



In celebration of H.R.H. Diamond Jubilee
June 2012 - see page 6

This Month's Meeting

Thursday, 7th June, 2012

2.00 p.m. - 4.00 p.m.

Mike Davies

"Titanic - The First 100 Years"

**Mike is a member of the British
Titanic Society**

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; 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	U3A 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 1

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 this note sitting in the sun in a small Mediterranean town called Moraira on the Costa Blanca, listening to a 'Rock Concert'. I have a special U3A interest in this town, as it was here two years ago that I was invited to the local U3A Crib Club and I enjoyed it so much that I returned home and started our own Rayleigh Crib Group.

Last week we drove into the Spanish mountains behind Calpe to visit an Open Garden full of irises. It was magnificent with over 700 varieties and 20,000 flowering blooms. The display reminded me of our own Rayleigh U3A Gardeners, Harry and Heather Brickwood, who, as you know, recently appeared on BBC's Gardeners' World showing off their wonderful display of lilies. Harry and Heather's double act was only just eclipsed by the magnificent display of lilies in all colours, shapes and sizes in their garden. Well done Harry and Heather!!

Incidentally, we travelled to Spain from Southend airport on Easyjet and we can recommend this new airport to all Rayleigh members, especially as the number nine bus drops you near the new terminal.

Obviously, this is the start of the holiday season and the trip to the Yorkshire Dales led by Roger and Liz Baker was a great success with forty-seven members visiting castles and stately homes and enjoying the wonderful scenery of the Dales having a very good time. Roger and Liz's holidays must be popular as forty-two of the forty-seven members were on their third holiday with the group.

The Serendipity I trip to the Isle of Wight in early May, led by Linda and David Clarke was also well supported and despite mixed weather was very much enjoyed by all the Group.

I was disappointed to hear that the holiday organised by Fred Carter to Cheshire in September has had to be cancelled as there were insufficient numbers to meet the minimum costs. I know all those who did want to go will be bitterly disappointed, as is Fred himself.

Next month is the Queen's Diamond Jubilee, with us all getting a long holiday weekend to celebrate this Royal occasion. As you know, Rayleigh U3A has organised a Gala Diamond Jubilee Variety Night on Friday, 8th June. Nearly all the tickets have been sold so if you don't want to miss this celebration get your tickets now.

Finally, it is with deep regret that I have to announce the death of Sylvia Andrews, a founding member of Rayleigh U3A. Sylvia was a member of the Walking and Luncheon Groups but especially known to me as a member of my Crib Group. Personally, and on behalf of the Rayleigh U3A, I have passed on our deepest condolences to her husband David and his family.

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	Papercraft	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 201747	
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	V.I.P.	Sandra Wilson	01268 775184	
Gardening (Propagating)	Harry Brickwood	01268 743838	Visiting Essex Churches:	Liz & Laurie Denney	01702 615370	
Golf	Kay Nevin	01268 780855	Group 1	Marian Allen	01268 743339	
History - Local	Heather Flemings	01702 204943	Group 2	Elizabeth Baker	01702 331166	
	/ David Fryer-Kelsey	01702 203455	Group 3	Brenda Perrott	01268 779590	
History - Essex Social:			Group 4	Jan Churchill	01702 510296	
Group 1	David Carlton	01268 452791	Group 5 (J)	Maureen Turner	01268 750967	
Group 2	John Passfield	01702 203980	Walking 1	Roger Baker	01702 331166	
Group 3	Joan Anderson	01268 774985	Walking 2	Les Poole	01268 773174	
Industrial Awareness	Janet Carlton	01268 452791	Wine Appreciation	Harry Brickwood	01268 743838	
Keep Fit	Janet Carlton	01268 452791	Yoga	Suzanne Middleton	01702 557389	
Knit & Natter	Doreen Oliver	01268 743082				
Lap Top Computing 1	Frank Bodey	01268 733616	(J) = Joint with Rayleigh Grange			

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
Thursday, 14th June, 2012**

NATIONAL OFFICE

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resource.centre@u3a.org.uk

COMMITTEE CONTACTS

Chairman:- David Sheffield - 01268 743586

e-mail - dave@djsheff.demon.co.uk

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(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

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Newsletter editors:-Janet & David Carlton - 01268 452791

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e-mail - clarked@talktalk.net

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Sylvia Mitchell - 01268 770139

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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

Following the requests at last month's meeting I would like to thank all those who came forward to offer their services to Rayleigh U3A. Thanks to Delia and Rita who enquired about joining our highly valued band of volunteers and are now liaising with Irene Carter, our Volunteer Co-ordinator.

