



Newsletter Edition No. 84 – March 2018

Dear Member

Don't forget to renew your membership. The forms were with the January newsletter and are on the website. They were sent out by email and are available at the table by the door at the March meeting. You can pay your subscription by Standing Order, Direct Bank Transfer or cheque. Standing Order would save our Membership Secretary and Treasurer a lot of work. If you are a taxpayer, please complete the Gift Aid Form.

We are nearing the AGM and will need replacements for some of the Committee members who are standing down after serving their term. The Committee work hard to provide you with the benefits of membership of the Rayleigh U3A including the monthly meetings and the educational/social events/activities throughout the year. It gives great satisfaction to feel that we are contributing to fulfil the objects of the U3A for so many people. If you feel that you could assist in running our U3A, then please speak to me or one of the other Committee members. You are welcome to come along to one of our meetings to see how we work at first hand. We meet on the third Friday of the month.

After several years of maintaining the database of members and handling the distribution of emails, newsletters etc to them, David Carlton has finally handed over to another. Many thanks, David, for everything. In the future, Jim Whitehouse will handle emails until our new system is set up.

There have been various occasions in the past year when members have had sad news of the passing of friends or family or have suffered ill health or other misfortunes. It is gratifying to know that the friendship given by the U3A has helped them. Sadly, we have recently heard that Steve Webb, (a past member, who moved to Wiltshire nine years ago), died in hospital on the 7th February, RIP. Pat Neighbour died on 7th January and Joan Anderson, a long-time member, died on 15th February after a long and courageous fight against illness, RIP.

Cindy Merritt's daughter wrote to thank all the members who attended her funeral and for their generous donations to Marie Curie. She said that it was lovely to know that her mum was liked by so many.

I hope you enjoy reading this newsletter; it contains details of events which might interest you and groups which you might like to join. With new members joining shortly, we can look forward to new ideas – make sure you are not left behind.

Best Wishes

David Fryer-Kelsey Chairman

The Story So Far....

POTTED HISTORY OF RAYLEIGH U3A

Have you ever wondered how our Rayleigh U3A came about? I have, so I started looking into the last 10 years since it was formed, talking to some of the founder members and looking through records.

It was only due to a small group of people that it has become one of the most successful U3As. This is thanks to Steering Committee Chairman Marian Allen and Committee Members Brian Kersey, Irene Carter, Fred Carter, Sue Taylor, Terry Taylor, George and Barbara Dunmore, Frank and Doreen Bodey, David and Janet Carlton, Betty Herbert and Maureen Huntly. Many of these are still active members and continue to contribute to the success of Rayleigh U3A.

The idea to start the Rayleigh U3A came from Marian Allen, a U3A member for 19 years. She asked a group of 13 interested people to join her to form a steering group in the summer of 2007 when they applied for a grant to help set up the U3A from Essex Community Foundation. A grant of £1350 was awarded in September 2007 enabling the inaugural meeting to be held on 5th October 2007 at the Holy Trinity Hall with 69 people attending and becoming members.

Membership grew each month and by February 2008 there were 180 members and 15 groups. Meetings were held monthly on Fridays at the Holy Trinity Hall.

Unfortunately, Marian had to step down from her position of chairing the steering group due to ill health and asked Maureen Huntly to step into her shoes. Marian remained active over the next few years accepting the title of Honorary Founder Member of the Rayleigh U3A until she sadly passed away in December 2015. In February 2016 Marian was added to the U3A National Roll of Honour for her outstanding contribution to the U3A movement.

The membership fee in 2007 was £14.00 and as the membership grew the fee was increased to £20 in 2009 as it remains so today.

The first AGM was held on 1st February 2008 and monthly meetings continued at Holy Trinity Hall.

A new sound system was purchased in October 2009 plus additional exhibition boards, and later a screen, laptop and projector were added which helped greatly to advertise the groups and events to benefit the members attending monthly meetings. By this year there were 46 groups and the membership had risen to 311.

In November 2009 Pete Huntly applied for charitable status for Rayleigh U3A which was granted in March 2010 and recognition subsequently obtained from HMRC to enable Gift Aid to be claimed later that year.

Chairman Maureen Huntly and her committee were instrumental in setting up the Rayleigh Grange U3A with an inaugural meeting in May 2009 and the Hullbridge U3A in July 2010.

The monthly meetings of Rayleigh U3A were moved to the Mill Hall in January 2011 due to the increased number of members of 375 and were held on the first Thursday of each month as the Mill Hall was already booked on Friday afternoons.

The Rayleigh U3A helped establish the setting up of a further two more U3As, Hadleigh Castle in November 2010 and Canvey Island April 2011.

