



Newsletter Edition No. 88 - November 2018

Dear Members

Welcome to the November newsletter.

Once again, we have reached the last edition of the year. Our thanks to the Editorial Team, Sheila Farrant and Viv Smith who 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 or Viv Smith at vivsmith1949@hotmail.co.uk.

Inside you will find details of the social and educational events, monthly meetings and speakers who will entertain and perhaps educate you.

The Quiz in October was well attended and keenly contested. We will certainly look forward to more in the future.

There is a Talks for All at the WI hall on The History of Cartoons and a Pop in Coffee afternoon also at the WI hall and a Christmas lunch at Saxon Hall. Further Talks for All, on The Magic of Birds in Your Garden and another on The Red Arrows, will be at Holy Trinity Church.

Please join me in thanking the Committee and volunteers who work year in and year out to keep our U3A lively and engaging.

I'm sorry to have to tell you that one of our members, John Skam, passed away in September. John was the husband of Valerie Skam, our Speaker Secretary and Education Events organiser. We send our condolences.

As this is the last newsletter before Christmas may I on behalf of the Rayleigh U3A Committee wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Our next monthly meeting will be on Thursday 1st November when we will be entertained by 'Fools Gold'; (Acoustic Music Performance telling the hidden histories, mysteries and tragedies that lie behind well-known songs and famous events). I hope to see you there.

Best Wishes

David Fryer-Kelsey

Chairman

Meet Your Committee (Part Three)

Amanda Lowe – Membership Secretary

I joined the Rayleigh U3A after I retired and belong to the Photography and Ceramics Groups. Becoming a member has given me the opportunity to try new pursuits and most of all to meet new people. After being a member for 2 years I felt ready to become more involved and this year became Membership Secretary.



Brian Dennis – Social Treasurer

I have been a member of Rayleigh U3A for 10 years and I am in my fourth year as a member of the Committee.

I belong to Serendipity 2 and Ten Pin Bowling Groups. Before retirement I used to run my own manufacturing business for 35 years.



Sheila Farrant – Newsletter Editor

I joined Rayleigh U3A in 2014. I firstly became a member of the Educational Events Committee and am currently one of the newsletter editors, group leader of the Bridge Group and a member of Table Tennis Groups 1 and 2.

I recently attended a National U3A day workshop 'Keeping it Legal' which covered General Data Protection / Safeguarding/ Equality/ Diversity/ Inclusion and Insurance topics.



GROUP CO-ORDINATORS' REPORT

Coffee morning was better attended than we had thought, as members do not always put their names down. Anyway, in the tea room thanks to Pat and Brenda, approximately 50 cups of brew were made.

It was very proactive, and members were mixing well judging by the noise level. These social meetings also help members who cannot always attend the main meetings, giving them an opportunity to sign up to groups, and quite a few did.

You will see notices up again for a 'Pop in' **Coffee/tea afternoon** on Monday 26th November 2.30pm, to include refreshments and free raffle. Please make a note in your diary and it would help if you could put your name down on the list at our desk.

Tai Chi classes have got under away and proved very popular; there is still room if you wish to sign up. We are very fortunate in having Kevin as an excellent instructor.

We're pleased to report that Valerie Foley has started a Creative Writing Group and she tells us that her first meeting was a fun social afternoon and wishes for it to continue to be fun. Val has asked us to include her item:-

Creative Writing Group: This group had its first meeting last week; we are underway. We had a positive meeting with all contributing to discussion. We intend to write something each month and bring it for discussion by the group. As facilitator I can suggest topics, but every member of the group should feel free to bring their own ideas for subjects. We have room for some more members if you would like to be part of a lively group with many ideas. Please contact Val Foley at valeriefoley2@outlook.com or phone 01268 780838.

David & Heather Fryer-Kelsey
Group Coordinators.

NEWS FROM THE SECRETARY

If you are out and about in the coming months, the following U3A events may be of interest to you:

From Page to Stage – Ambassador Theatre – Lyceum Theatre, London Monday 12th November Under the watchful eyes of three directors, Harry Burton, Lisa Spirling and Jane Moriarty, you will have the chance to direct a scene putting into practice valuable lessons learnt through the day. Welcome refreshments. 10.30 am to 4.30 pm. £37.50.

Guildhall Art Gallery – London Wednesday 28th November or Thursday 29th November (two separate dates) Delve into the Roman archaeological world buried beneath the City of London. A day of workshops and talks with welcome refreshments. 11.00 am to 4.00 pm. £22.00.

Christmas Concerts – The Queen's Chapel of the Savoy, London Monday 3rd December – Performances at 2.00 pm or 5.30 pm & Tuesday 18th December at 2.00 pm only The Brandenburg Singers will perform a balanced programme of familiar repertoire alongside traditional carols. £19.50 Online Booking is available www.u3a.org.uk/events or call the National Office 0208 466 6139.

If you 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

SUNDAY LUNCH GROUP

The Sunday Lunch Group has been going for some months now and has proved a success.



