



Newsletter Edition No. 90 - March 2019

Dear Members

Don't forget to renew your membership this year. If you already pay your subscription by Standing Order, you don't need to do anything. If not, please consider doing so as it makes life much easier for the Membership Secretary.

Also, if you have not already done so, please remember to fill in a Gift Aid Declaration. If you have yet to submit a Gift Aid Declaration you can download the form from the 'Welcome page' on our website. Or contact Pete Huntly, Gift Aid Coordinator, at pa.huntly@btinternet.com or phone him on 01268 777398 to request a form. We could reclaim £5 in respect of your subscription from the taxman.

We will soon see new members at our monthly meeting. Please welcome them and make them feel at home. It's not always easy joining an existing organisation where everyone has their own friends already. If you joined as a single member, remember what it was like and try to make it easy for our new members. We have a small team wearing red sashes to welcome everyone into the hall and provide information and help. It would be great if you could continue the good work. If you see someone sitting alone or looking a little lost, why not invite them to sit by you and have a chat. You never know, it might be the start of a lifelong friendship.

Our monthly meeting at the Mill Hall in February was very well attended. We had to bring in extra seats. Steve Scruton, 22 years with BBC Essex, spoke about his life in radio - very entertaining. Many thanks to Val Skam for arranging our speakers.

This year we are arranging many events for your interest and entertainment. Look for details in this newsletter and at the monthly meetings.

Will the lady who collects stamps and coins for the RNIB at our monthly meeting please contact me on 01702 203455.

Best Wishes, *David Fryer-Kelsey*, Chairman

GROUP CO-ORDINATORS' REPORT

Everything now is getting geared to meeting our new members and we hope that there are many groups they will be able to join. Of course, it is always useful for our existing members to come along to our table and see what is on offer.

Our book clubs are all full, so Book Club 5 has been started and it is especially pleasing that new member Dodie Hamilton has agreed to be the Group Leader. Do please come to our desk and support this group. Dodie is an authoress and has already written six books.

Mahjong, Rummikub – we have a few names and need more, and someone ready to take on the facilitating. If you take on this role, the group should support you and help where needed.

Creative Writing are looking for new members. They meet on the 4th Thursday of each month at 2 Lakeside, Rayleigh SS6 9LA (off Downhall Road) at 10.00am. Group Leader, Val Foley, may be contacted on 01268 780838.

Tai Chi Group are also looking for new members.

Sheila Farrant is running a Group 'Live Cinema Screenings'. Already some members have enjoyed the screening of 'La Traviata' relayed from the Royal Opera House, London. Screenings for the forthcoming months are in the newsletter. If you wish to go to a future performance and join other U3A members, please get in touch with Sheila, or come to our desk at the monthly meetings.

Our 'Pop in Coffee' mornings are highly recommended, enabling members to establish friendships, and for others to catch up with each other - not always easy at the U3A meetings. All this and tea/ coffee/ cake/ raffle are included.

The February 21st coffee morning was the last one for our existing members until September, as we will have a Meeting of New Members at the Trinity Church Hall on 30th May and a Group Leaders' and New Members' meeting at the WI Hall on 27th June.

Kate Sawyer runs 3 Patchwork and Tea groups and they are all contributing to making a 60" patchwork quilt to fit a double bed. The groups will make at least one block each (square); it will be white and feature the colours of the rainbow. It is hoped that the quilt will be ready to raffle by Kate after the summer break.

Proceeds will be used to buy toys for the Southend Hospital Toy Library. U3A's are not allowed to give money to charity, so this is another way of supporting the Hospital.

David and Heather Fryer-Kelsey

Group Coordinators

ADVANCE NOTICE

The Twelfth Annual General Meeting of the Rayleigh U3A will take place on **Thursday 2nd May 2019** at Mill Hall, Rayleigh commencing at **2.00 pm** followed by our speaker

Margaret Mills – Skeletons in their Cupboards

A copy of the Draft Minutes of the AGM 2018 will be displayed on the noticeboard at the **March** and **April** meetings, and are also available to view on the website.

We have vacancies for Committee Members

for more information, please contact the Secretary, Debbie Bamber – details below.

Nomination Forms (found on the website) must be returned to the Secretary by **Wednesday 17th April 2019**.

Any motion(s) which you would like to raise at the **AGM**, will need a **Proposer** and **Seconder**, and should also be submitted to the **Secretary** by **17th April 2019**.

