



AM I WATCHING YOU OR ARE YOU WATCHING ME?  
(see page 6)

This Month's Meeting  
Thursday, 19th May, 2011  
2.00 p.m. - 4.00 p.m.  
Geo Fradgley  
Constable - His Life and  
Paintings

# RETIRESMEN

## GROUP ACTIVITY CALENDAR – Normal day each Group meets each month

GROUP ACTIVITY CALENDAR – Normal day each Group meets each month	
<b>Mondays</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> Monday Art 1 (Watercolours); Ceramics; Family History I; Lap Top Computing; Visiting Essex Churches 4 2 <sup>nd</sup> Monday Crib Club (evenings); Visiting Essex Churches 1 3 <sup>rd</sup> Monday Visiting Essex Churches 2 & 3
<b>Tuesdays</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> Tuesday Birdwatching; Digital Photography; Singing for Health & Pleasure; Tai Chi; 2 <sup>nd</sup> Tuesday Midweek Dining 2; Tai Chi; Tenpin Bowling; Wine Appreciation (evenings) 3 <sup>rd</sup> Tuesday Birdwatching; Dining Group 2; Singing for Health & Pleasure Tai Chi; 4 <sup>th</sup> Tuesday Dining Group 1; Tai Chi;
<b>Wednesdays</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> Wednesday Golf (April, July & September); Walking 1; 2 <sup>nd</sup> Wednesday Archaeology; Golf (May, June, August); Scrabble 3 <sup>rd</sup> Wednesday Crib Club; Drama; Real Ale; Visiting Churches 5 4 <sup>th</sup> Wednesday Calligraphy; Family History 2; Music Appreciation; Serendipity 3;
<b>Thursdays</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> Thursday Serendipity 2; Tai Chi; U3A Monthly Meeting 2 <sup>nd</sup> Thursday Acoustic Guitar; Tai Chi; Theatre 1; 3 <sup>rd</sup> Thursday Scrapbooking; Tai Chi 4 <sup>th</sup> Thursday Art Appreciation; Book Reading; Dining Group 1; Essex Social History; Family History 3; Tai Chi
<b>Fridays</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> Friday Keep Fit; Latin; Local History; Yoga; 2 <sup>nd</sup> Friday Keep Fit; Yoga; 3 <sup>rd</sup> Friday Keep Fit; Latin; Yoga 4 <sup>th</sup> Friday Keep Fit; Walking 2; Yoga
<b>Saturdays</b>	Currently no Groups
<b>Sundays</b>	2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday Sunday Lunch 1 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday Sunday Lunch 2

Please note dates may vary more with some groups than others, particularly with trips or outdoor activities.  
Check with Group Leader for Gardening, Golf, Serendipity, Visiting Historic Places & Theatre (usually Fridays).  
**PLEASE ALWAYS CHECK THE DATE OF YOUR NEXT MEETING WITH YOUR GROUP LEADER**

## FROM THE CHAIR

Dear Members,

I am honoured to be asked to remain as Chair of the Rayleigh U3A for one more year and to be part of a Committee who will encourage our members to start and/or host more Groups, prepare and plan exciting Study Days allowing us to find out more about different subjects, develop a closer relationship with Essex University, Southend Campus and bring to you an exciting and balanced programme for the coming year.

Welcome to the new members of our Committee - Vice Chairman David Sheffield, Secretary Maureen Hayes, Treasurer for No.1 Account David Clarke, Doreen Blake who will be our new Membership Secretary; Margaret Read who will be Assistant Treasurer for the Social Account and Sylvia Mitchell who will be our Speaker Secretary. Congratulations and best wishes to them all.

Our Speaker at the April Meeting was Mike Davies who gave us a fascinating insight into the history of Rayleigh using photographs.

Over one hundred and forty members clapped, sang, cheered and enjoyed a Ploughman's Supper during the Variety Night on 9th April. Well done to our Acoustic Guitar Group, Singing Groups from Rayleigh and Rayleigh Grange and a rendition of 'April Showers' from Steve Gunn of the Guitar Group and an extremely amusing playlet from our Drama Group. All of these were professionally linked by our very own member of the Magic Circle, John Pomfrett, who did magic, told jokes and linked the acts together. This was a magical night to remember for everyone.

Over sixty new members came together for a coffee morning on 12th April to find out more about our U3A. Five Group Leaders spoke about their group subjects i.e. Family History, Ceramics, Serendipity, Local History and Visiting Essex Churches.

