

Rayleigh



THE UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE

Newsletter Edition No. 72 - March 2016

FROM THE CHAIR

Dear Members,

Welcome to you all and thank you for renewing your membership for 2016 and a special warm welcome to all our new members. Thanks to Membership Secretary, Gwen Greenwood, and Treasurer, Pete Joyce, for all their hard work in processing the applications.

The Committee are looking forward to welcoming new members to our U3A at the 'New Members Coffee Morning' to be held on Tuesday 29th March 2016 at Holy Trinity Church Hall. This meeting is an opportunity to find out more about the University of the Third Age, to meet Committee Members and some Group Leaders plus a chance to meet other new members and make friends.

Our April meeting is our 9th Annual general Meeting when members have the chance to meet and approve the members of the Committee for 2016/17. You will find the Agenda with this Newsletter.

The closing date for Nominations for the vacant Committee posts is Friday 11th March. The list of Committee vacancies can be found in the AGM Notice within this Newsletter and the Nomination Form was included with the January Newsletter and can also be downloaded from the Welcome page of our website. If you are interested in helping to run our U3A please talk to me or any other member of the Committee. You will find our contact details in the Trifold or on our website.

With this Newsletter you will find a copy of the Income and Expenditure Accounts for the year ending 31st December 2015 which have been examined by our Independent Accounts Examiner. A copy of the Minutes of the AGM held on 2nd April 2015 can be found on the Notice Board at the Monthly Meeting and on our website. Members will be asked to approve the Minutes and the Accounts at the AGM.

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

Sincerely,

Pete Huntly

Chairman

In Memory of Marian

In 2007 I took early retirement and was at a loss as to how I would fill my retirement years, that is until I met Marian Allen. Eight years later I have a great deal to thank her for and so have all the members of Rayleigh U3A.

In 2007 there were no U3As in Rayleigh or surrounding area. Our nearest one was Basildon & Billericay of which Marian was Chairman twice and a member there for twenty years. On moving to Rayleigh she asked a group of us if we would be interested in forming a Steering Group for a new Rayleigh U3A and so it began. We have grown to a membership of 450 members.

During Marian's thirty years with U3A she spoke and promoted the importance of the original principles put forward by the Founder Members Eric Midwinter, Michael Young and Peter Laslett. They felt that groups of people should get to learn about things that interested them and to share knowledge together for enjoyment – this being the origin of Groups. Marian felt these ideas should be passed on to new members and felt the promotion of starting new U3As where there was a need was imperative.

Rayleigh U3A published a Book of Poems 'In our Own Words' by her Poetry Group; Marian organised a Poetry Workshop; a Study Day on Religions and a 'Festival of Words' Study Day inviting an author, poet and folk singer. She organised local history walks around Rayleigh for visiting U3As, now taken over by Rayleigh Local History Group. Marian also led an Essex Church Visiting Group and a Book Reading group.

Sadly, Marian lost her battle with cancer on New year's Eve 2015. She has left a lasting legacy with the U3A for us all to enjoy. From Chair, Committee Member, Group Leader and friend she is remembered with deep affection.

The Chairman and Committee are proud to announce that Marian Allen is to be added to the National University of the Third Age 'Roll of Honour' for her nonstop promotion of this wonderful concept of the University of the Third Age which has enriched the lives of so many people in their retirement years.

Maureen Huntly



HELPFUL ADVICE

**'You've got to get some help.' My family all pray
You cannot hear a word that we say,
We're only thinking of you, and we find you a trial!
Get some help it's much better than being in denial.**

**So now I'm the owner of a hearing appliance,
Manufactured by means of sophisticated science.
They were perfectly right; so I'll persevere.
It is very important that I can hear.**

**I take up the aids to place them as shown,
But doing so's hard and makes me groan
Practice and time makes perfect, or just about so.
But crikey the sounds are so powerful they set me aglow.**

**Doors bang, plates wallop and cutlery crashes
The noise in my head's like thunder and flashes.
I can hear every breath, every sniff and each chew.
These sounds are a wonder, too bad to be true.**

**But at last I can hear friends and family speak,
And I'm not ungrateful, for I have what I seek.
The aids are designed with much thought and with care,
But I miss quiet moments that once were there.**

Of course I can always take them out !

Marian Allen



COMPENSATION FOR RAIL DELAYS - WHY NOT?

