



Olympic London Trip - March 2010

THIS MONTH'S SPEAKER

**Friday, 12th March, 2010
2.00 p.m. - 4.00 p.m.**

**ANN HARDY
The Theatrical Costumier**

Rayleigh U3A Website – www.rayleighu3a.org.uk

Registered Charity No. 1134068

Rayleigh U3A

Activity List – March 2010

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Art I – Water Colours Visiting Essex Churches I & IV Singing for Health & Pleasure	Bird Watching Tai Chi	Art II – Water & Oil Cross Stitch/Crochet Walking I		Yoga		
Family History (Beginners) Singing for Health & Pleasure	Midweek Dining II Tai Chi Ten Pin Bowling Wine Appreciation (Evenings)	Art II – Water & Oil Aviation Family History II (Group 1)	Serendipity I	USA MONTHLY MEETING Local History Latin Yoga		
Visiting Essex Churches II & III Singing for Health & Pleasure	Bird Watching Digital Photography Dining Group II Tai Chi	Archaeology Art II – Water & Oil Calligraphy Debating Drama Visiting Essex Churches V	Scrapbooking Theatre	Theatre Yoga		Sunday Lunch Group II
Gardening Scrabble Singing for Health and Pleasure	Dining Group I Tai Chi	Art II – Water & Oil Music Appreciation Family History II (Group 2)	Art Appreciation Book Reading I Family History III Social History	Computing Latin Theatre Walking II Yoga		

**PLEASE NOTE MEETINGS ARE IN THEIR REGULAR "DAY OF THE MONTH" SLOTS BUT DATES MAY VARY WITH SOME GROUPS
– IF IN DOUBT CONTACT THE GROUP LEADER**

Serendipity – Contact Leader – Various dates each month, Local History – contact leader
Theatre – Contact Leader – Various dates each month – usually Friday. This timetable is correct at time of printing but please always check with your group leader as to the date of your next meeting

FROM THE CHAIR

Dear Members,

March is a busy month when lighter days tempt us into the garden and to tackle jobs that we have been shelving throughout the winter months.

Rayleigh U3A has a busy calendar of events to tempt all tastes starting with the Group Leaders Day at Saxon Hall on Wednesday, 10th March followed by our Combined Essex Church Groups' visit to Freemasons' Hall (where the latest Sherlock Holmes movie was filmed) and to the Jewish Museum in North London. Our first overseas holiday organized by Vice Chair, Brian Kersey is to the Norwegian Fjords and a chance to see the spectacular Northern Lights. Adding to the magic of such a comprehensive month of events is the trip to the Magic Circle on 22nd March.

On behalf of the Committee I would like to thank members for their nominations for Committee Members. We aspire to keep a high standard of successful meetings, social events and a steady growth of Groups throughout the coming year but this cannot be achieved without the dedication and skills of the Committee. If you think you have what it takes to play an important role then please contact our Secretary, Marian Allen on 01268 743339 without delay.

Thank you to all of you for sending in your Membership Renewals promptly as this will enable us to fill the vacancies from those who have been on the Waiting List for some time.

In preparation for the AGM on Friday 9th April please find the Agenda for the AGM and, on the reverse, a copy of the audited financial statement for the year end to 31st December 2009 with this newsletter. Please ensure that you bring them with you to the AGM as further copies may not be available at the AGM itself. A copy of the Minutes of the AGM held on 6th February 2009 will be posted on the Notice Board at the March and April meetings for members to read and copies will be available for any member who requests it from Secretary, Marian Allen. Members will be asked to approve these minutes at the AGM on 9th April, 2010. Chris Banks - "Man of Hats" - has been invited on that day and will give his talk after the A.G.M.

Whatever you do, wherever you go and whoever you meet I hope you will enjoy yourselves.

Best wishes to you all

Maureen

Chair Rayleigh U3A

Next Month's Speaker

Friday, 9th April, 2010

2.00 - 4.00 p.m.

Chris Banks - "Man of Hats"

Chairman:- Maureen Huntly - 01268 777398

E-mail - Maureen@phuntly.freeserve.co.uk.