At the AGM in April 2011 there were no nominations for Chairman, so Maureen Huntly agreed to stay on for another year.

By 2012 there were 56 groups and in April of that year David Sheffield was voted in as Chairman.

At the 2014 AGM Pete Huntly stood as Chairman and the membership had risen to 400. Study days, educational talks, holidays and coach trips became very popular, offering a broader spectrum to an already varied calendar of events available to the members.

In April 2017 David Fryer-Kelsey stood as Chairman and we now have 63 groups and 457 members.

New ideas to bring the Rayleigh U3A into the 21st century have been introduced: Facebook group page, change of bank, updating the display boards at the monthly meetings, new groups formed and coffee mornings to enable new members to integrate into our U3A.

There will also be new ways to pay annual subscriptions to make life easier for Officers involved in this job.

The aim of the current Officers and Committee is to ensure the continued success of the Rayleigh U3A.

Val Whitehouse Joint Vice Chairman

February 2018

EDUCATIONAL EVENTS FOR RAYLEIGH U3A

The ethos of the U3A is to enable members to continue to research, explore and learn about new or little-known subjects.

When we decided to introduce 'Talks for All' we looked for a wide variety of Speakers from herbalism, the Chairman of Southend Hospital Trust, what it was like to ride across America on a bike to the evolving London Underground System and the Editor of the Echo newspaper and many many more.

We have organised Speakers Lunches inviting many interesting Speakers from Dr. Lewis Dartnell talking about his research book on how we would cope if there was an apocalypse to Lord Petre, Lord Lieutenant of Essex, who told us about being the Queen's Representative. Explorer Fran Sandham told of his epic journey across Africa. Members have sat enthralled to listen and learn about the work choices, the opportunities of some, or the exciting adventures enjoyed by others.

Study Days were introduced to widen the field of choice of Speakers on a given subject. Members were fascinated with the subject of Family History in 2011. We enlightened our audience with The Festival of Words that included a poet, folk music and famous author Barbara Erskine. The Victorian London Study Day in 2013 covered life in those times, progress of medicine and a visit from a pearly King and Queen.

At the Significant Anniversaries Study Day, we learned about Magna Carta, Battle of Waterloo, Battle of Britain and The History of Rayleigh. Our last Study Day was entitled Capability Brown, who had a vision of how the beautiful English countryside could be enhanced. Greg Allen from Writtle Agricultural College talked about the training of today's landscape gardeners.

All these wonderful events and the many Speakers involved have brought a great deal of pleasure to the members of Rayleigh U3A. Pete and I have worked as a team alongside people who have helped us over the years including Marian, Pat, John, Chris, Dave, Irene, Fred, Joan, Alan, Sylvia, Janet, Terry, Sheila and others not forgetting those who helped with the refreshments to enhance these wonderful events. Thank you to Wendy Edwards for being my Committee Representative for the last year.

Our last Event is the Jane Austen Literary Lunch on 21st March at Saxon Hall with the Hon. Sec. of the Jane Austen Society speaking about this author who in her time wrote ground breaking books which now are historically accurate of her time. I have been helped by members of Book Group 2.

I look back on my U3A journey over ten years from Chair to Social and Educational Events Coordinator with pleasure and pride and will now enjoy being a group member and hand over the reins to Elaine Woodcock and Val Skam. I wish them success and look forward to being in the audience at their future events.

Maureen Huntly

REMINDER - IMPORTANT CHANGES TO MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL 2018

A big thank you to all those members who have already paid their membership fee which is **due before the 20th March 2018**. The Membership Renewal fee for Rayleigh U3A remains the same as last year at **£20**.

There are now three methods of payment, but we would encourage you to consider paying your subscription by standing order or direct bank transfer. The advantage of standing order is that the standing order form only needs to be completed once and will substantially reduce the admin procedure compared to cheque payments.

Payment by Standing Order or Bank Transfer (preferred methods)

Account Name:	Sort Code:	Account Number
Rayleigh U3A	54-30-60	4232678

It is **IMPORTANT** that you add your full name and postcode in the “**REFERENCE**” field of the transaction – i.e. **JANE SMITH SS6 8NZ**

Payment by Cheque

Payment should be made to Rayleigh U3A – cheques sent to the Membership Secretary or brought along to the monthly meetings.

Standing order and Membership Renewal forms will be available at the March monthly meeting on the Information Desk. They are also available for you to download and print from the Rayleigh U3A website using the username and password on the back of your membership card.

If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Gwen Greenwood, Membership Secretary, email gwenu3a@btinternet.com or phone **01268 774882**.

PLEASE NOTE - MEMBERSHIP CARDS WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR COLLECTION

AT THE APRIL MONTHLY MEETING.