Debbie can be contacted on **07947 064799** or debbiebamber@rayleighu3a.co.uk

I joined the Committee as Secretary last year after retiring from my part time role working for Havens Hospices. I felt I could put my admin skills to use and missed being part of a team. My first year has flown by and I have thoroughly enjoyed the camaraderie of the Committee. We are a friendly group and meet once a month (except for August and December) on the third Friday of the month at 10am in Rayleigh for a 2-hour meeting. You will also find us at the Monthly Members' meetings manning tables and greeting members.

We currently have vacancies on the Committee:

Social Secretary – we are looking for someone who is a good organiser to take the lead on the Committee for our Social Events. The Committee members would still be helping with research, ideas etc so it wouldn't be all down to one person, but we need someone to keep us on track and make sure everything has been organised. We currently hold about 4-5 events a year.

General Committee Members – with no specific responsibility other than to support the work of the U3A and the Committee.

If you think you might like to be more involved, have some skills that would be put to good use or just want to find out a little more about what it involves, please do not hesitate to call me on **07947 064799** or email on debbiebamber@rayleighu3a.co.uk or have a chat with one of the Committee members at the Monthly Members' meeting. I look forward to hearing from you!

Debbie Bamber, Secretary

NEWS AND PHOTOS FROM AROUND THE BRANCH



Members of the **Flower Arranging Group** and their display in the Cloister room at Trinity Church. This group is led by Irene Stokes and meet on the third Friday of the month.

Steve Scruton of BBC Essex was the speaker at the February meeting of Rayleigh U3A and shared reminiscences with our members.

Linda Osborne, who you will have seen at the door, welcoming members and wearing her red sash told how she had won some great prizes from his show around the early 1990's including a weekend in Dublin, where she and her husband and young son stayed in a beautiful 4-star hotel, food and flights included.

Marilyn Poole also showed a tea towel advertising Steve's show which she had saved from that period. **Happy memories.**



Brian Kersey is a very valued member of the **Art Group**. He has been a member of U3A for many years and has a world of experience both in Art and Photography. Travelling has been one of his many hobbies.

He had a display in the Rayleigh Museum of miniature watercolour paintings, for which he won an award in 2015.



JOIN OUR JIGSAW SWAP

We are a small informal group that swap jigsaws at the Monthly Meetings. So, if you fancy trying a new jigsaw and have one to swap (not permanently) just come to the meetings, put your name on the list on the clipboard by the Group Notice Boards. Or you can see Val Whitehouse and she will point out the members in the group – usually wandering around with a bag of jigsaws!

RAYLEIGH U3A PATCHWORK GROUPS



Last year, Kate Sawyer, who runs 3 patchwork groups for Rayleigh U3A, asked all her group members if they would consider making a lap quilt for the residents on Poppy Ward at Elizabeth House. Most of the residents on Poppy Ward suffer from dementia.

The aim was to make 24 quilts and on Christmas Eve, Kate, Gwen Greenwood and Wendy Edwards, together with photographer, Jackie Soilleux, arrived at Elizabeth House to hand out the presents.

Understandably there was some confusion. Fortunately, after much laughter and conversation the residents became convinced that the quilts were theirs to keep and enjoy.

It was a lovely thing to do on Christmas Eve afternoon. The residents were happy and delighted, the staff very appreciative and we all left with a warm, feel good factor. A win, win situation for everyone. Kate has now been asked if we could make quilts for one of the other wards!!



BOOK STALL AT MONTHLY MEETINGS

The Bookstall will be also selling music C.D.s as well as books from the March Monthly Meeting.

THE RED ARROWS TALK

Due to ongoing interest in attending the **Red Arrows Talk** on **Monday 15th April**, we are moving the event to the larger Main Hall at Trinity Church, to allow more people to buy tickets. These are £3 each and will be on sale at the **MARCH** monthly meeting or members may reserve their ticket by emailing Valerie Skam at valerieskam@gmail.com.

EVENT CINEMA SCREENINGS

Thrilling theatre, enthralling music and sensational ballet 'LIVE PERFORMANCES' are being screened in local cinemas (Odeon, Southend and Cineworld, Basildon) during the coming months from: -

**THE BOLSHOI BALLET, MOSCOW; THE METROPOLITAN OPERA HOUSE, NEW YORK
LONDON THEATRES; THE ROYAL OPERA HOUSE & THE ROYAL BALLET, LONDON**

