

Rayleigh



THE UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE

Newsletter Edition No. 85 – May 2018

Dear Member

In May I will complete my first year as Chairman of Rayleigh U3A. In that year our Committee have worked hard to ensure our U3A satisfies the requirements of our members. I would like to thank those who are stepping down now. Peter Joyce, our Treasurer, although not trained as a bookkeeper has kept our accounts in order, a task which can become very complicated, but he has managed very well. Jackie Soilleux, our Secretary, very generously decided to stay on for another year to help me settle in, invaluable assistance. Sylvia Mitchell has found speakers for our monthly meetings to entertain you. A thankless task usually because you cannot please all the people all the time but she has tried, I think, very successfully. Kate Sawyer who was unstinting with her advice and help. Maureen Huntly, although no longer on the Committee, finished off her term as Educational Events organiser with the Jane Austen literary lunch and Jane Godfrey once again provided Social events, including the Christmas dinner. My thanks to them all for their dedication and hard work and of course the remaining members of the Committee, the Group leaders and volunteers without whom the U3A would cease to exist.

Our U3A has grown massively in the last few years and many members have commented that the monthly meetings are not as friendly as the early days when we knew and recognised many other members. They enjoy their group activities and the various events we arrange. New members in particular find it rather intimidating when they first visit the large, dark Mill Hall with crowds of members talking to their friends or visiting the tables but no time to welcome new faces. We have tried to address this by having buddies to welcome members and introduce them to others. This has worked well but we need more buddies and are running a recruitment drive.

I would like to welcome our new members who have joined us this year. Hopefully they will find groups to join and will bring new ideas to our U3A. You will have received invitations to a New Members' meeting at Trinity Church on Thursday 31st May. A chance for you to meet other members and find out about Rayleigh U3A.

We held a members' Coffee afternoon on 22nd February and although not crowded it was well supported. Members were all talking to each other and hopefully made new friends and learned more about our events. We will certainly continue to organise further members' social mornings/afternoons in the future.

Rosemary Smith passed away on 27th March. She was a member of Serendipity One group for many years. A provisional date for the funeral is 27th April. Also, Sid Painter passed away recently. We send our condolences to their families and friends.

The 2018 AGM will be held at Mill Hall at 2.00pm on Thursday 3rd May followed by the normal monthly meeting.

NO BOOKS AT MAY MEETING.

Best Wishes

David Fryer-Kelsey

Chairman

GROUP COORDINATORS' REPORT

It is now going to be a busy time with the intake of all our new members and we look forward to welcoming as many as possible at the New Members Meeting on the 31st May at the Trinity Church. There will be another opportunity for the new members to meet each other and the Group Leaders at an informal meeting at the WI Hall on the 28th June 10.00am and we know that from a similar meeting last year, some of the members have formed lasting friendships.

We have of course a vacancy list, but a lot of our groups are very full up and there will be a need for more groups to be formed.

At our monthly meeting in April it was nice to meet some new members and place them into groups and hope again to meet many of you at our desk at our AGM Meeting on the 3rd May.

We still need some more players for our Table Tennis 2 group and Table Tennis for players with some experience group.

David and Heather Fryer-Kelsey Group Coordinators.

NB There are 2 collection boxes in the poster area for your discarded Foreign Coins and one for stamps. They are in support of the RNIB. Thank you on behalf of Doreen Little.

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

National Summer Schools There are various schools throughout the country, offering a range of subjects. For detailed information and booking, visit summer-schools.u3a.org.uk

With effect from the AGM in May, we will be welcoming a new Secretary for Rayleigh U3A. I have thoroughly enjoyed my time on the Committee and giving something back to our thriving membership. I wish my successor the very best and know that she will enjoy her time as I have.

