



Linda and David Clarke enjoying the Royal Variety Party Night

This Month's Meeting

Thursday, 5th July, 2012
2.00 p.m. - 4.00 p.m.

Geo.Fradgley
"Crop Circles"

Rayleigh U3A Website – www.rayleighu3a.org.uk
Registered Charity No. 1134068

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; Visiting Essex Churches 4
	2nd Monday	Crib Club (evenings); Visiting Essex Churches 1
	3rd Monday	Antiques; Visiting Essex Churches 2 & 3
	4th Monday	Canasta (evenings)
Tuesdays	1st Tuesday	Birdwatching; Digital Photography; Gardening/Propagating (2 x 6 week course a year)
	2nd Tuesday	Knit & Natter; Laptop Computing 2; Tenpin Bowling; Wine Appreciation (evenings)
	3rd Tuesday	Birdwatching
	4th Tuesday	Midweek Lunch Club
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	USA Monthly Meeting
	2nd Thursday	Acoustic Guitar; Essex Social History 2; Knit & Natter; Rummikub (eve'g); Serendipity 1 & 2; Theatre 1
	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; Latin; Yoga
	2nd Friday	Book Reading 2 & 3; Keep Fit; Yoga
	3rd Friday	Flower Arranging; Keep Fit; Latin; Yoga
	4th Friday	Keep Fit; Walking 2; Yoga
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

THE CELEBRATIONS for the week of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee are now over and despite the rain it was wonderful to see the vast crowds cheering and supporting all the events. Several members of Rayleigh U3A braved the weather and were cheering along the banks of the Thames for the River Pageant and in the Mall for the Concert and Royal Procession. Our own Diamond Jubilee Variety Night celebration was a great success, despite some minor setbacks. John Pomfrett was an excellent compère dressed in his red coat tails and Union Jack waistcoat. I must thank him, the organising committee and all the many other helpers who made the evening go with a swing and which was thoroughly enjoyed by a sellout audience.

Those members who attended the June Monthly Meeting were not disappointed by the Speaker, Mike Davies, who kept us enthralled by his slide show and talk about the 100 Year Anniversary of the sinking of the Titanic. His presentation was excellent and he held everyone's attention. Mike will be giving this talk sixty times this year and all money raised will be donated to the RNLI, Southend.

On a more practical note, I am looking for someone to take charge of our audio equipment when Fred Carter retires from the Committee next year. This job involves storing the sound equipment and bringing the equipment to the Mill Hall for our monthly meetings and then setting it up, with help, ready for the Speaker. A small honorarium of £10 per month is available to cover the cost of electricity to charge the equipment and help towards parking costs involved with the transportation of the audio equipment to the Mill Hall. If you are interested and have dry storage space please see Fred or 'phone or e-mail me.

I am also looking for future editor/editors of our monthly Newsletter, firstly to shadow David and Janet Carlton and eventually take over the editing, organising, publishing and distribution of the monthly Newsletter. If you are good with computer publishing and would like to give it a try, contact me or 'phone David and Janet Carlton on 01268 452791 for more information.

Bob Wren has taken on the job of Group Co-ordinator with enthusiasm and passion. The new Group Activity Booklet is now available to all members at the monthly meetings and it shows about sixty groups in existence. I know Bob has many more requests and ideas to start new Groups. We urgently need new Group Leaders to come forward.

Would all existing Group Leaders let Bob know if you have any vacancies as it is important to keep our current groups full and help new members to integrate quickly into an activity of their choice.