GIFT AID

Thank you to all those members who have already completed a Gift Aid Declaration.

As a reminder to take part in the Gift Aid Scheme you must pay an amount of Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax for each tax year at least equal to the tax, which we as a registered charity, will claim from HM Revenue and Customs on your annual subscription. In our case this is £5.

You can cancel your declaration at any time by notifying us, and should do so, if your circumstances change and you no longer pay sufficient tax.

If you require a Gift Aid Form, please contact me. *Pete Huntly* – Gift Aid Coordinator

Tel: 01268 777398 pa.huntly@btinternet.com

GROUP COORDINATORS' REPORT

With the AGM approaching another year has quickly passed and eight new groups have been formed this year.

Groups are the core of our U3A. Rayleigh U3A's current 56 groups relate to a very large portion of our membership, learning, enjoying activities and establishing friendships.

We now have a Group Leaders' and New Members' Meeting at the WI Hall. Through the course of the year three coffee/tea and cake mornings were arranged for the benefit of all our members, giving them the opportunity to get to know each other. We feel this is easier in the WI hall because it is smaller and a friendlier atmosphere than the Mill Hall meetings.

Our vacancy list is getting smaller and there will be a real need for new groups to be formed when the new members join.

There is still a great reluctance for members to volunteer themselves as Group Leaders. It just means that you will be a point of contact and we do now encourage our members wherever possible to share the role.

NEW GROUPS: **Canasta Group 2** are looking for another 2 members

Table Tennis for players with experience: Jill

Facebook - a private site exclusively for the use of Rayleigh U3A members: Viv Smith

Sunday Lunch Club - we are starting a Sunday Lunch Club. The proposed first get together will be **25th March**, venue to be advised. If you are interested, please contact Viv Smith on **01702 201291** or email vivsmith1949@hotmail.co.uk. Any suggestions for a good place for Sunday lunch at a reasonable price and easily accessible are welcome.

All the above will have boards on our desk with more details. Please register if you are interested; also let us know about a hobby or interest that we could turn into a group.

Please come and introduce yourselves to us, especially to meet and welcome our new members.

David and Heather Fryer-Kelsey

Group Co-ordinators

NOTES FROM THE SECRETARY

I would like to bring to your attention information notified to me by the U3A Trust. For more details, please look on the U3A Trust website at www.u3a.org.uk or feel free to telephone me on **01702 552426**, or email at jsoilleux88@gmail.com.

EGM – 21st March 2018, Birmingham University. All U3A members are invited to attend, free of charge. The day will comprise of the business of the EGM, followed by lunch and a panel debate on ageing well, and how health, arts and learning all contribute to this.

To book, visit <https://u3a-egm.eventbrite.co.uk> or the national website.

NATIONAL SUMMER SCHOOLS

Information is now available on the Trust website for National and Regional courses.

Future events information will be distributed via the national newsletter- sign up at u3a.org.uk/email.

You will have the opportunity to **specify your region**.

Jackie Soilleux

RAYLEIGH



THE UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE

ADVANCE NOTICE

The Eleventh Annual General Meeting of the Rayleigh U3A

will take place on Thursday, 3RD May 2018.

at Mill Hall, Rayleigh.

Commencing at 2.00 p.m.,

followed by our Speaker: Dr. Harvey Holmes – ‘Emerging Viruses – What Next?’

A copy of the Minutes of the AGM 2017 will be displayed on the noticeboard at the March and April Meetings
and is also available to view on the website.

Nomination Forms for the Committee are available on the welcome page of the Rayleigh U3A website and must
be returned to the Secretary, Jackie Soilleux by Wednesday, 18th April 2018.

Any motions which you would like to raise at the AGM, that need a Proposer and Seconder, should also be
submitted to the Secretary by 18th April 2018.

RAYLEIGH U3A EDUCATIONAL/SOCIAL EVENTS



LITERARY

LUNCH

[Tickets on sale at March Monthly Meeting](#)

MAUREEN STILLER - HON SEC JANE AUSTEN SOCIETY OF THE UK

‘Introducing Jane Austen – The Woman and the Writer’

Saxon Hall, Aviation Way, Southend-on-Sea, SS2 6UN

[Morning coffee/tea & biscuits and hot buffet lunch and free raffle](#)

Wednesday 21st March 2018 11am – 2.30pm TICKETS £16.00

RAYLEIGH U3A SOCIAL/EDUCATIONAL EVENTS (continued)

Quiz Night at Holy Trinity - Main Hall, Rayleigh

Saturday 21st April 7.30pm—10.30pm TICKETS £4.00

Come and join us for a light-hearted Quiz Night with a prize for the winning team. Make up a team of 8 or join a table and make new friends. Bring your own drinks & nibbles. A paper & pen can be useful too....

