



What is she up to? (See page 9)

This Month's Meeting  
at the Mill Hall Centre  
Thursday, 3rd March, 2011  
2.00 p.m. - 4.00 p.m.  
Barry Kaufmann-Wright  
"Jersey Zoo - the Work of  
Gerald Durrell"

# RETAILERS

## GROUP ACTIVITY CALENDAR – Normal day each Group meets each month

<b>Mondays</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> Monday 2 <sup>nd</sup> Monday 3 <sup>rd</sup> Monday	Art 1 (Watercolours); Ceramics; Family History 1; Visiting Essex Churches 4 Crib Club (evenings); Lap Top Computing; Visiting Essex Churches 1 Visiting Essex Churches 2 & 3
<b>Tuesdays</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> Tuesday 2 <sup>nd</sup> Tuesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> Tuesday 4 <sup>th</sup> Tuesday	Birdwatching; Digital Photography; Singing for Health & Pleasure; Tai Chi; Midweek Dining 2; Tai Chi; Tempin Bowling; Wine Appreciation (evenings) Birdwatching; Dining Group 2; Singing for Health & Pleasure Tai Chi; Dining Group 1; Tai Chi;
<b>Wednesdays</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> Wednesday 2 <sup>nd</sup> Wednesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> Wednesday 4 <sup>th</sup> Wednesday	Golf (April, July & September); Walking 1; Archaeology; Golf (May, June, August); Scrabble Crib Club; Drama; Real Ale; Visiting Churches 5 Calligraphy; Family History 2; Music Appreciation; Serendipity 3;
<b>Thursdays</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> Thursday 2 <sup>nd</sup> Thursday 3 <sup>rd</sup> Thursday 4 <sup>th</sup> Thursday	Serendipity 2; Tai Chi; U3A Monthly Meeting Acoustic Guitar; Tai Chi; Theatre 1; Social History; Scrapbooking; Tai Chi Art Appreciation; Book Reading; Dining Group 1; Essex Social History; Family History 3; Tai Chi
<b>Fridays</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> Friday 2 <sup>nd</sup> Friday 3 <sup>rd</sup> Friday 4 <sup>th</sup> Friday	Latin; Local History; Yoga; Yoga; Latin; Yoga Walking 2; Yoga
<b>Saturdays</b>	Currently no Groups	
<b>Sundays</b>	2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday	Sunday Lunch 1 Sunday Lunch 2

Please note dates may vary more with some groups than others, particularly with trips or outdoor activities.  
Check with Group Leader for Gardening, Golf, Serendipity, Visiting Historic Places & Theatre (usually Fridays).  
**PLEASE ALWAYS CHECK THE DATE OF YOUR NEXT MEETING WITH YOUR GROUP LEADER**

## FROM THE CHAIR

Dear Members,

March puts the cold winter months behind us and Rayleigh U3A welcomes Spring with a busy calendar of events to tempt all tastes starting with the Group Leaders' Day at Saxon Hall on Wednesday, 9th March followed by the U3A Variety Show and Supper starring our own talented members on 9th April (tickets now on sale). The 12th April will be our New Members Coffee Morning giving new members an opportunity to meet others, find out about Groups and to ask questions.

I would like to thank Brian Kersey, Vice Chair for so ably chairing the February meeting whilst Pete and I were away following our Family History trail to Australia.

Congratulations to Marian Allen on holding three successful 'Faiths and Beliefs' Study days.

On behalf of the Committee I would like to thank you for your nominations for Officers and Committee Members. We aspire to keep a high standard of successful meetings, social events and a steady growth of Groups throughout the year and this cannot be achieved without the dedication, enthusiasm and skills of the Committee, Members, Group Leaders and Volunteers.

In preparation for the Annual General Meeting on Thursday 7th April please find a copy of the Agenda for the AGM and a copy of the Examined Accounts for the year-end to 31st December, 2010 with this Newsletter. Please ensure that you bring these with you to the AGM as further copies may not be available at the April meeting. A copy of the Minutes of the AGM held on Friday 9th April, 2010 will be posted on the Notice Board at the March and April meetings for Members to read. Printed copies are available on request from Secretary, Marion Allen on 01268 743339. Members will be asked to approve these minutes at the AGM.