Sincerely,

David Sheffield – Chairman – Rayleigh U3A

GROUPS/GROUP LEADERS

Acoustic Guitar	Vera Ward	01268 775040	Lap Top Computing 2	Claire Dawson	01268 786918	
Antiques/Collectables	Sheila Read	01268 778926	Latin	Dave Filby	01268 770023	
Archaeology	Ian Haynes	01268 779749	Midweek Lunch Club	Margaret Bristow		
Art Appreciation	Barbara Curry	01268 775460	Music Appreciation	Les Geales	01702 206966	
Art I – Water Colours	Sylvia Lester	01268 774201	Papercrafts	Janet Carlton	01268 452791	
Bird Watching	Laurie Denney	01702 615370	Poetry (on hold)			
Book Reading	Doreen Blake	01268 774871	Real Ale Group	Dave Filby	01268 770023	
Book Reading 2	Marian Allen	01268 743339	Rummikub	Linda Tull	01702 478649	
Book Reading 3	Margaret White	01268 779709	Scrabble	Margaret Bristow		
Calligraphy	Irene Tyson	01268 742942	Serendipity 1	Linda & David Clarke		
Canasta	Chris & Dave Towell	01268 528937	Serendipity 2	Pam & Keith Dunt	01702 204559	
Ceramics	Brenda Perrott	01268 779590	Serendipity 3	Pat & John Pomfrett	01702 230253	
Crib Club	David Sheffield	01268 743586	Serendipity 4	Sue & Mike Cairns,	01268 743497	
Digital Photography	Brian Kersey	01268 743959		Maureen Hayes	01702 473110	
Discussions on Points of View	John Edwards	01268 747208		& Peter Britton	01268 777525	
Drama	Joanne Baker	01268 742252	Singing for Health & Pleasure and with Rayleigh	Grange (J)	Marjorie Sale	01702 346175
Family History:			Sunday Lunch Club	Maureen Goss	01268 777681	
Beginners	Terry Taylor	01268 786405	Tai Chi (tba)			
Family History 1	Sue Taylor	01268 477720	Tenpin Bowling	Alan Hudson	01702 202158	
Family History 2	Pete Huntly	01268 777398		Bob Wren	01702 525311	
Family History 3	Barbara Dale	01268 772018	Theatre	Jean Mackenzie	01268 510570	
Flower Arranging	Irene Stokes	01268 774564		Helena Maxwell	01268 772061	
Gardening (Slide Shows)	Linda Clarke	01702 204559		Sandra Wilson	01268 775184	
Gardening (Propagating)	Harry Brickwood	01268 743838	V.I.P.	Liz & Laurie Denney	01702 615370	
Golf	Kay Nevin	01268 780855	Visiting Essex Churches:			
History - Local	Heather Flemings	01702 204943	Group 1	Marian Allen	01268 743339	
	/ David Fryer-Kelsey	01702 203455	Group 2	Elizabeth Baker	01702 331166	
History - Essex Social:			Group 3	Brenda Perrott	01268 779590	
Group 1	David Carlton	01268 452791	Group 4	Jan Churchill	01702 510296	
Group 2	John Passfield	01702 203980	Group 5 (J)	Maureen Turner	01268 750967	
Group 3	Joan Anderson	01268 774985	Walking 1	Roger Baker	01702 331166	
Industrial Awareness	Janet Carlton	01268 452791	Walking 2	Les Poole	01268 773174	
Keep Fit	Janet Carlton	01268 452791	Wine Appreciation	Harry Brickwood	01268 743838	
Knit & Natter	Doreen Oliver	01268 743082	Yoga	Suzanne Middleton	01702 557389	
Lap Top Computing 1	Frank Bodey	01268 733616				
			(J) = Joint with Rayleigh Grange			

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

GROUP CO-ORDINATOR'S NEWS

I was pleased to hear that the new Book Group III had a successful first meeting at Rayleigh Library on the 8th June with nine attendees. This is a manageable maximum considering the amount of space and book availability.

At the time of writing this report the new Tai Chi Group will have had its first (free) taster lesson on Monday, 18th June at Hockley Health Club. If anyone else wishes to join the Group please contact me in the first instance. I hope to have a Group Leader in place by the second meeting.

Laptop II will also meet that day to arrange a programme and I hope to attend at some point in the afternoon having attended the Tai Chi initiation that morning.

To correct a misunderstanding last month, I confirm that a number of groups do not have vacancies, please read page one of the new Activity Booklet for guidance on existing and new groups. With the increase in U3A membership this year, your Committee is trying to promote new groups which will require new Group Leaders coming forward. Please contact me if you have put your name down for an activity group and think you can help in organising that group. You will be given full support as indicated in the Activity Booklet.

Whilst typing this report, I received an e-mail from Marian Allen confirming that the Poetry Group has re-started. Marian will act as Group Leader and meetings will be held on the second Tuesday of the month. The meetings will alternate each month between Marian's home and Sally Dawbarn's and will be from 2.15p.m. to 4.00p.m. Marian has a few spaces for additional members and can be contacted on 01268 743339 for further details.

I will be planning for the October Annual Group Presentations this year and will be asking existing Group Leaders to assist in displaying their group information with photos etc. I will be making direct contact in this respect.