Thanks also to Bob White who has stepped up to help members of Laptop II to improve their basic skills.

Good news for Tai Chi as well as the initial enquiry list for a Tai Chi Group jumped from 17 to 25 at the monthly meeting!

Following a meeting at Marian Allen's house, Margaret White has set up a new Book Group III group. Thanks to Margaret. She will be having experienced help from Doreen Blake and Marian Allen to help her get started. As a new Group Leader you will always have someone to help you get going. Margaret has vacancies in the new Book Group so please contact her if you are interested in joining.

The new Group Activity Booklet has now been printed and is ready for distribution. With postage costs rising alarmingly, it will be distributed at our monthly meetings with the remainder being distributed by Group Leaders. If you are coming to the June Monthly Meeting you will be given your booklet when you show your membership card at the Membership Secretary's table. There is one per household.

Sixty-four members have joined thirteen of our existing groups in the last few weeks. Most of the sixty-four members are new members to Rayleigh U3A. Quite a few of our Activity Groups have vacancies so if you are looking to join a new group please get in touch with the appropriate Group Leader. New groups will take longer to establish but requests will be worked through.

Like all U3A's, we are a self help group and the more we contribute and join in, the more we will get back in making new friends and discovering new interests.

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

NEWS FROM OUR GROUP LEADERS

TENPIN BOWLING

The results were very close at our May Bowling Group meeting with only a few pins between the top four bowlers. This month trophies were won by Graham Godfrey, Doreen Lewis and first time winner Irene Stokes.

Our special trophy went to Dave Stokes. The next meeting will be on Tuesday, 12th June at 2.00pm at CJs in Hockley.

Alan Hudson – 01702 202158

LOCAL HISTORY GROUP

Get all the latest details of the group on our blog

<http://lhqu3arayleigh.blogspot.com>

Our visit to Chelmsford Museum and Essex Regimental Museum, which are both on the same site, on 18th April was a revelation. There was something for everyone with the history of Chelmsford from pre-historic times, the story of the famous industrial giants who used to be sited in Chelmsford such as Marconi and Hoffmans, and the Regimental Museum. Even the little girl who came with us was interested and the small tea and coffee room upstairs was well patronised.

Wed. 16th May Our coach trip to Sutton Hoo and Woodbridge was fully booked and was a very interesting and successful trip

Wed. 20th June We shall be visiting Valentines House and Gardens at Ilford. Discover a beautiful country house and gardens in the heart of Ilford. Visit the recreated Victorian kitchen and Georgian rooms, with gorgeous views over surrounding parkland.

Motorised wheelchairs are not allowed in the house. There are two manual wheelchairs available and guided tours of the house are £3 per person. They are

providing two guides so there are now a limited number of extra places available.

Wed. 18th July Visit to Prittlewell Priory and Southend Museum. We shall visit the Museum at 10.00am which is in the old Library building in Victoria Avenue. Then at 11.00am we move to Prittlewell Priory which has been totally refurbished and has only just re-opened. There we have a talk and look round the exhibition. £2 per person.

Coach Visit to Lavenham and Sudbury on Wednesday 19th September

This coach trip is now fully booked.

Our annual meeting at the W.I. Hall with the Social History Group is now scheduled for Thursday, 18th October. 10.00am to 12.00o/c, £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

THEATRE GROUP

Saturday, 16th June Would the six people going to see “Acorn Antiques” on Saturday, 16th June meet Jean in the foyer of the Palace Theatre, Westcliff at 2.00p.m.

Thursday, 19th July Would members going on the trip to The Mill at Sonning on 19th July, kindly be at Kirby’s depot by 8.45am to leave at 9.00am, 9.05am at Webster’s Way, 9.10am at Rayleigh Station and approximately 9.30am at the Wickford pick-up point.

Thursday, 25th October. “Billy Elliott” At the time of writing there are still some

Our guest speaker this month is Mike Davies

‘Titanic – The First 100 Years’

Mike is Chairman of ‘Rayleigh Through the Looking Glass’ and a member of the British Titanic Society

Our guest speaker next month is George Fradgley

George Fradgley’s subject is Crop Circles.

George takes the audience on a pictorial crop circle journey although it is impossible to speak on the subject with out involving the speculative. The presentation is aimed at developing a better understanding of crop circles rather than trying to convert the audience to believers!!