U3A gives you the ideal opportunity to try new interests, see new places and meet new people. Whatever you do, wherever you go and whomever you meet I hope you will enjoy yourselves.

Best wishes to you all,

*Maureen.*

*Chair - Rayleigh U3A*

## COMMITTEE, GROUPS, GROUP LEADERS

Chairman	Maureen Huntly	01268 777398	History - Local	H. Iemings	01702 204943
Vice Chair	Brian Kersey	01268 743959		D. Fryer-Kelsey	01702 203455
Secretary	Marian Allen	01268 743339	History - Social	David Carlton	01268 452791
Treasurer I	Fred Carter	01268 766149	Holiday	Brian Kersey	01268 743959
Treasurer II	Peter Walker	01702 202225	Industrial Awareness		
Membership	Irene Carter	01268 766149		Janet Carlton	01268 452791
Group Coord'	Sue Taylor	01268 786405	Keep Fit	Janet Carlton	01268 452791
N'letter Eds:	David & Janet Carlton		Lap Top Computing		
		01268 452791		Frank Bodey	01268 733616
Social Sec.	Laurie Denney	01702 615370	Latin	Dave Filby	01268 770023
Speaker Sec.	Janet Carlton	01268 452791	Music Apprec'n	Les Geales	01702 206966
Other Committee:			Real Ale Group	Dave Filby	01268 770023
	June Morris	01255 470884	Scrabble	Marg't Bristow	01268 747639
	Frank & Doreen Bodey		Scrapbooking	Janet Carlton	01268 452791
		01268 733616	Serendipity I	Linda & David Clarke	
	Pete Huntly	01268 777398			01702 204559
	Terry Gouldsmith	01268 562803	Serendipity II	Pam & K. Dunt	01702 201747
	Barbara Hodge	01268 771820	Serendipity III	P. & J. Pomfrett	01702 230253
	Ian Haynes	01268 779749	Singing for Health & Pleasure		
				Marjorie Sale	01702 346175
<b>Groups/Group Leaders:</b>			S. Lunch Club I	Maureen Goss	01268 777681
Ac'tic Guitar	Vera Ward	01268 775040	S. Lunch Club II	Sue Barrows	01268 776775
Archaeology	Ian Haynes	01268 779749	Tai Chi (J)	Sue Taylor	01268 786405
Art Appreciat'n	Barbara Curry	01268 775460	Tenpin Bowling	Alan Hudson	01702 202158
Art I -				Bob Wren	01702 525311
Water Cols	Sylvia Lester	01268 774201	Theatre	Jean Mackenzie	01268 510570
Bird Watching	Laurie Denney	01702 615370		Helena Maxwell	01268 772061
Book Reading	Doreen Blake	01268 774871	Theatre II	Sandra Wilson	01268 775184
Book Reading II	Marian Allen	01268 743339	Visiting Essex Churches:		
Calligraphy	Irene Tyson	01268 742942	Group I	Marian Allen	01268 743339
Ceramics	Brenda Perrott	01268 779590	Group II	Elizabeth Baker	01702 331166
Crib Club	David Sheffield	01268 743586	Group III	Brenda Perrott	01268 779590
Digital Photo'y	Brian Kersey	01268 743959	Group IV	Liz Denney	01702 615370
Dining Group I	June Long	01268 730603	Group V (J)	Maureen Turner	01268 750967
Dining Group II	Marion & Laurie Wrentham		Visiting Historic Places: to be confirmed		
		01702 555783	Walking I	Roger Baker	01702 331166
Drama	Joanne Baker	01268 742252			07867 588879
Family History:			Walking II	Les Poole	01268 773174
Family History I	Sue Taylor	01268 786405	Wine Apprec'n	Harry Brickw'd	01268 743838
Family History II	Pete Huntly	01268 777398	Yoga	Suzanne Middleton	
Family Hist'y III	Barbara Dale	01268 772018			01702 557389
Gardening	Heather Brickw'd	01268 743838			
	Linda Clarke	01702 204559			
Golf	Kay Nevin	01268 780855			