At this month's meeting on 19th May, there will be an opportunity to apply for tickets for the Family History Study Day to be held at Saxon Hall on 19th October. Coach trips are planned to Hatfield House in August and Rye in September.

There is a change to our original programme of speakers this month. Geo Fradgley will be speaking on "Constable – His Life and Paintings".

Sincerely,

*Maureen.*

*Chair - Rayleigh U3A*

## COMMITTEE, GROUPS, GROUP LEADERS

Chairman	Maureen Huntly	01268 777398	Golf	Kay Nevin	01268 780855
Vice Chair	David Sheffield	01268 743586	History - Local	H. Flemings	01702 204943
Secretary	Maureen Hayes	01268 743110		D. Fryer-Kelsey	01702 203455
Treasurer I	David Clarke	01702 204559	History - Social	David Carlton	01268 452791
SocialTreas'r	Peter Walker	01702 202225	Holiday	Brian Kersey	01268 743959
S.T. Assistant	Margaret Reed	01268 761039	Industrial Awareness		
Membership	Doreen Blake	01268 774871		Janet Carlton	01268 452791
Group Co-ord'r	Sue Taylor	01268 786405	Keep Fit	Janet Carlton	01268 452791
Events Co-ord'r	Terry Gouldsmith	01268 562803	Knit & Natter	Doreen Oliver	01268 743082
News'l'tter Eds:	David & Janet Carlton		Lap Top Computing		
		01268 452791		Frank Bodey	01268 733616
Gift Aid/Study Day Co-ordinator			Latin	Dave Filby	01268 770023
	Peter Huntly	01268 777398	Music Apprec'n	Les Geales	01702 206966
Speaker Sec.	Janet Carlton	01268 452791	Real Ale Group	Dave Filby	01268 770023
Halls B'king Off.	Barbara Hodge	01268 771820	Scrabble	Marg't Bristow	01268 747639
Volunteer C'ord.	Irene Carter	01268 766149	Scrapbooking	Janet Carlton	01268 452791
Other Committee:			Serendipity I	Linda & David Clarke	
	Sylvia Mitchell	01268 770139			01702 204559
	Fred Carter	01268 766149	Serendipity II	Pam & K. Dunt	01702 201747
<b>Groups/Group Leaders:</b>			Serendipity III	P. & J. Pomfrett	01702 230253
Acoustic Guitar	Vera Ward	01268 775040	Singing for Health & Pleasure		
Archaeology	Ian Haynes	01268 779749		Marjorie Sale	01702 346175
Art Appreciat'n	Barbara Curry	01268 775460	S. Lunch Club I	Maureen Goss	01268 777681
Art I -			S. Lunch Club II	Sue Barrows	01268 776775
Water Col'rs	Sylvia Lester	01268 774201	Tai Chi (J)	Sue Taylor	01268 786405
Bird Watching	Laurie Denney	01702 615370	Tenpin Bowling	Alan Hudson	01702 202158
Book Reading	Doreen Blake	01268 774871		Bob Wren	01702 525311
Book Reading II	Marian Allen	01268 743339	Theatre	Jean Mackenzie	01268 510570
Calligraphy	Irene Tyson	01268 742942		Helena Maxwell	01268 772061
Ceramics	Brenda Perrott	01268 779590	Theatre II	Sandra Wilson	01268 775184
Crib Club	David Sheffield	01268 743586	Visiting Essex Churches:		
Digit'l Photog'y	Brian Kersey	01268 743959	Group I	Marian Allen	01268 743339
Dining Group I	June Long	01268 730603	Group II	Elizabeth Baker	01702 331166
Dining Group II	Marion & Laurie Wrentham		Group III	Brenda Perrott	01268 779590
		01702 555783	Group IV	Jan Churchiill	01702 510296
Drama	Joanne Baker	01268 742252	Group V (J)	Maureen Turner	01268 750967
Family History:-			Walking I	Roger Baker	01702 331166
Family History I	Sue Taylor	01268 786405			07867 588879
Family History II	Pete Huntly	01268 777398	Walking II	Les Poole	01268 773174
Family History III	Barbara Dale	01268 772018	Wine Apprec'n	Harry Brickw'd	01268 743838
Flower Arr'ging	Irene Stokes	01268 774564	Yoga	Suzanne Middleton	
Gardening	Heather Brickw'd	01268 743838			01702 557389
	Linda Clarke	01702 204559			