We meet once a month for Sunday Lunch and vary the venue each time, though some places are so good we are thinking of a second visit! The main criteria are that the restaurant/ pub does a proper Sunday roast and the price is reasonable. We have got to know each other quite well over the months, so it is always a pleasure to meet up and have an enjoyable gossip and catch-up over a good meal. It has been a great way to meet new people and make friends.

Unfortunately, the group is full up now, but a second group would, I feel, be most welcome. So, if anyone would like to start a second group, please contact either Heather Fryer-Kelsey or me (vivsmith306@gmail.com) for assistance.

Viv Smith

Sunday Lunch Group Leader

THEATRE TRIP - '9 TO 5 THE MUSICAL'

**WEDNESDAY 19TH JUNE 2019 MATINEE
SAVOY THEATRE, STRAND, LONDON**

check it out on '9 to 5 THE MUSICAL' official website

**ADVERTISED CAST (never guaranteed)
LOUISE REDKNAPP, AMBER DAVIES, NATALIE MACQUEEN,
BRIAN CONLEY**

Following a show of interest in this musical at the October meeting, I have taken an option on 30 tickets on the above date (front dress circle seats £32.50 **face value £65.00**). To get this advance booking price we need to pay by November.

If you would like a ticket, please let me know soonest. Those who expressed an interest at the meeting please confirm that this date is acceptable to you. It was the earliest date on which I could get good seats. Please mention it to members who are not on e-mail. I expect this trip to be train/bus.

Please send cheque payable to Rayleigh u3a to me at **1 Katherine Close, Rayleigh, Essex SS6 8UH** or let me know that you would like to reserve a ticket and pay at November meeting. Any tickets requested and not paid for by the meeting will be offered to other members.

Please remember that once the money has been paid to the agent there is no provision for refund. Tickets on a strictly first come basis. Hope that you can join us on this trip.

Sandra and Joan Theatre Group

EVENT CINEMA

Thrilling theatre, mesmerising music and sensational ballet ‘LIVE PERFORMANCES’ are being screened in local cinemas (Odeon, Southend and Cineworld, Basildon) during the coming months, from:

THE BOLSHOI BALLET, MOSCOW
THE METROPOLITAN OPERA HOUSE, NEW YORK, USA
THE NATIONAL THEATRE, LONDON
THE ROYAL OPERA HOUSE, COVENT GARDEN

Details of future screenings shown on the venues’ websites are listed below. Advance bookings can be made directly with the cinemas {senior prices from £21.25 at the Odeon, Southend and £16.50 at Cineworld, Basildon (Festival Leisure Park)}.

It’s been suggested that some members may wish to meet prior to attending performance(s) for a coffee/bite to eat. There are many options at both venues. If there are enough members wishing to go to any of the performances, it may be possible to organise a group booking. At present there are seats for sale, but there is no guarantee how long they will be available for.

DATE	VENUE	FROM	START TIME	DURATION
Tues 13 Nov	Odeon Southend	Royal Ballet, London La Bayadere	19.15	200 mins
Mon 3 Dec	Odeon Southend	Royal Ballet, London The Nutcracker	19.15	200 mins
Tues 19 Feb	Odeon Southend	Royal Ballet, London Don Quixote	19.15	200 mins
Tues 11 Jun	Odeon Southend	Royal Ballet, London Romeo & Juliet	19.15	200 mins
Sun 11 Nov	Odeon Southend	Bolshoi Ballet, Moscow La Sylphide	15.00	120 mins
Sun 23 Dec	Odeon Southend	Bolshoi Ballet, Moscow The Nutcracker	15.00	140 mins
Sun 10 Mar	Odeon Southend	Bolshoi Ballet, Moscow The Sleeping Beauty	14.00	170 mins
Sun 19 May	Odeon Southend	Bolshoi Ballet, Moscow Carmen Suite	16.00	140 mins
Tues 20 Nov	Odeon Southend	National Theatre The Madness of King George	19.00	210 mins
Thurs 6 Dec	Odeon Southend	National Theatre Anthony and Cleopatra	19.00	220 mins
Tues 22 Jan	Odeon Southend	Royal Opera, London The Queen of Spades	18.45	200 mins
Wed 30 Jan	Odeon Southend	Royal Opera, London La Traviata	18.45	200 mins
Tues 2 Apr	Odeon Southend	Royal Opera, London La Forza Del Destino	18.15	200 mins
Tues 30 Apr	Odeon Southend	Royal Opera, London Faust	18.45	200 mins

EVENT CINEMA (continued)

DATE	VENUE	FROM	START TIME	DURATION
Sat 10 Nov	Cineworld Basildon	Met Opera, New York Marnie	17.55	200 mins
Sat 15 Dec	Cineworld Basildon	Met Opera, New York La Traviata	17.55	212 mins
Sat 12 Jan	Cineworld Basildon	Met Opera, New York Adriana Lecouvreur	17.55	238 mins
Sat 02-Feb	Cineworld Basildon	Met Opera, New York Carmen	17.55	216 mins
Sat 02 Mar	Cineworld Basildon	Met Opera, New York La Fille Du Regiment	17.55	175 mins
Sat 30 Mar	Cineworld Basildon	Met Opera, New York Die Walkure	17.00	294 mins

If you are interested or have further queries regarding these events, please email Sheila at sh.fa.40@gmail.com or phone me on 0772 409 5299.