Jackie Soilleux

APPEAL Amanda Lowe would like to set up a group for Water Colours and Oil Paints. She is willing to run the group and host a small number of members at her home. Amanda has no knowledge of the subject and would require the expertise of any U3A member who could provide help and guidance in teaching this subject. Alternatively, are there any members who have a small knowledge, so we could learn from each other? If you can help please email Amanda at amandaloweu3a@yahoo.com

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 is available to view on the website

ESSEX CHURCH VISITING GROUP 2

Visit to St Mary the Virgin Church at Great Leighs in March



Despite the cold snowy weather, we were warmly greeted by members of the church and an interesting talk and slide show about the church's history was given by Pat Watkinson.

The church stands two miles from the present village centre on high ground above the River Ter. The most striking feature is its round Norman tower, one of just six in Essex and said to be the best. It was built from flint, Roman tiles and conglomerate two thousand years ago.

The base of this tower is Saxon in origin with a door from Norman times inserted about 1100AD. The beautiful doorway has two layers of stones, beautifully moulded by the masons with chevrons and chamfered edges. The five Norman buttresses are for decoration, the massive walls of the tower needing no support. The clock is Victorian and given by Mr H. Tritton from Lyons Hall which is opposite the church.

The tower contains 5 bells, each inscribed '*Miles Graye made me 1634*' and were cast in the churchyard.

The original building would have been thatched and wooden in structure and most was replaced in the 14th century. There are sun-dials or mass clocks in the walls, a Priests door with original ancient iron work and a Leper window.

The medieval porch was of timber built in 1820 and the medieval roof timbers can still be seen. The doorway is 14th century, set within a Norman arch.

Inside the south door is the unusual Dog Rappers' seat where until the mid-19th century the Dog Rapper (*a paid position*) sat keeping dogs and unruly boys to order.

The font is octagonal, dates from the 14th century, and its base is about a foot below the present level of the floor which is flush with medieval glazed tiles. The carved oak cover was a gift from the previous churches of Rev Andrew Clark in 1896.

The date of the gallery is uncertain but the present organ, dedicated in 1959 hides a beautiful Benefactors Board which we were shown details of on a slide, courtesy of Pat Watkins and her husband's efforts. One wonders why this was not removed when the previous organ was first placed in this position? The choir used to sit in the gallery. The beautiful 15th century low pews in the Nave are panelled with traceries on the backs.

The chancel dates from about 1330 and remains intact but the roof was replaced in about 1866. A new altar frontal was given by Colin Gorham, a former choirboy, from the proceeds of a book he wrote about life in this village during the Second World War.

Val Whitehouse



JANE AUSTEN LITERARY LUNCH

Sixty members of Rayleigh U3A enjoyed a journey through the life and times of Jane Austen at Saxon Hall on Wednesday 21st. March. Maureen Stiller, Hon. Secretary of the Jane Austen Society travelled from Sussex to give us the benefit of her expertise.

The Literary Lunch was organised with the help of Book Group 2 led by Jan Quinn. We are a lively group of six members who have become friends and enjoy reading a wide variety of books. We each give our honest opinions about the author, storyline and characters giving marks out of ten. Those who reach the giddy heights of 7 plus are entered on to our recommended list.

Maureen Huntly



Maureen Stiller (centre) with members of Book Group

JIGSAW SWAP

Interested in swapping your jigsaw for a different one?

If so, please put your name and contact details on the clip board by the Group Notice Boards at the Monthly Meetings.

If we get enough U3A members interested we shall contact you and organise a time and place, maybe at one of our coffee mornings or at a monthly meeting, to start the swap.

Val Whitehouse

SUNDAY LUNCH GROUP

Our first lunch was at The White Hart in Hockley on 25 March 2018. Ten of us enjoyed lunch there. The food was very good, and the price was reasonable. Best of all, though, was the company and two hours flew by.



The Sunday Lunch club will meet on the last Sunday of the month and we'll try to arrange lifts if needed. All are welcome. Please contact Viv Smith at vivsmith306@gmail.com or phone 01702 201291. Recommendations for a good, reasonably-priced venue will be much appreciated.