(J) = Joint with Rayleigh Grange

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

[janetcarlton@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:janetcarlton@blueyonder.co.uk)

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

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

#### NATIONAL OFFICE

19 East Street, Bromley, Kent  
BR1 1QH  
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e-mail: [national.office@u3a.org](mailto:national.office@u3a.org)  
Web site: [www.u3a.org.uk](http://www.u3a.org.uk)  
Resource Centre: e-mail:  
[resource.centre@u3a.org.uk](mailto:resource.centre@u3a.org.uk)

#### Next Meeting at Mill Hall Centre

Thursday, 7th April 2011  
2.00 p.m - 4.00 p.m

#### ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

followed by Mike Davies  
"Rayleigh Through the Looking Glass"

#### **COMMITTEE CONTACTS**

*Chairman: Maureen Huntly - 01268 777398*

*E-mail: [Maureen@phuntly.freeserve.co.uk](mailto:Maureen@phuntly.freeserve.co.uk)*

*Membership Secretary: Irene Carter - 01268 766149*

*E-mail: [efandicart@btinternet.com](mailto:efandicart@btinternet.com)*

*Group Co-ordinator: Sue Taylor 01268 786405*

*E-mail: [susan.taylor106@tesco.net](mailto:susan.taylor106@tesco.net)*

*Newsletter editors: Janet & David Carlton 01268 452791*

*E-mail: [janetcarlton@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:janetcarlton@blueyonder.co.uk)*

## **GROUP CO-ORDINATOR'S NEWS**

### **VISITING ESSEX CHURCHES II**

Elizabeth Baker has kindly offered to take over the running of this Group following the very sad death of Audrey Morris. Audrey was a very popular lady who ran Church Group II right from the start of our Rayleigh U3A and will be greatly missed. A big "Thank You" to Elizabeth for stepping in.

### **SCRAPBOOKING**

There are places available in this popular Group. If you are interested in joining or if you have an interest in any other related crafts such as card-making please contact Janet on 01268 452791 to find out more. The Group meets on the third Thursday of each month at Clay Cottage, Lubbards Farm.

### **KEEP FIT**

This new Group is off to a great start and has proved to be very popular. If you are interested in joining please contact Janet on 01268 452791 as there are still places available. See Janet's note in this Newsletter for more information.

### **TWO NEW GROUPS:-**

#### **KNIT AND NATTER**

If you are interested in knitting, sewing, cross stitch etc. and a good old natter then this group is for you. Doreen Oliver has kindly offered to become Group Leader for this Group and if you would like to join please put your name on the list available at our monthly meeting or contact Doreen on 01268 743087 to find out more.

#### **FLOWER ARRANGING**

If you would like to join a Flower Arranging Group please put your name down on the list available at the monthly meeting. Members have been asking about starting this Group but it will depend on how many members are interested and if we can find somebody to become Group Leader. If you would like to join or run this group please let me know or put your name on the list.

**Sue Taylor - Group Co-ordinator**

**Tel: 01268 786405**

**e-mail: [susan.taylor106@tesco.net](mailto:susan.taylor106@tesco.net)**

## NEWS FROM OUR GROUP LEADERS

### TEN PIN BOWLING

Apologies to my Group for not putting in a report following our January meeting as I was away on holiday. Here is a recap. The winner of the “Bowler of the Year Trophy” for 2010 was Graham Godfrey for the second year running. The January monthly winners were Jill Marsh, Graham Godfrey and Sid Sharod. A special mention goes to Jane Godfrey with a personal best score of 116 (always in Graham’s shadow!!).

The February meeting was another enjoyable afternoon and we were joined by Mike Edwards a new member to the U3A. Winners were Jill Marsh (second month running), Peter Joyce and first time winner Peter Goodwin.

It was also nice for me to play two games for the first time in nearly a year. Our next meeting will be on 8th March at CJs Hockley at 2pm

**Alan Hudson – 01702 202158**

### LOCAL HISTORY GROUP

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

Our next meeting will be on Wednesday, 16th March when we explore the old sailing town of Burnham-on-Crouch. Meet at the Church at 10.00am where tea and coffee will be available. Short drive from the Church to the Clock Tower. Then a guided

walk from the Clock Tower in the main street, starting at 11.15am which will take about one and a half hours. A break for lunch in any of the cafes and pubs and then the option of visiting the Museum (in an old boat house) near the waterfront. £4 per head.

