-1900s. The military brought its own stylistic development for practical clothing on and off the battlefield, later used in theatrical dramas while women's clothes became formalised to denote age, rank and status. The talk concludes with examples of Japanese textiles.



Suzanne Perrin is a visiting lecturer at the University of Calibri (Body) Brighton Art and Design School and University of Cape Town SA. She teaches on the Asian Arts Course at the British museum and the V&A. and founded Japan Interlink to promote the understanding of Japan in Educational and Cultural Circles.

Menu

Main Course: Honey and mustard chicken or Roast beef with Yorkshire pudding and horseradish

Dessert: Mango and passion-fruit cheesecake or Syrup sponge pudding and custard

Vegetarian option: Roasted Mediterranean vegetable lasagne followed by fresh fruit salad and ice cream

followed by Free Raffle Tickets £22.00 Available at Monthly Meeting

SPEAKERS at MONTHLY MEETINGS

Thursday 3rd January 2019	TONY TUCKWELL Local historian and governor New Hall School, Chelmsford	NEW HALL ESSEX'S UNKNOWN ROYAL PALACE
Thursday 7th February 2019	STEVE SCRUTON How a love of Pirate Radio in the 60's led to a job with BBC ESSEX for 20 years	MY LIFE ON RADIO FINISHING with a FUN QUIZ
Thursday 7th March 2019	DAVID WILLIAMS People who devoted their lives to improving social/working conditions	POUNDS, SHILLINGS and POVERTY FORTUNES MADE and LOST
Thursday 4th April 2019	BRIAN CARLINE Author, comedian (New Faces), teacher/assistant head in Essex	AN AMUSING ACCOUNT OF LIVES IN OUR SCHOOLS
Thursday 2nd May 2019	MARGARET MILLS Adult education tutor of History and English Literature	SKELETONS IN THEIR CUPBOARDS - THE LIVES OF TWO VICTORIAN NOVELISTS

All the monthly meetings are held at **THE MILL HALL, RAYLEIGH**

DATES for your DIARIES 2019

Thursday 21st February	POP IN COFFEE MORNING	10.30am - 12 noon WI HALL, BELLINGHAM LANE RAYLEIGH
Monday 11th March	THE MAGIC OF BIRDS IN YOUR GARDEN by GRAHAM MEE	2pm - 4pm CLOISTER HALL TRINITY CHURCH, RAYLEIGH
Monday 15th April	RED ARROWS by GUY BARTLETT	2pm - 4pm CLOISTER HALL TRINITY CHURCH, RAYLEIGH
Wednesday 22nd May	STUDY DAY JAPANESE COSTUME and SAMURAI	11.00am -3.00pm SAXON HALL
Thursday 30th May	NEW MEMBERS' MEETING	10.00am - 12.00 noon HOLY TRINITY CHURCH HALL RAYLEIGH
Wednesday 19th June	THEATRE TRIP 9 TO 5 THE MUSICAL	SAVOY THEATRE STRAND, LONDON W.C.2 TRANSPORT - BUS/TRAIN
Thursday 27th June	NEW MEMBERS AND GROUP LEADERS MEETING	10.30am - 12 noon W.I.Hall, Rayleigh
Saturday 13th July	SOCIAL QUIZ NIGHT	7.30pm - 10.30pm Holy Trinity Church Hall, Rayleigh Bring your own nibbles and drinks
Tuesday 20th August	OUTING TIPTREE FARM TOUR & CREAM TEA	Further details to follow