Bob Wren - Group Co-ordinator

Tel: 01702 525311

bob_wren@hotmail.com.

NEWS FROM OUR GROUP LEADERS

THEATRE GROUP

25 members went to see "Phantom of the Opera" following a nice lunch at Bistro 1 on the 17th May. We all enjoyed the day and the show was spectacular.

A group went to see "The Wizard of Oz" on the 14th June. A most enjoyable show.

Just a reminder of the coach pick-up times for everyone going to The Mill at Sonning on the 19th July. Please be at Kirby's depot at 8.45 a.m. to leave at 9.00 a.m., 9.05 at Webster's Way, 9.10 at Rayleigh Station and approximately 9.30 a.m. at the Wickford pick-up point.

"Singing in the rain" on Wednesday, 5th September. The provisional departure time will be 10.00a.m. from Kirby's, 10.05 from Webster's Way, 10.10 from Rayleigh Station, and 10.30 from Wickford. These times may change but you will be notified via the newsletter.

Jean MacKenzie, 750 Kings Park, Creek Road, Canvey Island SS8 8QS Tel: 01268 510570.or 07719800733
e-mail: j.mackenzie123@btinternet.com

Helena Maxwell, 5 Warwick Close, Rayleigh, SS6 8PH, 01268 772061
maxbox@talktalk.net

Sandra Wilson, 1 Katherine Close, Rayleigh, SS6 8UH, 01268 775184
sandra.alanwilson@yahoo.com

TENPIN BOWLING

On a very cold and wet Tuesday it was nice to see so many at our June meeting. Our winners this month were Sid Sharod and John Capel and not to be outdone - Pam Sharod. Our special trophy went to Jill Marsh. The July meeting at CJs in Hockley will be on Tuesday, 17th July at 2.00p.m. This is a week later than usual.

Just to remind all our members, we have arranged a special game with Rayleigh Grange at CJs on Tuesday, 3rd July at 12 noon. £5-00 for 2 games plus a drink. Hope as many as possible will attend, so at some time we can arrange another meeting.

Alan Hudson – 01702 202158

*Please send items for inclusion in
The July Newsletter to:-*

janetcarlton@blueyonder.co.uk

Janet Carlton
35 Curlew Crescent,
Basildon, SS16 5HR
Tel:01268 452791

**To arrive no later than
Tuesday, 14th August, 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

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Sun. 9th September

**Lullingstone World Garden
Plus the Shepherd Neame Brewery**
Tickets £30 - now on sale

Tue. 25th September

"Essex Wildlife Conservation"
Talk at Holy Trinity Hall – See Page 8
Tickets now on sale - £2.00

Tue. 9th October

**"The Role of a "Scenes Of Crime
Officer"**
Talk at Holy Trinity Hall – See Page 8
Tickets now on sale - £2.00

Tue. 30th October

"Influential Women in History"
Talk at Holy Trinity Hall – See Page 8
Tickets now on sale - £2.00

Sat. 10th November

Rayleigh U3A Autumn Quiz
Holy Trinity Hall
Tickets now on sale - £4.00

Wed. 14th November

"Festival of Words"
Tickets £15 – now on sale

"HAVE YOUR SAY"

As you know we recently started using a Suggestion Box which is available for members to comment on any suggestions which they may feel could improve any aspect of Rayleigh U3A's systems. E.g. Monthly Meetings, Group organizing etc.

Use of the Suggestion Box has started. The Committee will be pleased to consider any suggestions you may have and will report back as soon as possible. You will find the box to the right of the Membership Secretary's table at the start of the notice boards.

ROYAL VARIETY PARTY NIGHT



John Pomfrett

Our Compere
and
Master of
Ceremonies

Happy Dancers



LOCAL HISTORY GROUP

Get all the latest details of the group on our blog
<http://lhgu3arayleigh.blogspot.com>

Wed 18th July Our visit to Prittlewell Priory and Southend Museum. Please note that there is a small alteration to the itinerary to make travel between the venues more convenient for those sharing a car. At 11.00a.m. we meet at Prittlewell Priory which has been totally refurbished and has only just re-opened. There we have a talk about the history of the monastic building and immediate site and look round the exhibition. There are car parking and toilet facilities in Priory Park. The Priory building itself has toilets and improved access. However, not all the building is wheelchair accessible. There is a cafe in the Park. After a lunch break those who wish can visit Southend Museum near Victoria Station. There is car parking next to the Library building. £2 per vehicle.

