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This Month's Meeting

Thursday, 10th May, 2012  
2.00 p.m. - 4.00 p.m.

Gordon Thorburn  
"From Pen to Paper"  
"Wrens to Retirement"

Rayleigh U3A Website – [www.rayleighu3a.org.uk](http://www.rayleighu3a.org.uk)  
Registered Charity No. 1134068

MAY 2012

Newsletter No. 45

# Rayleigh U3A

## GROUP ACTIVITY CALENDAR – BEING UPDATED IN MAY – please check with group leaders

Mondays	1st Monday	Art (Watercolours); Ceramics; Family History 1; Laptop Computing; Visiting Essex Churches 4
	2nd Monday	Crib Club (evenings); Visiting Essex Churches 1
	3rd Monday	Visiting Essex Churches 2 & 3
	4th Monday	Canasta (evenings)
Tuesdays	1st Tuesday	Birdwatching; Digital Photography
	2nd Tuesday	Midweek Dining 2; Tenpin Bowling; Wine Appreciation (evening)
	3rd Tuesday	Birdwatching; Dining Group 2; Singing for Health & Pleasure; Tai Chi
	4th Tuesday	Dining Group 1
Wednesdays	1st Wednesday	Golf (TBC); Walking 1; Drama
	2nd Wednesday	Archaeology; Golf (TBC); Scrabble
	3rd Wednesday	Crib Club; Drama; Local History; Real Ale; Visiting Essex Churches 5
	4th Wednesday	Calligraphy; Family History 2; Music Appreciation; Serendipity 3
Thursdays	1st Thursday	Serendipity 2: <b>U3A Monthly Meeting</b>
	2nd Thursday	Acoustic Guitar; Theatre 1
	3rd Thursday	Scrapbooking
	4th Thursday	Art Appreciation; Book Reading; Dining Group 1; Essex Social History 1; Family History 3; Tai Chi
Fridays	1st Friday	Keep Fit; Latin; Yoga
	2nd Friday	Keep Fit; Yoga
	3rd Friday	Keep Fit; Latin; Yoga
	4th Friday	Keep Fit; Walking 2; Yoga
Saturdays		Currently no groups
Sundays	2nd Sunday	Sunday Lunch 1
	3rd 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

This is my first newsletter to you all as your newly elected Chairman. I do not anticipate any major changes as Rayleigh U3A has been so well organised and run by my predecessor, Maureen Huntly, and the original Founding Members. Sue Taylor, Group Co-ordinator and also one of the original Founding Members is stepping down from the Committee and I would like to thank her for her work over the past 4 years and for putting in place the 50 plus Activity Groups we all enjoy. I would also like to congratulate Peter Huntly who has taken on the role of Vice Chairman. Bob Wren has joined the Committee as the new Group Co-ordinator. I would like to see more rank and file Members participating in the active running of our U3A and I will be campaigning to get new Group Leaders and members to join the main Committee.

Unfortunately, I was visiting my family in America at the time of AGM but I hear Zena Skinner entertained everyone with funny tales about her life in the Wrens.

Our annual Group Leaders day was held at Saxon Hall at the end of March. Fifty Group Leaders and Committee members attended and it turned out to be an enjoyable and informative event. The highlight was a presentation by our Webmaster, Peter Huntly, about our ever changing Website. More important to all our Members was the news from one of our Newsletter Editors, David Carlton, that as from May our Monthly Newsletter will be available on the Rayleigh U3A Website in a password protected area and won't be sent via e-mail. Don't despair as paper copies will still be available for our Non-Tec. Members.

Jennifer Simpson, the U3A representative for Shared Learning Projects also spoke about opportunities for U3A members to research projects proposed by museums, libraries or by U3A members on chosen subjects such as a prominent person or a town etc.

I would like to welcome our sixty new members, most of whom attended the New Members' Coffee Morning on 11th April. Peter Huntly did a Power Point Presentation on the history of the U3A and several Group Leaders spoke about their Group's activities.

Bob Wren introduced himself and told the audience about the new Group Activities Booklet which will be circulated shortly.