Thursday, 21st April sees us touring Old Leigh under the guidance of members of the Leigh Heritage Society. Meet 10.00am at the Heritage Centre. £2 per head.

Due to a cancellation we have one seat available on the coach going to the Titanic artifacts exhibition at the O2 and to Greenwich on Thursday, 31st March. The exhibition features over 300 real artifacts recovered from the ocean floor along with room re-creations and personal stories. The coach will then go to Greenwich where you can visit the many different sites of interest. There are plenty of shops and eating places available in the surrounding streets. The cost for the visit is £25 per person.

Book visits with Heather Flemmings, at monthly U3A meetings, e-mail [heatherfl@lineone.net](mailto: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**

## GROUPS - HALL BOOKINGS

Barbara Hodge is the Committee representative for booking of halls. Please contact her if you wish her to book a venue on your behalf giving Group Leader's name, date required, venue preferred, and times needed on 01268 771820.

If you prefer to book the hall yourself then please do so but you must let Barbara know so that she can pass the information to the Committee i.e. Group, venue, date, time and cost.

We are looking to analyse the information concerning halls throughout 2011 which will help us to negotiate the cost of hiring the most popular halls.

**PLEASE NOTE - AS THE OUR MONTHLY MEETINGS HAVE BEEN BOUGHT FORWARD FROM FRIDAYS TO THURSDAYS THE SCHEDULE FOR PROCESSING THE NEWSLETTER HAS HAD TO BE ALTERED. WOULD YOU PLEASE NOTE THAT THE DEADLINE DATE FOR ITEMS YOU WOULD LIKE PUT IN THE NEWSLETTER IS NOW THE 14TH OF EACH MONTH AND NOT THE 15TH. THANK YOU.**

### **DATES FOR YOUR DIARY**

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <b>Wednesday, 9th March</b>                  | Group Leaders' Day, Saxon Hall   |
| <b>Saturday, 9th April</b>                   | Variety Show and Supper, Rayleigh Grange Community Hall<br>Tickets now on sale - £6        |
| <b>Tuesday, 12th April</b>                   | New Members' Meeting – 10am–12.30pm<br>Trinity Hall – Underspire Room                      |
| <b>Thursday, 14th April</b>                  | Royal Marines Mountbatten Festival of Music, Albert Hall<br><b>Tickets all sold</b>        |
| <b>Wed. 20th April and<br/>Wed. 11th May</b> | Olympic London II – <b>Tickets all sold</b><br>Olympic London II – <b>Tickets all sold</b> |
| <b>Friday, 19th August</b>                   | Hatfield House Country Show – Tickets now on sale - £20                                    |
| <b>Wednesday, 28th Sept.</b>                 | Visit to Rye – Tickets on sale at April Meeting - £33                                      |

## COACH TRIP TO RYE

via Tenterden, Romney Marsh, Dungeness and Camber Sands

**WEDNESDAY, 28th SEPTEMBER, 2011**

This is a City & Villages trip. We leave Rayleigh and drive to Tenterden for morning coffee at a local pub and to meet our City and Villages Guide.

After coffee we rejoin the coach for a tour of Romney Marsh and Dungeness, said to be the only desert in the U.K. A Fish & Chip lunch will be provided at the Pilot Inn, Dungeness.

After lunch we drive via Camber Sands to Rye for a guided walking tour. There will be time to purchase tea in Rye. We anticipate rejoining the coach for the homeward journey around 4.45pm-5.00pm.

Price includes morning coffee, lunch and gratuities to the coach driver and guide. Pick up points will be:-

Kirby's Depot	8.30am
Webster's Way	8.35am
Rayleigh Station	8.40am.

### **COST - £33 per person**

Tickets will go on sale at the April meeting and will be sold on a first come, first served basis. Cheques should be made payable to "Rayleigh U3A" and written in advance if possible to save time at the ticket desks.