Wed. 15th August Visit to Mersea Island. We meet at the Museum next to the Church in West Mersea for a guided walk at 11a.m. along the front, possibly including the Church if there is no wedding or funeral. There is an ancient barrow or burial mound on the Island which we could visit on the way home. It is on the road to East Mersea. This is free and it is possible to enter it. £2.50 per person.

Coach Visit to Lavenham and Sudbury – Wed. 19th Sept., 2012 - Fully booked

Our **Annual Meeting** at the W.I. Hall with the Social History Group is now scheduled for **Thursday, 18th October** - 10.00a.m. to 12 noon - £2 per person. Book visits with Heather Flemmings at monthly U3A meetings or e-mail 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

DENBIES

*This outing is being organised by the
WINE APPRECIATION GROUP*

Friday, 24th August

Denbies Wine Estate is the largest vineyard in England and includes Surrey Hills Brewery which is an award winning 'Real Ale' brewery.

The vineyard covers 265 acres and is set in a stunning location at the foot of Box Hill in the heart of the Surrey Hills.

The cost is £25 which includes a guided Wine tour which is described as a 'Wine & Food Tasting Experience' and gives visitors the opportunity to taste Denbies wines together with carefully selected local produce designed to enhance both the food and wine.

The date of our visit, 24th August, has been chosen as the harvesting of the grapes should be in progress. There are other tours that you can join as an individual, and the Outdoor Train tour is well worth doing.

This outing is open to all members

Full details and booking form from Harry Brickwood, 01268-743838
Harry will be at the meeting on Thursday, 5th July

HEADLINES AND ACTIVITIES

PLEASE NOTE

There will be no Monthly Meeting or Newsletter for August. Back to normal in September - the Meeting is on Thursday, 6th September.



Proud Day

Rayleigh U3A members Councillor Ron Oatham and his wife Marie pictured prior to attending a Royal Garden Party to celebrate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee.

Ron was selected for this honour by Rochford District Council in recognition of his long service to the Community.

Award for our Groups Co-ordinator, BOB WREN



From left to right, Steve Wright (not the DJ !), myself and Keith Dowson. Both these gentlemen have sight problems but it doesn't stop them from doing good work for Southend Blind Welfare Organisation. Some 40 people were given acknowledgement awards by Southend Association of Volunteer Services, all presented by Southend's Lady Mayor, Mrs Carr.

Our Guest Speaker next month is William Tyler

'A STUDY IN LEADERSHIP'

William Tyler talks of how Churchill was a dominant figure in 20th Century British History. He led Britain through the dark days of 1940 with unsurpassed quality of leadership, clear judgement, uplifting speeches, sympathy and humour.

STUDY DAY – WEDNESDAY, 14th NOVEMBER

“FESTIVAL OF WORDS”

The “Festival of Words” Study Day is to take place on Wednesday, 14th November, 2012 at Saxon Hall Conference Centre, Aviation Way, Southend-on-Sea from 9.30am until 3.45pm. It will include:-

Barbara Erskine: World famous celebrated author and historian. Her bestselling novel ‘Lady of Hay’ has sold over two million copies to date.

Roz Hall: Author, comedienne and winner of the Frinton Literary Festival’s Poetry Prize.

Dr. Adrian May: Lecturer in Creative Writing at the University of Essex. He is also a poet, songwriter, lyricist and performer of English folk music.

Patrick Wilkins: Patrick was Wandsman at St. Paul’s Cathedral, public speaker and intrepid mountaineer who climbed to Everest in 2011.

There will be book signings, a raffle, and a book swap stall plus Exhibitions from the Essex Library Service, Talking Newspapers and the Book Reading groups. Tickets are £15 and on sale at Monthly Meetings. The cost will include morning coffee and biscuits, a buffet lunch and afternoon tea with pastries. Tickets can also be requested from Pete Huntly, Study Day Co-ordinator.

Please include a stamped, addressed envelope and post to 9 Gilbert Close, Rayleigh, Essex SS6 8QR. Cheques payable to Rayleigh U3A please.

This event has been organised by Marian Allen and the Rayleigh U3A Book Reading groups.

HELPFUL INFORMATION

A number of members have commented that they have difficulty in hearing what is said on the stage at our Monthly Meetings. In order to assist those that are having problems the Committee will arrange for a number of seats to be reserved at the front of the hall.

