



Newsletter Edition No. 80 – July 2017

From the Chair

Dear Member,

We will have a celebration of our ten years in July when our guest speakers will be Mark Francois MP, Lord Petre, the Lord Lieutenant of Essex and Dr Eric Midwinter, one of the founder members of the U3A movement in this country. At this meeting a number of groups will be showing what they have done in the last ten years and this will not leave room for the library or the selling of tickets for talks, theatre etc.

When you come into the Mill Hall for our monthly meetings, don't forget to look at the notice boards which are on the tables at the back of the hall. These are kept up to date by Val Whitehouse and Kate Sawyer. They contain lots of information about what is available to you as a member of Rayleigh U3A. If you want to display Posters please contact Val on val_whitehouse@yahoo.co.uk or Kate on kate.sawyer@gmx.co.uk and they will produce the Posters when they are emailed either the details, or the actual Poster. The Posters may also appear on the website and the Newsletter as well as on our projector; they can also be circulated by email.

At the monthly meeting you will notice some members wearing red sashes; these are 'Welcomers' who look out for new members and introduce them to other members and show them the ropes. Feel free to approach them if you need advice or information.

Viv Smith has suggested setting up a Facebook Group for members to share ideas and events with each other. She gave an excellent presentation at the recent monthly meeting which was met with applause and her article appears in this Newsletter.

We have a number of items such as notice boards, loud speakers and library books, which are brought to these meetings by volunteers. We need backup to cover for sickness, holidays etc. You would need to come to the meeting by car so we will pay your parking charge. This matter has been raised before but I repeat that we need members to shadow those who keep Rayleigh U3A running. It was said at the recent U3A National Conference that succession planning needs to become your norm; pair and share, shadowing on sub committees, working parties. Please help us with this. It's not a big commitment. You would be sharing the load with others occasionally. Please contact me about it on davefk@lineone.net.

I do hope you will continue to enjoy your membership and don't forget the U3A slogan,
'LEARN, LAUGH & LIVE!'

Best Wishes

David Fryer-Kelsey

Chairman



**6TH JULY 2017 IS THE DAY WHEN WE WILL CELEBRATE
THE 10TH ANNIVERSARY OF RAYLEIGH U3A**

It seems unbelievable that ten years have passed since the Founding Committee met with the idea of starting a Rayleigh U3A and holding our first monthly meeting in Holy Trinity Church Hall. Everyone who came was so enthusiastic and I am pleased that the enthusiasm has not waned.

To celebrate we have three Speakers who have played a role in our success in their own inimitable way - Mark Francois our local Member of Parliament; Lord Petre, Lord Lieutenant of Essex and our Guest of Honour, Dr. Eric Midwinter OBE, one of the three Founders of the University of the Third Age in Great Britain.

The afternoon will begin when the doors open **at the earlier time of 1.30pm** to give you time to look around the many displays and exhibitions put together by Group Leaders and group members as a testament to the friendships, enjoyment and enthusiasm for the subjects members have taken part in.

There will be two refreshment tables where you can get a cup of tea or coffee and biscuits.

You will be able to watch a Movie Collage of a large number of photographs taken over the ten years by members and put together for our enjoyment by Bob White. Watch out for photographs of yourselves.

Displays and exhibitions from Serendipity Groups, Essex Church Groups, Family History, Patchwork and Tea, Photography Groups, Book Group 2, Bridge, Social & Educational Events, Ceramics, Flower Arranging, Theatre Visits, Archaeology, Psychology, Knit and Natter, Walking Groups, Holidays and Paper Crafts. There will be the Group Coordinator's Table and Tickets for Sale Table for the Autumn Talks.

For all those who attend there will be a Souvenir Programme and a commemorative gift.

Maureen and Pete Huntly, 10th Anniversary Event Coordinators

Notes from the Secretary

The Spring/Summer programme of national U3A events is now under way and the website has full details of all these. The Secretary's Board at the Monthly Members' Meetings also includes full details. In addition, you can contact me at jsoilleux88@gmail.com. Phone number 01702 552426/Mobile 07971 524 360. For more information:

National Summer Schools - a few places still available. See website for details.

Festival of Quilts – 10-13th August at NEC Birmingham.

Jackie Soilleux



Gardening Corner

This month (June) I am concentrating on Roses. With so many varieties to choose from, it is better to draw on my experiences with my 'good doers'.



My first is a Rambler which I have had for nearly twenty years or more. I first saw this one 'Chevy Chase' (see picture) at Chelsea on the Peter Beales' display. It is now 15 feet long covering a 6 foot high fence with hundreds of blooms in clusters. It never has Black-Spot and has an annual trim in Spring, mostly of top growths, before bud-formation.