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Friday, 8th June

Royal Variety Party Night £12.50

Tickets £12.50 – now on sale

Sun. 9th September

**Lullingstone World Garden
Plus the Shepherd Neame Brewery**

Tickets £30 - now on sale

Wed. 14th November

“Festival of Words”

Tickets £15 – now on sale

‘HAVE YOUR SAY’

If you have any comments or ideas relating to our U3A, e.g. Monthly Meetings etc., why not put them in the Suggestion Box. You will find the box to the right of the Membership Secretary’s table at the start of notice boards.

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 and 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.

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

tickets available at £22.50 each. Jean organising.

Also a few tickets left for stall seats to see “Top Hat” at the Aldwych Theatre on at £39.50 each. Please see notice board at the meeting.

Please note that the next Theatre Group meeting will be on **Friday, 22nd June** at 10.30p.m (note change of date) at the W.I.Hall in Bellingham Lane.

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, telephone 01268 772061 maxbox@talktalk.net

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

WINE APPRECIATION

An outing is being arranged by the Wine Appreciation Group to “DENBIES” on 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 now open to all U3A members

Full details and booking form from
Harry Brickwood – 01268 743838

SERENDIPITY GROUPS

Isle of Wight Holiday

7th-11th May, 2012

In an action-packed five days we visited Guildford Cathedral, cruised on the Solent, ambled amongst the tropical plants in the Botanical Gardens, braved the chair-lift at The Needles, gasped at the splendours of Osborne House, listened appreciatively to a talk about IOW holidays in Victorian times, turned the clock back with a ride on the steam railway and tasted wine in a local vineyard.

Back at the hotel some swam, some played bowls, snooker or table tennis, some strolled by the sea and some just rested up for the evening activities.

After a sumptuous dinner we danced together, drank together and enjoyed the cabaret shows. Other entertainment included lectures by local experts and a concert given by a brilliant young classical pianist. For the ‘night owls’ there was fun roulette or blackjack tables or a singer in the late lounge.

OK, there was some rain but has that ever stopped U3A members from having a good time? our homeward journey we stopped in Portsmouth where we could see the historic dockyard including HMS Victory, ascend the Spinnaker Tower for its magnificent views or take a boat trip around the harbour. A few even ventured as far as Charles Dickens birthplace or the City Museum. In the true tradition of U3A our last stop was a pub in Kent. Would we do it again - wait and see.

Who left a Sony battery and a U3A badge on the coach? Give us a ring.

Linda & David Clarke



SERENDIPITY GROUPS at the ISLE OF WIGHT

HEADLINES AND ACTIVITIES

Membership Secretary News

I hope all our new members have now settled into our U3A but should you at any time have queries please feel free to contact me. If you have any Group Activity questions please contact Bob Wren our Group Co-ordinator - Tel: 01702 525311

Doreen Blake - Membership Secretary
Tel: 01268 774871

Front Cover

As you know Rayleigh U3A is celebrating the Queen's Diamond Jubilee on Friday, 8th June and is holding a Royal Variety Party Night. Come along to the Party Night and enjoy celebrating this historical event. See information on page 7.

ROYAL VARIETY PARTY NIGHT

Only one week to go and we have been busy arranging this Red, White and Blue themed event to celebrate The Queen's Diamond Jubilee. We have now confirmed U3A's own entertainment which will be from our Drama and Singing Groups and Hadleigh U3A's Ukulele Group. We also have professional comedian Gary Kemsley and our own Magic Circle Magician, John Pomfrett. John will be our Compere for the evening and will be treating us to some fascinating magic.

Following the entertainment, a Buffet Supper will be served followed by dancing and professional musical entertainment from Pete George. This fantastic evening will be held at Mill Hall on Friday, 8th June, 2012 from 7.30pm until 11.30pm.

If you haven't got your tickets, you need to be quick!!! They are £12.50 each and are currently on sale either at this month's Monthly Meeting on the 7th June or call Maureen Hayes, our U3A Secretary, on 01702 473110.

'TWO VISITS IN ONE DAY' COACH TRIP

SUNDAY 9th SEPTEMBER, 2012

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

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

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

Parking free all day at Kirby's Yard or Webster's Way Car Park as it is on a Sunday. Leave at 8.30am return approx. 6.00pm. Tickets on sale now and at each monthly meeting.

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.