Details of future screenings shown on the venues' websites are listed below: -

DATE	VENUE	FROM	START TIME	DURATION
Sun 10 Mar	Odeon Southend	Bolshoi Ballet, Moscow The Sleeping Beauty	14.00	170 mins
Thurs 4 Apr	Odeon Southend	London Palladium The King and I	19.00	173 mins
Sun 7 Apr <small>Back by popular demand</small>	Odeon Southend	Bolshoi Ballet, Moscow The Golden Age	14.00	140 mins
Thurs 11 Apr	Odeon Southend	NT LIVE from the Old Vic, London All About Eve	19.00	130 mins
Wed 1 May	Odeon Southend	Vaudeville Theatre, London The Importance of Being Ernest	18.30	150 mins
Tues 14 May	Odeon Southend	NT LIVE All My Sons	19.00	165 mins
Sun 19 May 2019	Odeon Southend	Bolshoi Ballet, Moscow Carmen Suite	16.00	140 mins

DATE	VENUE	FROM	START TIME	DURATION
Sat 02 Mar	Cineworld Basildon	Met Opera, New York La Fille Du Regiment	17.55	175 mins
Sat 30 Mar	Cineworld Basildon	Met Opera, New York Die Walkure	17.00	294 mins
*Tues 2 Apr	Cineworld Basildon	Royal Opera, London La Forza del Destino	18.15	200 mins
*Tues 30 Apr	Cineworld Basildon	Royal Opera, London Faust	18.45	210 mins
Sat 11 May	Cineworld Basildon	Met Opera, New York Dialogues des Carmelites	17.00	189 mins
Thurs 16 May	Cineworld Basildon	Royal Ballet, London Triple Bill	19.15	180 mins

*These performances will also be shown at the Odeon Cinema, Southend (same timings). If you have any queries or wish to join a group booking, please contact Sheila Farrant by phone on 0772 409 5299 or email her @ sh.fa.40@gmail.com

JAPANESE COSTUME, TEXTILES & SAMURAI by Suzanne Perrin MA

Study Day at Saxon Hall, Wed 22nd May from 11am to 3pm

Suzanne Perrin is a visiting lecturer at the University of Brighton Art and Design School and University of Cape Town SA. She teaches on the Asian Arts Course at the British Museum & the V&A. She founded the Japan Interlink to promote the understanding of Japan in Educational and Cultural Circles.



She will talk about the 'Art of the Kimono' from the early 1600s to the mid-1990s. The military brought its own stylistic development for practical clothing on and off the battlefield, later used in theatrical dramas; while women's clothes became formalised to denote age, rank and status.

Programme:

11.00 Tea and coffee **11.30** Introduction to the Kimono & Samurai Attire **13.00** Two Course Set Lunch
14.00 Costumes for Theatre, Festivals, Religions & examples of Japanese Textiles, followed by free raffle

Menu: *Main Course:* Honey and mustard chicken or Roast beef with Yorkshire pudding and horseradish
Dessert: Mango and passionfruit cheesecake or Syrup sponge pudding and custard

Vegetarian option: Roasted Mediterranean vegetable lasagne followed by fresh fruit salad and ice cream

Tickets: £22.00 includes 2 course lunch, for sale at the March monthly meeting

COACH TRIP TO CHATHAM DOCKYARD

Entry to the attractions, workshops, boats, ropeworks, docks, trucks, cars; many people dressed in wartime uniforms, performances

Sunday 22nd September.

Tickets £19 includes coach and entry to the dockyard, for sale at the March meeting

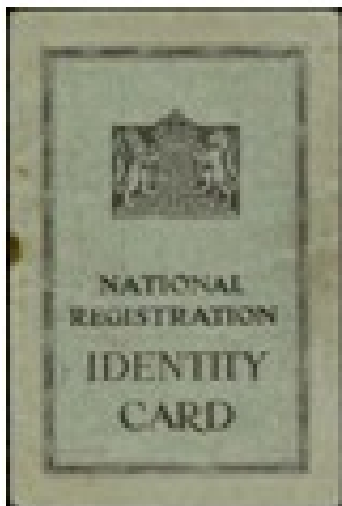
COACH TRIP TO AN EVENING OF SURPRISES

**3 course dinner and Murder Mystery
at the Museum of Power, Langford near Maldon**

Wednesday 16th October

Tickets £39.50 includes 3 course meal, for sale from APRIL monthly meeting

IDENTITY CARDS



How many of us remember these?

It is easily forgotten that we had an identity card system between 1939 and 1952. The genealogists amongst us have welcomed the release of what is known as the 1939 Register, as it has provided us with much useful information; but how much do we really know about it? For the future it provides a useful link between the 1921 Census (when it is released in 2022) and the 1951 Census. The 1931 Census was destroyed by fire during the Second World War and no Census was taken in 1941.