Viv Smith

FUTURE EVENT

BEXHILL-ON-SEA GREAT GATSBY FAIR SATURDAY 21ST JULY

COACH PARTY TO ENJOY THE FUN DAY OUT

at The Bexhill Roaring 20's Fair



See and hear Marching Bands, Dance displays, singers, parades, ukulele groups, Morris dancers, Jazz bands and watch the Charleston lessons. An impressive display of classic cars will line the seafront and vintage bikes, with their riders in costume, will picnic on the Metropole Lawns beside the iconic De La Warr Pavilion. Enjoy the food festival with lots of dishes to try. Craft Beers, Pimms, Prosecco, Gin Cocktails and Mocktails can also be purchased.

Included is the afternoon Charleston Party and Tea Dance with the Roaring Twenties Big Swing Band and some of the best Charleston dance leaders and competitions from 2 pm.



Price will be a approx. £27.00 each. Details to be confirmed later. Please confirm your interest in booking a ticket for this day out by emailing me at cainejackie817@yahoo.com

OR by registering your interest at the monthly meetings on the social team's desk. Speak to Jackie or Maureen.

Jackie Caine

EDUCATIONAL EVENTS

THE HISTORY OF SPOKEN ENGLISH AND ENGLISH SURNAMENES 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 at the May 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.

WI Hall, Bellingham Lane, Rayleigh

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

Tickets on sale at the May 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.

WI Hall, Bellingham Lane, Rayleigh

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

Tickets on sale at the May Monthly Meeting

DATES for your DIARIES

Thurs 31st May	NEW MEMBERS' MEETING	9.30am - 12.00 noon TRINITY CHURCH - MAIN HALL RAYLEIGH
Thurs 28th June	NEW MEMBERS' and GROUP LEADERS' MEETING	10.00am - 12 noon WI HALL, BELLINGHAM LANE RAYLEIGH
Saturday 21st July	GREAT GATSBY FAIR	COACH TIMING AND PICK UP TO FOLLOW
Thurs 2nd August	STAY SAFE, JOINT ESSEX POLICE and U3A CYBERCRIME PRESENTATION	1.30 - 4.30pm MILL HALL, RAYLEIGH
Thurs 13th September	COFFEE MORNING	10.00am - 12 noon WI HALL, BELLINGHAM LANE RAYLEIGH
Wed 19th September	HISTORY OF SPOKEN ENGLISH & ENGLISH SURNAMEN by Charlie Haylock	11.00am - 3.30pm SAXON HALL, AVIATION WAY SOUTHEND SS2 6UN
Mon 15th October	HOW SCIENCE CAME TO SCOTLAND YARD By Robert Milne	2.30pm - 4.00pm WI HALL, BELLINGHAM LANE RAYLEIGH
Mon 12th November	THE HISTORY OF CARTOONS FROM WILLIAM HOGARTH to PRIVATE EYE By Ian Keable	2.30pm - 4.00pm WI HALL, BELLINGHAM LANE RAYLEIGH
Mon 26th November	COFFEE AFTERNOON	2.30pm - 4.00pm WI HALL, BELLINGHAM LANE RAYLEIGH
Wed 5th December	CHRISTMAS LUNCH	CHALKWELL PARK ROOMS LONDON ROAD LEIGH-ON-SEA SS0 9SY

SPEAKERS AT MONTHLY MEETINGS

Thurs 3rd May	AGM starts 2.00pm followed by speaker DR. HARVEY HOLMES	Emerging Viruses: HIV, Ebola, Zika - What next?
Thurs 7th June	REV. DAVID TUDOR	Who Do You Think You Are?
Thurs 5th July	TONI MOUNT, MA	Everyday Life in Medieval London
Thurs 6th September	KEITH BALDWIN	When Doctors & Policemen Start to Look Young
Thurs 4th October	LUCY ALLEN	From Titanic to Mary Poppins - A Stuntwoman's Life
Thurs 1st November	STEVE & CAROL ROBSON	Fools Gold - Acoustic Music Performance

All the monthly meetings are held at **THE MILL HALL, RAYLEIGH** and start at 2.30pm