(J) = Joint with Rayleigh Grange

## GROUP CO-ORDINATOR'S NEWS

### COMMITTEE CONTACTS

**Chairman: Maureen Huntly – 01268 777398**

**E-mail: [Maureen@phuntly.freeserve.co.uk](mailto:Maureen@phuntly.freeserve.co.uk)**

**Membership Secretary: Doreen Blake - 01268 774871**

**E-mail: [rblake@uk2.net](mailto:rblake@uk2.net)**

**Secretary: Maureen Hayes - 01268 473110**

**E-mail: [mhayesghayes@talktalk.net](mailto:mhayesghayes@talktalk.net)**

**Group Co-ordinator: Sue Taylor 01268 786405**

**E-mail: [susan.taylor106@tesco.net](mailto:susan.taylor106@tesco.net)**

**Newsletter editors: Janet & David Carlton 01268 452791**

**E-mail: [janetcarlton@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:janetcarlton@blueyonder.co.uk)**

THIS MONTH we had interest in the following groups: Grumpy 'ol U3A Members, Gardening (Propagating), Antiques and Poetry. I will be setting up initial meetings for these groups and if you would like to add your name to the list please contact me either by phone or e-mail. Harry Brickwood has volunteered to be leader for the Garden Propagating Group and we will be holding an initial meeting within the next couple of months.

**SERENDIPITY IV** I will be setting up an initial meeting for all those on the waiting list and together with Ian Haynes we hope to get this group up and running with two new leaders.

**LAPTOP II** I will be doing the same for the members who are on the waiting list for this group too.

**TAI CHI** Due to dwindling numbers, Tai Chi has moved back to Cully's Gym where Gavin now has his own studio. Classes will be held every Monday and Thursday, 9.30 to 10.30 or in the evening at 7.30. Please contact me if you are interested and require any further information. The cost will be £20 per month and for that you can attend as many classes as you wish.

**FLOWER ARRANGING** Irene Stokes held the initial meeting in April and the group is now up and running. Please contact Irene if you would like to join. Tel: 01268 774564

In May lists will soon be available to join another five new groups.

Remember - Interest Groups are the lifeblood of the U3A movement and finding group leaders to run these groups is paramount in maintaining our U3A's success. In a self-help organization such as U3A we all need to do whatever we can and it would be disappointing not to have new groups set up, especially with our large intake of new members. So, I am appealing to you to come forward and discuss with me the possibility of hosting one of these new groups either singly or with another member to help you. Our Group Leaders and Committee Members are always available to give help and advice. Please contact me if you feel you could become a new host/leader.

**Sue Taylor - Group Co-ordinator**

**Tel: 01268 786405**

**e-mail: [susan.taylor106@tesco.net](mailto:susan.taylor106@tesco.net)**

## NEWS FROM OUR GROUP LEADERS

### LOCAL HISTORY

Get all the latest details of the group on our blog.

<http://lhgu3arayleigh.blogspot.com>

**Wednesday, 18th May** We have a guided tour of Benfleet. This is a follow up to the slide show given by John Downer in February. Meet 10.00am at St Mary the Virgin, High St/Essex Way, South Benfleet, SS7 1NA  
£2 per head

**Wednesday 15th June** A tour of buildings of historical and archaeological interest in Billericay. Meet 10.00am at Billericay railway station, Radford Way, CM12 0BP  
£2 per head

Please note revised times for Thaxted visit on Wednesday 21st September. We leave Kirby's depot at 08.00am, Webster's Way at 08.10 and Rayleigh Station at 08.15.

Book visits with Heather Flemmings at monthly U3A meetings,  
email: [heatherfl@lineone.net](mailto:heatherfl@lineone.net)  
Pay David Fryer-Kelsey at monthly U3A meetings or post to 113 Greensward Lane, Hockley, Essex, SS5 5HS.  
Cheques made payable to "Rayleigh U3A" please.

**David Fryer-Kelsey – 01702 203455**  
**Heather Flemmings – 01702 204943**

### GARDENING

**Sunday/Monday 5th- 6th June**  
Group Holiday, Kent Gardens **Fully Booked**

Brochure, pickup times & receipt will be with those members who are booked on the holiday prior to the May meeting. I am still waiting for the menu for lunch at Sissinghurst.