The 1939 Register was taken on 29 September 1939 in England and Wales. Scotland, the Channel Islands and the Isle of Man were dealt with separately. It was introduced to provide up to date population statistics to help with the control and planning for mobilisation and evacuation purposes. The Registrar-General held responsibility for it. Identity Cards were issued for everyone as the information was collected. Anybody at an address on that date was listed. However, members of the armed forces were dealt with by the military authorities.

The National Registration Number comprised a 4-letter code representing the Registration District followed by a number allocated to the residence and a number given to each person in the residence. My number had the code for where I was visiting with my mother and brother followed by 190/6.

The Register lists the address, surname, first name(s), gender, date of birth, marital status and occupation. Also recorded is whether an individual was serving in organisations such as the ARP or in a reserved occupation. The date of birth is most useful for genealogists as it frequently saves the necessity of buying birth certificates and helps to identify people with the same name accurately.

We always had to carry our Identity Card and we could be required to produce it on demand by a Police Officer in uniform or a member of HM Armed Forces in uniform on duty. This requirement continued until February 1952 when they were abolished.

When rationing was introduced in January 1940 the register was used to issue Ration Books which showed the National Registration Number. Every time a new Ration Book was issued Identity Cards had to be produced.

All changes of address had to be notified to the authorities. I have found an entry against which a code and date has been entered. From this I was able to locate the person from the electoral roles in a new area in 1947 by using the code and the date of moving was 1946.

The 100-year rule still applies to the Register, so names are blacked out for anyone under 100 unless their death has been notified. The authorities kept the register up to date by way deaths, movements and showing the married surname of females. Again, this information is so useful in research.

When the National Health Service was introduced in 1948 the Register was used as the basis for registration of the population. An individual's registration number became their NHS number which many of us will remember. The registers were updated manually until 1991 when they were replaced by a computerised system. I admit that I continued using my National Registration Number after 1991 not realising that it had been replaced by the current National Health Service Number.

Margaret Bristow

SPEAKERS at MONTHLY MEETINGS

Thursday 7th March	DAVID WILLIAMS People who devoted their lives to improving social/working conditions	POUNDS, SHILLINGS and POVERTY FORTUNES MADE and LOST
Thursday 4th April	BRIAN CARLINE Author, comedian (New Faces), teacher/assistant head in Essex	AN AMUSING ACCOUNT OF LIVES IN OUR SCHOOLS
Thursday 2nd May	MARGARET MILLS Adult education tutor of History and English Literature	SKELETONS IN THEIR CUPBOARDS - THE LIVES OF TWO VICTORIAN NOVELISTS
Thursday 6th June	TERRY TABER	MY LIFE IN LADIES UNDERWEAR followed by HOME SAFETY TALK by ESSEX FIRE & SAFETY (Meeting closes at 4.30pm)
Thursday 4th July	ROGER SLADE	SHACKLETON'S 'ENDURANCE' EXPEDITION
Thurs. 5th September	DUDLEY CHIGNALL	BEATRICE POTTER THE LAKE DISTRICT HER ART AND INSPIRATION

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

DATES for your DIARIES

Monday 11th March	THE MAGIC OF BIRDS IN YOUR GARDEN by GRAHAM MEE	2pm - 4pm CLOISTER HALL TRINITY CHURCH, RAYLEIGH
Monday 15th April	RED ARROWS by GUY BARTLETT	2pm - 4pm HOLY TRINITY CHURCH HALL RAYLEIGH
Wednesday 22nd May	STUDY DAY JAPANESE COSTUME and SAMURAI	11am - 3pm SAXON HALL (includes lunch) Tickets available at March meeting
Thursday 30th May	NEW MEMBERS' MEETING	10.00am - 12.00 noon HOLY TRINITY CHURCH HALL RAYLEIGH
Thursday 27th June	NEW MEMBERS' & GROUP LEADERS MEETING	10.30am - 12noon W.I. HALL, RAYLEIGH
Saturday 13th July	SOCIAL QUIZ NIGHT	7.30 - 10.30pm HOLY TRINITY CHURCH HALL RAYLEIGH Bring your own nibbles and drinks
Tuesday 20th August	TIPTREE FARM TOUR & CREAM TEA	Further details to follow
Sunday 22nd September	COACH TRIP TO CHATHAM DOCKYARD	Tickets available at March meeting
Wednesday 16th October	MURDER AT THE MUSEUM MYSTERY EVENING (Coach trip)	MUSEUM OF POWER, Langford near Maldon Tickets available at April meeting