Membership Secretary:- Irene Carter - 01268 766149

E-mail - efandicart@btinternet.com

Group Co-ordinator:- Sue Taylor 01268 786405

E-mail - susan.taylor106@tesco.net

GROUP LEADERS

Acoustic Guitar	Vera Ward	01268 755040	History:-		
Archaeology	Ian Hayes	01268 779749	Social History	David Carlton	01268 452791
Art Appreciation	Barbara Curry	01268 775460	Holiday Group	Brian Kersey/	01268 743959
Art I - Water Colours	Sylvia Lester	01268 774201		Barbara Dale	01268 772018
Art II - Water/Oils	David Taylor	01268 777952	Latin	Dave Filby	01268 770023
Aviation	Phil Gendall	01268 750324	Music Appreciation	Les Geales	01702 206966
Bird Watching	Laurie Denney	01702 615370	Scrabble	Maureen Huntly	01268 777398
Book Reading I	Joyce Green	01268 771263	Scrapbooking	Janet Carlton	01268 452791
Book Reading II	Doreen Blake	01268 774871	Serendipity I	Linda & David Clarke	01702 204559
Calligraphy	Irene Tyson	01268 742942	Serendipity II	Pam & Keith Dunt	01702 201747
Cribbage Club	David Sheffield	01268 743586	Singing for Health		
Computing	Keith Dunt	01702 201747	& Pleasure	Marjorie Sale	01702 346175
Cross Stitch/Crochet	Jackie Lewis	01245 401123	Sunday Lunch I	Maureen Goss	01268 777681
Debating	Stella Luttererworth	01268 781425	Sunday Lunch II	Sue Barrows	01268 776775
Digital Photography	Brian Kersey	01268 743959	Tai Chi	Sue Taylor	01268 786405
Dining Group I	June Morris	01255 470884	Ten Pin Bowling	Alan & Gill Hudson	01702 202158
Dining Group II	Marion & Laurie		Theatre	Jean McKenzie &	01268 510570
	Wrentham	01702 555783		Helena Maxwell	01268 772061
Drama	Joanne Baker	01268 742252	Visiting Essex		
Family History:-			Churches - G'p. I	Marian Allen	01268 743339
Beginners	Terry Taylor	01268 786405	Group II	Audrey Morris	01268 771644
Family History I	Sue Taylor	01268 786405	Group III	Brenda Perrott	01268 779590
Family History II	Val Taylor	01702 206416	Group IV	Liz Denney	01702 615370
Family History III	Barbara Dale	01268 772018	Group V	Maureen Turner	01268 750967
French	Terri Gouldsmith	01268 562803	Walking I	Roger Baker	01702 331166/
Gardening	Heather Brickwood	01268 743838			07867 588879
	& Linda Clarke	01702 204559	Walking II	Les Poole	01268 773174
Golf	Kay Nevin	01268 780855	Wine Appreciation	Harry Brickwood	01268 743838
History:-			Yoga	Suzanne Middleton	01702 557389
Local History	Heather Flemmings	01702 204943			
	& David Fryer-Kelsey	01702 203455			

COACH TOUR OF NORTHUMBERLAND

Thursday May 27th – Monday, May 31st

The above short holiday is being organised by Rayleigh Grange U3A who have extended an invitation to us to join them.

**If you are interested please contact Sue Mahoney on
01268 780051 or e-mail her at Pemberwell@aol.com as soon as possible
The cost is £415.00 per person and is excellent value for money**

They are using the De Vere Slaley Hall Hotel at Hexham as a base and visiting Hadrian's Wall, Lindisfarne, Farne Islands, Bamburgh Castle Alnwick, Victorian Cragside and on Day 5 Durham Cathedral

All this looks first class to me. There will be the same local Blue Badge Guide accompanying you throughout the Tour. They have extended the closing date to allow us to join them so be quick if you are interested

----- Brian Kersey -----

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Thursdays, 18th February & 6th May – Olympic London – All tickets now sold

Wednesday, 10th March – Group Leader's Day – Saxon Hall

Mondays, 22nd March & 24th May – Magic Circle – Tickets now on sale.

