

*Rayleigh*



THE UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE

## **Newsletter Edition No. 76 - November 2016**

### **FROM THE CHAIR**

Dear Members,

Welcome to our November Newsletter.

I am sure you look forward to receiving this Newsletter which keeps you up-to-date with U3A activities, reading all the interesting articles and hearing about forthcoming events. The Editorial Team, June Jennings, Sheila Farrant and Joan Anderson work very hard to produce it but they do need continued contributions. If you have a piece 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 Farrant at [sh.fa.40@gmail.com](mailto:sh.fa.40@gmail.com) or contact her on 01702 520833 or 0772 409 5299.

We have a comprehensive calendar ahead of monthly meetings and speakers, social and educational events for your enjoyment. I know you will join me in thanking all of our Committee who work tirelessly behind the scenes to make all this possible. Remember to bring along your cheque books to meetings in readiness to purchase tickets.

Included with this Newsletter is the form to renew your membership for 2017. If you have any questions about this contact our Membership Secretary, Gwen Greenwood on 01268 774882 or [gwenu3a@btinternet.com](mailto:gwenu3a@btinternet.com)

It may seem a bit premature but as this Newsletter is the last before Christmas on behalf of the Rayleigh U3A Committee I wish you all a very Happy Christmas and an enjoyable and healthy 2017.

I look forward to seeing many of you at the Christmas Lunch at the Westcliff Hotel on Thursday 8th December when I will be able to wish you the compliments of the season in person.

Sincerely,

*Pete Huntly*

**Chairman, Rayleigh U3A**

## EDUCATIONAL EVENTS

### “HISTORY OF TEA”

talk by LUCY CHAPPELL from

**TWININGS**

*INCLUDES TEA TASTING and AFTERNOON TEA  
at SAXON HALL*

**TUESDAY 29th NOVEMBER 2016 - 2.00pm to 4.30pm**

**TICKETS £12 ON SALE AT NOVEMBER MEETING**



## DATE FOR YOUR DIARY 2017

### **STUDY DAY**

“Tercentenary of ‘Capability’ Brown - Landscaping in the  
Past, Present and Future”

**WEDNESDAY 22nd MARCH 2017**

**at SAXON HALL**

**TICKETS ON SALE AT NOVEMBER MEETING - £20**

*Three well known speakers  
Includes morning coffee and biscuits, a hot buffet lunch  
and afternoon tea with pastries*

*Maureen Huntly*

**Educational Events Coordinator**

## GARDENING CORNER



After a very wet winter and a dry (sometimes hot) summer, it is time to take stock of our successes and failures. In the three months to March the ground was so wet I was unable to prepare for the growing season, such as division of perennials like Asters and Phlox. As a result I now have leggy and generally untidy growth which, had I lifted and divided early, would have developed new growth slower and allowed me to reduce the overall height in June or July before they set flower buds. Needless to say the final result 5ft high and untidy but good flowering. Well there is always next year!

**Fuchsias** are still flowering and giving a wonderful end to summer. The hardy varieties will be ok but many of the larger flowered varieties will need protection from frost to survive the winter – either by lifting and or repotting and putting in the greenhouse, or frost free shed.



The two **Asters** shown above – the pink one is a New England variety called 'Harrington's Pink' which is immune to mildew and much better than the more common Belgil variety. The other Aster is a delightful multi-headed variety 'Little Carlow' which is good for cutting and is smaller in growth than the others.

**Composting:** When you clear up those fallen leaves and shred those old bills, letters etc. instead of sending them to the 'tip', add them to your compost heap along with vegetable waste, torn up egg boxes etc. Avoid any glossy paper. If you don't appear to have any movement like worms in the pile, or container, you can sometimes get worms from a fishing tackle shop or, when digging, collect a few for the compost heap.

Begin planting **Spring Bulbs** in the ground now (or containers). If you came to the talk on 'Container Planting for Winter' at Riverside Nursery, you would have learned a lot about bulbs in layers under pansies and small conifers.