An important message from our Webmaster

A few people have experienced problems accessing the password protected Newsletters. This only seems to be occurring with Internet Explorer and the easiest and most effective solution to overcome the problem is to download the alternative web browser **Mozilla Firefox** which is a lot better and faster than Internet Explorer.

This can be downloaded easily for free at:-

<http://www.mozilla.org/en-US/firefox/new/>

I use it all the time. Give it a try! Those who have done so have found it successful.

Pete Huntly - Tel: 01268 777398 pa.huntly@btinternet.com

FORTHCOMING EVENT

Rayleigh U3A Autumn Quiz

Hosted by David Lutterloch at Trinity Hall

Saturday, 10th November - 7.00p.m for 7.30p.m

Teams of 8 Maximum - 12 teams **TICKETS £4.00**

Team Prizes - Bring your own drinks and nibbles

Tickets now on sale

FRONT COVER PHOTO

Linda and David Clarke feature on the front cover of this month's Newsletter. Over 160 tickets were sold to members of Rayleigh U3A, Rayleigh Grange, Hullbridge and Hadleigh U3A's. Mill Hall was transformed with red, white and blue bunting, flags and balloons and a good time was had by all. (More pictures on page 11.)

ANNOUNCEMENT

TO ALL MEMBERS OF RAYLEIGH U3A

The Study Day Team have been researching interesting and informative subjects not yet covered by Groups in our U3A

We are pleased and proud to announce that a series of Autumn 'Subject Taster Days' will be launched with three half day talks to be held at Holy Trinity Hall from 2pm – 4pm on

Tuesday, 25th September – Subject is 'Essex Wildlife Conservation'. Introductory talk by Alex Bass is entitled 'A year in the life of Bocking' - a typical year in the wildlife of a small village near Braintree.

Tuesday, 9th October – Subject is 'Medicine & Science'. Introductory talk by Detective Sergeant, Paul Clark of Southend Police who will give a talk about "The Role of a 'Scenes Of Crime Officer'."

Tuesday, 30th October – Subject is 'Influential Women in History'. An introductory talk by Valerie Morse entitled 'Daisy, Countess of Warwick' - she lived at Easton Lodge near Great Dunmow. She was an intimate of King Edward VII, local benefactor and socialist.

A further three talks will be announced shortly on our website and newsletter.

Be sure of a seat.

Tickets will be on sale at Monthly Meetings at £2 to include tea/coffee and biscuits.

REMINDER

Summer Productions to be performed on Rayleigh Mount
14th, 15th July and 18th August.

See Newsletter 45, for more detailed information.

Telephone Mike Stone 01268 775328 to reserve **Advance tickets - £10**
(Tickets on the gate - £12)
John Rawson (Rayleigh U3A)

"TWO VISITS IN ONE DAY" COACH TRIP

Shepherd Neame Brewery AND Lullingstone Castle **SUNDAY 9th SEPTEMBER, 2012**

The first visit is to Britain's Oldest Brewer. We will join an award winning guided tour to discover the fascinating history and heritage of "**Shepherd Neame Brewery**" with Tasted Tasting of hand-crafted ales and speciality lagers (coffee or soft drinks if you would prefer).

Please note the Brewery states it is an industrial site which includes steps, staircases and uneven surfaces and may be difficult for infirm visitors and is not suitable for wheelchair users. The Brewery suggests you wear practical footwear and take care whilst on the premises.

After time to buy lunch in Faversham we will board the coach for **Lullingstone Castle** with a tour of the garden. This includes the famous 'World Garden' talked about so enthusiastically by Tom Hart Dyke when he was our guest speaker at the Monthly Meeting in February this year. There will also be a tour of the House plus the Heritage Plant Fair.

A full, interesting, fascinating and informative day trip to remember
for only £30

Parking free all day at Kirby's Yard or Webster's Way Car Park as the visit is on a Sunday. Leave at 8.30am return approximately 6.00pm. There are a few tickets left for sale which will be on sale at the July monthly meeting. (There is no monthly meeting in August.) If you are unable to attend the July meeting and would like to reserve a place please telephone Terry Gouldsmith – 01268 562803.

Our Guest Speaker this month is Geo Fradgley

Geo's subject is Crop Circles

Geo takes the audience on a pictorial crop circle journey although it is impossible to speak on the subject without involving the speculative. The presentation is aimed at developing a better understanding of crop circles rather than trying to convert the audience to believers!!