Saturday, 18th September – Chatham Dockyard – Tickets on sale at April meeting

Please send items for inclusion in
the April newsletter to:-

janetcarlton@blueyonder.co.uk
Janet Carlton,
35 Curlew Crescent,
Basildon, SS16 5HR
Tel: 01268 452791

**To arrive no later than
15th March, 2010**

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**

Group Co-ordinators News

As some of you are aware I am gradually getting back into the swing of things after (what seems) quite a long break and here we are already into March with lots of new things to look forward to in the coming months.

Group Leaders Meeting, March 10th – Invites have been sent out to Group leaders either by email or post. If I have inadvertently missed anyone, please see me at the March meeting or contact me by phone for details. If you have not replied, please can you let me know as soon as possible if you are able to attend or if you are sending someone to represent your group. I need to have final numbers for Saxon Hall.

Singing for Health & Pleasure - I am so pleased to welcome Marjorie Sale back into her role and good to know her recovery is going so well. Marjorie has some spaces available and would welcome new members. They have only just started back for the Spring and are singing songs from the musical Calamity Jane and going on to songs from the wonderful Gilbert and Sullivan's Mikado. Please contact Marjorie on 01702 346175 if you would like to join in. Its great fun and very good for you.

Drama – a new group in its second week with Joanne Baker leading. They will be meeting twice each month on a Wednesday afternoon in Rayleigh. If you would like to join her, having fun reading parts from a short play, Joanne would be very pleased to see you. Places are limited and to find out more and where to go please contact her on 01268 742252.

Art II – David Taylor has had a short break during the winter months but is now starting again (weather permitting). I am sure David would welcome any new members to his group. Please contact him for more details on 01268 777952.

Debating – We have a new Group Leader – Stella Lutterloch, thank you Stella for undertaking this position. The group meets once a month for rather interesting and lively discussions (so I am told). If you would like to join in please contact Stella on 01268 781425

Ceramics – A new group just about to take off. Brenda Perrott has kindly offered to be group leader. There are lots of different opportunities to show off your craft skills by painting on to ceramics. You can paint plates, mugs, pots, picture frames in fact almost anything including items for special anniversary or birthday gifts too. There are endless possibilities. Once the group takes off we may even be able to offer a chance to make the actual pots from scratch. Please put your name down on the list at our March meeting or contact Brenda on 01268 779590. Once we set up an initial meeting the group can decide exactly what they would like to do.

Crib Club – Another new group which David Sheffield has kindly offered to lead. Ideally he would like approximately 20 members (i.e. 5 tables) to start. If you would like to join in (venue and time to be decided), please put your name on the list available at the March meeting or contact David on 01268 743586 to find out more. Hopefully we can get this group up and running over the next few weeks.

Cookery – Will be starting a little later this year, please contact me if you are interested in joining – I will have a list available at the March meeting for those members who would like to join this group. If you have any ideas of what you would like from a cookery group please let me know and/or if you would be interested in leading such a group.

Sue Taylor
Group Co-ordinator - 01268 786405

NEWS FROM OUR GROUP LEADERS

Walking Group One

30 members of the Group enjoyed lunch together at the Lords Golf Club on 3rd February to celebrate completion of the 2009 walking programme. A presentation was made to the most active lady member of the Group, Heather Flemmings, who participated in 11 of the 13 walks we did during the year.

In addition to the regular monthly walks the Group will be doing in 2010, 18 members of the Group will be having a coach holiday centered in Bristol for the 5 days 26/30th April accompanied by another 30 members of our U3A. We shall be visiting the National Trust properties at Tynesfield and Stourhead, together with several other attractions in Somerset and Gloucestershire.

Roger and Liz Baker – 01702 331166

Holiday Group

The next meeting is on MONDAY, MARCH 8th at 69 VICTORIA ROAD, RAYLEIGH. 10.30 - 12.30

We will discuss final details before departure for our Northern Lights Trip.

We shall also be discussing future plans for the rest of the year and any ideas you may have.

Brian Kersey – 01268 743959

Local History Group

ITINERARY 2010 as at 10th Feb. 2010

Fri. 19th Mar 10.30am - Kelvedon Hatch (Secret Government Bunker).

