

Rayleigh



JUNE 2022 NEWSLETTER

The 15th Annual General Meeting of Rayleigh u3a was held on 4th May and was well attended. Following the AGM, there have been some changes to your Committee due to members completing their term of office.

Your new **Treasurer** is **Jill Cann**, who is taking over from Wendy Edwards. Her contact details are: jillcann@rayleighu3a.co.uk and her mobile number is: **07900 326803**.

We also have a new **Secretary** – **Jane Reeve** – who will taking over from Debbie Bamber. Her contact details are janereeve@rayleighu3a.co.uk, her mobile number is **07931 584140**. Among other duties, she will be now sending out the emails to members so keep an eye out for these!

Paul Reeve has been formally approved onto the Committee too. He was co-opted on in January 2022 and has taken over as **Groups Coordinator**. His mobile number is **07825 430159** and email is paulreeve@rayleighu3a.co.uk .

I am sure you will all wish them well in their new roles and thank them for their commitment and time they are/will be giving our u3a. Hopefully, they will enjoy their roles too!!

We are still looking for a couple of extra members for the Committee so if you are interested in finding out more, do speak with **Ray Lowe** (chair), **Jane Reeve** (secretary) or any **member** of the **current Committee**. You would be welcome to attend a meeting as an observer to see what it is we get up to!

Due to covid, Debbie Bamber was unfortunately not able to attend our AGM and is yet to receive her gift from our u3a. Hopefully, this will happen soon.



MANY THANKS to DEBBIE and WENDY

for their contributions to our u3a over the past four years.

**Their enthusiasm, motivation and support
have been especially appreciated by us all.**

Message from Debbie:

“And it’s goodbye from me! So, all that’s left, is for me to thank you for your support in the past 4 years as Secretary. I have thoroughly enjoyed my time and the opportunity it gave me to use my organising and admin skills. I am carrying on administrating our database system and website for now so have not left completely!

Best wishes to you all, *Debbie Bamber*”

NEWS AROUND OUR u3a

Presentation to Wendy at the AGM May 2022



Wendy's address at the 2022 AGM: -

(Photo taken by Jim Whitehouse)

"Thank you very much for the flowers and wine, marking the end of my term of office as treasurer. I have thoroughly enjoyed the role for the past 4 years but unfortunately all good things come to an end. I have met so many of you both personally and by telephone which has given me a lot of pleasure. As you know, I do like meeting and talking to people.

I'm sorry to be leaving your committee. It's been an interesting and rewarding experience working with others who care about our u3a. Best wishes to all of you but particularly to Jill Cann in her new role as treasurer.

Good luck – *Wendy*"

THE VISITING INTERESTING PLACES IN ESSEX GROUP

Formerly the Essex Church Visiting 2 Group we now have incorporated a wider range of interesting places for our Group to visit.

We visited St. Nicholas Church in Great Wakering, a lovely Norman church built around 1100. An interesting talk about the church was given by the Church Warden and we also learnt about the history of the village.

We are inviting new members to our group so if any Rayleigh u3a member(s), who have their own transport are interested in joining, we meet on the 3rd Monday of the month.

Please contact Val and Jim Whitehouse email val_whitehouse@yahoo.co.uk or phone **01702 512717**.



NEWS AROUND OUR u3a (continued)

THE SERENDIPITY 6 GROUP VISIT PORTERS

The Group visited Porters, the Mayors Parlour in Southend, a fine Tudor mansion. A guided tour around the property was extremely interesting, showing us not only the 16th century building but also the history and photographs of the Mayors of Southend throughout history.

Val Whitehouse



Unfortunately, there was an error in the April newsletter. The editor selected an incorrect photo of the above group. Apologies for this; the correct photo is the second below: -

SERENDIPITY 6 GO BACKSTAGE AT THE CLIFFS PAVILION



GARDENING GROUP

The Gardening Group visited Hyde Hall at the end of March. We were lucky with the weather which was warm and sunny. It was such a lovely day and the walk around the gardens was very pleasant and interesting.