[Book your place and pay at the March/April Monthly Meetings](#)

A receipt will be issued when you pay - keep this to show on entrance to the hall on the night.

THE HISTORY OF SPOKEN ENGLISH AND ENGLISH SURNAMES by Charlie Haylock -

an Historian, regular contributor to Suffolk Radio and author of several books.

Talks will be about the evolution of our language and why we have dialects, followed by how from nicknames and bynames, we have acquired inherited surnames and their meanings.

Morning and afternoon talks with a Two Course Set Lunch

Maplin Suite, Saxon Hall, Aviation Way, Southend on Sea, SS2 6UN

Wednesday 19th September 2018 - 11am to 3.30pm - Tickets £20

Tickets on sale from April Monthly Meeting

When booking please submit your Maiden name or Surname if you would like Charlie to include it in his talk.

HOW SCIENCE CAME TO SCOTLAND YARD by Robert Milne -

a former Forensic Manager New Scotland Yard, who will show how pioneers of Forensic Science across the world, made discoveries and the sensational cases they were involved in.

W I Hall, Bellingham Lane, Rayleigh

Monday 15th October 2018 - 2.30pm to 4.00pm - Tickets £2

Tickets on sale from April Monthly Meeting

THE HISTORY OF CARTOONS FROM WILLIAM HOGARTH TO PRIVATE EYE by IAN KEABLE -

accredited Lecturer for the Arts Society, professional magician and an author who will trace the evolution of cartoons up to modern times including artists such as Vicky, Giles, Gerald Scarfe.

W I Hall, Bellingham Lane, Rayleigh

Monday 12th November 2018 - 2.30pm to 4.00pm - TICKETS £2

Tickets on sale from April Monthly Meeting

DATES for your DIARIES

Wed 21 st March	LITERARY LUNCH <i>'Introducing Jane Austen the Woman and the Writer'</i>	11am – 2.30pm SAXON HALL, AVIATION WAY SOUTHEND SS2 6UN
Sat 21 st April	QUIZ NIGHT	7.30pm -10.30pm TRINITY CHURCH - MAIN HALL RAYLEIGH
Thurs 31 st May	NEW MEMBERS' MEETING	9.30am - 12.00 noon TRINITY CHURCH - MAIN HALL RAYLEIGH
Thurs 28 th June	NEW MEMBERS' and GROUP LEADERS' MEETING	10.00am – 12 noon W I HALL, BELLINGHAM LANE RAYLEIGH
Thurs 13 th September	COFFEE MORNING	10.00am – 12noon W I HALL, BELLINGHAM LANE RAYLEIGH
Mon 19 th September	HISTORY OF SPOKEN ENGLISH & ENGLISH SURNAMES by Charlie Haylock	11am – 3.30pm SAXON HALL, AVIATION WAY SOUTHEND, SS2 6UN
Mon 15 th October	HOW SCIENCE CAME TO SCOTLAND YARD by Robert Milne	2.30pm – 4.00pm W I HALL, BELLINGHAM LANE RAYLEIGH
Mon 12 th November	THE HISTORY OF CARTOONS FROM WILLIAM HOGARTH to PRIVATE EYE by Ian Keable	2.30pm – 4.00pm W I HALL, BELLINGHAM LANE RAYLEIGH
Mon 26 th November	COFFEE AFTERNOON	2.00pm – 4.00pm W I HALL, BELLINGHAM LANE RAYLEIGH
Wed 5 th December	CHRISTMAS LUNCH	CHALKWELL PARK ROOMS LONDON ROAD LEIGH-ON-SEA SS0 9SY

SPEAKERS AT MONTHLY MEETINGS

Thurs 1 st March	ROGER SLADE	Ernest Shackleton
Thurs 5 th April	CANINE PARTNERS	Amazing Dogs – Transforming Lives with Disabilities
Thurs 3 rd May	DR. HARVEY HOLMES	Emerging Viruses: HIV, Ebola, Zika - What next?
Thurs 7 th June	REV. DAVID TUTOR	Who Do You Think You Are?
Thurs 5 th July	TONI MOUNT MA	Everyday Life in Medieval London
Thurs 6 th September	KEITH BALDWIN	When Doctors & Policeman Start to Look Young
Thurs 4 th October	LUCY ALLEN	From Titanic to Mary Poppins – a Stuntwoman's Life
Thurs 1 st November	STEVE AND CAROL ROBSON	Fools Gold – Acoustic Music Performance

All the monthly meetings are held at **THE MILL HALL, RAYLEIGH.**