Black-Spot is a common problem with most Roses. It is important that infected leaves are cleared away at the first signs. 'Rose Clear' is fine providing you begin spraying when new growth is just starting.

A bit of nostalgia now, I have a lovely variety called 'Peace'. This large Rose is a repeat flowering Rose introduced to commemorate the end of World War 2. It's origins I think was Mieland 1947, France. Mine is now nearly fifty years old and still flowering well, despite very little attention apart from dead-heading and no feeding - and it survives!! Roses are greedy feeders. I mulch with well-rotted horse manure every Autumn and that's it – it works for me!



Enjoy your Summer.

Brian Kersey

Phone: 01268 743959 or email brianskersey@gmail.com

SOCIAL EVENTS

29th June - Group Leaders' and New Members' Meeting - Social/Coffee/Tea. 10.30 start at W.I. Hall, Bellingham Lane, Rayleigh.

24th November - Trip to Christmas Market - Bury St. Edmunds

7th December - Annual Christmas Lunch at Westcliff Hotel

Date to be finalised – Autumn Quiz Night.

Ten Years of Visiting Essex Churches - Group 1

Many of you may not know that this group was actually made up of members who became the original Committee for our Rayleigh U3A.

It started with our dear friend Marian Allen (who sadly passed away in 2016), Marian was our original founder and chairman.

Marian was Chairman and a member of Basildon and Billericay U3A, as were several of us. In her infinite wisdom Marian contacted those members who lived in Rayleigh asking if we would be interested in forming a Visiting Essex Church Group. We all got together at Marian's house and with Marian's enthusiasm and commitment to the U3A, asked "Would we like to start up a U3A in Rayleigh"?

The first Rayleigh U3A was set up and the first Visiting Essex Church Group was formed with Marian as its Group Leader.



We have visited over 100 Essex Churches and have covered all religions including a visit to a Synagogue, Monastery and Hindu Temple. It has been an extremely interesting and a very knowledgeable journey over the last ten years and is still going strong.

Terry and I have been running the group since 2016 and we still have many of the original group that started in July 2007.

Group 1 at St. Peter's, Paglesham - 2010

Sue and Terry Taylor

Visiting Essex Church Group I

Essex Church Visiting Group 2



In April our Group visited All Saints & Saint Faith's Church, Childerditch which has a fascinating history. Church Records date back to 1232 and show improvements to the building in the 15th and 16th centuries.

The old church became ruinous in 1858 and was described as a small building comprising: nave of flint rubble, brick chancel, timber belfry, a steeple of brick at the bottom and timber above. It was demolished in 1869 and replaced with the present one designed by D. Cubitt Nichols and F. Johnstone, London architects. The building is of Kentish rag stone in the Early English style and consists of nave and chancel with south porch and west bell cot. There is one bell dating from the 17th century and a 16th century font from the old church.

The church sustained very little damage during the Second World War but the simple Victorian pulpit on the north wall and the organ were both destroyed by local vandals on the Queen's Jubilee Day in 1977. The rector, Derrick Iorns, purchased a beautiful Victorian pulpit from Brentwood School Chapel and personally gave a large country house organ. On his retirement in 1981, there was a great decline in church activities during the 8 year incumbency of Samuel Marsden and, eight months before he resigned in 1989, he attempted to close the church. Archdeacon Jonathan Bailey called an emergency meeting and within 8 months had rectified the problems and the church survives today.



Childerditch village has much the same number of houses and population size as 180 years ago and although the church is not in the centre of the village, it works in partnership with the village hall to support a pleasant village community.



In May we visited the Monastery of St. John the Baptist in Tolleshunt Knights, which is the oldest Orthodox religious community for both men and women in the U.K. We were shown around the Monastery and chapel by Sister Cassiani who originally came from Romania and had tea and coffee in the dining hall.

had been a disciple of Saint Silouan the Athonite, he moved to Paris, where he lived in a Russian old people's home assisting the priest.

Elder Sophrony originally had six people living with him seeking a monastic life. Then in the Spring of 1959, the new Community of St. John the Baptist was formed at the present location. Numbers grew over time and the Monastery increased its buildings and took over care and upkeep of a nearby 12th century chapel down the road from the Monastery.



The Monastery had been informed that the only way it could bury people on its property was to build an underground crypt, which it proceeded to build. Having been told the expected completion date of 12th July 1993, Elder Sophrony stated that "he would be ready". On 11th July 1993 he died and his funeral and burial were on the 14th July 1993 attended by monastics from around the world.

This was one of our most unusual and interesting 'churches' we have visited. It was greatly enhanced by the informative Sister Cassiani who answered all our many questions.



