



What are they up to?

See page 11

This Month's Meeting

Thursday, 1st March, 2012
2.00 pm - 4.00 pm

Dr. Todd Landman
"Rational Intuition"

Rayleigh U3A Website – www.rayleighu3a.org.uk
Registered Charity No. 1134068

MARCH 2012

Newsletter No. 43

Rayleigh U3A

GROUP ACTIVITY CALENDAR – Normal day each Group meets each month

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

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,

Welcome to you all. Thank you for renewing your membership for 2012 and a special warm welcome to all our new 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 on 21st March with the Book Tour Coach Trip with City & Village Tours which includes coffee and lunch at £28.50 (some places left), Group Leaders' Day at Saxon Hall on Tuesday, 27th March followed by our New Members' Coffee Morning on 11th April giving new members an opportunity to meet others, find out about groups and to ask questions.

Tickets for the 'Book Tour Coach Trip', the 'Royal Variety Party Night' to be held on Friday, 8th June, 2012 at Mill Hall in celebration of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee and the planned holiday to Cheshire will be on sale at the meeting.

Event tickets are also available from Secretary, Maureen Hayes 01702 473110. Contact Fred Carter on 01268 766149 if you are interested in the holiday.

Congratulations to Marian Allen on holding three successful 'Faiths and Beliefs' Study Days, despite the snowfall.

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, Group Leaders and Volunteers.

In preparation for the Annual General Meeting on Thursday, 5th April please find the Agenda for the AGM with this newsletter. A copy of the Audited Financial Statement for the year-end to 31st December, 2011 will be included with the April newsletter. Please ensure that you bring them with you to the AGM, although some copies will be available at the April meeting. A copy of the Minutes of the AGM held on Thursday, 7th April, 2011 will be posted on the Notice Board at the March and April meetings for members to read and a copy will be available for any member who requests it from Secretary, Maureen Hayes - 01702 473110. 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

GROUPS/GROUP LEADERS

Acoustic Guitar	Vera Ward	01268 775040	Lap Top Computing 1		
Antiques/Collectables			Frank Bodey	01268 733616	
	Sheila Read	01268 778926	Lap Top Computing 2		
Archaeology	Ian Haynes	01268 779749	Claire Dawson	01268 786918	
Art Appreciation	Barbara Curry	01268 775460	Latin	Dave Filby	01268 770023
Art I - Water Colours			Luncheon Group 1		
	Sylvia Lester	01268 774201	Margaret Bristow		
Bird Watching	Laurie Denney	01702 615370	Music Appreciation		
Book Reading	Doreen Blake	01268 774871	Les Geales	01702 206966	
Book Reading 2	Marian Allen	01268 743339	Real Ale Group	Dave Filby	01268 770023
Calligraphy	Irene Tyson	01268 742942	Scrabble	Margaret Bristow	
Canasta	Chris & Dave Towell		Serendipity 1	Linda & David Clarke	
		01268 528937			01702 204559
Ceramics	Brenda Perrott	01268 779590	Serendipity 2	Pam & Keith Dunt	01702 201747
Crib Club	David Sheffield	01268 743586	Serendipity 3	Pat & John Pomfrett	
Digital Photography					01702 230253
	Brian Kersey	01268 743959	Serendipity 4	Sue & Mike Cairns	01268 743497
Discussions on Points of View				Maureen Hayes	01702 473110
	John Edwards	01268 747208		& Peter Britton	01268 777525
Drama	Joanne Baker	01268 742252	Singing for Health & Pleasure		
Family History Beginners			Marjorie Sale		01702 346175
	Terry Taylor	01268 786405	Sunday Lunch Club		
Family History 1	Sue Taylor	01268 477720	Maureen Goss		01268 777681
Family History 2	Pete Huntly	01268 777398	Tenpin Bowling	Alan Hudson	01702 202158
Family History 3	Barbara Dale	01268 772018	Bob Wren		01702 525311
Flower Arranging	Irene Stokes	01268 774564	Theatre	Jean Mackenzie	01268 510570
Gardening Slide Shows				Helena Maxwell	01268 772061
	Linda Clarke	01702 204559	Theatre 2	Sandra Wilson	01268 775184
Gardening (Propagating)			V.I.P.	Liz & Laurie Denney	
	Harry Brickwood	01268 743838			01702 615370
Golf	Kay Nevin	01268 780855	Visiting Essex Churches:		
History - Local	Heather Flemings	01702 204943	Group 1	Marian Allen	01268 743339
	/ David Fryer-Kelsey		Group 2	Elizabeth Baker	01702 331166
		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			Wine Appreciation		
	Janet Carlton	01268 452791		Harry Brickwood	01268 743838
Keep Fit	Janet Carlton	01268 452791	Yoga	Suzanne Middleton	
Knit & Natter	Doreen Oliver	01268 743082			01702 557389