*Brian Kersey*

Telephone: 01268 743959

Email: [brianskersey@gmail.com](mailto:brianskersey@gmail.com)

## **NOTES FROM THE SECRETARY – NOVEMBER**

I would like to bring to your attention the forthcoming events and information notified to me by the U3A Trust. The full information/booking forms on these items can be found on the U3A Trust website at [www.u3a.org.uk](http://www.u3a.org.uk) or [info@u3a.org.uk](mailto:info@u3a.org.uk). Telephone 020 8466 6139 or please feel free to telephone me on 01702 552426, or email at [jsoilleux88@gmail.com](mailto:jsoilleux88@gmail.com).

Information will also appear in the Third Age Matters magazine, in addition to being displayed on the Secretary's Notice Board at the Members' Meeting in November.

**1000 U3A's** – a celebration will be held in London on November 22nd, details on the main website.

**Conference 2016 Presentations** – Information on the presentations will be on the national website in the near future.

**Calling all Gardeners!** – The U3A Sources Magazine is being planned at the moment and the Trust would like to hear from anyone who has tips, pictures, or advice to share. They are keen to hear from all the regular enthusiasts but also those with more off beat themes such as window box gardening, herbs, vegetables and water gardens.

**Details of forthcoming events** at the Royal Institution, National Gallery and a workshop 'Much Ado about Shakespeare' organised by the Ambassador Theatre Group in London, are all available on the U3A Trust website, address as above. There is also news of two Christmas Concerts at the Queen's Chapel of the Savoy.

*Jackie Soilleux*

Secretary

### **Janet Carlton**

Sadly, a Founder Member of Rayleigh U3A, Janet Carlton died on Saturday 1st October. She served as a Committee Member, Newsletter Editor with her husband David, Group Leader and willing Volunteer.

Despite suffering ill health in recent years Janet always had a ready smile and loved nothing better than a good chat. She will be greatly missed by all who knew her.

*Pete Huntly*

Chairman

## **SPEAKERS AT FORTHCOMING MONTHLY MEETINGS**

**November – Dr. Scott Anderson** MA, PhD, FNAVA, ASFAV. Previously on ‘Flog It’ and a NADFAS Lecturer.

**January – Keith Baldwin. All the Kings Horses and all the Queen’s Men and Women**  
In his early days Keith was a soldier in the Household Cavalry and served for six years, gaining the rank of Corporal. He then joined the police service, retiring as a Superintendent - which he says was just slightly less important than being a Corporal and didn't involve too much work!

**February – Tom Corby. Behind the scenes at Buckingham Palace.** Should be interesting to hear about the activity that takes place in order to keep everything working on ‘oiled wheels’!

**March – Professor Pamela Cox,** Essex University lecturer. **Servants - below stairs.**  
Dr. Cox, a senior lecturer in the sociology department, presented BBC2 show *Servants: The True Story of Life Below Stairs*. The programme depicted life in service as dramatised by popular shows such as *Downton Abbey*.

### **U3A 2017 Diaries**

There are only a few U3A 2017 Diaries available so, in order to avoid disappointment, please make sure you purchase one at the November meeting. They will be on the Information Desk near the entrance.

### **U3A Membership Renewal - £20.00**

Please note that the application form for renewal of your U3A membership is included with this Newsletter. I would very much appreciate it if you would please complete it fully and return the whole form to me as soon as possible, with a cheque for the appropriate amount. This will help considerably in avoiding a build-up of applications over the Christmas period.

The cheques will not be banked until January.

Many thanks,

*Gwen Greenwood*  
Membership Secretary

# Internet Scams

Just a reminder that emails from family, friends, banks etc are not necessarily genuine and can cause you a lot of inconvenience unless you treat them with caution.

I regularly receive emails from Pay Pal telling me that my account has been attacked and they have closed it down for security. They ask me to click on a link so that they can verify my account and restore it.

Fortunately I don't have an account with them so I know it is a scam and delete it.

However I am now receiving emails from a friend asking me to click on a link to a website which will be of great interest to me. As the friend has been in hospital for several months and is seriously ill, I realised that this was a scam.

