

Rayleigh



THE UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE

Newsletter Edition No. 73 - May 2016

FROM THE CHAIR May 2016

Dear Members,

I am honoured to be asked to continue to serve as Chairman of Rayleigh U3A for the third and final year of my 3 year term of office.

I would like to welcome the new members of our Committee, Heather Flemmings and David Fryer-Kelsey, who will act jointly as our Groups' Coordinator, Sylvia Mitchell our new Speaker Secretary and Joan Anderson who will represent our new Newsletter Team consisting of June Jennings and Sheila Farrant who are now producing our Newsletter. I know you will all join me in wishing our new Committee Members many congratulations and every success in their new roles. A list of all the committee members and their contact details can be found within this Newsletter and on our website.

I am sure June and Sheila would love to hear from you about any contributions you have 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 at sh.fa.40@gmail.com or contact her on 01702 520833 or 0772 409 5299.

Our Groups' Coordinators are organising the annual Group Leaders and Volunteers Day which will take place at Saxon Hall on Tuesday 10th May. This will be an opportunity to exchange ideas and listen to a guest speaker.

About thirty of our new members came together for a coffee morning on 29th March to find out more about our U3A. Group Leaders spoke about their group subjects, i.e. Walking, Keep Fit and Patchwork & Tea and others had displays recruiting new members. It was a very successful morning and our thanks to Membership Secretary, Gwen Greenwood, for organizing this event.

The Educational Events team is planning a Speakers Lunch in October and you will find an item about this within the Newsletter.

Tickets will be available at the May Meeting for the Quiz night on May 14th at Holy Trinity Church Hall. In the meantime for full details and to book your place please contact our Social Events Coordinator, Jane Godfrey.

We are always looking for new ideas or suggestions, so make use of the Suggestion Box at our monthly meetings. Please sign them as, after we have discussed your suggestion at our Committee Meeting, we will respond with a personal reply. Finally, do introduce yourself to me or other members of the Committee at our monthly meetings as we do want to get to know you and listen to your views.

Sincerely,

Pete Huntly

Chairman, Rayleigh U3A

RAYLEIGH U3A COMMITTEE – 2016/2017

OFFICERS

Chairman: Pete Huntly
pa.huntly@btinternet.com 01268 777398

Vice Chairman: Position Vacant

Treasurer (No.1 A/C): Peter Joyce
pete.joyce@hotmail.com 01702 201489

Secretary: Jackie Soilleux
jsoilleux88@gmail.com 01702 552426

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Treasurer (Social Account): Brian Dennis
john-dennis2@sky.com 01702 201567

Membership Secretary: Gwen Greenwood
gwen3a@btinternet.com 01268 774882

Educational Events Coordinator: Maureen Huntly
maureenhuntly@btinternet.com 01268 777398

Social Events Coordinator: Jane Godfrey
jangra14@btinternet.com 01268 781249

Speaker Secretary: Sylvia Mitchell
smitchell151@sky.com 01268 770139

Joint Groups' Coordinator: Heather Flemmings
heatherflemmings4@gmail.com 01702 203455

Joint Groups' Coordinator: David Fryer-Kelsey
davefk@lineone.net 01702 203455

Newsletter Representative: Joan Anderson
joan.d.anderson@talktalk.net 01268 774985

SOCIAL EVENTS

There is still time to buy tickets for our **Spring Quiz** which will be held on **Saturday, 14th May**, at The Holy Trinity Hall Rayleigh, 7pm for 7.30pm start. Teams of up to 8 and the ticket price remains at £4 per person. Bring your own drinks and nibbles.

Our Autumn Quiz has always been very popular so it was decided to hold another in the Spring but it seems that some of our regular "quizzers" are on holiday in May, so we could do with some new faces. If you haven't been to our quiz, why not come along? It's an inexpensive evening, a lot of fun and you might make some new friends. Anyone who comes on their own, or as a pair/couple, will be grouped with others to make up a team, or how about a group team? We already have a Church Group and a Walking Group team, so maybe other group leaders could get a team together; it all helps members to get to know each other and The Social Team will appreciate your support.

Tickets available at the May meeting, or from me on: 01268 781249 or email jangra14@btinternet.com

Jane Godfrey, Social Events Co-ordinator

NOTES FROM THE SECRETARY – MAY

The Spring programme of national U3A events is now under way and the website has full details of all these. The Secretary's board at the Monthly Members Meetings also includes full details. In addition, you can contact me at jsoilleux88@gmail.com Phone Number 01702 552426/Mobile 07971 524360 for more information:

National Summer Schools – there are still places available for both Schools (8-11th August and 15-18th August). See website for details.