TALKS FOR ALL

THE MAGIC OF BIRDS IN YOUR GARDEN by Graham Mee

Graham has been group leader of the South East Essex local group for the RSPB for more than fourteen years; his hobby is wild life photography.

2pm to 4pm on Monday 11th March 2019
Cloister Hall, Holy Trinity Church, Rayleigh

ENTRY £3 includes tea/coffee/biscuits

TICKETS ON SALE AT THE NOVEMBER MONTHLY MEETING

THE RED ARROWS by Guy Bartlett

Guy is an aviation enthusiast, speaker, former teacher; he uses archive film footage, technology, music and humour to provide fascinating insight into his subject.

2pm to 4pm on Monday 15th April 2019
Cloister Hall, Holy Trinity Church, Rayleigh

ENTRY £3 includes tea/coffee/biscuits

TICKETS ON SALE AT THE NOVEMBER MONTHLY MEETING

THE WORST EVER MEMBER of the U3A



I have joined lots of groups, but never got it right.
One day went to Scrabble and caused a terrible fight.



I get lost in my back garden, but led a stroll for walking group one,
we wandered lost for hours; it certainly wasn't fun.



Ten pin bowling never worked out; I was such a fool.
Never actually got to play the game, getting my fingers stuck in the ball.



At Table Tennis I couldn't hit the thing, it always missed my bat.
I tried to smash that little ball, I fell over and squashed it flat.

Theatre group threw me out;
for going to the wrong show.
Bridge, I tried to build one;
the game I did not know.



Birdwatching, I never saw one. Archaeology, I fell down a hole.
Ceramics, I broke all the plates. Drama couldn't find me a role.



Family History wouldn't have me; my tree was just a bore.
Psychology wanted to lock me up and at Crib I forgot to score.

David and Heather came to me; no groups would take my name.
I would have to leave the U3A, every member felt the same.



Then I found I was great at something;
I had been good at it for years.
The real ale group was the answer,
I was brilliant at drinking beers.



by *Les Shrubsole*

DATES for your DIARIES 2018

Monday 12th November	THE HISTORY OF CARTOONS from WILLIAM HOGARTH to PRIVATE EYE by Ian Keable	2.00pm – 4.00pm WI HALL, BELLINGHAM LANE RAYLEIGH
Monday 26th November	COFFEE AFTERNOON	2.00pm – 4.00pm WI HALL, BELLINGHAM LANE RAYLEIGH
Wednesday 5th December	CHRISTMAS LUNCH	12.30pm – 4.00pm SAXON HALL, AVIATION WAY SOUTHEND SS2 6UN

SPEAKERS at MONTHLY MEETINGS

Thursday 1st November 2018	STEVE AND CAROL ROBSON FOOLS GOLD	ACOUSTIC MUSIC PERFORMANCE
Thursday 3rd January 2019	TONY TUCKWELL Local historian and governor New Hall School, Chelmsford	NEW HALL ESSEX'S UNKNOWN ROYAL PALACE
Thursday 7th February 2019	STEVE SCRUTON How a love of Pirate Radio in the 60's led to a job with BBC ESSEX for 20 years	MY LIFE ON RADIO FINISHING with a FUN QUIZ
Thursday 7th March 2019	DAVID WILLIAMS People who devoted their lives to improving social/working conditions	POUNDS, SHILLINGS and POVERTY FORTUNES MADE and LOST
Thursday 4th April 2019	BRIAN CARLINE Author, comedian (New Faces), teacher/assistant head in Essex	AN AMUSING ACCOUNT OF LIVES IN OUR SCHOOLS
Thursday 2nd May 2019	MARGARET MILLS Adult education tutor of History and English Literature	SKELETONS IN THEIR CUPBOARDS - THE LIVES OF TWO VICTORIAN NOVELISTS

All the monthly meetings are held at **THE MILL HALL, RAYLEIGH**

DATES for your DIARIES 2019

Thursday 21st February	POP IN COFFEE MORNING	10.00am - 12 noon WI HALL, BELLINGHAM LANE RAYLEIGH
Monday 11th March	THE MAGIC OF BIRDS IN YOUR GARDEN by GRAHAM MEE	2pm - 4pm CLOISTER HALL TRINITY CHURCH, RAYLEIGH
Monday 15th April	RED ARROWS by GUY BARTLETT	2pm - 4pm CLOISTER HALL TRINITY CHURCH, RAYLEIGH
Wednesday 22nd May (PROVISIONAL)	STUDY DAY JAPANESE COSTUME and SAMURAI	SAXON HALL (PROVISIONAL)
Thursday 30th May	NEW MEMBERS' MEETING	10.00am - 12.00 noon HOLY TRINITY CHURCH HALL RAYLEIGH
Wednesday 19th June	THEATRE TRIP 9 TO 5 THE MUSICAL	SAVOY THEATRE STRAND, LONDON W.C.2 TRANSPORT - BUS/TRAIN