I went to London with the London History Group on 20th January and had an enjoyable walk around the St. James area followed by lunch. Then the bus back to Liverpool Street to find chaos. An incident meant that the lines from Liverpool Street to Stratford were closed and we had to take the Central Line to Stratford and pick up a train to Shenfield and then change to another train for Rayleigh. A two hour delay at the end of a tiring day so I decided to see if I could get some compensation. The Abellio Greater Anglia website gives details of their 'Delay Repay' scheme whereby if you hold a single or return ticket you can make a claim for compensation for delays to your journey of over 30 minutes regardless of the reason. Consequently you will be entitled to the following compensation:

30- 59 minute delay = 50% of a single ticket or 25% of a return ticket

Over 60 minute delay = 100% of a single ticket or 50% of a return ticket

TICKETS FOR YOUR JOURNEY MUST BE ENCLOSED WITH YOUR CLAIM FORM

Compensation is provided in National Rail Travel Vouchers or payment by cheque.
All claims must be made within 28 days of the delay.

A claim form can be downloaded from the website or, if you can find a staffed ticket office, you can ask for one there.

If you are fortunate enough to live in the C2C catchment area, they run a similar scheme which pays compensation if you have been delayed for more than 30 minutes, with additional levels at 60 and 120 minutes. The form can be filled in on their website and you have to upload a copy of your ticket.

I have just received a cheque for half of my return ticket so the system does work, but **DO REMEMBER TO KEEP YOUR TICKET.**

David Fryer-Kelsey

Welcome to Rayleigh

Ancient Market Town mentioned in the Domesday Book

Pre-1066 conquest, Hundreds were the Saxon administration units within counties, and a market was set up in each Hundred to regulate trade, Rayleigh having the market for the Rochford Hundred. In 1066 William of Normandy conquered England and in 1086 he ordered a census for taxation purposes. Known as the Domesday Book and compiled by counties, it lists landowners, areas of land in hides, tenants, freemen, peasants, animals, ploughs and the value pre-conquest and in 1086.

In the Domesday Book there were over 400 settlements in Essex with Saxon or Old English names. For Rayewneia (Rayleigh) it stated: 'Here swain built his castle', and there were vines. Wheatley was a wheat clearing in the Essex forest, and had two fisheries. Rayleigh market charter was granted by Henry II in 1181, enabling market tolls to be collected from traders.

Information researched by Della Bearman at Southend Library, Local Studies Section.

GARDENING CORNER

All systems go is the keyword for this month ! Seed sowing should begin for many bedding plants and vegetables, including setting out early potatoes in trays to sprout. Day length is the trigger for growth to start although there is still a risk of frosts Tomatoes really benefit from early sowings in a frost free place. Window sills in good light at room temperature are ideal if you don't have a propagator.

This mild winter seems to be upsetting the flowering of shrubs and bulbs more than ever in my memory (I am 81). No doubt nature will find an answer and we can do nothing about it! Camellias led the field with roses, daffodils, jasmine and magnolia, but strangely snowdrops were bang on time in early February!

This month I am featuring a Houseplant - ACHIMENES which grows from small fleshy tubers with masses of flowers in a broad range of colours in mid to late Summer into Autumn. As the flowers die down, leave the compost to dry out gradually. During early winter shake off the compost and retrieve the tubers (which will have multiplied).



Achimenes are commonly known as the 'Hot Water Plant' – not that they need it hot but rather ideally luke warm or at least with the chill off. Where do you buy them? Dibleys Nursery in North Wales do a nice range of colours, along with their well known STREPTOCARPUS range.
www.dibleys.com or phone for a catalogue on 01978 790677.

Happy Gardening
Brian Kersey 01268 743959 or brianskersey@gmail.com

SPEAKERS AT FORTHCOMING MEETINGS

March - A return visit by Lucinda Hawksley, the great great great granddaughter of Charles Dickens – a historian and author in her own right. It being the month in which there is International Women's Day, her talk is entitled 'March Women March'

April - Roger Tabor gives a talk entitled 'The Cinque Ports'.

SOCIAL EVENTS

The next event organised by the Social Committee will be a **Race Night on Friday 11th March** at the Hullbridge Sports and Social Club, Lower Road, Hullbridge at 7.30 pm (1st race 8pm).

We decided to have another Race Night as this proved to be very popular with members last year. For those of you who are unfamiliar with this event, why not come along and give it a try? There will be 8 races shown on film on a big screen and you can place a bet (if you wish) on some or all of the races. Each bet is 50p, so you don't need to spend very much to enjoy the fun. A couple of novelty races are also shown, which caused great amusement last year. Tickets are £3.50 and you can bring your own snacks and nibbles, but not drinks as there is a reasonably priced pay bar. Hope to see you there!