Val Whitehouse
Essex Church Visiting Group 2

RAYLEIGH U3A FACEBOOK GROUP

Following the positive response to the concept of a Facebook Group when it was put forward at the June monthly meeting, we have started work on it. The idea behind the Facebook group is to:

- 1) Allow members to get together at short notice to go to the cinema/ jazz gig/exhibition etc.
- 2) Get recommendations for tradesmen/solicitors etc.
- 3) Ask opinions about items they've seen advertised that other members may have tried out (eg. Cordless vacuum cleaners/ on-line estate agents)
- 4) Sell items that are no longer required or simply to ask someone to take them away for free
- 5) Advertise one's own holiday home for letting out.

If you have any other ideas of how we can make further use of the Facebook Group please do not hesitate to let us know.

Here it should be emphasized that the group will be a "private group". This means that it will **only be open to Rayleigh U3A members**. So anything you see on the site will have come from a fellow Rayleigh U3A member and not an outsider. To the rest of the world the group will not exist.

We are shortly going to have a test run to iron out any problems and ensure the best set up for members. When we have completed the test run we will move on to the real thing which should be coming soon.

If you are interested, please let me know – you can e-mail me on vivsmith306@gmail.com or see us at the Group Co-ordinators' desk (by the bar – we have all the best locations!) at the July monthly meeting or at the coffee morning on June 29th at 10.30 am at the WI Hall.

As you will need to be on Facebook to access the proposed group, we will be doing a step-by-step guide for those who feel they need help in doing this. The guide will show you, amongst other things, how to choose the level of privacy that suits you. If you need further help, we are considering holding workshops to guide people through the process if requested.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Viv Smith

Gift Aid

Thank you to all members who have already completed a Gift Aid Declaration form. As a reminder to take part in the Gift Aid Scheme you must pay an amount of Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax for each year at least equal to the tax which we, as a registered charity, will claim from HM Revenue and Customs on your annual subscription. In our case this is £5.

You can cancel your declaration at any time by notifying us, and should do so, if your circumstances change and you no longer pay sufficient tax.

Please contact me to obtain a form or download from the Welcome page of our website.

Pete Huntly – Gift Aid Coordinator

Tel: 01268 777398 pa.huntly@btinternet.com



GROUPS WITH **VACANCIES AS AT 01/06/2017**

ARCHAEOLOGY

BIRDWATCHING

BRIDGE

BOOK READING Grp 4

CERAMICS

DRAMA

FAMILY HISTORY Grp 4

GARDENING

KEEP FIT

KNIT AND NATTER

MORE PATCHWORK & TEA

MUSIC APPRECIATION

PAPER CRAFTS

REAL ALE

SCRABBLE

SERENDIPITY Grp 6

STROLLING

TENPIN BOWLING

**VISITING ESSEX CHURCHES Grp 1
(2 Couples with own transport)**

VISITING ESSEX CHURCHES Grp 2

NEW WALKING Grp 1

WALKING Grp 3

WALKING Grp 4

WINE APPRECIATION

CONTACT THE GROUP COORDINATORS
Heather Flemmings: heatherflemmings4@gmail.com
David Fryer-Kelsey: davefk@lineone.net

Serendipity 6

We got together in February this year and formed Serendipity 6. This was our first outing and was to Tower Bridge. We had a great time and it was very interesting. Everything ran smoothly and we finished our trip by having lunch in a nearby Wetherspoons, which was lovely as we discussed our outing and what further trips we were going on. Everyone enjoyed the trip and talking to each other. It was a lovely day.



We would recommend the Tower Bridge trip to people. If you get the 2 for 1 voucher from the train station it works out at £9.45 for two people.

Linda and Keith and Serendipity 6 Group

SPEAKERS AT FORTHCOMING MONTHLY MEETINGS

6th July – Our Tenth Anniversary – Speakers: Mark Francois MP, Lord Petre, Lord Lieutenant of Essex and Dr. Eric Midwinter

August - No Meeting

7th September – Prof Pamela Cox – Essex University lecturer “Life below stairs”

Dr. Cox is a social historian, a senior lecturer in the sociology department. Pamela Cox presented the BBC2 show ‘Servants: The True Story of Life Below Stairs’. The programme depicted life in service as dramatised by popular shows such as Downton Abbey.

5th October - Sue Schwar - “Essex Wildlife” Sue is the founder of South Essex Wildlife in Grays, which began in 1995. Her talk is about the work that is done by her colleagues and herself caring for a variety of wild animals.

2nd November - Major Lucy Lewis, “Army Life”

Major Lewis has been a bomb disposal officer and also a Major in the Military Police

Posters

If you want to display posters please contact Val on val_whitehouse@yahoo.co.uk or Kate on kate.sawyer@gmx.co.uk and they will produce the posters when they are emailed, either the details or the actual poster. **It may also be on the website and the newsletter and on our projector. It can also be circulated by email.**