If this trip is over subscribed and there is sufficient interest, a second coach could be run on Wednesday, 7th September, 2011.

**If you have any queries regarding the above two visits please enquire at the ticket desk. - Liz and Laurie Denney**

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

## WALKING GROUP I

On 2nd February, following the Group's regular monthly walk, 32 of us sat down at the Lords Golf Club to enjoy our third annual lunch which was arranged by Stella Lutterloch and Carol Shrubsole. As has now become customary, the lady member who has walked the most times during the previous year is recognized at our lunch.

However, for 2010 we had the pleasure of acknowledging that three ladies had participated in every monthly walk. They were Pam Dunt, Sylvia Andrews and Heather Flemmings. The Group has a full programme of walks planned for 2011.

**Liz and Roger Baker – 01702 331166**

## SERENDIPITY GROUP III

In January we had an informative and very enjoyable trip to The Royal Courts of Justice and St. Clement Danes Church.

The Law Courts tour started in the Great Hall and proceeded to one of the Court Rooms where we had a very interesting talk about the working of the Court system. We were also given a tour of several other areas of the building. Everyone enjoyed the morning and we were more than ready for our Carvery Lunch in "The George" pub opposite the Courts of Justice. After lunch we visited St. Clement Danes church where we were given a short overview of the history of the Church by the Rector. We just had enough time after the talk to look around the Church and Crypt before making our way back to Liverpool Street. It was a beautiful sunny day and everyone had a great time.

We are looking forward to our next trip to The Old Royal Naval College, Greenwich.

**Pat & John Pomfrett - 01702 230253**

## KEEP FIT

At last our Keep Fit Group is off to a great start! The inaugural meeting was at Mill Hall on 19th January when people who had shown an interest in joining a Keep Fit Group came along to meet Martin Frost. Martin is well qualified to teach Keep Fit but more than that is also qualified to teach people with various health issues which unfortunately can start to occur when you are in the "Third Age"!!! Martin comes extremely well qualified to teach people with all manner of health issues such as hip and knee replacements, rehabilitation following heart attacks, stent implants, arthritis, high blood pressure, diabetes etc. etc.

Following the inaugural meeting a "taster" session was held at Cully's Gym in Hockley on Friday, 4th February. Ten people attended the Gym for the taster session and were obviously suitably impressed as they returned the following Friday along with two new members. The ethos of the Group is that members who join want to exercise in a safe environment realising the importance of fitness and diet within their daily lives. This in turn can help towards ensuring that they can remain active well into the "Fourth Age".

Martin is a great teacher. He encourages people to enjoy the sessions reminding them that they should be mindful of only exercising as far as they feel comfortable explaining that week by week they will become stronger and that they will soon be achieving "personal bests"! More than anything there is a real bonus to the Keep Fit sessions – Martin makes the sessions FUN – and the smiling faces and laughter are a tonic in themselves!

Due to the nature of the Group there has to be a restriction on the number of members. There are still some vacancies at the moment so if you are interested in finding out more please give me a call.

**Janet Carlton – 01268 452791.**

## **HEADLINES AND ACTIVITIES**

### **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2011**

As you know, we shall be holding our AGM next month. For your information a copy of Rayleigh U3A Accounts for year ending 31st December, 2010 is enclosed with this Newsletter. The Accounts are printed on the back of the Agenda. You may find it useful to bring the Accounts and Agenda with you to the meeting as there will only be a few spare copies available at the meeting.

**Fred Carter**  
Treasurer - Main Account

**Peter Walker**  
Treasurer - Social Account

### **SERIES OF TALKS - 'FAITHS AND BELIEFS'**

Speakers were invited by the Co-ordinators of the Visiting Churches Groups to talk on their faith and/or their beliefs and 28 members of Rayleigh Trinity and Rayleigh Grange U3As attended the sessions over a period of six weeks during January and February 2011. The meetings were held in the Women's Institute Hall, Rayleigh which was warm and comfortable and with good facilities for refreshments. This was important as the talks were taking place in the winter months.