No guide. We each have a digital wand so we can go at our own pace. An ordinary bungalow hides the entrance to an amazing labyrinth of rooms built into a hillside, encased in 10-foot thick reinforced concrete and 100-ft. underground. Set in beautiful woodland open to the public.

Refreshments, souvenir shop and toilet facilities. Takes 1.5 hrs, **£6 per head** Access is only from the A128 Ongar to Brentwood road at Kelvedon Hatch.

Wed. 14th Apr 10.30am -Waltham Abbey/Royal Gun Powder Mills

Kept secret for over 300 years, the fascinating stories of what went on behind closed doors is still unfolding at the Royal Gunpowder Mills. Step back in time. Land Train tour includes guide with tales of the site. Also we will have the chance to see fallow deer, herons, kingfishers and other wild life in the woodland. Has café, picnic areas, gift shop, and toilet facilities. **£6 plus £2 for train**, includes tea/coffee on arrival. Located between Waltham Abbey and Waltham Cross, off Highbridge Street. Entrance at top end of Beaulieu Drive.

IF YOU WISH TO BOOK ANY OF THE ABOVE TRIPS, PLEASE CONTACT US AS BELOW OR VISIT THE TABLE AT THE MONTHLY MEETING.

Heather Flemmings – 01702 204943
David Fryer-Kelsey – 01702 203455

THE HISTORIC DOCKYARD CHATHAM

SATURDAY, 18 SEPTEMBER, 2010

40'S RE-ENACTMENT DAY

A visit has been arranged to Chatham Dockyard to coincide with the 70th anniversary of the Battle of Britain.

Step back in time for a day of nostalgia discovering what life was like on the home front. See military and home front re-enactors, wartime vehicles, period fashion and an exciting programme of wartime entertainment with humour, music and dance. Around every corner you'll encounter bombsite urchins, 'spivs', soldiers and sailors, coppers and dockyard maties. New for 2010 – a trade village, themed street scene and even more indoor and outdoor live entertainment. All this will provide so much atmosphere on the day.

There is much more - Heroic rescues of the RNLI crew are re-lived in the gallery of historic lifeboats. Magnificent maritime models, art and other artefacts come together in an historic building. Plus a visit mustn't be missed to the Ropery (included in the cost). The beautiful walled Commissioner's garden offers a perfect setting for a moment of secluded peace and quiet during a fascinating day's visit!

Price to include coach, entrance fee to Chatham dockyard and timed ticket to the Ropery, plus driver's gratuity.

£18 PER PERSON, cheques made payable to RAYLEIGH U3A

If you unable to attend the April meeting but would like to go on the trip please telephone Liz and Laurie on 01702 615370.

"Watch this space"!!

Plans are being made to hold another **Quiz Night** in the early Autumn. Also, following on from our very successful Anniversary Celebration last year, another Anniversary Celebration is being arranged later in the year. Dates and further details soon.

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

SOME VISITS AND EVENTS TO LOOK FORWARD TO

Olympic London – Thursday, 18th February, and Thursday, 6th May 2010

There was an overwhelming request for tickets at the November meeting so two visits have been arranged. Both coaches are now fully booked - something to really look forward to. If you have booked to go on either of these trips please telephone or e-mail Janet Carlton – 01268 452791, janet.carlton@blueyonder.co.uk – to say where you would like to be picked up. The choices are Kirby's Depot (leaving at 8.45 – cars can be parked there until you return), Webster's Way (leaving at 8.50) or Rayleigh Railway Station (leaving at 9.00).

