

# Rayleigh



THE UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE

## Newsletter Edition No. 78 – March 2017

### FROM THE CHAIR

Dear Member,

Welcome to the March Newsletter and to our many new members who have recently joined Rayleigh U3A. Retirement can be the best time of your life. In work and family life you gain experience, skills and expertise and in retirement you are able to put these to good use. U3A enables you to use those skills to help others and with their expertise you can benefit. I have used my research skills to pursue Family History and in turn I have a Group to guide others with their research. So live life to the full with the help of U3A to learn, live, have fun and make new friends.

In preparation for the Annual General Meeting on Thursday 6th April please find with this Newsletter the Agenda for the AGM and a copy of the Audited Financial Accounts for the year ending 31st December 2016. A copy of the aforementioned documents and the Minutes of the 2016 AGM can be found on our website and also on the Secretary's Notice Board at the Monthly Meeting. Members will be asked to approve the Minutes and the Accounts at the AGM.

In July we celebrate ten years of our U3A when we will have Guest Speakers to share our celebrations. At our very first meeting all those years ago Mark Francois MP came to our inauguration. He was so impressed with the principles of U3A that he encouraged his parents to get involved where they live and he has agreed to return for our Anniversary Meeting.

A couple of years ago we invited the Lord Lieutenant of Essex, Lord Petre to speak at a lunch enjoyed by many of our members and subsequently we visited his home Ingatestone Hall and were made very welcome. He has agreed to attend as he has enjoyed being part of our journey to where we are today.

Last but by no means least our Guest of Honour is Dr Eric Midwinter OBE one of the Founder Members of the U3A movement in this country. It is an accolade for us and a testament to our success that he has agreed to come to meet you and speak about The Future of the U3A.

I am pleased that a number of members have come forward to join the Committee next year and help run our U3A. We aspire to keep a high standard of successful meetings; social and educational 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.

I will be stepping down as Chairman at the AGM next month as I have served my three years of Office. I have enjoyed the last seven years as a Committee Member and I look forward to a continued enjoyment of my retirement and University of the Third Age. I will be keeping my hand in as Webmaster, Gift Aid Coordinator and helping with Educational Events!

Sincerely,

*Pete Huntly*

Chairman, Rayleigh U3A

## EDUCATIONAL EVENTS –TALKS FOR ALL

The Educational Events Committee started this year of 2017 with two scintillating Talks about two diverse subjects.

On **16th January** we welcomed Trevor Cornforth to speak about the Chalkwell Auction Rooms in Southend. It was a fascinating insight into how furniture and items bought for the home or holiday souvenirs can become valuable antiques in our own lifetime.

Trevor invited us to go to their premises and so a visit has been arranged for the day before the Auction on **7th March**. Forty members will be travelling by coach and a further twenty by cars to enjoy an afternoon discovering 'The World of Auctions'.

On **6th February** we invited Paul Dunt, Editor of The Rayleigh Review and the son of two of our members to talk about his adventure on his bike following voluntary redundancy giving him the time to indulge his wanderlust. With the backing of his wife and the agreement of his friend Terry Wooller to accompany him they embarked on their journey of a lifetime.



PAUL DUNT IS ON THE RIGHT

They rode the Trans America Trail of just over 4300 miles which took them ten weeks and discovered the generosity of people along the way who welcomed them with food and beds in many different abodes from Churches, Halls, a field at the back of a garage/shop and people's homes and on the other nights they camped in their tents.

They passed through wild regions of the USA where snakes and bears live comfortably. Paul and Terry lived to tell their tale and were greeted by their wives at the end of the Trail. To achieve your aim is a great success but to meet people, learn about the country and enjoy ten weeks of cycling has made Paul want to cycle more.

*Maureen Huntly*

Educational Events Coordinator

## Educational Events continued

### TICKETS FOR SALE AT MONTHLY MEETING

#### STUDY DAY

**“Tercentenary of ‘Capability’ Brown - Landscaping in the Past, Present and Future”**

**WEDNESDAY 22ND MARCH 2017**

**AT SAXON HALL**

**TICKETS - £20**

**Three well known speakers - Includes morning coffee and biscuits,  
a hot buffet lunch and afternoon tea with pastries**

#### NOTES FROM THE SECRETARY MARCH 2017

I would like to bring to your attention the forthcoming events and information notified to me by the U3A Trust. The full information/booking forms on these items can be found on the U3A Trust website at [www.u3a.org.uk](http://www.u3a.org.uk) or [info@u3a.org.uk](mailto:info@u3a.org.uk) , telephone 020 8466 6139 or please feel free to telephone me on 01702 552426 or email at [jsoilleux88@gmail.com](mailto:jsoilleux88@gmail.com). Information will also appear in the Third Age Matters magazine, in addition to being displayed on the Secretary’s Notice Board at Members Meetings.