Annual Science Seminar – 8-11th August at Harper Adams University, Telford. Details on the website.

National Subject Adviser Requests –

1. Ann Anderson, the National Subject Adviser for play reading, would like to hear from any U3A member who has written a play and is willing for members to use them. Please email her at aka.3@btinternet.com

2. Stephen Dyer, the National Subject Adviser for genealogy, would like to hear from U3A's which have established family history groups. Please email him at stevedyer2009@live.co.uk

THE LITTLE BOOK OF BIG SCAMS – METROPOLITAN POLICE –

This is an excellent publication which provides a general guide to many of the scams currently operating in the UK, with a view of increasing awareness and covering easy steps you can take to protect yourselves. A copy can be downloaded by going to http://www.met.police.uk/docs/little_book_scam.pdf or members can contact the Metropolitan Police on 0207 230 1228 or email sterling@met.pnn.police.uk

U3A Study Day - Tuesday, 25th October 2016

Essex U3A Association are organising a Study day for Groups as listed below. This is to whet your appetite and perhaps encourage you to start a Group in Rayleigh U3A. The application forms will be available in June. The event is to be held at Plume School, Maldon. For more information contact Doug Harryman at dougharryman@talktalk.net. I hope you will find something that will interest you.

David Sheffield Tel. 01268743586

Art 1 – Water Colour 1	Digital Photography	Parliament
Art 2 – Water Colour 2	Exploring Drama	Patchwork
Art 3 – Acrylics	Family History	Philosophy
Art 4 – Pen and Ink	First Aid	Poetry
Astronomy	Geology	Singing for Pleasure
Canals or Wine	Hand Chimes	Tree Recognition
Computing 1 – PCs	History of Trains	Ukulele
Computing 2 – Tablets	Latin	Writing: Non-Fiction
Country Dancing	Maths	Writing: Fiction
Crochet, Lace, Knitting	Model Trains	

Mountbatten Festival of Music



In April members of Serendipity 2 Group and their friends, a total of 50, made a repeat visit to the Royal Marines Mountbatten Festival of Music. This is an annual charity event staged at the Royal Albert Hall, one of the most iconic and stunningly beautiful concert halls in the World.

We were entertained by an evening of wonderful music performed by the Massed Bands of the Royal Marines featuring talented soloists, the impressive precision of the Corps of Drums and this year a specially commissioned piece commemorating the centenary of the Battle of Jutland, the most significant naval battle of the First World War.

The Battle of Jutland was depicted not only by the music played at the concert but also on large video screens positioned for everyone to see. The 31st. May 1916 was the blackest day in the history of the Bands of the Royal Marines. On the 153 British naval vessels that took part in the battle against the German fleet, there were crews totalling almost 60,000 men of which 6,000 were Royal Marines including almost 700 musicians. On each major ship Royal Marines manned one of the main guns and its magazine, or operated wireless telegraphy equipment. The British fleet suffered heavy casualties at the hands of the Germans, and 6,098 men lost their lives of which 574 were Marines. Five entire bands of musicians were among the casualties. Both the British and the Germans claimed victory, although in reality the battle was indecisive but at least Britain retained control of the North Sea. The music was most stirring and fitted the historic importance of the event.

The finale of the concert comprised such favourite music as Rule Britannia and A Life on the Ocean Wave – a fitting climax to make one proud to be British.

Roger Baker

Gardening Corner

'April Showers bring forth May Flowers'



Seed sowing of Annuals should now be complete and division of most Perennials, including Phlox and Asters. Feed your Lawn now to encourage growth. I use chicken manure pellets after spiking with a fork, or similar, to encourage drainage.

This month I am highlighting Wild Orchids. I am a member of the Essex Group of the Orchid Society. Two of our Members are leading a visit to the Chafford Gorges Nature Park, near Grays, on Saturday, 4th June. If anyone is interested in going, I can organise a car share.

Some paths are steep, with steps in some places, so only come if you feel fit enough to cope with this type of terrain. I am told the flora is good, with several species of Terrestrial Orchids to see and photograph.

There are refreshments available on site. There is no charge for admission but a donation to the Essex Wildlife Trust would be appreciated.

Please telephone me or email if you are interested.

Good gardening.

