

**OUR
RAYLEIGH U3A
VOLUNTEERS**
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This Month's Meeting
Thursday, 7th March, 2013
2.00 p.m. - 4.00 p.m.
June Chapman
See Page 6

GROUP ACTIVITY CALENDAR – Normal day on which each group meets monthly

Mondays	1st Monday	Art (Watercolours); Ceramics; Family History 1 & Beginners; Laptop Computing 1; Tai Chi; Visiting Essex Churches 4
	2nd Monday	Crib Club (evenings); Tai Chi; Tenpin Bowling; Visiting Essex Churches 1
	3rd Monday	Antiques; Laptop Computing 2; Tai Chi; Visiting Essex Churches 2 & 3
	4th Monday	Canasta (evenings); Tai Chi
Tuesdays	1st Tuesday	Birdwatching; Digital Photography
	2nd Tuesday	Knit & Natter; Poetry; Tenpin Bowling; Wine Appreciation (evenings)
	3rd Tuesday	Birdwatching
	4th Tuesday	Midweek Luncheon
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;
	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 (evening); Serendipity 1 & 2; Theatre
	3rd Thursday	Book Reading 1; Papercrafts; Points of View; Serendipity 4
	4th Thursday	Art Appreciation; Essex Social History 1; Family History 3; Strolling
Fridays	1st Friday	Keep Fit
	2nd Friday	Book Reading 2 & 3; Keep Fit
	3rd Friday	Flower Arranging; Keep Fit
	4th Friday	Keep Fit; Walking 2
Saturdays		Currently no groups
Sundays	2nd Sunday	Sunday Lunch

Please note dates may vary more with some groups than others, particularly with coach trips and other outdoor activities. Check with Group Leaders' 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

The month of February is still in the grip of Winter but I look forward to March as to me it is the beginning of Spring. Let's hope Spring comes early this year and without any rain for a few weeks so we can all get to work in the garden.

Also, by the end of this month everyone should have renewed their membership or joined Rayleigh U3A for the first time. I welcome you all and especially look forward to meeting all the new members at our New Members' coffee morning to be held in Holy Trinity Hall on Wednesday, 10th April from 10a.m. to midday. So, would all new members put this date in their diaries and come along to talk to members of the Committee and Group Leaders and sign up to join a Group or better still become a new Group Leader and start another group to join the 45 to 50 groups already running.

Your Committee has also organised a Group Leaders' Day on the 14th May at Saxon Hall where we can all agree plans and any changes for the year ahead. Also, this is a great opportunity to thank our Group Leaders for all the work they have done for Rayleigh U3A in the past year.

Looking further ahead, the Rayleigh U3A A.G.M. will be held during our monthly meeting at the Mill Hall on Thursday, 4th April to be followed by our speaker booked for that day, Mel Rees whose talk is entitled 'Bought to Book ... That's Life!' If you are interested in joining the Committee yourself, or would like to nominate someone please complete the nomination form included with the February newsletter and return it to Maureen Hayes, Secretary, at the March monthly meeting on Thursday, 7th March or send it to her at 14 Agnes Avenue, Leigh-on-sea, Essex, SS9 3SX.

Just a quick reminder that the May monthly meeting will be held on the **SECOND** Thursday in May (9th) and not the first Thursday, as the Mill Hall will be used for local elections on the 2nd of May.

Fred Carter is planning a coach trip to see the gardens at Highgrove House, the home of Prince Charles and the Duchess of Cornwall (see