Three Summer Schools are available in 2017:

1. Harper Adams University, Newport. 17/20th July
2. Royal Agricultural University, Cirencester, 14/17th August
3. Royal Agricultural University, Cirencester, 11/14th September

For further information, please see Secretary’s board or email [summerschools@u3a.org.uk](mailto:summerschools@u3a.org.uk); tel. 020 8466 6139 or online [www.u3a.org.uk](http://www.u3a.org.uk)

The RHS are again offering discounts for U3A groups at RHS Flower Shows and Gardens. Further information can be found at [rhs.org.uk/U3A](http://rhs.org.uk/U3A).

The U3A Explores Science at the Royal Institute, Thursday, 16th March 2017. Places are limited, admission by ticket only at £21.50 each including refreshments. To book and pay online, please visit Events in the members’ area of [u3a.org.uk](http://u3a.org.uk) OR apply in writing to: The Third Age Trust, 19 East Street, Bromley, Kent BR1 1QE enclosing a 2nd class stamp for up to 4 tickets or a large letter stamp if you require more (maximum 15 tickets per applicant) and a cheque made payable to the Third Age Trust.

The ‘Knitting & Stitching Show’ is visiting various locations in the UK from March through to November. For more information visit [www.theknittingandstitchingshow.com](http://www.theknittingandstitchingshow.com)

*Jackie Soilleux*

## SPEAKERS AT FORTHCOMING MONTHLY MEETINGS

### **March 2nd - Peter Jones "How to do Everything and be Happy"**

Peter is a local man who has written several books and is also a popular speaker for groups like the U3A. (Change to the published programme).

### **April 6th - Mike Benning "Barney's Bobbies"**

Mike Benning is an ex Police Superintendent, he was in the Force for 31 years. His talk is about his first years as a sergeant in the police force in the late sixties. Mike has also written a book about his visit to the Caribbean. The book's title is 'Island Joggings'.

### **May 4th - Roger Slade "Antarctica"**

Roger is employed during the Antarctic Summer to do specialist trips. He is a teacher and photographer. He has also published a book.

### **June 1st - Dr Jane Pearson "Woman's Life at Work"**

Dr. Pearson is a lecturer at Essex University; her subject is family history and housing.

### **July 6th - Our Tenth Anniversary**

## Gardening Corner



Days are lengthening and we can hopefully look forward to a good growing season. Meanwhile there are jobs to be done which include division of Snowdrops before the leaves die down. Clumps can be lifted carefully and divided into 3 or 4 which is ideal for replanting in small groups between shrubs or trees to create a natural scene.

Flower seed sowing should be under way particularly annuals.

Tomatoes need a long period under gentle heat to be ready to grow on for potting-on when the risk of frost is much less.

If you have an untidy Wisteria there is still time to prune back any long branches quite hard to encourage new side growths and ultimately more flowering. In general this should have been done from autumn onwards. Don't worry, you won't kill the plant, they are very hardy anyway and more than repay your efforts.

Good Gardening

*Brian Kersey*

01268 743959 or email [brianskersey@gmail.com](mailto:brianskersey@gmail.com)

## Quiz Night Saturday 8th April 7.00 pm for 7.30 pm

Tickets for our Spring Quiz are now on sale. We are returning to our usual venue at Holy Trinity Church Hall. Usual format, teams of up to 8. Bring your own drinks and nibbles. If you would like to come along but are not part of a team, I will match you up with others who come on their own or two together to make up a team. This is a great way to get to know other members.

Quiz Master David Lutterloch always provides an entertaining evening, so I hope that you will come and join us. Ring me on 01268 781249 for tickets or buy them at the March meeting.