## GROUPS/GROUP LEADERS

Acoustic Guitar	Vera Ward	01268 775040	Lap Top Computing 2		
Antiques/Collectables				Claire Dawson	01268 786918
	Sheila Read	01268 778926	Latin	Dave Filby	01268 770023
Archaeology	Ian Haynes	01268 779749	Luncheon Group 1		
Art Appreciation	Barbara Curry	01268 775460		Margaret Bristow	
Art I – Water Colours			Music Appreciation		
	Sylvia Lester	01268 774201		Les Geales	01702 206966
Bird Watching	Laurie Denney	01702 615370	Poetry tba (on hold)		
Book Reading	Doreen Blake	01268 774871	Real Ale Group	Dave Filby	01268 770023
Book Reading 2	Marian Allen	01268 743339	Rummikub	Linda Tull	01702 478649
Calligraphy	Irene Tyson	01268 742942	Scrabble	Margaret Bristow	
Canasta	Chris & Dave Towell		Serendipity 1	Linda & David Clarke	
		01268 528937			01702 204559
Ceramics	Brenda Perrott	01268 779590	Serendipity 2	Pam & Keith Dunt	01702 201747
Crib Club	David Sheffield	01268 743586	Serendipity 3	Pat & John Pomfrett	
Digital Photography					01702 230253
	Brian Kersey	01268 743959	Serendipity 4	Sue & Mike Cairns,	01268 743497
Discussions on Points of View				Maureen Hayes	01702 473110
	John Edwards	01268 747208		& Peter Britton	01268 777525
Drama	Joanne Baker	01268 742252	Singing for Health & Pleasure		
Family History Beginners				Marjorie Sale	01702 346175
	Terry Taylor	01268 786405	Sunday Lunch Club		
Family History 1	Sue Taylor	01268 477720		Maureen Goss	01268 777681
Family History 2	Pete Huntly	01268 777398	Tenpin Bowling	Alan Hudson	01702 202158
Family History 3	Barbara Dale	01268 772018		Bob Wren	01702 525311
Flower Arranging	Irene Stokes	01268 774564	Theatre	Jean Mackenzie	01268 510570
Gardening Slide Shows				Helena Maxwell	01268 772061
	Linda Clarke	01702 204559	Theatre 2	Sandra Wilson	01268 775184
Gardening (Propagating)			V.I.P.	Liz & Laurie Denney	
	Harry Brickwood	01268 743838			01702 615370
Golf	Kay Nevin	01268 780855	Visiting Essex Churches:		
History - Local	Heather Flemings	01702 204943	Group 1	Marian Allen	01268 743339
	/ David Fryer-Kelsey		Group 2	Elizabeth Baker	01702 331166
		01702 203455	Group 3	Brenda Perrott	01268 779590
History - Essex Social			Group 4	Jan Churchill	01702 510296
Group 1	David Carlton	01268 452791	Group 5 (J)	Maureen Turner	01268 750967
Group 2	John Passfield	01702 203980	Walking 1	Roger Baker	01702 331166
Group 3	Joan Anderson	01268 774985	Walking 2	Les Poole	01268 773174
Industrial Awareness			Wine Appreciation		
	Janet Carlton	01268 452791		Harry Brickwood	01268 743838
Keep Fit	Janet Carlton	01268 452791	Yoga	Suzanne Middleton	
Knit & Natter	Doreen Oliver	01268 743082			01702 557389
Lap Top Computing 1			(J) = Joint with Rayleigh Grange		
	Frank Bodey	01268 733616			

## **COMMITTEE CONTACTS**

*Chairman:- Maureen Huntly - 01268 777398*

*e-mail - [maureenhuntly@btinternet.com](mailto:maureenhuntly@btinternet.com)*

*Membership Secretary:- Doreen Blake - 01268 774871*

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

*Group Co-ordinator:- Sue Taylor - 07791477720*

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

*Secretary:- Maureen Hayes - 01702 473110*

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

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

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

A new Committee is to be formed to help to introduce Half Study Days and Maureen Huntly asked if at least two Group Leaders would put themselves forward to help on this Committee especially on subjects not already being considered. Subjects which have already been suggested are Wild Life Conservation, Historical and Powerful Women, The History of Medicine and many more.

Maureen was especially pleased when three ladies volunteered to give New Members an independent 'Voice'. It will be good to hear their views and possible problems.

As a start to my personal campaign to encourage members to join the Committee or become more involved as Group Leaders or volunteers, will you think about how you might become a more active member of Rayleigh U3A so that we can look forward to another successful year.

Paraphrasing President J.F. Kennedy's words – "Think what you can do for Rayleigh U3A and not just what Rayleigh U3A can do for you."