GROUP LEADERS

Acoustic Guitar	Vera Ward	01268 755040	Lap Top 1	Frank Bodey	01268 733616
Antiques/Collectables			Lap Top 2	Bob White	01268 779709
	Sheila Read	01268 778926	Midweek Lunch	Margaret Bristow	
Archaeology	Ian Haynes	01268 779749	Music Apprec'n	Les Geale	01702 206966
Art Appreciation	Barbara Curry	01268 775460	Papercrafts	Anne Windle	01268 928961
Art Water Col'rs	Sylvia Lester	01268 774201	Poetry	Marian Allen	01268 743339
Bird Watching	Laurie Denney	01702 615370	Points of View	John Edwards	01268 747208
Book Reading 1	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		Julie Reader	
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
Drama	Joanne Baker	01268 742252		Maureen Hayes	01702 473110
<u>Family History:</u>				& Peter Britton	01268 777525
Beginners	Terry Taylor	01268 786405	Singing for Health & Pleasure		
Family History 1	Sue Taylor	01268 477720		Joanne Baker	01268 742252
Family History 2	Pete Huntly	01268 777398	Strolling	Connie Walker	01702 202225
Family History 3	Barbara Dale	01268 772018	Sunday Lunch	Maureen Goss	01268 777681
Flower Arranging	Irene Stokes	01268 774564	T'ai Chi	Linda Robson	01702 555185
Gardening (Slide Shows)			Tenpin Bowling	Alan Hudson	01702 202158
	Linda Clarke	01702 204559		Bob Wren	01702 525311
Golf	Kay Nevin	01268 780855	Theatre	Jean Mackenzie	01268 510570
History - Local	Heather Flemmings			Helena Maxwell	01268 772061
		01702 203455		Sandra Wilson	01268 775184
	David Fryer-Kelsey		<u>Visiting Essex Churches:</u>		
		01702 203455	Group 1	Marian Allen	01268 743339
<u>History - Essex Social:</u>			Group 2	Elizabeth Baker	01702 331166
Group 1	David Carlton	01268 452791	Group 3	Brenda Perrott	01268 779590
Group 3	Joan Anderson	01268 774985	Group 4	Jan Churchill	01702 510296
Industrial Awareness			Walking 1	Roger Baker	01702 331166
	Janet Carlton	01268 452791	Walking 2	Les Poole	01268 773174
Keep Fit	Iris McMillan	01268 784754	Wine Appreciation		
Knit & Natter	Doreen Oliver	01268 743082		Harry Brickwood	01268 743838

RAYLEIGH U3A COMMITTEE

Chairman:- David Sheffield - 01268 743586

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

Vice Chairman:- Pete Huntly - 01268 777398

(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

e-mail - mhayesghayes@talktalk.net

Newsletter editors:- Janet & David Carlton - 01268 452791

e-mail - janetcarlton@blueyonder.co.uk

Treasurer No1 A/C:- David Clarke - 01702 204559

e-mail - clarked@talktalk.net

Treasurer No2 A/C:- Margaret Read - 01268 761039

e-mail - margitcrip@yahoo.com

Speaker Secretaries:- Fred Carter - 01268 766149

Sylvia Mitchell - 01268 770139

e-mail's - efandicart@btinternet.com

sylviamitchell18@yahoo.com

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

page 7). He would like members who are interested to sign up as soon as possible as he can only take 26. Ring Fred NOW for details (Tel: 01268 766149).

Finally, I attended Norman Toogood's funeral service this week, as did many of his U3A friends. It was sad to say goodbye to him and to know that Rayleigh U3A has lost a real character.

David Sheffield,

Chairman – Rayleigh U3A

GROUP CO-ORDINATOR'S NEWS

Following my plea at January's Meeting – to get involved and FOLLOW YOUR INTERESTS, a few members have come forward to assist existing groups to which they already belong. Janet Carlton is being helped by Anne Windle with continuation of the Papercrafts Group and Iris McMillan is helping her manage the Friday Keep Fit Group – **more members are welcome to both groups** – so please get in touch. June Jennings has approached me re another Digital Photography Group and I am still waiting for those volunteers who came forward to support a new Serendipity 5 Group to get in touch with me. Our Golfing Group are also looking to revamp their format and are **open for more members to join them.**

The contact details are on the inside back page, headed "Group Leaders." I am hoping that more of you will come forward, having put your names down on activity sheets in 2012, so we can assist you in linking up with like-minded members to explore (together) your interests. You are invited to talk to me at the monthly meetings – without any commitment; what have you got to lose?

Bob Wren,

Group Co-ordinator

Tel: 01702 525311;

Bob_wren@hotmail.com

NEWS FROM OUR GROUP LEADERS

LOCAL HISTORY GROUP

Get all the latest details of the group on our blog
<http://lhqu3arayleigh.blogspot.com>

For our June visit we take a coach to Stowmarket to see the Museum of East Anglian Life. The coach will deliver us to the museum in the centre of Stowmarket where tea/coffee and other refreshments are available in the Osier Cafe. (Not included in price).

Discover the history and natural world of East Anglia on a beautiful 75 acre site. Learn about fascinating East Anglian crafts and traditional Gypsy culture, get steamed up with the powerful engines, meet friendly animals, including rare breeds of cattle and sheep.

Explore 15 splendidly restored historic buildings including Abbots Hall built in 1709 and containing a number of rooms illustrating life through the ages. As you walk out of the gates of the Hall you are in the centre of Stowmarket, an ancient Suffolk market town. Visit the market place, the ancient buildings and the beautiful church and try one of the many drinking and eating establishments.