### **TIME FOR A CHANGE**

I will be stepping down as Social Events Coordinator at the A.G.M in April, so I would like to take this opportunity to thank those of you who have attended any of the events that have been organised for members over the past three years. I would also like to thank the Social Committee who have worked with me, often in the background and unnoticed. Without their help and support, I couldn't have done this job. They are:

HEATHER FLEMMINGS, DAVID FRYER-KELSEY, TERRY GOULDSMITH, GWEN GREENWOOD,  
STELLA LUTTERLOCH, JANET MOORE and CAROL SHRUBSOLE.

I have enjoyed the past three years and I do hope that there is someone who will take over from me; maybe somebody newly retired who misses having things to plan and organise. Hopefully a person with new ideas and more energy than me!! There are lots of members more than capable of taking this on, so let's hope someone comes forward, otherwise a very empty U3A Social Calendar.

*Jane Godfrey*

Social Events Coordinator

### From the Newsletter Team

There has been a suggestion that a page of the newsletter could be dedicated to the various Groups, which we are fortunate enough to have in our U3A. This would require Leaders (or group members) to submit a few lines detailing events/activities completed, maybe news of vacancies becoming available within a group, or enquiring about the availability of specific equipment/expertise that a group could need for a certain occasion etc. The hope is that the page will prove interesting, for new members especially, showing the broad range of interests within our U3A.

*June Jennings and Sheila Farrant*

### Rayleigh U3A Newsletter – Message from the Chairman

I am sure you look forward to receiving our Newsletter and that you enjoy reading all the interesting items which keep you up-to-date with U3A activities and forthcoming events. The Editorial Team work extremely hard to produce the Newsletter but for it to continue contributions are absolutely vital. If you have a piece for the Newsletter about U3A activities that you have enjoyed and are planning, or items of general interest to our members, please send to Sheila Farrant at [sh.fa.40@gmail.com](mailto:sh.fa.40@gmail.com) or contact her on 01702 520833 or 0772 409 5299.

*Pete Huntly*

## Wine Appreciation

This very friendly group meet once a month on Tuesday evenings.

The group has been running for 9 years.

We meet in a very new hall, half way between Rayleigh and Hockley, where there is private parking

There are vacancies for those who would like to know more about wine.

We cater very much for beginners; experts would also be most welcome.

You can sample some fine wines for very little cost.

Next meetings - all Tuesdays

March 21

April 18

May 23

June 6

July 11

Meetings start at 7.30 pm and last about 1 hour 45 minutes

Interested?

Contact Harry Brickwood on 01268-743838  
or email [harrybrickwood@outlook.com](mailto:harrybrickwood@outlook.com)





If you enjoy playing **BRIDGE**, you are very welcome to join the group who meet weekly on Friday mornings between 9.00 and 12 noon at 45 CONNAUGHT ROAD, RAYLEIGH. Presently we have a wide range of 'expertise' which includes beginners who are attending formal lessons at local Bridge Clubs, intermediate level and very experienced players.

If you are interested or would like further details, please contact Sheila Farrant on 01702 520833 or 07724095299 (mobile). You can leave a message on either phone and I will return your call as soon as possible.

### Scam Updates

The latest one I received the other day was (not quoted word for word): "This is HMRC we have been trying to contact you but failed and we are now taking legal action. To discuss this matter press 1". Needless to say I did not press 1.

Apparently the police had received quite a few notifications the same day regarding this scam. Another twist on this - a friend also received this call but they introduced themselves as Customs & Excise.

*June Jennings*

**The University of the Third Age and the Third Age Trust**

**RAYLEIGH**



**AGENDA**

**For the 10th Annual General Meeting of Rayleigh U3A**

**To be held at Mill Hall, Bellingham Lane, Rayleigh**

**On Thursday the 6th April 2017**

**Commencing at 2 p.m.**

1. Welcome
2. Apologies for Absence
3. Approval of Minutes of 9th Annual General Meeting (2016)
4. Chairman's Report
5. Treasurer's Report & Approval of Accounts
6. Appointment of Examiner of Accounts for 2017/18
7. Nomination of Officers (Chairman – Vice Chairman – Treasurer – Secretary)
8. Nomination of Committee Members
9. Any other Business

**Closure of the formal part of Meeting**

**INTERVAL AND REFRESHMENTS**

**Followed by Speaker, Mike Benning - 'Barney's Bobbies'**