**Monday 27th June, 2 pm**  
Visit to "Cobwebs". A wonderful Clematis

garden in Stambridge Road, Rochford  
Travel by your own car, map provided. Cost £4.50 per person, payable latest at the May meeting. Payment covers entry, tea and cake.

Meet at the car park rear of Trinity Church at 1.30 pm, lifts available. **A few spaces still available.**

### **Tuesday, 19th July**

Coach outing to Suffolk to visit Bressingham Gardens & Helmingham Hall. Cost £23.50 covers coach fare, driver's tip & entry to gardens. **A few seats still available**

### **Tuesday, 9th August**

Coach outing to Sussex to visit Merriments Garden & Gt. Dixter. Cost £23.50 covers coach fare, driver's tip & entry to gardens  
**Fully booked**

**At the May meeting, receipts and pickup times will be handed out for the two coach outings. If you do not attend the meeting details will be posted or e-mailed to you.**

**Questions/Bookings? See Heather at the Gardening Desk at the monthly meetings or phone.**

**Heather Brickwood – 01268 743838**

### KEEP FIT

Are you feeling a bit "stodgy" after eating too many Easter Eggs and Hot Cross Buns? Why not join our Keep Fit Group to help you get back into shape? We meet every Friday afternoon – 3pm to 4pm – at Cully's Gym in Hockley. Martin is our "guru" and makes our sessions fun!! £4 per session payable on the day. If you would like to find out more and would like to join us for a taster session please give me a call.

**Janet Carlton**  
**Tel: 01268 452791**

**Please send items for inclusion in the May newsletter to:-**

**[janetcarlton@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:janetcarlton@blueyonder.co.uk)**

Janet Carlton,  
35 Curlew Crescent,  
Basildon, SS16 5HR  
Tel: 01268 452791

**To arrive no later than**  
**Saturday, 7th May**

**See note above**

### NATIONAL OFFICE

19 East Street, Bromley, Kent  
BR1 1QH

Tel: 02084666139

e-mail: [national.office@u3a.org](mailto:national.office@u3a.org)

Web site: [www.u3a.org.uk](http://www.u3a.org.uk)

Resource Centre: e-mail:  
[resource.centre@u3a.org.uk](mailto:resource.centre@u3a.org.uk)

### NEXT MEETING

**Thursday, 19th May, 2011**

**2.00 p.m - 4.00 p.m**

**Dudley Chignall**

**"New Zealand - Journey to Paradise"**

## **SOME VISITS AND EVENTS TO LOOK FORWARD TO**

**Saturday, 12<sup>th</sup> November** – A Quiz Night will be held at Trinity Hall on Saturday, 12th November at 7.30 pm. Tickets £4  
Bring drinks and nibbles. Teams of eight.

**Tickets go on sale at the June meeting.**

**Friday, 2nd December** – Christmas Lunch, Saxon Hall

**Watch this space for further details nearer the time.**

*Other visits and events are being considered for the future and you will be notified as soon as more details are known*

### **DATES FOR YOUR DIARY**

**Friday, 19th August** Hatfield House Country Show  
**Tickets all sold**

**Wed'day, 28th September** Visit to Rye  
**Tickets all sold**

**Wednesday, 19th October** Family History Study Day - £12.50  
(see programme)  
**Tickets on sale at the May meeting**

### **PLEASE NOTE – JUNE NEWSLETTER**

DUE TO HOLIDAY COMMITMENTS, THE NEWSLETTER EDITORS MUST CHANGE

THE USUAL DEADLINE DATE FOR NEWSLETTER ITEMS TO BE RECEIVED.

THEREFORE

THE DEADLINE DATE FOR THE JUNE NEWSLETTER IS

**SATURDAY, 7TH MAY AND NOT THE USUAL 14TH OF THE MONTH.**

### **THEATRE GROUP I**

15 members went to London to see "Love Never Dies", a sequel to "Phantom of the Opera". This was a very enjoyable day.

In April 10 people went to the Chelmsford Civic Theatre to see "The Sorcerer". A very funny play and an enjoyable Saturday evening. This is a little known operetta by Gilbert and Sullivan.

A coach outing has been arranged to go to The Mill at Sonning, near Reading, on Thursday, 30th June. We went there last year and had a wonderful day out. This year we will have a two course meal after which we shall see a play entitled "Guilty Secret", a mystery directed by Anthony Valentine.