The cost is £19.00 per person which covers the coach fare, a gratuity for the coach driver and entrance to the museum. **Wednesday, 19th June, 2013** at 9.00 a.m. from Kirbys Coach Depot. Also picking up at Websters Way and Rayleigh railway station.

Book and pay at our table by the bar at

the monthly U3A meetings in the Mill Hall. Cheques made payable to Rayleigh U3A.

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

THEATRE GROUP

The next Group meeting for members is Friday, 8th March at 10.30a.m. at the W.I. Hall in Bellingham Lane.

A small group of us went to the Palace Theatre, Westcliff last week to see a 'spoo' version of the classic film "The 39 Steps". It was fast moving and very funny. Any member who has not requested a ticket for "A Chorus Line" on May 22nd and would like one, please see Sandra at the March monthly meeting.

At the group meeting we will discuss a trip to see "The Bodyguard" and any other suggestions.

Jean is recovering well from her operation and is hoping to be at the March meeting.

Jean Mackenzie 01268 510570
j.mackenzie123@btinternet.com

Helena Maxwell 5 Warwick Close,
Rayleigh SS6 8PH 01268 772061
maxbox@talktalk.net

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

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
14th April, 2013

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

THANK YOU

Having been a member of the Committee for over five years I will be standing down at the AGM.



On behalf of the Committee I would like to thank all our volunteers, past and present, including those not at the photo shoot - Cindy Merritt, Susan Olive, Les Shrubsole and Bob Lutterloch.

My personal thanks go to everyone for their very willing participation in helping to make the U3A Meetings more enjoyable.

Irene Carter - Volunteer Co-ordinator

KEEP FIT

We are a small group that meets at Hockley Health Club, Eldon Way, Hockley each Friday from 3p.m. – 4p.m. and costs £4 per session. We would welcome more members to join us for an hour of exercise, very much geared to our age and fitness levels. No leotards or jazzy music!

The class is run by Martin Frost who is very qualified and specialises in cardiovascular exercises, give core muscle strength and flexibility.

No-one is asked to do more than they are capable of but encouraged to stretch themselves in order to get the most out of the exercise routine. If you are interested, please contact Iris McMillan for more information.

Iris McMillan – 01268 784754

Iris@mcmillan-clan.com

TENPIN BOWLING

Despite the bad weather over a dozen members were able to attend our February get together at CJ's, Hockley. Unfortunately, our Group Leader, Alan Hudson, was not well enough to be there. Alan Brown had a great first game with three strikes in a row, making him the trophy winner on the day. (Remember, it's just for fun!!). Graham Godfrey was second on this occasion and to keep it in the family Jane Godfrey took home the wooden pin.

Well done Lillian Dennis for retaining the bumper bars lane trophy.

The next meeting will be on Monday, 11th March at 1.45p.m. All our best wishes go to Alan and Gill and we hope they will be able to join us next month. If anyone else wishes to join us, just come along or give me a call. It's just for fun and it includes coffee and a chat.

Bob Wren – 01702 525311

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Wednesday, 10th April

New Members Coffee Morning
Holy Trinity Hall

Tuesday, 14th May

Group Leaders Day
Saxon Hall

Thursday, 27th June

Highgrove Coach Outing

Other visits and events are being considered for the future and we will let you know as soon as more details are known

HEADLINES AND ACTIVITIES

ADVANCE NOTICE

The
SIXTH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
of the Rayleigh U3A
is to take place on Thursday, 4th April, 2013
at **MILL HALL, RAYLEIGH**
commencing at 2-pm
followed by our speaker Mel Rees
whose talk is entitled
'Brought to Book ... That's Life!'

Our guest speaker for March 7th
is June Chapman

She quotes: 'I will be including in my talk portraits (painted from life) of many people well known for their theatrical performance.'

These were originally shown in my one-woman exhibition in the Olivier Gallery of the National Theatre and also in the Guildhall London. Now they are in museums and institutions celebrating their sitters' connection.'



HIGHGROVE

The Private Gardens of their Royal Highnesses
The Prince of Wales and the Duchess of Cornwall



**A day trip to Highgrove Gardens has been
organised for
Thursday, 27th June 2013.**

Travelling with Kirbys Coaches the cost will be £49 per head
to include a two hour garden tour and driver's gratuity.

Free time and lunch at own expense in nearby Tetbury.
The trip is limited to 26 persons only.

Please send cheques (payable to Rayleigh U3A) for the full amount to
Fred Carter,
23, Fanton Chase,
Shotgate,
Wickford,
SS11 8QX

or pay by cheque at the Monthly Meeting on Thursday 7th March.