(J) = Joint with Rayleigh Grange

Please send items for inclusion in the February Newsletter to:-

janetcarlton@blueyonder.co.uk

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

**To arrive no later than
Wednesday, 14th April, 2012**

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

COMMITTEE CONTACTS

Chairman:- Maureen Huntly - 01268 777398

e-mail - maureenhuntly@btinternet.com

Membership Secretary:- Doreen Blake - 01268 774871

e-mail - rblake@uk2.net

Group Co-ordinator:- Sue Taylor - 07791477720

e-mail - susan.taylor106@tesco.net

Secretary:- Maureen Hayes - 01702 473110

e-mail - mhayesghayes@talktalk.net

Newsletter editors;-Janet & David Carlton - 01268 452791

e-mail - janetcarlton@blueyonder.co.uk

SAD ANNOUNCEMENT

The Committee and I are sad to announce the death of Doreen Bodey who died in her home surrounded by her family on Saturday, 18th February, 2012.

Doreen and her husband, Frank, were Founder Members of the Rayleigh U3A and served as Committee Members for three years and took on the task of providing and organising refreshments at our monthly meetings at Holy Trinity Hall.

They were presented with the Rayleigh Citizen's Award last year by the Chairman of the Rochford District Council for service in the Community.

Doreen will be greatly missed by her circle of friends in the U3A especially those in the Essex Church Visiting Group I, Archaeology Group and the Poetry Group of which she was Group Leader.

We know you will join us in sending Frank our sincere condolences for his loss.

Chair & Committee - Rayleigh U3A

GROUP CO-ORDINATOR'S NEWS

Rummikub

This new group will be starting on the 8th March in the evening at Linda Tull's home. This is an exciting game along the lines of the card game of Rummy, using tiles instead of cards – a "Numbers Strategy Game" that's never the same! I am sure it will be great fun to play. If you are interested and would like to join Linda and Julie Reader, who will be joint Group Leaders, please give either of them a call on the following numbers – Linda 01702 478649 and Julie 01702 719739. There is also the possibility of including other board games as the group expands. I have played Rummikub and it is very addictive so don't miss out on a fun evening.

Book Reading – Non-Fiction

I am sure there are members who would be interested in joining such a group. This may appeal to some of our members who have not joined any of our other Book Reading groups and prefer to read non-fiction books by way of a change. If you would like to find out more and start the ball rolling for this group, please contact me on 01268 786405 or add your name to the list at our March monthly meeting.

Fine Dining

We have a Group Leader keen to get this group up and running. If you like visiting different restaurants and experiencing all kinds of "fine dining" I am sure this will be the group for you. Please contact me on 01268 786405 if you would like to join and also if you have suggestions on the type of restaurant you would like to visit let me know. You can also add your name to the list at the March Meeting.

Astronomy

I have been asked on several occasions for an Astronomy Group to be started. Please add your name to the list at our March meeting if you would be interested in joining. If you have any questions contact me on 01268 786405 or catch up with me at the Monthly meetings.