#### **Pick up-times:**

Kirby's Depot - 8.45am to leave at 9.00am

Websters Way - 9.05 am approx

Rayleigh Station - 9.10 am approx

Wickford - 9.20 am approx

Helena has booked "Les Miserables" for the 14th September. There will be more information on this in the July Newsletter.

I am in the process of organising a trip to see the Christmas Spectacular in Thursford, Norfolk, with an overnight stay at the Wensum Valley Hotel, Taverham, for the 29th/30th November. There are 22 members booked. More news concerning this at a later date. Theatre Group members, please remember to read your Newsletter every month for up-to-date information.

**Jean Mackenzie. Tel: 01268 510570**

**Mob: 0771980733.**

**Helena Maxwell. Tel: 01268 772061**

**Mob: 07952574907.**

### **SOCIAL HISTORY**

We are hoping to start Social History II after the Summer and already have a number of interested members on the waiting list. Please call me if you would like your name added to the list and would like to find out more.

**David Carlton – 01268 452791**

### **GOLF GROUP**

We would still like to welcome new members to the Golf Group so if you have a set of Golf Clubs why not join our Group for a game of golf? We meet monthly from

April to September at Dunton Hills Golf Club. We play 18 holes on their par 3 course at a cost of six pounds per game finishing with a drink in the Club House. This has proved to be a really enjoyable event with a lovely group of people. For more information please give me a call.

Dates for 2011 will be:

Wednesday, 11th May,

Wednesday, 8th June,

Wednesday, 13th July,

Wednesday, 10th August,

Wednesday, 7th September.

**Kay Nevin.**

**Tel: 01268 780855**

# **HEADLINES AND ACTIVITIES**

## **Our New Committee for 2011/2012**

Please see the list of newly elected Committee Members on Page 11 of this Newsletter.

## **Gift Aid Update**

We have received £1,652.44 from HMRC, which represents our claim against gift-aided subscriptions paid to 31st December, 2010 backdated to 6th February, 2008.

A big "Thank You" to all those members who signed a Gift Aid Declaration. A further claim will be submitted for the 2011 subscriptions in due course. Would members who are able to complete a Gift Aid Declaration form but have yet to do so please contact Pete Huntly by the end of June.

## **Pete Huntly - Gift Aid Coordinator**

Tel: 01268 777398; e-mail: [peter@phuntly.freeserve.co.uk](mailto:peter@phuntly.freeserve.co.uk)

## **Family History Study Day**

Our first Study Day will take place on Wednesday, 19th October at Saxon Hall. You will find a programme enclosed with this newsletter. The price is £12.50, which represents excellent value. Tickets will be on sale or can be collected at the May meeting if ordered beforehand.

## **Pete Huntly - Study Day Coordinator**

Tel: 01268 777398; e-mail: [peter@phuntly.freeserve.co.uk](mailto:peter@phuntly.freeserve.co.uk)

## **They found a Home!!!**

You may be interested to know that Marian and Ron's fish have found a home!! On the same day that the April Newsletter was published they received a call from one of our members who was keen to offer them a home.

## **New Members Meeting**

As you know, our new members were welcomed to Rayleigh U3A at the New Members' Meeting last month. Five of our Group Leaders were invited to talk about their groups and to say what was involved in being a Group Leader/Host for their Group. They did a great job and even the DVD worked this year!!

We hope our new members will find some Activity Groups to join and even think about starting a Group up themselves in the near future. Perhaps some of them may like to start a completely new group if a particular activity or hobby is not catered for at the moment. Our Knit and Natter Group recently started and already has 25 members split into two groups.

I have enjoyed my three years as Membership Secretary and would like to pass my best wishes to my successor, Doreen Blake.

## **Irene Carter**

## **ICE Numbers**

Most of you attending the April meeting will have been given a small wallet sized card for you to enter your designated ICE (In Case of Emergency) number and various other details. These are available from U3A National Office and are for U3A members' use should they wish to use them. If you were unable to attend the April meeting and would like a card please enquire at the Information Desk.

## **Front Page Photo**



Members of our Birdwatching Group weren't sure who was trying to spot who when they saw this chaffinch. The photo was taken by David Fryer-Kelsey. David is a member of the Group who spent a very pleasant day recently spotting birds at Fingrinhoe where a total of 25 different birds were spotted on the day including Nightingales.