



Newsletter Edition No. 91 - May 2019

Dear Members,

In May I will complete my second year as Chairman of Rayleigh U3A. I have been told by various members that the atmosphere has become more friendly and that they really look forward to the monthly meetings and meeting friends. This is what the Committee and volunteers have been working towards and it is gratifying to know that we have had some success. We will redouble our efforts in the future.

I would like to thank those members of the Committee who are leaving now. Gwen stayed on for another year to help the new Membership Secretary and Brian completed his turn as Treasurer of the Social account.

These positions have been filled but we are looking for someone to join us as the Social Events secretary. This means organising quiz shows, coach outings, Christmas lunch etc. and is a very interesting post, investigating events and localities which would be of interest to our members. The Committee will of course assist. Please contact me for further details.

My thanks go to your Committee for their tireless work to keep your U3A running smoothly. Thanks, also to the other members who look after the website, handle the Gift Aid, help at the monthly meetings and events with refreshments/printed newsletters/notice boards/audio equipment/bookstall/ greeters and red sashes. Too many to mention by name but without them your U3A would cease to exist.

The group leaders who manage the nearly 60 activity groups, are the heart and soul of the U3A. They deserve our thanks but even more they deserve your help. Please think how you could assist them. It would probably only be for an hour or two now and then and it could make their work much easier.

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 Rayleigh U3A. The invitations to the New member meeting at Trinity Church Hall on Thursday 30th May have been forwarded. Hopefully this will be a chance for them to meet other members and find out about Rayleigh U3A.

The 2019 AGM will be held at the Mill Hall on Thursday 2nd May, starting at 2pm, followed by the normal monthly meeting.

There will be **NO BOOK STALL** or **TICKET SALES** at the **MAY MEETING**.

Best Wishes, *David Fryer-Kelsey*,
Chairman

ODE TO NEW MEMBERS

It really is fantastic,
it's your lucky day;
there is so much to entertain you,
since joining your U3A.



You'll never be bored and will make new friends,
you'll even learn new skills:
forget all your worries and woes,
it's better than taking the pills.



Join our knit and natter,
and have a good babble;
learn to play canasta,
or go and win at scrabble.

Try digital photography,
as for a new pastime you search;
take pictures at birdwatching,
or whilst visiting a church.



Put photos on your I-Pad,
for everyone to see:
whilst arranging some flowers,
or learning to do Tai Chi



The Real Ale group is really great,
old men drinking from the keg;
we all come home on the bus,
acting like Compo and Clegg.

There are so many groups to join,
they really are such fun;
perhaps you or with a friend,
could find a new one to run.



Perhaps you have a skill,
you could teach us all with ease;
like lion taming, sky diving
or acrobatics on the flying trapeze.



So as Lord Kitchener said.
at the start of World War one;
Rayleigh U3A really needs you,
to help increase our fun.

Rayleigh



THE UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE

GROUP CO -ORDINATORS' REPORT

We have welcomed a lot of new members, some of whom have already joined groups in the Rayleigh U3A.

For the benefit of our new members we have a table at each monthly meeting. You are also welcome to contact us at any other time if you need information/ have queries about the existing or new groups.

On the application forms we have suggested new groups and you just register your name to show your interest. Once we have enough names, we arrange for them to meet. As always, we need a group coordinator preferably in a joint role with another member. Where possible, we ask all members to get involved and share responsibility within the groups. Members can come and suggest groups or run a group sharing their interest or specialist subject.

We also have a New Members' Meeting on the 30th May starting 10.00am at Trinity Hall Church, Rayleigh. This gives an opportunity for us to talk to you and give you information about the ethos of and the running of your U3A.

You will be invited to our Group Leaders' and New Members' Meeting on the 27th June starting 10.30am at the WI Hall, Rayleigh. This will be a chance of meeting up with each other again, in a more intimate atmosphere (not always easy to do in the Mill Hall - being larger and capable of holding many more members).

David and Heather Fryer-Kelsey Group coordinators

NEWS FROM THE SECRETARY

Have you signed up for the monthly National newsletter?

It is very easy to do so via the U3A Trust's website. Once you have signed up, you will receive the newsletter straight to your email inbox once a month. It can be an interesting read.