Jazz

Come on you music lovers – I am sure there are enough people interested in Jazz, either listening to, or going to concerts etc. It only needs a small group to get started. Please put your name down or contact me with any suggestions for this group.

Group Activity Booklet

Will those Group Leaders who have not replied to my e-mail please let me have your new or updated input to the Group Activity Book as soon as possible – we need this to be finished for the New Members' Meeting in April. Thank you for your help.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- | | |
|------------------------------------|---|
| Thursday, 15th March | Essex University, Southend Campus
<i>The East Anglian Witch Hunts 1645-1647</i>
Tickets on sale now
See Marian Allen on ticket desk |
| Saturday, 17th March | Essex University, Southend Campus
<i>Local History Projects on the History of Southend</i>
Tickets on sale now
See Marian Allen on ticket desk |
| Wednesday, 21st March | <i>London Book Club Tour, £28.50</i>
Tickets now on sale |
| Friday, 8th June | <i>Royal Variety Party Night, £12.50</i>
Tickets now on sale |
| Mon. 17th – Fri. 21st Sept. | <i>Holiday to Cheshire & North Wales</i>
Organiser Fred Carter. |

BOOK TOUR COACH TRIP TO LONDON

Wednesday, 21st March, 2012

This trip is like curling up with a really good book on a rainy day. It is like combining a well-crafted radio programme with a coach tour of London. There will be time to browse in the famous book district of Charing Cross Road or pop into the National Portrait Gallery. In the afternoon we visit the treasures of the British Library. We sit together for morning refreshments and lunch that are included in the price. Gratuities are also included.

PICK-UP TIMES

KIRBY'S DEPOT - 8.30am ; WEBSTERS WAY - 8.40am
RAYLEIGH STATION - 8.50am.

For tickets and further information call Maureen Hayes on
01702 473110

Also see the Notice Board at March Monthly Meeting

Cost £28.50

GROUP LEADERS' DAY

Group Leaders - Can you please make sure you have confirmed whether or not you can attend on the 27th March if you have not already done so. If you have any suggestions for anything you would like to see discussed on the day I would appreciate your thoughts.

Sue Taylor – Group Co-ordinator – 01268 786405

NEWS FROM OUR GROUP LEADERS

PAPERCRAFTS

(Scrapbooking and Card making)

Our new Papercrafts Group is off to a flying start with four new members who have joined the Scrapbookers to share their interest in producing handmade cards. (See last month's Newsletter for further details.) We would still like to welcome new members so please give me a call if you are interested and would like further information.

Janet Carlton – 01268 452791

LOCAL HISTORY

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

Thursday, 29th March 2012 Paul Taylor will give a talk illustrated with slides about the Southern Belle charabanc. WI Hall - 10.00am to 12.00. £4 per head to include tea/coffee/biscuits.

Please pay at the next U3A meeting on 1st March. Please note the change of date from Thursday, 22nd March.

Wed. 18th April sees us at the Chelmsford Museum in Oaklands Park. This contains the Bright Sparks exhibition about Chelmsford industry, also the story of Chelmsford from the Ice Age showing how people lived. Then there is the Essex Regiment Museum showing its history from its origins in 1741. All housed in a beautiful Victorian house in 12 acres of park. Option to adjourn to Hylands Hall afterwards for tea/coffee. £1 per head. 10.30am onwards.

Coach Visit to Lavenham and Sudbury on Wednesday, 19th September, 2012

The coach will deliver us to Lavenham where tea/coffee is available at a cost of £2.25 in the Guildhall. Our guides will take us round the town and to the Church.

The coach will then take us to Sudbury where you may explore, shop and eat to your heart's content.

The cost is £15.00 per person which covers the coach fare, a gratuity for the coach driver, donation to the Church and the guides' fees. If you want tea/coffee at Lavenham there is an additional charge of £2.25.

If you are interested please collect a reservation form from our table at the next meeting on 1st March.