N.B. The first of these trips took place on 18th February – see above and front cover. The weather was cold, wet and miserable but as soon as our guide came on board at Stratford weather was the last thing on our minds as she explained our itinerary for the day and we headed for a welcome stop for morning coffee and biscuits. Then we were off to see the sights listening to the story of how London had won the bid back in July 2005 to stage the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games frequently stopping or slowing down to see places of interest such as the Olympic Village, Broadcasting/Main Press Centre and in the distance the Olympic Stadium, Velo Park and Aquatics Centre. Our excitement was growing as we left our coach for a short walk with our guide to the viewing platform. Spread before us – such a hive of activity!! If ever the phrase “organized chaos” was to mean anything it was there. So many people with all manner of vehicles and equipment going about their work with such precision and purpose. A short way from the Stadium we could see the Aquatics Centre and Velo Park taking shape in the distance. A truly amazing sight and we all felt we were watching history in the making. Back on the coach again to listen to more amusing anecdotes and trivia of the previous three – yes three - Olympic Games to have been held in Britain, the next 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games and enough statistics and information to last a lifetime!! After a stop at Ye Olde Black Bull pub for a traditional roast beef dinner we were off again across the Woolwich Ferry for our last stop of the day at the Royal Artillery Museum housed in the Woolwich Arsenal close to the Woolwich Barracks where Olympic shooting events will take place. Here we had time to explore and stop for tea before leaving for home after an extremely enjoyable and fascinating day out.

Magic Circle – Monday, 22nd March and Monday, 24th May 2010

As you probably know, tickets for the above two dates to visit the Magic Circle went on sale at our February meeting. There are still tickets available for both trips and we are opening the trip up to friends and family if you would like to invite anyone you know. For details of the day please see the November Newsletter or the Notice Board. If you are unable to attend the March meeting and would like tickets please telephone Janet Carlton – 01268 452791.

PLEASE NOTE: - Liz and Laurie Denney have volunteered to jointly take over the position of Social Secretary. As you know, Laurie is currently a Committee Member. The first visit they are planning is to the Historic Dockyard in Chatham on Saturday, 18th September. Tickets will go on sale at the April monthly meeting and will be sold on the usual first come, first served basis. Here is a flavour of what the day will consist of but more concise details will be printed in the April Newsletter and can be seen on the Notice Board. Please ask Liz or Laurie, who will be sitting at the ticket desk, if you want to know more.

Tenpin Bowling

Everybody was glad to get back to tenpin bowling after our January meeting had to be cancelled due to the snow. There was a great turn out for the February meeting at CJs with cups going to Graham Godfrey, Ron Wood and Sid Sharod.

Congratulations to Graham Godfrey who was presented with our Bowler of 2009 Award.

Our March meeting at CJs in Hockley will be on Tuesday, 9th at 2pm

Alan Hudson – 01702 202158

Serendipity Group II

On Thursday 4th February 18 of us went on our first trip to the British Museum. After refreshments in the Gallery Coffee Shop we all enjoyed a guided tour of Ancient Iraq. Our Guide was most informative and readily answered any questions we had. After this tour some of us went on the Enlightenment Gallery Tour which again was most interesting with a good Guide. At lunchtime we enjoyed lunch together in a reserved room at the nearby Plough Pub. As it was our first activity together it was a nice way of getting to know each other. After lunch we ventured back to the Museum and had free time to visit areas we were particularly interested in. At 3.40 we left the Museum and made our way to the bus stop only to find that it was not in use as a bus lane was being put in! We then had to have a “quick walk” to the next stop near Holborn Station where we caught the bus being stopped at every red light and even the bus inspectors got on! Luckily we managed to catch the 4.25 train from Liverpool Street with 2 minutes to spare! We had a most enjoyable day and the Museum is well worth another visit at a later date.

Our next trip on 4th March is ‘London

Footsteps’ with David Williams followed by a pub lunch and then a visit to the Clockmakers Museum. On the 1st April we are visiting The National History Museum and Darwin Centre. Group members who wish to go on this trip please let us know at the next meeting or by ‘phone if you are unable to attend.

Pam and Keith Dunt – 01702 201747

Golf

If you have a set of golf clubs why not join us for a social game of golf during 2010.

We will get together for a game of golf at Dunton Hills Golf Course on the following dates:-

14th April, 12th May,

9th June, 14th July,

11th August & 8th September

This is an 18 hole, par 3 course, booked on a pay and play basis at a cost of £6 per game making a 9.00 a.m. start.

If you would like to join us please contact me either at the monthly meeting or by ‘phone.

Kay Nevin – 01268 780855

Gardening Group

All members of the Rayleigh U3A are regarded as being members of the Gardening Group

Garden Visits 2010

Beth Chatto & Tudor Roost

Monday 14th June

Our first call will be Tudor Roost which is a private garden near Fingeringhoe, this has a ¼ acre garden which is densely planted for all year round colour from its plants, climbers, shrubs and trees. Beth Chatto's garden needs no introduction, just to say that I am sure you will enjoy the visit.