Visit <https://www.u3a.org.uk/> and click on the Newsletter tab at the top of the page. Complete your details and you will be registered.

Educational Event

Renaissance Treasures at the National Gallery, London – 20th June

The Italian Renaissance saw the creation of some of the finest art works ever made. Some of these are now held in trust for the British nation, within the collection of The National Gallery.

Join National Gallery experts for a day of talks on iconic paintings and hidden gems of the Italian Renaissance, by artists such as Botticelli, Leonardo and Titian, as well as some less well-known artists.

If require any assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me at: debbiebamber@rayleighu3a.co.uk or call me on **07947 064799** if you have any questions.

Debbie Bamber Secretary

QUIZ NIGHT SATURDAY 13th JULY 2019

We have 2 teams that are looking for 2 people to join them at the Quiz Night.

The Quiz is at Rayleigh Trinity Church Hall (free car parking) from 7.30pm. Tickets are £4.00 which includes a free raffle. Bring your own drinks & nibbles.

Please contact: val_whitehouse@yahoo.co.uk or telephone **01702 512717**

VISIT TO ELY CATHEDRAL 17th JUNE 2019

There are a few spaces available on the trip to Ely Cathedral.

The visit includes a guided tour around the Cathedral & Stained-Glass Museum, a 2 course Lunch, Tea/Coffee & Coach Travel. The coach will leave Websters Way at 8.00am and Rayleigh Station at 8.05am.

We will arrive at Ely Cathedral around 10.30am for members to have tea/coffee in the Refectory Café or The Almonry should they wish. Two tours have been booked at 11.30am and then a visit to the Stained-Glass Museum.

In the Almonry there will be a 2-course lunch with tea/coffee at approx.1.30pm. Menu choices available. This will leave time for everyone to wander around Ely or the Cathedral grounds.

We shall leave Ely at 4.00pm returning to Rayleigh at approx. 6.30pm. Total cost £41.00 per person.

Please contact: val_whitehouse@yahoo.co.uk or telephone: **01702 512717** if you wish to join this trip.

TIPTREE FARM TOUR & CREAM TEA - Tuesday 20th August



Join us on a guided Tractor Tour around the Tiptree Fruit Farms with a Tiptree Tour Guide to see the Traditional Methods and Cutting-Edge New Technologies in Fruit Farming. Tours last approximately 40 minutes. Then enjoy a Cream Tea of two homemade fruit scones with Tiptree preserve and clotted cream, tea or coffee, in the marquee. There will be time to visit the Museum and the shop, where you can purchase Tiptree fayre.

Coach leaves at **12.30pm** – 2 pickup points: **Websters Way/ Rayleigh Station**.

Return coach leaves at **5.00pm** arriving back approximately **6.30pm**.

Tickets **£19.00** – available at **June** monthly meeting.

STUDY DAY - 65 YEARS IN HORTICULTURE with JIM BUTTRESS



Jim Buttress was responsible for the Royal Parks in London, including Clarence House and Buckingham Palace. He finished his career as superintendent of Greenwich Park. He is the winner of eight gold medals at Chelsea and in 2006 he was awarded the Victoria Medal of Honour.

Jim has appeared on TV as Judge of the 'Big Allotment Challenge,' is a regular TV presenter, and he actively supports schools and local projects to spread his joy of gardening.

Wednesday 18th September at Saxon Hall, Aviation Way, Southend SS2 6UN

12.30pm (for 1pm start) to 3.30pm

TICKETS £20 (which includes 2 course lunch and raffle) are available at the JUNE monthly meeting

COACH TRIP TO CHATHAM DOCKYARD

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

Sunday 22nd September

**Tickets £19 includes coach and entry to the dockyard, for sale
at the JUNE monthly 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 on sale at the JUNE
monthly meeting**