Book visits with Heather Flemmings at the monthly U3A meetings or e-mail heatherfl@lineone.net or phone 01702 204943

Pay David Fryer-Kelsey at the 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

If you want to continue with the Theatre Group please pay your registration subs of £2 by 1st March, 2012 at the latest. The subs help to pay for the hire of halls and expenses and can be paid at the Theatre Table or be sent to Helena Maxwell, 5 Warwick Close, Rayleigh, SS6 8PH.

47 members enjoyed the trip to see **Ghost** travelling to London by coach. We had a good lunch at the Bistro in Soho followed by an excellent musical show.

Hayley Westernra on Wednesday, 7th March, 2012 at 7.30pm at the Cliffs Pavillion. Please contact Helena about arranging lifts. There are 9 members going.

Phantom of the Opera on Thursday, 17th May, 2012 at 2.30pm at Her Majesty's Theatre, Haymarket. We have 25 members going and will let you know the travel details nearer the time.

Acorn Antiques at the Palace Theatre in Tuesday, 12th June 2012. Please let us know if you are interested and see us at the Theatre Table where we will have more details. Jean is organising this visit.

The Mill at Sonning – Cash on delivery. Thursday, 19th July, 2012. **Please note**

change of date. We have five seats available so please check at the Theatre Table on the 1st March if you want to come. Cost will be about £50 in total for a 2 course lunch, play and coach. £20 deposit required by the 1st March and the amount remaining payable in May – details later. Jean and Helena organising this visit.

Billy Elliot at the Victoria Palace Theatre in October or early November. Senior Groups 10+, ticket price about £22.50. All those interested please see us at the Theatre Table where we will have more details.

Jean Mackenzie, R750 Kings Park Village, Canvey Island, SS8 8QS, Tel: 01268 510570 or 07719800735, email: j.mackenzie123@btinternet.com

Helena Maxwell, 5 Warwick Close, Rayleigh, SS6 8PH, Tel: 01268 772061 or 07952574907 email: maxbox@talktalk.net

HEADLINES AND ACTIVITIES

A REMINDER

Two events are taking place at Essex University Campus, Southend. The first is on Thursday, 15th March at 2.30 pm. A lecture, entitled "Re-appraising the East Anglian Witch Hunts of 1645-7", will be given by Dr. Alison Rowlands, Director of the Centre for Local and Regional History, University of Essex. This has been specially arranged at our request for U3A members although it will be open to the public. Please e-mail marianallen@btinternet.com or telephone 01268 743339 to book your place. There is no fee for attendance.

On Saturday, 17th March at 2.00pm – 5.00pm the University will present local history projects on the history of Southend. Application form for tickets (£2) and information as to the content of the programme can be obtained direct from the University 01702 328200 or from marianallen@btinternet.com.

Marian Allen – 01702 743339

Front Cover:

"What are they up to?"



Members of Serendipity II spent a fascinating day visiting the BBC Television Centre at Shepherds Bush in London. The tour included a peep into the BBC Newsroom, venturing into dressing-rooms and green rooms finding out and observing how T.V. really works. The picture on the Front Cover shows three members of the group taking part in a mock show of "Name that Tune" and the picture above shows two other members who volunteered to "Read the News".

ROYAL VARIETY PARTY NIGHT

As announced last month, we shall be holding a red, white and blue themed event entitled Royal Variety Party Night to celebrate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee. This will take place at Mill Hall on Friday, 8th June, 2012 from 7.30pm until 11.30pm and will include a variety of entertainment from our drama, singing and guitar groups plus John Pomfrett, our very own Member of the Magic Circle, who will be Master of Ceremonies 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. Tickets will be £12.50 and will be on sale at this month's monthly meeting. Tickets will be limited and will be sold on a first come first served basis.

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

SPEAKERS

Sylvia and Fred have been working to put together a programme of Guest Speakers for 2013 and whilst they have some very exciting and interesting topics planned they would like to hear from you.

