



## Newsletter Edition 82 – November 2017

Dear Member

We held a Special General meeting on Thursday 5th October at Mill Hall where we considered and voted on several changes to the current Constitution of Rayleigh U3A. These changes were primarily designed to make it easier and more efficient for the Membership Secretary to handle renewals and new members' applications in the New Year period and to help the Treasurer to deal with the Bank. The effect on the members is that the subscription is due and payable in full by 1st April instead of 1st February. We now offer the facility to pay subscriptions by Standing Order or Bank Transfer. Details will be sent out with the renewal notice. The Committee have also agreed that the AGM will take place in May instead of April.

Our Questionnaire Competition was won by Irene Calver and she can now enjoy a traditional afternoon tea for two at Squires Coffee Shop in Rayleigh. There was quite a good response to the questionnaire and we are publishing an article in the Newsletter.

We are trying to make our U3A friendlier by having 'buddies' or 'welcomers' to meet new and single members at the monthly meetings and introducing them to the U3A, its benefits and to other members. You can recognise them by the red sashes they are wearing. Also there will be a number of informal tea/coffee meetings where you have the chance to meet and talk to other members. The next of these will be in the Rayleigh WI hall on 6th November at 2.30 to 4.00pm. Members are very welcome but the number is limited to 50 because of the size of the hall. You will need to book at the Group Coordinators' table.

Jackie Caine and Maureen Scott have offered to form a Social Events team and are full of ideas for events in 2018. They are canvassing members for ideas and opinions and we look forward to their proposals.

June Jennings is standing down as joint editor of the newsletter – many thanks June, for the hard work you have done to give us an interesting read every two months. Sheila Farrant will continue and will be joined by Viv Smith. Please support them by supplying articles or comments or suggestions.

David Clarke has worked the projector at our monthly meetings since our U3A started and would now like to have some help. Many of our speakers use slides or videos to illustrate their talks so it is essential that we have someone to work the projector. It is also used to advertise our events and meetings.

David Carlton maintains the database of members with their email addresses and sends out details of events, meetings and copies of the newsletter. We need someone to help him with this and handle it when he goes on holiday or is ill.

If you can help, please contact me on [davefk@lineone.net](mailto:davefk@lineone.net) or 01702 203455. I'm happy to discuss it with you at any time, no commitment.

Best Wishes

*David Fryer-Kelsey* Chairman

## **Competition Response from Members**

We would like to thank all of you who took the time to complete the competition questionnaire at the September Monthly Meeting.

We asked you to suggest how we could make our U3A more friendly/interesting and we received very good feedback. We are currently considering your suggestions for additional things we could do. A few of the ideas you mentioned were:

**variety of speakers** - if anyone can suggest a speaker or a topic please speak to a Committee member and they will take down the information,

**more events outside of groups** - we have started holding regular coffee mornings, so look out for them,

**the idea of name badges** - committee members all wear badges and of course there are the volunteers who wear the red sashes and we now have badges with the Rayleigh U3A logo on for everyone at our meetings,

**more groups** - we are constantly introducing more groups into our U3A and there is a poster on the display boards of the groups that have vacancies and the Group Co-ordinators are usually at the monthly meetings to help.

We are always looking for new volunteers so if you feel you could help in anyway please let one of the Committee members know. Your help will be greatly appreciated as it is the members that keep our U3A running and make it a friendly and interesting group to belong to.

*Val Whitehouse*

## **Group Coordinators Report**

Groups seem to be moving along smoothly, table tennis and I Pad for beginners, hopefully moving in the right direction. Margaret Bristow has got vacancies for her Scrabble group.

There are boards on our table for Canasta, Badminton and Industrial Heritage groups. Do please register your interest so we can get sufficient members to form a group. Also, Viv will be at the Christmas coffee morning taking enquiries regarding the Facebook venture.

Pre-Christmas Social Get together on Monday 6th November is going nicely, still have places for 13 members – see us at our table at the next monthly meeting. Please get involved with these social mornings; a lot of you have expressed the wish to meet your fellow members in a smaller venue.

We have also had name labels printed with the U3A logo and these will be handed out at our coffee mornings; you have expressed the wish for everyone to have their names displayed to make it more personal. The name labels will be handed out/offered to members at all meetings as well as our main monthly meeting in the Mill Hall.