Our first guest was George Bird who spoke on his work offering a secular alternative at funerals to non believers and of his own faith which he described as an external energy and an inner belief of love. Gillian and John Jefferies were invited to speak about their faith as

## **Some visits and events to look forward to**

### **HATFIELD HOUSE COUNTRY SHOW**

Friday, 19th August, 2011

A trip has been arranged to Visit the Country Show held annually at Hatfield House. The cost of the visit will be £20 and will include transport, entry to the Country Show and driver's gratuity. You will be dropped off at the Country Show entrance. The Show gives a taste of the Countryside and includes a Food Marquee, Celebrity Chef Demonstrations, Steam Traction Engines, Traditional Breed Animals, Shooting, Fishing, Archery, Arena Events and lots of stalls to tempt you to spend your money. Throughout the day transport will be running to the House where there is a restaurant and some very nice small shops.

Also, to celebrate the 400th anniversary of Hatfield House there is a major exhibition of Henry Moore's larger sculptures in the garden. This is the largest collection ever exhibited in the grounds of an historic house.

The cost to view Henry Moore's exhibition and entry to Hatfield House is not included in the £20 cost of your ticket. Entry to the Henry Moore Exhibition is £11.50 and the separate charge for entry to Hatfield House is £6.

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Both must be purchased by you personally and separately on the day. There are still a few tickets available for this trip. Cheques should be made payable to "Rayleigh U3A". Pickup points will be:-

Kirby's Depot	8.45 a.m.
Webster's Way	8.50 a.m.
Rayleigh Station	8.55 a.m.

as much as we did. We were given a DVD containing the film, photos and a certificate.

Things ended with a Christmas party which sadly I was unable to attend through illness but I'm sure they had a great time.

Thanks U3A for widening my horizons.

**Margaret Read**

### **FLAMENCO DANCING**

You may remember that just before Christmas an email arrived from Marion Allen giving details that the University of Essex at Southend were offering three Flamenco dancing lessons for beginners at a cost of £12 for each lesson. The venue was an old church in Nelson Road, Southend-on-Sea where I duly arrived on the 16th January for the first lesson. Alas, the first arrivals were not golden oldies but young teenagers, although some more golden oldies did arrive later making me feel better!! Mind you the registration area was as crowded as Liverpool St Station in the rush hour. Our teacher, Sandra la Espuelita, was dressed in beautiful Spanish red and black traditional costume. She told us she had started dancing 25 years ago, turned professional 23 years ago and has been teaching for the last 10 years. She began the session by teaching us the Fandango. The lessons were excellent but very complicated. It was a joy to watch Sandra dancing by herself, swishing her skirts and rattling the castanets. She told us a little of the history of Flamenco dances which began way back in time with the gipsies from Rajasthan, and travelled down with the Moors into Spain.

The Moors were later persecuted and many were thrown out of Spain but the dance and music were kept alive as an expression of rebellion. Although they were downtrodden they could express their feelings through their culture. "You can persecute me, but you can't take my soul - my soul is my dance and music." When Franco was in power he allowed anyone to dance the Flamenco dances for the tourists. It has now returned to the gipsies and their descendants. Out of courtesy the dancers always refrain from stamping too loudly so that you can hear the guitar music. The musicians who played the guitars for us (again excellent) run Southend Flamenco classes at The Storehouse, Coleman Street, Southend on Sea. For more information please phone Linda Clarke on 01702 465244.

**Linda Clarke**

Quakers and their quiet and contemplative talk expressed their inner belief of peace and kindness.

The third of our talks was given by Imam Iftiqar Ul Haq and we were struck not by the differences but of the many links between the Muslim and Christian faith. Naturally there are differences and we were able to question and explore some of these differences with him.

Our last talk, on the 7th of February, was given by Otto Deutz. He talked not only of his faith of Judaism, but also of his experience at the age of 7 years in 1938 of being sent from Vienna to England by his mother to ensure his safety from persecution. Otto's father had at that time been deported to a Labour Camp and he never returned home. Once in England, Otto was fostered by a very kind Christian family in the North of England where he stayed until he was 15. Although he has since visited Vienna, Essex has been his home for many years and is where he is happy. Otto's talk and the presentation of his few family photographs was uplifting as well as sad and thought provoking. His faith remains strong.