Thanks again for your vote of confidence and I hope I can meet your expectations over the next year as your new Chairman.

Sincerely, **David Sheffield - Chairman - Rayleigh U3A**

## **GROUP CO-ORDINATOR'S NEWS**

Following the AGM, many of you will know that I am the only addition to your Committee for the coming year. Sue Taylor is stepping down as Group Co-ordinator and as a newly elected Committee member I am taking on the role of Group Co-ordinator. It now falls upon me to continue to support all our members.

With the perception that nearly all Groups are full with waiting lists I would be pleased if **ALL** Group Leaders either e-mail, telephone or speak to me at the first opportunity and confirm the status of their Group. i.e. full, waiting list or available vacancies. If full, I would like a list of anyone waiting as we may be able to set up additional groups if interested parties/volunteers come forward.

I will endeavour to find a desk at the monthly meeting for Group Leaders and members to keep me up to date with any relevant information and to come if they have a query or would like to join a group or go on a waiting list. I attended the New Members' Meeting on the 11th April and advised many attendees that they should contact me with new ideas for groups. Doreen and Pete have provided me with a full list of new members' interests which I will collate and process for contact with existing groups who have spaces available. I shall try to arrange to get new Groups up and running as appropriate.

**Bob Wren – Group Co-ordinator**

**Tel: 01702.525311 [bob\\_wren@hotmail.com](mailto:bob_wren@hotmail.com)**

## **NEWS FROM OUR GROUP LEADERS**

### **THEATRE GROUP**

Our visit to the Odeon Cinema at Southend in March to see the LIVE screening of 'She Stoops to Conquer' from the National Theatre in London was a great success. There will be more live screenings in the Autumn and we will keep you informed of what is on.

Thursday, 17th May. 'Phantom of the Opera'

- Please come to the Theatre Group table for the train details. We are hoping to book lunch at Bistro 1 in the Covent Garden area. Thursday, 19th July. Cash on Delivery at Sonning please. Cheques for the balance of £29.00 will be needed at the May monthly meeting.

Thursday, 25th October. 'Billy Elliott' At the time of writing (12th April) there are still some tickets available at £22.50 each. Jean organising.

Also a few tickets left for stall seats to see 'Top Hat' at the Aldwych Theatre at £39.50 each. Please see notice board at the meeting. Please note that the next Theatre Group meeting will be on Friday, 22nd June at 10.30p.m (note change of date) at the W.I.Hall in Bellingham Lane.

**Jean Mackenzie**, 750 Kings Park, Creek Road, Canvey Island, SS8 8QS  
Tel: 01268 510570 or 07719800733  
E-mail: [j.mackenzie123@btinternet.com](mailto:j.mackenzie123@btinternet.com)

**Helena Maxwell**, 5 Warwick Close, Rayleigh, SS6 8PH

Tel: 01268 772061 or 0795257490

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**Sandra Wilson**, 1 Katherine Close, Rayleigh, SS6 8UH

Tel: 01268 772061 or call 01268 775184

E-mail: [alan-sandra@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:alan-sandra@hotmail.co.uk)

### **BOOK READING GROUP**

A meeting will be held on Friday, 11th May at 11.00 a.m. at the home of Marian Allen, 20 Crown Hill, Rayleigh when it is hoped to set up a new Book Reading Group. New members are especially invited and welcome. If you enjoy reading this is an excellent way to meet new friends, to share your love of books and to get to know new authors.

Please telephone Marian on 01268 743339 if you wish to come along.

**Marian Allen – 01268 743339**

### **TENPIN BOWLING**

We had a very good meeting on the 17th April with six new members joining the Group. Everybody had a good time and it was nice to see all the new members joining in for a fun afternoon of bowling.

Our members Graham Godfrey, Doreen Jones and Vera Henderson all won trophies.

## **NOTICE TO ALL MEMBERS**

### ***PLEASE BE AWARE OF THE FOLLOWING WHEN GOING ON A U3A TRIP, HOLIDAY OR DAY OUT***

1. We are each accountable for our own personal safety and must make informed choices
2. Group Leaders need to make it clear in advance of an event or trip if there is a lot of walking, uneven terrain or stairs or any identifiable possible hazard.
3. Group Leaders should give sufficient information so that members can make an 'informed choice' as to whether they will participate and can do so independently (i.e can manage on their own) If not they may bring along a Carer, who will incur the same costs for the trip as other members and will be covered by our public liability insurance cover.
4. All members should carry an '**ICE**' Card i.e: **In Case of Emergency**, listing medications, contact number and name of contact in case of emergency. Your **ICE** details can be entered into your mobile phone as paramedics are likely to look on a patient's 'phone if they haven't anyone accompanying them
5. Group Leaders can choose to have a ready made list of ICE details for all their group members or ask for details when setting out on a trip etc.
6. Please note that you are **NOT** covered by Travel Insurance by U3A. If you wish to take out this cover you must do so personally.