*David Fryer-Kelsey and Heather Flemmings* Group Coordinators

## **Note from the Editorial Team**

There have been instances where concerns have been raised regarding the quality of images reproduced in previous newsletters (especially the printed versions), when the original photographs were shown to be very sharp on screen. The editorial team have spent much time investigating ways to alleviate these concerns and are trying some suggested solutions in this issue.

## GROUP ACTIVITY CALENDAR

### Normal day on which each Group meets

<b>Mondays</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> . Mon	Ceramics; Family History Beginners; Visiting Essex Churches 4
	2 <sup>nd</sup> Mon	Book Reading 1; Digital Photography 2; Tenpin Bowling; Visiting Essex Churches 1
	3 <sup>rd</sup> .Mon	Crib Club (evenings); Visiting Essex Churches 2 & 3
	4 <sup>th</sup> Mon	Canasta (evenings); IPad User; Book Reading 4
<b>Tuesdays</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> Tues	Digital Photography 1
	2 <sup>nd</sup> Tues	Birdwatching; Knit & Natter; Walking 3; Wine Appreciation (evenings)
	3 <sup>rd</sup> Tues	Conversational French, Wine Appreciation (evenings)
	4 <sup>th</sup> Tues	Birdwatching; Midweek Luncheon
<b>Wednesdays</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> Wed	Drama; Walking 1
	2 <sup>nd</sup> Wed	Music Appreciation 2; Scrabble.
	3 <sup>rd</sup> Wed	Archaeology; Crib Club; Drama; Patchwork & Tea; Real Ale; Serendipity 3
	4 <sup>th</sup> Wed	Family History 2; Music Appreciation 1; Serendipity 6
<b>Thursdays</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> Thurs	<b>U3A Monthly Meeting</b>
	2 <sup>nd</sup> Thurs	Acoustic Guitar; Knit & Natter; More Patchwork & Tea; Rummikub (evenings); Serendipity 1 & 2; Theatre Trips
	3 <sup>rd</sup> Thurs	Connect; Paper crafts; Serendipity 4
	4 <sup>th</sup> Thurs	Family History 3; Family History 4: Psychology; Serendipity 5
<b>Fridays</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> Fri	Keep Fit
	2 <sup>nd</sup> Fri	Book Reading 2; Bridge; Keep Fit
	3 <sup>rd</sup> Fri	Book Reading 3; Bridge; Flower Arranging; Keep Fit
	4 <sup>th</sup> Fri	Bridge; Gardening (variable); Keep Fit; Walking 2
<b>Saturdays</b>	3 <sup>rd</sup> Sat	Walking 4

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**

**RAYLEIGH U3A EDUCATIONAL EVENT**  
**Tickets on sale at November Monthly Meeting**



**LITERARY LUNCH**

**MAUREEN STILLER**

**HON SEC JANE AUSTEN SOCIETY OF THE UK**

***'Introducing Jane Austen – The Woman and the Writer'***

**Saxon Hall, Aviation Way, Southend-on-Sea, SS2 6UN**

**Morning coffee/tea & biscuits and hot buffet lunch and free raffle**

**Wednesday 21st March 2018**

**11am – 2.30pm**

**TICKETS £16.00**

**CONNECT**

Come & join us at

**café@trinity**

**Holy Trinity Church Hall, Rayleigh.**

**Thursday 16th November**

**10am - 11.30am**

An informal get-together: socialising with other Rayleigh U3A members.  
Open to all of those who are on their own as well as widows and widowers.

Contact: **Viv Smith 01702 201291**

or email **val\_whitehouse@yahoo.co.uk**

## Rayleigh U3A Facebook Group

The group continues to grow and we have helped people with tradesmen and organised a few Jazz evenings. The next Jazz evening we are going to is on the 21st November at Thorpe Hall Golf Club. If interested please contact me at the e-mail address below.

We want to set up workshops for those wishing to join the Facebook group but who are concerned about privacy and security. The workshops will only go ahead, however, if there is sufficient interest so please let me know if you would like to participate.