A date for your diary - **Thursday 16th June 2016**

This is **Ladies Day at the Chelmsford City Race Course**.

We are planning to have a coach outing to this event. The Promoters don't release details until 1st April, so until then I can only give an approximate cost which is likely to be in the region of £28 per person for entrance and return coach travel from Rayleigh. This does not include food, but there are various options for food, allowing members to purchase to suit their taste and pocket. Some members may prefer to bring a picnic.

If you are interested in this outing, please let me know at the March meeting, or by phone or E-Mail. If we have sufficient numbers, the tickets will be on sale at the April meeting. This is a chance to dress up, ladies, or if you don't want to don the glad rags, the dress code is smart casual. Oh and don't leave the other half at home as men are very welcome too!

My phone number is 01268 781249 E-Mail address: jangra14@btinternet.com

Jane Godfrey - Social Events Coordinator

NOTES FROM THE SECRETARY - MARCH 2016

I would like to bring to your attention the following events and information notified to me by the U3A Trust. For more information, please look on the U3A Trust website at www.u3a.org.uk or feel free to phone me on 01702 552426, or e-mail at jsoilleux88@gmail.com The full information will also be displayed on the Secretary's Notice Board at the monthly Members' meetings.

3rd March - U3A Sing-Out at Savoy Theatre 11am – 4.15pm Tuition, lunch and sing-out CD £35pp

9th March – Dr Jenner Museum, Berkeley, Glos. 11am – 3.45pm Stimulating medical talks £20pp

15th March – 'Importance of Being Earnest' David Suchet 1.40 – 4.20pm Exclusive screening for U3A at Odeon, Covent Garden £15pp

17th March – Ri Spring Meeting in Mayfair 1.45 – 4.50pm More fascinating science talks £20pp

3rd April – Birmingham Town Hall 1.30 – 5pm Matinee concert, talk and lunch £25pp

11th April – Birkbeck's School of Science invitation to U3As for a special talk during Science Week 'The Search for Life in the Universe – The New Science of Astrobiology' 2.30-4pm

27th April – U3A Spring Concert Mozart's Requiem at St. Clement Danes, London 2-4pm £18pp

National U3A Summer School in August 2016 at Royal Agricultural University, Cirencester. There are places on the following courses at present:

School 1 – 8th to 11th August – History of the Americas; Folk art applique

School 2 - 15th to 18th Aug. – Cryptic crosswords; Garden design; History of Ideas; Italia; Maths

Booking forms for all of the above available from: U3A National Office and www.u3a.org.uk Members' Area. For more information on events and activities in 2016, please refer to the National website, which is updated on a regular basis.

Jackie Soilleux

RAYLEIGH U3A SOCIAL COMMITTEE

Coach Visit to Pocahontas Promenade Tour, Gravesend, on Wednesday 13th July 2016

Visit Gravesend via Tilbury passenger ferry

The coach leaves Rayleigh at 8.30 and arrives at Tilbury about 10.00

Ferry leaves Tilbury at 10.15 and arrives at Gravesend about 10.30

Meet our guide at the Gravesend Tourist Information Centre at 11.00 and start the Pocahontas Promenade guided tour at 11.30

Gravesend is as diverse and cosmopolitan as its people. It is full of historic and cultural connections. Charles Dickens lived here and took inspiration from the villages and marshland walks as well as the town. Native American Indian Pocahontas is buried at St. George’s church. General Gordon stayed in the town and devoted huge energy to creating schools and improving local amenities. He built New Tavern Fort to defend London. Both are remembered with statues in the borough. The Town pier viewing platform gives great views of the shipping on the river. Milton Chantry contains a museum and is one of the oldest buildings. The tour finishes about 1.00 pm.

Have leisure time in the afternoon to visit the attractions of Gravesend. Featuring well-known High Street chain stores and a good variety of independent shops, two shopping centres and a six-day Borough Market Hall, Gravesend Town Centre boasts a wide range of good value shopping.

Visit the Gravesend Heritage Quarter and Gravesend’s old High Street, then head for the ‘big name’ stores in the main shopping street of New Road and the adjoining shopping centres of Thamesgate and St. George’s Centre. The magnificent Sikh Temple is the largest in Europe and attracts admirers from all over the globe.