## Summer Productions to be performed on Rayleigh Mount

### 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> July

Southend Shakespeare Company's production of "Love's Labour's Lost" at 3.00 p.m.

Tickets available at the gate from 2.00 p.m. Price of tickets to be notified later.

### 18<sup>th</sup> August

"Dot Productions" presents Oliver Goldsmith's "She Stoops to Conquer" at 5.00 p.m.

(Ticket holders will be able to enter and use The Mount from 3.00 p.m. onwards.)

Tickets available in advance from Mike Stone – Telephone 01268 775328 - £10

Tickets at the gate from 3.00 p.m. - £12.00

Children under 14 – £8.00

Please bring your own seating and picnic if desired.

Toilet facilities available at Mill Hall.

Many thanks.  
John Rawson

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Friday, 8th June

**Royal Variety Party Night £12.50**

Tickets now on sale

Sunday, 9th September

**Lullingstone World Garden**

Tickets now on sale

Wednesday, 14th November

**'Festival of Words'**

Tickets now on sale

this month. Doreen and Vera had a combined score of 320. Our tenpin trophy for the lowest score went to Mavis Joyce. Our next meeting will be on the 15th May at CJs in Hockley at 2pm. We are a week later in May. This is due to the U3A holiday taking place in the Isle of Wight.

**Alan Hudson - 01702 202158**

### KEEP FIT

We are looking for new members – Don't be Shy – Give us a Try. We meet every Friday afternoon at Hockley Health Club (ex Cully's Gym) 3.00p.m. until 4.00p.m. Martin Frost, our instructor is fully qualified to teach Keep Fit and in particular is qualified to teach and help and advise people with heart problems, high blood pressure, diabetes, arthritis etc. – in fact, all the ailments which can creep up on us at "a certain age"! There are a number of us in the Group with various health issues but it is medically proven that "if you "don't use it", then you can "lose it"! We all just work within our own capabilities and never feel pressurised or feel in competition with one-another. Martin ensures our lessons are fun as well as beneficial to our health and we go away each Friday feeling pleased that we have made the effort and feeling a sense of wellbeing. We are a friendly Group and would welcome new members so if you would like to know more please give me a call and I can give you more details and answer any queries you may have.

**Janet Carlton – 01268 452791**

### PAPERCRAFTS

A few people have joined us recently but we would still like to extend an invitation to the membership of Rayleigh U3A and would welcome new members. Most of us had no knowledge of either Scrapbooking or Card Making at all when we joined the Group but we all had to start somewhere. Even if you have no experience of either Scrapbooking or Card Making and would like to learn a new craft please give me a call and I can give you more information and answer any queries you may have. We meet on the third

Thursday each month at Clay Cottage, Lubbards Farm, Hockley between 10.00 a.m. until 12.00 noon.

**Janet Carlton – 01268 452791**

### POETRY GROUP

Following a break due to the loss of our Leader, the Poetry Group is about to be re-formed and anyone interested in listening to, and reading poetry of all kinds is welcome to attend a meeting on Tuesday, 15th May at 2.15 p.m. at the home of Marian Allen, 20 Crown Hill, Rayleigh, when we hope that with sufficient interest we can re-start this interesting and enjoyable group. Please telephone Marian on 01268 743339 for further information and to book a place at the meeting.

**Marian Allen – 01268 743339**

### LOCAL HISTORY

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

<http://lhgu3arayleigh.blogspot.com>

On 20th March we had a very interesting slide show about the Sister Belle charabanc with many photos of people visiting local places in Southend in the early nineteen hundreds.

**Wed. 16th May** Coach trip to Sutton Hoo and Woodbridge. Fully booked.

**Wed. 20th June** We go to Valentines House and Gardens at Ilford. Discover a beautiful country house and gardens in the heart of Ilford. Visit the recreated Victorian kitchen and Georgian rooms, with gorgeous views over surrounding parkland.