My e-mail address is: [vivsmith306@gmail.com](mailto:vivsmith306@gmail.com) or telephone **01702 201291**

## Speakers at Forthcoming Monthly Meetings

**4th Jan Tracy Mackness** is an Essex bad girl turned good. She is now the owner of the successful “farm to fork” Giggly Pig Company.

**1st Feb Tony Harris Henry VIII**

**1st March More on Antarctica (May 4th) - Roger Slade “Antarctica”**

Roger is employed during the Antarctic Summer to do specialist trips. He is a teacher and photographer. He has also published a book.

## Summary of Social and Educational Events to be held in 2017

<b>Thurs 2<sup>nd</sup> Nov 2017</b>	<b>MONTHLY MEETING</b> speaker <b>Major Lucy Lewis “Army Life”</b>	<b>1.45pm – 4.00pm</b> <b>MILL HALL</b> <b>RAYLEIGH</b>
<b>Fri 3<sup>rd</sup> Nov 2017</b>	<b>“A MARK OF QUALITY - THE HISTORY &amp; PRACTICE OF HALLMARKING ”</b> by <b>MARK LEWIS</b>	<b>2pm – 4.00pm</b> <b>WI HALL, BELLINGHAM LANE</b> <b>RAYLEIGH</b>
<b>Mon 6<sup>th</sup> Nov 2017</b>	<b>PRE-CHRISTMAS SOCIAL AFTERNOON</b> raffle, mince pies, teas/coffees	<b>2.30pm – 4.00pm</b> <b>W I HALL, BELLINGHAM LANE</b> <b>RAYLEIGH</b>
<b>Tues 14<sup>th</sup> Nov 2017</b>	<b>“HISTORY OF COFFEE”</b> talk by <b>David Baxter</b>	<b>2.00pm - 4.30pm</b> <b>MAPLIN SUITE, SAXONHALL</b> <b>AVIATION WAY, SOUTHEND, SS2 6UN</b>
<b>Thurs 16<sup>th</sup> Nov 2017</b>	<b>CONNECT SOCIAL</b> (widows, widowers, those on their own)	<b>10am—11.30am</b> café @trinity <b>HOLY TRINITY CHURCH HALL</b> <b>RAYLEIGH</b>
<b>Tues 21<sup>st</sup> Nov 2017</b>	<b>JAZZ EVENING</b>	from <b>7.15pm</b> onwards <b>THORPE HALL GOLF CLUB</b> <b>THORPE BAY</b>
<b>Fri 24<sup>th</sup> Nov 2017</b>	Coach outing to <b>BURY ST.EDMUND’S CHRISTMAS MARKET</b>	various pick-ups in <b>RAYLEIGH</b> approx. <b>9.00am</b> departure
<b>Thurs 7<sup>TH</sup> Dec 2017</b>	<b>ANNUAL CHRISTMAS LUNCH</b>	<b>Westcliff Hotel</b> <b>WESTCLIFF ON SEA</b>

## Dates for your DAIRIES in 2018

Thurs 22 <sup>nd</sup> Feb 2018	NEW YEAR COFFEE MORNING	10.00am – 12 noon W I HALL, BELLINGHAM LANE RAYLEIGH
Thurs 31 <sup>st</sup> May 2018	NEW MEMBERS' MEETING	9.30 to 12.00am TRINITY CHURCH HALL RAYLEIGH
Thurs 28 <sup>th</sup> June 2018	NEW MEMBERS' and GROUP COORDINATORS' MEETING	10.00am – 12 noon W I HALL, BELLINGHAM LANE RAYLEIGH
Wed 21 <sup>st</sup> Mar 2018	LITERARY LUNCH <i>'Introducing Jane Austen The Woman and the Writer'</i>	11am – 2.30pm SAXON HALL, AVIATION WAY SOUTHEND, SS2 6UN

## Serendipity 6 trip to Greenwich

Nine of us from Serendipity 6 had a wonderful sunny day in Greenwich in September. We met at Rayleigh Station and changed onto the DLR at Stratford.

We enjoyed coffee at The Old Brewery, sitting on the outside terrace in the sunshine. After coffee there was time to look around The Old Royal Naval College Visitor Centre before meeting the guide for an interesting and informative tour of this historic site. These tours are free and run by volunteer guides from the Visitor Centre.