Catch the ferry back to Tilbury at 4.00 p.m. Coach arrives back at Rayleigh about 6.00 p.m.

Cost including coach, ferry, guided tour and tips: £16

We will travel by a Cook’s Coach which will make pick-ups at: Websters Way, Rayleigh, at 8.30 a.m., Rayleigh Station at 8.35 a.m. and Rayleigh Grange Community Centre SS6 9EH at 8.40 a.m. (FREE PARKING).

Payment should be made by completing the form below and returning it with a cheque in payment (made payable to Rayleigh U3A) to David Fryer-Kelsey. Please return the form as soon as possible to help us make the bookings. If you have any queries, please give me a call.

David Fryer-Kelsey, 113 Greensward Lane, Hockley SS5 5HS 01702 203455 davefk@lineone.net

To: David Fryer-Kelsey, Rayleigh U3A

I wish to pay for places for the trip to Gravesend on Wednesday 13th July 2016 (£16 per person)

I attach a cheque payable to Rayleigh U3A for £

I wish to join the coach at (pick-up point)

Name(s) Tel.No.

Address Mobile No.

..... Email

FAMILY HISTORY

In our U3A we have some very enthusiastic followers of Family History. The details are of course personal to each individual, but nevertheless the stories that are unfolded make for interesting reading. One of our members, Margaret Bristow, would like to share her story with you.

In 1954 I was given an old photograph album which still had some photographs left in it. Fortunately I had the foresight to ask my mother the names of the people in the photographs but all she could tell me about three of them was that they were Squire Cooper, his wife and son. Over the years I have always wondered about them. Squires do not figure in our family. Who were they? Where did they come from? How did they fit into the family? Cooper was not a name associated with the family.

In 1999 I was able to start researching my family history. I constantly looked out for a Squire Cooper but, with such a common name, it was difficult and the photographs were taken in widely different parts of the country. I discovered that my great great great grandmother, Martha Kent, was the publican of the Red Cow Inn in Pepper Street, Whitchurch, Cheshire (what a lovely address!) from before 1841 until she died in 1866. It would seem she became a publican after her husband died. One year I enjoyed a coffee in the Inn.

Looking at the censuses I followed where her children were every 10 years. One daughter, Mary, who did not marry, was in a different place each census. In 1851 I found her staying with her sister Ann in Audlem. Ann's husband was not at home for the census but she listed herself as an 'Attorney's Wife'. She had married in 1843 Frederick Chetwode Hoskins Bellyse. There were two children listed in the census Louisa and Frederick. Would Louisa as the daughter of an Attorney be of sufficient status to become a Squire's wife? I tested the hypothesis and found that Louisa did indeed marry a George William Cooper in 1867. He was born at Hankelow Hall in a village next to Audlem. Here at last was my Squire Cooper! By 1871 they were living at Applethwaite in Windermere and their son George Thomas Bellyse Cooper was born there in 1872. The story alas does not have a happy ending.

A tale told in the family tells of the tragic accident on Lake Windermere and how the baby was saved as he was being looked after by the Nanny on the shore. If it were true, we had always thought that perhaps it related to an incident circa 1910-1920 never dreaming that it went back to 1873. George and Ann were drowned when their yacht capsized in a sudden storm on Lake Windermere. There is a lectern in St. James the Great in Audlem dedicated to their memory. By 1893 their son George Thomas Bellyse Cooper was engaged to be married and was living in Tenby. On 26 December he died from a wound inflicted by a revolver accidentally fired by himself aged 22.

I achieved my aim in identifying the photographs but this leaves me wondering about their lives. One hopes that Louisa and George William and their son George Thomas enjoyed their short lives and were happy, but what tragic accidents.

RAYLEIGH U3A's NEWSLETTER

As announced in the January 2016 edition of this Newsletter, the present editorial team of Roger and Liz Baker and Irene Tyson are standing aside after this edition. Editorial responsibility is being taken over by June Jennings, assisted by Sheila Farrant. Please send all future material for publication to:

**June Jennings
89, Eastwood Old Road,
Leigh-on-Sea
SS9 4RS**

**E-Mail: jjkent1903@gmail.com
Tel: 01702 522249**

The present team wishes to thank members who have contributed to the Newsletter over the past 3 years, and hope everyone has enjoyed reading it. Please assist the new editorial team by keeping the contributions flowing, and telling other members about activities in your U3A that you have enjoyed or are planning.