The series has been informative, interesting and thought provoking and our intention is to arrange follow up visits for those who attended as we have been invited both to the Mosque in Westcliff and the Synagogue in Southend. We hope to arrange a further series of talks in 2012.

**Marion Allen**

## SECRETARY'S NOTES

### NEWS FROM THE THIRD AGE TRUST

Virtual U3A (vU3A) - Housebound members can take advantage of this on-line facility which meets only on the Internet. If you know of anyone who would benefit please refer them to [www.vu3a.org](http://www.vu3a.org).

The subject for this year's Royal Society Lecture is "Think Positive - Be Happy" and will be held on the 19th of May. Tickets go very quickly for this event. For further information contact [www.u3a.org.uk](http://www.u3a.org.uk)

U3A on-line Video Making Group. Geo Meadows of Hagley U3A has set up a Group on this subject at <http://vimeo.com/groups/62178>. This is a private group set up within Vimeo and Geo would like to hear from any U3A members who would be interested in gaining access to the site and uploading videos, adding comments and using the forum. He can be contacted at [geowarm3@gmail.com](mailto:geowarm3@gmail.com)

### ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING - Thursday, 7th April, 2011

You will find a copy of the Agenda together with a copy of the Accounts up to year ending 31st December, 2010 contained within this month's Newsletter. Please make sure that you bring these to the Annual General Meeting.

Please note that a copy of last year's Minutes of the AGM will be posted on the Notice Board at the March and April meetings for members to read. Please contact me if you would like me to send you a copy.

I am pleased to tell you that Essex University, Southend Campus, have invited us to a lecture to be given by Professor Tod Landman, the Director of the Institute for Democracy and Conflict Resolution. This is a very topical subject given the current unrest and Human Rights issues presently taking place in a wide range of Countries. The venue will be The Gateway Building in Southend and will take place on Wednesday 13th April commencing at 3.00 (for refreshments). The lecture will begin at 3.30p.m. Arrangements for attending will be given at the March Meeting and will be printed in the Newsletter in April.

**Marian Allan - Secretary**

**Tel: 01268 743339**

## MEMBERS' NEWS

### LAARC (London Archaeological Archive Research Centre) Shared Learning Project - (See front cover)

When I left work I was always busy (five grandchildren!) but was looking for a new hobby. A friend of mine suggested I joined the U3A to look at finding other interests as there are so many on offer.

I joined Rayleigh U3A last February and at the New Members' meeting I listened to Ian Haynes talking about the Archaeology Group. I had always been interested in people and how they live and instantly felt this was something for me. After a few meetings Ian forwarded a letter from the London Archaeology Archive Research Centre asking for volunteers to help in repacking artefacts for the Museum of London. I applied and was very surprised to be chosen. The course was held every Wednesday for 3 months.

The first Wednesday came and I set off feeling quite excited but a little apprehensive as I knew very little about Archaeology. I needn't have worried as neither did most of the other nine volunteers. They were a friendly group from many different backgrounds and we were soon chatting over our tea and biscuits. Adam and Glyn, the Course Leaders, soon had us at our ease and explained about the Course. They told us that each day we would be doing one hour's packing then we would listen to an hour's talk from a visiting Archaeologist - on a different subject each week - followed by another hour's packing. They told us that we would also spend some time making a short 'film' of photos we had taken during the course. This was a reciprocal venture - we helped them by repacking and creating more space on their shelves and in return we learnt a lot about Archaeology.

Wednesday soon became a valued day in my week. It was so different to anything I had done before and I was starting to learn the basics of Archaeology. Among other things we had talks on flint, leather, bone, and pottery (my favourite) and Adam and Glyn taught us a great deal by explaining the many areas of the work they do.

But all good things come to an end and in no time at all we found ourselves at the end of the Course and in the final week we made a film of the Course. We might not have had much experience but we had enthusiasm in bundles! With lots of help in the Museum of London e.learning suite we all managed to put something together and at the end of the Course there was a film show with visiting Volunteer Area Managers who seemed to really enjoy our film