We had our usual U3A lunch stop at the local Weatherspoon's, The Gate Clock. Great value for money!



All feeling refreshed we walked through the beautiful Royal Greenwich Park, onwards and upwards towards the Royal Observatory, to admire the spectacular views of London and Canary Wharf.

We walked down passing The Queens House and the National Maritime Museum. No time to enter these on this trip, but we did manage to ask a volunteer guide to take our group picture here.

We headed to the Chapel at The Old Royal Naval College, as it was closed for Communion when we were on our tour, and were able to listen to another volunteer guide.

We then made our way to the station for our journey home, with an added bonus of all getting seats on the train at Stratford!

*Lesley Kilminster and Jill Cann*

## Essex Church Visiting Group 2



Twenty-one of our group visited St Peter's Church in Thundersley in September. It is fascinating in that it shows the original church built between 1225 and 1230 and the newer extension, completed in 1966.

An original church stood on the site in 1120 but on Christmas Day 1209 it was burnt down. A few of the original Norman parts were saved and can be seen today.

The 'Old Church' had a tower built in 1588 to carry the bells, and its beams are made of ships timbers salvaged during that period. One of the bells was given to the church by Robert Mot in 1588 to commemorate the victory over the Spanish Armada, the other is of unknown origin. A third bell was donated in 1928.



The nave is early 13th century with the roof replaced in the 15th century and is of the braced collar-beam type with two king-post trusses.



The 'New Church' won a Civic Trust Award for its current design and the whole church is Grade 2 listed.

The two windows in the modern extension (North & South Window Iconography) were designed by Ray Bradley and are quite spectacular, not only depicting the story of the life of St. Peter, but also designed to give maximum light onto the Sanctuary.

An interesting and informative talk was given by the Church Warden Robert Waterson and we then had a pleasant lunch at The Bread & Cheese pub.

*Val Whitehouse*

## Notes from the Secretary – November 2017

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](http://www.u3a.org.uk) or feel free to telephone me on 01702 552426, or email at [jsoilleux88@gmail.com](mailto:jsoilleux88@gmail.com).

Christmas Concerts – More information and booking is now available for the U3A Christmas Concerts at the Savoy Chapel, London: 4 & 19<sup>th</sup> December, cost £19.50 which includes mulled wine & mince pies. Details available at [www.u3a.org.uk/events](http://www.u3a.org.uk/events).

**Future events information will be distributed via the national newsletter.**

**Sign up at [u3a.org.uk/email](http://u3a.org.uk/email)**

**You will have the opportunity to specify your region.**

*Jackie Soilleux*

### From the Social Events Committee

**WE ARE INVITING YOU TO TELL US WHAT YOU WOULD LIKE TO DO OR SEE IN THE COMING YEAR (2018)**

**PLEASE READ AND RETURN THE COMPLETED CUT OFF-SLIP AT THE END OF THE PAGE TO JACKIE/MAUREEN at the NOVEMBER MONTHLY MEETING**

Jackie Caine and Maureen Scott will be planning an Entertainment schedule for the members of Rayleigh U3A, and we would like to know what you enjoy doing most.

We also have a new U3A Rayleigh Group Page on Facebook, where you can see events that people are going to and invite others to join them e.g. see the entry for Jazz club nights, where we meet at the Jazz venue and share a table for the evening. You may prefer days out by train or coach. For example, if there was enough interest, we could arrange a trip by coach to the RAF Museum.

There are short trips we can arrange for 2/3 days such as: a visit to the Eden Project, the Lost Gardens of Heligan for 4 days in 2018 and a trip to Liverpool to see the Tall Ships and Terracotta Warriors for 2 nights/3 days with Newmarket Coach Holidays.

If you are interested in these types of trips, or any events, please let us know by completing the form below.

-----  
**NAME:** \_\_\_\_\_

**How would you like to be contacted?**

**Email** \_\_\_\_\_

**Facebook** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone** \_\_\_\_\_

**What ideas do you have for events?** \_\_\_\_\_

**Trips?** \_\_\_\_\_

**Days out?** \_\_\_\_\_

Would you prefer social events:- midweek/weekends/evenings? (Please indicate your preference/s.)

*Jackie Caine and Maureen Scott*