GROUP ACTIVITY CALENDAR 1st MAY 2019

normal day on which each group meets monthly

Mondays	1 st Monday	Ceramics; Drama
	2 nd Monday	Tenpin Bowling; Visiting Essex Churches 1; Book Reading 1
	3 rd Monday	Crib Club (evenings); Visiting Essex Churches 2 & 3; Drama
	4 th Monday	Canasta (evenings); Ipad User; Book Reading 4; Canasta 2 (evenings)
Tuesdays	1 st Tuesday	Digital Photography 1
	2 nd Tuesday	Birdwatching; Knit & Natter; Wine Appreciation (evenings); Walking 3
	3 rd Tuesday	Conversational French; Wine Appreciation (evenings)
	4 th Tuesday	Bird Watching
Wednesdays	1 st Wednesday	Walking 1; Table Tennis 2
	2 nd Wednesday	Music Appreciation 2; Scrabble
	3 rd Wednesday	Archaeology; Crib Club; Patchwork & Tea; Real Ale; Serendipity 3; Table Tennis; Photography 2
	4 th Wednesday	Family History 2; Music Appreciation 1; Serendipity 6; Table Tennis 2

Please note dates may vary more with some groups than others, particularly with coach trips and other outdoor activities.

Check with Group Leaders for all Serendipity Groups and Theatre Trips.

PLEASE ALWAYS CHECK THE DATE OF YOUR NEXT MEETING WITH YOUR GROUP LEADER

CONTINUATION OF GROUP ACTIVITY CALENDAR

Thursdays	1 st Thursday	U3A Monthly Meeting
	2 nd Thursday	Knit & Natter; Rummikub (evenings); Serendipity 1; Theatre Trips; More Patchwork & Tea
	3 rd Thursday	Papercrafts; Serendipity 4; Strolling (mornings); Classic English Novels; Jazz Appreciation
	4 th Thursday	Family History 3; Psychology; Serendipity 5; Creative Writing; Patchwork & Tea 3
Fridays	1 st Friday	Keep Fit; Live Cinema Screenings (variable); Cooking (variable)
	2 nd Friday	Book Reading 2; Keep Fit; Bridge; Fly Fishing (variable)
	3 rd Friday	Book Reading 3; Flower Arranging; Keep Fit; Bridge
	4 th Friday	Keep Fit; Walking 2; Gardening (variable); Bridge
Saturdays	3 rd Saturday	Walking 4
Sundays	1 st Sunday	Tai Chi
	3 rd Sunday	Tai Chi
	4 th Sunday	Sunday Lunch

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SPEAKERS at MONTHLY MEETINGS

Thurs 2nd May 2019	MARGARET MILLS Adult education tutor of History and English Literature	SKELETONS IN THEIR CUPBOARDS THE LIVES OF TWO VICTORIAN NOVELISTS
Thurs 6th June 2019	TERRY TABER	MY LIFE IN LADIES UNDERWEAR followed by HOME SAFETY TALK by ESSEX FIRE & SAFETY (Meeting closes at 4.30pm)
Thurs 4th July 2019	ROGER SLADE	SHACKLETON 'ENDURANCE' EXPEDITION
Thurs 5th September 2019	DUDLEY CHIGNALL	BEATRICE POTTER THE LAKE DISTRICT HER ART AND INSPIRATION

All the monthly meetings held at the MILL HALL RAYLEIGH

DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES 2019

Thurs 30th May	NEW MEMBERS' MEETING	10.00am to 12 noon HOLY TRINITY CHURCH HALL RAYLEIGH
Thurs 27th June	NEW MEMBERS' & GROUP LEADERS' MEETING	10.30am to 12 noon WI HALL RAYLEIGH
Sat 13th July	SOCIAL QUIZ NIGHT	7.30pm to 10.30pm HOLY TRINITY CHURCH HALL RAYLEIGH Bring your own nibbles and drinks
Tues 20th Aug	COACH OUTING TIPTREE FARM TOUR & CREAM TEA	Coach departs 12.30pm (WEBSTERS WAY/RAYLEIGH STATION) and returns 6.30pm approx. TICKETS on sale JUNE monthly meeting
Wed 18th Sept	STUDY DAY 65 YEARS IN HORTICULTURE with JIM BUTTRESS	12.30(for 1pm start) to 3.30pm 2 course lunch included SAXON HALL, AVIATION WAY Southend SS2 6UN TICKETS on sale at JUNE monthly meeting
Sun 22nd Sept	COACH TRIP to CHATHAM DOCKYARD	TICKETS on sale at JUNE monthly meeting
Wed 16th Oct	MURDER at the MUSEUM- MYSTERY EVENING (COACH TRIP)	MUSEUM of POWER Langford near MALDON TICKETS on sale at JUNE monthly meeting