June Jennings

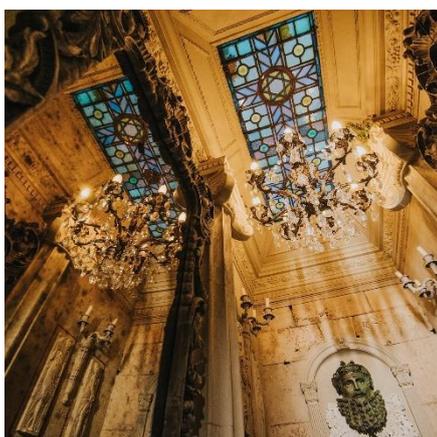
NEWS AROUND OUR u3a (continued)

SERENDIPITY GROUP 1

On Tuesday 5th April, a group of fifteen from Serendipity group 1 visited Talliston House and Gardens in Great Dunmow.

The owner John has embarked on a 25-year labour of love and transformed an ex-council house into a labyrinth of rooms which were inspired by his imagination, and his travels to far places. Each room has its own rich story, sounds, and even smells and holds 1,821 objects from twenty-seven destinations.

Part Grimms fairy tale, part Alice in Wonderland, part Neverland is about right! After a tour around the house and gardens we were then seated in the Voodoo kitchen which placed us in Louisiana in 1954. We all enjoyed home-made scones, cake, and tea before our homeward journey.



Hall of mirrors



Haunted bedroom



Voodoo kitchen

STROLLING GROUP

In April, the group met at Kent Elms Corner, walked to and around Eastwood Park, which has playing fields (3 football pitches, 5-a-side football, basketball court, bowling green, children's playground) with an area of lawn sheltered by ornamental shrub borders). Afterwards we enjoyed talking and lunch together in Thundersley.

Photo next page

NEWS AROUND OUR u3a (continued)

STROLLING GROUP



Lunch April 2022

In May the group went to Lake Meadows Park (some travelling from Rayleigh to Billericay by train). The park (covering forty acres) features a fishing lake, swimming pool, play area, cafe, skate park, bowls green, tennis courts, crazy golf and regular events through the year including Billericay Fireworks and Park Run.



Lake Meadows May 2022

FUTURE SPEAKERS AT OUR MONTHLY MEETINGS THIS YEAR

DATE	SPEAKER	SUBJECT
6 th July 2022	FOOLS GOLD	Folk Songs & Entertainment
7 th September 2022	HOWARD SLATER	The East End of London
5 th October 2022	ALAN CLARKE	Lieutenant Joseph Taylor Clark and the Battle of Waterloo.
2 ND November 2022	BERNARD LOCKETT	Gilbert & Sullivan

(No monthly meetings August, December)

FUTURE EVENTS

TALKS FOR ALL

Tuesday 7th June 2022 - 2.15p m to 3.45pm

LAWRENCE BEFORE & AFTER ARABIA

A Talk by Colin van Geffen at the Rayleigh Holy Trinity Church, Main Hall.



Following his very popular talk about Lady Houston

“The Lady Who Saved the Nation”,

Colin is back to tell us about Lawrence of Arabia.

The legend of Lawrence Arabia is well documented in books and films, but what of his life before and after the Desert War? Described as one of the most influential Englishmen of the 20th Century; but he wasn't English! There are many myths, but the truth is far more fascinating. A man of many lives.



**Tickets £3 are available at the June Monthly Meeting
(tea/coffee and biscuits included).**

FUTURE EVENTS (continued)

Talks for All & Afternoon Tea

**ICON OF THE SKIES
THE CONCORDE STORY
by GUY BARTLETT**

Tuesday 6th September 2.00pm—4.30pm

at The Royal British Legion Hall, 2 London Hill,
Rayleigh SS6 7HP

**Enjoy an illustrated talk
followed by an Afternoon Tea
of sandwiches, homemade scones, cakes etc. with tea or coffee.**



**Tickets £11.00 on sale from the June Monthly Meeting onwards
or ordered by email from valerieskam@gmail.com**

FUTURE EVENTS (continued)

Join Us at the Summer Quiz Night

Saturday 6th August



7.00—10.00pm

at the Main Hall, Trinity Church

Come and join us for a light-hearted Quiz Night with prizes for the winning team and make new friends.

Bring your own drinks and nibbles.

Paper and pen can be useful too.

FREE RAFFLE

**Tickets £4.00 on sale at the
June & July Monthly Meetings**