BRIAN KERSEY

Telephone: 01268 743959 or email: brianskersey@gmail.com

Bee Orchid



New Members Coffee Morning

A very enjoyable morning was held at the end of March when we welcomed many new members along to see how our U3A works. After enjoying coffee and biscuits, Pete Huntly – our Chairman – welcomed everyone and spoke about the history of the U3A and our U3A in particular. Bob Wren then introduced a selection of Group Leaders who talked about their groups and welcomed any newcomers who might be interested. Maureen Huntly spoke about Educational Events and Jane Godfrey about Social Events. The morning was organised by Membership Secretary, Gwen Greenwood. Thanks to all those who helped on the day.



For further information on the Groups we run, or if you are interested in leading a Group, please contact either David Fryer-Kelsey or Heather Flemmings.

Jackie Soilleux

EDUCATIONAL EVENT

Speakers Lunch at Saxon Hall on Wednesday 12th October 2016

Our distinguished speaker will be Dr Lewis Dartnell the author of 'The Knowledge' an international best-selling book awarded The Times 'New Thinking' Book of the Year.



Lewis will take us on a journey of discovery with his quick-start scientific guide for rebooting civilisation after an apocalyptic event. It will be thought-provoking and entertaining throughout.

Dr Dartnell graduated from Oxford University with a First Class degree in Biological Sciences and is currently a UK Space Agency Research Fellow at the University of Leicester, working in the field of astrobiology and the search for life on Mars.

Lewis writes regular science articles in newspapers and magazines. He presents frequent live events, including at the Royal Albert Hall, Royal Institution and literary and science festivals around the world. He has also appeared on television including the 'Sky at Night' and as a space expert on live international news shows.

Rayleigh U3A is privileged to have this distinguished space scientist to speak to us at this event.

Tickets will be on sale at the Monthly Meeting on Thursday 5th May. The ticket price will be £20 to include a two course lunch followed by coffee/tea and mints.

Who invented 'Hip Replacement'?

Hip replacements are so common now that it is easy to take it for granted that we can have a new joint if our own are damaged by arthritis. In the early 1960's the greatest advances in arthroplasty were pioneered by Professor Sir John Charnley, a British orthopedic surgeon, an inventor and skilled craftsman based in Wrightington Hospital near Manchester.

One of our members Alan Brimelow was a student nurse at the above hospital at that time and was allowed to observe Sir John Charnley operating. Alan was impressed by this man in his 50's who was very talented and driven by perfection. It was his idea to combine metal and polyethylene to make a complete artificial hip joint.

There are many members of Rayleigh U3A who have benefited from having had hip replacement operations and will now be able turn their thoughts to the man who made it all possible.

Alan Brimelow has written a paper about the work and life of John Charnley and would be willing to talk to anyone who is interested in hearing more about this modest man who has made hip replacement surgery an everyday operation allowing patients to be pain free.

Research by Alan Brimelow

Maureen Huntly

Educational Events Coordinator

From Group Co-ordinators - Heather Flemmings and David Fryer-Kelsey

We would like to thank Bob Wren for his sterling work as Group Co-ordinator for the last few years and we hope to emulate his success in the future.

We are pleased to welcome our new members and below we have an extensive list of their varied interests.

The list is comprehensive and we hope that within our large membership there will be some of like mind and that you will get in touch with us if you are interested.

Groups are the backbone of the U3A and we sincerely hope, as Group Co-ordinators, we can help you benefit from Group participation that we have enjoyed throughout our membership.

Contact us on 01702 203455 or heatherflemmings4@gmail.com or davefk@lineone.net or see us at our table at the monthly U3A meeting.

Transport (Steam and vintage cars)

Art

Amateur radio

Spanish

Boating

Art and Crafts

History

Squash

Travel

Creative writing

Bridge

English heritage

Fishing

Golf Patchwork

Golf novice talks

London

Languages

Badminton

Jigsaws

Engineering

Opera / Ballet outings

Computing

Classic cars

Science

Yoga

Electronics

Sailing

Midweek lunch

Groups with vacancies as at 01/03/2016

Andre Rieu appreciation

Birdwatching

Ceramics

Conversational French (1 only)

Keep fit

Knit and natter

Music appreciation Grp.2 (1 only)

Papercrafts

Real Ale

Scrabble (2 only)

Strolling

Tenpin bowling

Visiting Essex churches Grp.2 (2 only)

Visiting Essex churches Grp.1 (2 couples, with
own transport)

Walking Grp.3

Walking Grp 4

Wine appreciation

Strolling