Please let them know the type of subjects you would be interested to hear more about. Of course, if you have a Speaker in mind let them know but they specially want to know the particular areas you want to hear about, not necessarily a Speaker.

Fred Carter – 01268 766149
Sylvia Mitchell – 01268 770139

SECRETARY'S NOTES

I would like to bring to your attention to the following forthcoming events notified to me by the U3A Trust.

The full information on any of these items can be found on the U3A Trust website at www.u3a.org.uk or feel free to telephone me on 01702 473110 or e-mail mhayesghayes@talktalk.net. Full information will also be displayed on the Secretary's Notice Board at the Monthly meeting.

U3A Explores Science at the Royal Institute in London on Tues. 27th March, 2012

Dr. John Manlove – Forensic Science, an overview.

Dr. Suzie Sheehy – Accelerated dreams: How particle accelerators have changed our lives.

Prof. Tim Wheeler – Food production in a changing climate.
£18 incl refreshments.

Summer School (1) at Harper Adams University College, Newport near Telford
Monday, 16th to Thursday, 19th July, 2012

Subjects are:-

Cinema History – Typically British aspects of UK film during and after the Second World War.

Design Principles in Art – Exploring the element of LINE.

France – A French native who would like to share her love and knowledge of France.

History – England in the 19th century.

Music Appreciation - Making friends with music around the World.

Philosophy/Fiction - An exploration of the disparate ideas of 50 years ago through the fiction published in 1961.

Poetry – Three Priest Poets.

Recorder Ensemble Playing

Writing Fiction

Summer School (2) at The Royal Agricultural College, Cirencester
Monday, 20th August to Thursday, 23rd August, 2012.

Drama – Let's try comedy.

History – An enduring affair - The Orient and the Occident.

Literature

Needlepoint/Lacemaking

Philosophy – What has Greek philosophy done for us?

Psychology – Reality and imagination.

Singing for Pleasure

Website Design – Build your own website

Maureen Hayes – Secretary – 01702 473110

U3A ITEMS FOR SALE

U3A Notelets (pack of 10) £2.00 per pack

U3A Badges £1.00 each

U3A Key rings £1.50 each

These items can be bought from Doreen Blake,
Membership Secretary, at Monthly Meetings.

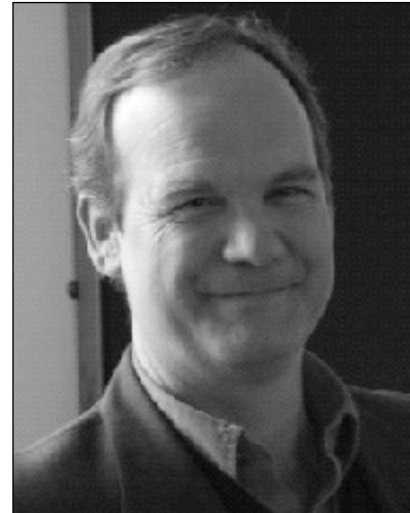
PLEASE NOTE

An A5 Family History folder of great sentimental value, with a picture of a Sailing Clipper on the front, was mislaid at the Family History Day last October. Please contact Pete Huntly on 01268 777398 if you find you have picked this up by mistake.

Thank you.

This month's guest speaker

Dr Todd Landman



Rational Intuition!

He is Professor of Government and Director of the Institute for Democracy and Conflict Resolution at the University of Essex.

He has published numerous books, articles, and chapters primarily on politics and human rights. He has travelled to over 35 countries working on a variety of training and capacity building projects for national and international public and private organisations.

He appears regularly in the media, at public events, and as an entertainer. He combines his interest in philosophy, history, politics, science, and the unknown to provide a unique form of mystery entertainment.

Next months guest speaker

Zena Skinner

"Wrens to Retirement"

Following our Fourth AGM we have the iconic TV star of the 50's/60's
Zena Skinner

The original TV cook will tell us about her experiences on 'joining up' during the war until her retirement following a successful TV career