The thing is, these villains have access to people's contact lists and bombard everyone with these emails in the hope that a few will be caught out. They either connect you to a phone number, which charges you a very high rate, or load a virus on your machine which can damage your files or give them access to your private data. Just because it is a familiar name does not mean that it is genuine. Never click on a link without checking with the sender.

**David Fryer-Kelsey**

**N.B** from June Jennings.

Some time ago I also had this problem and contacted PayPal direct. They asked me to send them the offending email and then completely delete it from my computer. This does not stop the scammer trying again but PayPal are made aware.





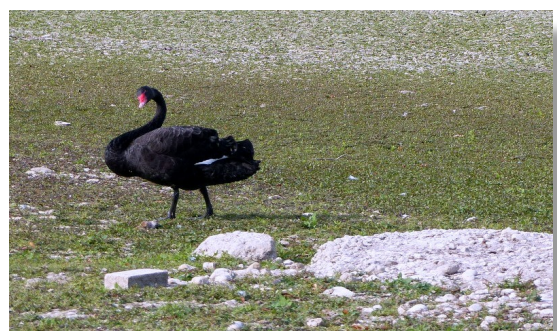
## Digital Photography Group 2

On October 10th seven of our Group went to Hanningfield Nature Reserve to photograph the birds and any other wildlife. We had a pleasant short walk through the woods to the Hide, passing by carvings and brass rubbings of creatures from 'Wind in the Willows'.

At the Hide we spent some time taking our photos – accompanied by frequent 'look over there it's a..... 'Where, I can't see it?' Fortunately, after the first few minutes, we were the only ones in there. We managed to see a skein of Greylag Geese making a flypast and there were desperate attempts to photograph these but they flew around the other side of the trees – and then came back. A lucky few managed to take their photos. We also saw Canada Geese, Great Crested Grebe, Little Grebe, Tufted Duck, Lapwing, Ringed Plover, Cormorants, Swans (black and white), Chaffinch and Robin. Unfortunately the water level was extremely low, which put most of the birds too far away to get decent photographs.

Our final time was spent in the nearby, very pleasant, restaurant. We had a variety of lunches consisting of baked potatoes, gammon steak, prawn baguette and chips together with coffee and hot chocolate (not on one plate I must add).

The Black Swan in the picture was walking near the restaurant.



*June Jennings*

Co-leader of Digital Photography Group 2

## INTERMEDIATE/BEGINNER BRIDGE PLAYERS

If there is sufficient interest, it is hoped to start a new group to play duplicate bridge on a regular basis.

One member, who has many years' experience of playing duplicate bridge at club level, has kindly offered to support the group. The group would welcome players who are currently attending tuition at a Bridge Club or Adult Community College as well as members who wish to share their expertise/knowledge of Bridge.

If you are interested and/or would like further information, please contact Sheila Farrant:

by email [sh.fa.40@gmail.com](mailto:sh.fa.40@gmail.com)

**Or by phone:** Mobile 0772 4095299 or landline 01702 520833

## SPEAKER'S LUNCH at Saxon Hall on Wednesday 12th October 2016

The Speaker was Prof. Lewis Dartnell, a research scientist, presenter and author based in London. His research field is Astrobiology. He presents at schools, science festivals and works as a scientific consultant for the media appearing in TV documentaries and radio shows.

Prof. Dartnell gave an interesting and informative talk based on chapters from his latest book, 'The Knowledge' which includes how to rebuild our world from scratch should an apocalypse ever happen. He reassured us that this is an unlikely event, the last one being when the dinosaurs became extinct about 65 million years ago! Topics included basics on where to find seeds for crops, how to produce fire, cleanse water for drinking and electricity from the sun. The audience found the talk fascinating. Saxon Hall excelled themselves with an excellent lunch. Members enjoyed a pre-lunch sherry or orange juice and a free raffle.



*Maureen Huntly,*

Educational Events Coordinator

Professor Lewis Dartnell with some members of the Educational Events Team.