Motorised wheelchairs are not allowed in the house. Two manual wheelchairs available. Guided tour of house - £3 per person.

**Coach Visit to Lavenham and Sudbury on Wed. 19th September**

U3A members who are not in our group are welcome. The coach will take us to Lavenham where tea/coffee is available at a cost of £2.25 in the Guildhall. Our guides will take us around the town and to the Church. The coach will then take us to Sudbury where you may explore, shop and eat to your heart's content.

The cost is £15.00 per person which covers the coach fare, gratuity for the coach driver, donation to the Church and the guides' fees. If you want tea/coffee at Lavenham there is an additional charge of £2.25.

If you are interested please collect a reservation form from our table at the next meeting on 3rd May.

Book visits with Heather Flemmings at

Monthly U3A Meetings, or e-mail [heatherfl@lineone.net](mailto:heatherfl@lineone.net) or 'phone 01702 204943

Pay David Fryer-Kelsey at Monthly U3A Meetings or post to 113 Greensward Lane, Hockley, Essex, SS5 5HS. Cheques payable to Rayleigh U3A please.

**David Fryer-Kelsey – 01702 203455**

**Heather Flemmings - 01702 204943**

## **STUDY DAY** **'FESTIVAL OF WORDS'**

The "Festival of Words" Study Day is to take place on Wednesday, 14th November, 2012 at Saxon Hall Conference Centre, Aviation Way, Southend-on-Sea from 9.30am until 3.45pm. It will include:-

Barbara Erskine:- World famous celebrated author and historian Her bestselling novel 'Lady of Hay' has sold over two million copies to date.

Roz Hall:- Author, Comedienne and winner of the Frinton Literary Festival's Poetry Prize.

Dr. Adrian May:- Lecturer at the University of Essex for Creative Writing. He is also a poet, songwriter, lyricist and performer of English Folk Music.

Patrick Wilkins:- Patrick was Wandsman at St. Paul's Cathedral, public speaker and intrepid mountaineer who climbed to base camp of Everest in 2011.

There will be Book Signings, a Raffle, and a Book Swap Stall plus Exhibitions from the Essex Library Service, Talking Newspapers and the Book Reading Groups. Tickets will go on sale at the May Monthly Meeting and will be available on a first come, first served basis. They will cost £15 each. The cost will include morning coffee and biscuits, a buffet lunch and afternoon tea and pastries. Tickets can also be requested from Pete Huntly, Study Day Co-ordinator. Please include a stamped, addressed envelope and post to 9 Gilbert Close, Rayleigh, Essex SS6 8QR. Cheques payable to Rayleigh U3A please.

This event has been organised by Marian Allen and the Rayleigh U3A Book Reading Groups.

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

## **Some activities some of our groups have been enjoying**

### **BIRDWATCHING**

An enjoyable day visiting Fingrinhoe Wick, an Essex Wildlife reserve, was had by the Birdwatching Group in the early part of April. They were on time and lucky enough to see and hear the Nightingales at the reserve. They were lucky with the weather too, a pleasant day of mostly sunshine. The male Pheasant was quite happy to pose for a picture showing off his really vibrant colours. On the journey home a brief stop was made to the very new visitors centre at Abberton Reservoir. The building is much larger than the old one but there is still much landscaping to be done at the reservoir and unfortunately the group was followed by a very large cloud of gnats, not every one's favourite insect!!

**Ann Windle – Birdwatching Group**



### **INDUSTRIAL AWARENESS**

The Industrial Awareness Group visited Tilbury Power Station at the beginning of May. This was the first visit made by the Group and proved to be a popular choice. We had excellent guides showing us around while explaining the processes needed to generate electricity.

We all agreed we take electricity very much for granted, but since the visit we agree that we shall think twice about switching our lights on in the future.

**Janet Carlton**

this with a course in participle dangling then ran away to London to be indentured to the advertising legend S.H Benson, gent., as an infinitive splitter (hot metal).