Places still available - you can book at the Gardening desk.

Could those members who have put their name down for this please pay Heather at the March meeting.

**West Hanningfield Hall
Thursday 17th June**

Details & bookings at the April meeting

**Orchard Cottage
Monday 19th July**
Details & bookings at the April meeting

**Norfolk Holiday
Sunday/Monday 8/9 August**
Fully Booked

**Buckingham Palace
Tuesday 31st August**
Fully Booked

Could those members who are booked on this trip please pay Heather at the March meeting.

**Any questions call Heather Brickwood
01268 743838**

**Please remember to look on the Notice Boards in the Main Hall
for any further news/photos and other group information**

HEADLINES FROM THE EDITORIAL TEAM

Thank You

The vast majority of our membership has re-joined this year and from the 1st March we shall be inviting those people on our waiting list to join us.

I would like to thank those of you who have made suggestions for trips, new groups etc. Your comments have been passed on to our Group Co-ordinator (Sue Taylor - 01268 786405) and Social Secretary (Janet Carlton – 01268 452791) for consideration. Your suggestions will be implemented wherever practicable. Please contact Sue or Janet for more information regarding your suggestion if you would like to know more in the future .

We hope you enjoy our programme this year and the organised events we have planned.

**Irene Carter
Membership Secretary – 01268 766149**

U3A - Nationally – “What’s going on”

Booking is now open for either of the two **U3A Summer Schools 2010** both of which are taking place at the Royal Agricultural College Cirencester (1) 16-19 August and (2) 23-26 August. Full Board residential en suite accommodation £305 per person. There are a range of interesting subjects available from Architecture, Art History to Singing for Pleasure, Writing and everything in between. Booking forms and full details are available from Third Age Trust 19 East Street Bromley BR1 1QE.

Staying Sharp Neuroethics – What’s Right? What’s Wrong? Lecture to be held at The Royal Society, Carlton House Terrace SW1 on Wednesday 24th March 2010 14.00 -16.30 hrs. Admission by Ticket £12.50 obtainable from Third Age Trust (Dana) as above. Tickets will not be available on the door.

U3A Explores Science at the Ri Tuesday 30th March 2010 at 1.30 for 2 p.m. Speakers on Astrobiology – the hunt for alien life and towards a leaner, fitter future. Admission by ticket £15. Apply in writing to Third Age Trust as above enclosing a 30p stamp for up to 4 tickets.

U3A Jazz Appreciation Network Holiday to Rimini 22nd June 2010 to 28th June 2010. Cost £739.00 6 nights bed and breakfast. For brochure and booking form please send stamped addressed foolscap envelope to Bob Jones, Jazz Appreciation Network Coordinator 48 Mowbray Drive, Reading RG30 4XY

Details of all these events are available on the U3A website www.u3a.org.uk.

For further information on the above and for other U3A National and Regional news, please visit the Secretary’s Desk in the Underspire Room and speak to Marian Allen or see the Notice Board.

Volunteers

As you all know, Rayleigh U3A couldn't exist or function without its merry band of volunteers. Each of us who fulfil any task within our U3A are volunteers and we rely heavily on many people giving their time either on a one off basis or regularly according to the time they can spare. It really is a case of the more the merrier as there are frequently times when June Morris, our Volunteer Co-ordinator, calls on her reserve list. The tasks are many, especially at monthly meetings, from clerical assistance to the ever important need for people to help Doreen and Frank Bodey in the kitchen to ensure the smooth and efficient running of our tea break. There can never be enough volunteers and you can register to be a regular or infrequent volunteer.

With the renewal of our U3A's membership for the coming year it is timely to remind everyone of the need to keep June's Volunteer Bank topped up. Also to let new members know about the Volunteer Bank and ask them if they would be willing to join June's happy band of volunteers. Our U3A is quite unique in operating such a scheme and I think you would agree it helps towards its success, especially at meetings. Please contact June or any member of the Committee if you are willing to help and we would be grateful to welcome you on board.