After two years trying to think of a different way of saying “Guinness is good for you”, Gordon joined McCann Erickson where he became known as “The Nine out of Ten Copywriter”. Phrases he coined there included “The Esso sign appertains to happy motoring”, “A Double Diamond works quite well considering”, “Oh, Bisto”, “Hardly anything acts faster than Anadin” and “I’d like to buy the World a Jennings of Cockermouth”

**Our guest speaker next month**  
**is Mike Davies**

**‘Titanic – The First 100 Years’**

**Mike is Chairman of “Rayleigh Through the Looking Glass” and a member of the British Titanic Society**

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

**janetcarlton@blueyonder.co.uk**

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

**To arrive no later than  
Monday, 14th May, 2012**

**NATIONAL OFFICE**

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[resource.centre@u3a.org.uk](mailto:resource.centre@u3a.org.uk)**

**SERENDIPITY III**

On Wednesday 18th April Serendipity 111 went on another brilliant walk with our City of London Guide – David Williams. The walk was aptly called Murder, Meat & Medicine and we enjoyed his informative talks on the tour about the seedier side of The Smithfield Market and Bart’s Hospital Area.

Although the day was very wet and cold it didn’t dampen our spirits and we finished the tour at a very warm and welcoming pub for our lunch.

Two members of our group, Ken & Sally Meeks, have a son-in-law, Paul, who is a City of London Mounted Police Officer. He very kindly offered to show our group around the stables where we could see and stroke the beautiful horses.



He also kept us very interested with his enjoyable stories about the history and working of the Mounted Police Division. This was an unexpected bonus to our day, and a real ‘Serendipitous’ moment. A good time was had by all!

**Pat & John Pomfrett**

**WALKING GROUP I**



Walking Group I enjoyed five days holiday in the Yorkshire Dales at the end of April. They visited castles and stately homes as well as enjoying the wonderful scenery of the Yorkshire Dales. A busy, happy time was had by all.

**Liz and Roger Baker**

## HEADLINES AND ACTIVITIES

### **SECRETARY'S NOTES**

You may be interested in the following items /events which have been sent to me by the U3A Trust. The full information on any of these items can be found on the U3A Trust website at [www.u3a.org.uk](http://www.u3a.org.uk). If you have any queries please feel free to telephone me on 01702 473110 or email [mhayesghayes@talktalk.net](mailto:mhayesghayes@talktalk.net).

Full information, where appropriate, will also be displayed on the Secretary's Notice Board at the Monthly Members' meeting.

English Heritage – There is now a centralised telephone number for educational bookings with a dedicated Educational Visits Customer Services Team. Tel: 0870 3330606

**Maureen Hayes – Secretary Tel: 01702 473110**  
email: [mhayesghayes@talktalk.net](mailto:mhayesghayes@talktalk.net)

### Front Page Photo



Harry and Heather Brickwood sitting in their garden are featured on the front of this month's Newsletter.

Harry and Heather are passionate about their garden and have won prodigious awards in the past. Last summer

they were approached by the BBC asking if they were willing for their garden to be featured in the TV programme "Gardeners' World". This was recently televised and was excellent viewing.

Congratulations Harry and Heather you have a beautiful garden. Harry is Group Leader for our Gardening (Propagating) Group.

## ROYAL VARIETY PARTY NIGHT

Further to last month's announcement, we have been busy arranging this Red, White and Blue themed event to celebrate The Queen's Diamond Jubilee. We have now confirmed U3A's own entertainment which will be from our Drama and Singing Groups and Hadleigh U3A's Ukulele Group. We also have professional comedian Gary Kemsley and our own Magic Circle Magician, John Pomfrett. John will be our Comper for the evening and will be treating us to some fascinating magic.

Following the entertainment, a Buffet Supper will be served followed by dancing and professional musical entertainment from Pete George. This fantastic evening will be held at Mill Hall on Friday, 8th June, 2012 from 7.30pm until 11.30pm.

Tickets are £12.50 each and are currently on sale either at May's Monthly Meeting on the 10th May or call Maureen Hayes, our U3A Secretary, on 01702 473110.

### Our guest speaker This month is Gordon Thorburn

#### "From Pen to Paper"

Gordon Thorburn is the illegitimate child of Hrothgar Tørbjorn a Swedish Air Ace whose Volvo night fighter was mistakenly shot down over Dewsbury. Hrothgar sold his parachute and married Ivy Milburn, a Geordie ice-cream girl and exotic dance understudy, in a private ceremony at Leeds City Varieties.

As a boy, Gordon was keen to be a bought ledger clerk with the Assembly of Free Churches of Scotland but his father wanted him to be a poet or sculptor. As a compromise Gordon enrolled at the Kirkstall Lane Temperance College to learn black-pudding knotting. He supplemented