

Rayleigh

u3a
learn, laugh, live

SEPTEMBER 2022 NEWSLETTER

WOULD YOU LIKE TO HELP AND GET MORE INVOLVED IN RUNNING RAYLEIGH u3a?



We are looking for more members to become part of our committee and/or generally help with the organising and running of our u3a.

- If you would like to know more,
- attend one of our committee meetings as an observer,
- or have suggestions to offer as to new interest groups Rayleigh u3a might consider setting up,
- then please contact our chair:

Ray Lowe at raylowe@rayleighu3a.co.uk

or phone him on **01268 784792**

UPDATE from GROUP COORDINATOR (August 2022)

GROUP NAME	GROUP FACILITATOR/LEADER	DAY GROUP MEETS
Archaeology	Ian Hayes	3 rd Wednesday
Art	Amanda Lowe	1 st Thursday
Badminton	Bernard Pilgrim	every Mon & Tues
Bird Watching	John Edwards	4 th Tuesday
Book Reading 2	Janet Quinn	2 nd Friday
Book Reading 3	Margaret White	3 rd Friday
Book Reading 4	Viv Smith	4 th Monday

Canasta 2	Roy Fallis	2 nd Monday (evening)
Ceramics	Brenda Perrott	1 st Monday
Cooking	Ray Lowe	1 st Friday
Creative Writing	Val Foley	3 rd Thursday
Crib Club	David Sheffield	3 rd Monday (evening)

Digital Photography 1	John Edwards	1 st Tuesday
Digital Photography 2	Amanda Lowe & Jim Whitehouse	2 nd Monday
Facebook	Viv Smith	
Family History 2	Pete Huntly	4 th Wednesday
Family History 3	Barbara Dale	4 th Thursday
Gardening	June Jennings & Margaret Rawson	4 th Friday
Jazz Appreciation	David Sawyer	3 rd Thursday

Knit & Natter	Beryl Winslow	2 nd Thursday
Local History	to be confirmed	to be confirmed
Music Appreciation	David Sawyer	4 th Wed & 4 th Thurs
Papercrafts	Sue Taylor	3 rd Thursday
Patchwork & Tea	Kate Sawyer	2 nd Wednesday
Psychology	Wendy Edwards	4 th Thursday
Real Ale	David Filby	3 rd Wednesday
Rummikub	Susan Lamont & Amanda Lowe	3 rd Thursday

UPDATE from GROUP COORDINATOR (continued) August 2022

GROUP NAME	GROUP FACILITATOR/LEADER	DAY GROUP MEETS
Scrabble	Maureen Philpot	2 nd Wednesday
Serendipity 1	Wendy Edwards	1 st Tuesday
Serendipity 3	Pat & John Pomfrett	3 rd Wednesday
Serendipity 5	Bob White & Sue & Keith Bevell	4 th Thursday
Serendipity 6	Jim & Val Whitehouse	4 th Wednesday
Strolling	Val Skam & Sheila Farrant	3 rd Thursday
Sunday Lunch	Viv Smith	Last Sunday of the month

Table Tennis 1	Elaine Woodcock	3 rd Wednesday
Table Tennis 2	Val Foley	1 st Tuesday
Tenpin Bowling	Graham Godfrey	2 nd Monday
Theatre Trips	Sandra Wilson	
Visit Essex Churches 1	Sue & Terry Taylor	2 nd Monday
Visit Interesting Places in Essex	Val & Jim Whitehouse	3 rd Monday
Walking 1	Sue Taylor	1 st Thursday
Walking 2	Les Shrubsole	Last Friday of month
Walking 3	Maureen Hayes	2 nd Tuesday
Walking 5	Sheila Leveridge	2 nd Thursday
Wine Appreciation	Bob Keeley	2 nd Tuesday of month

For more details on how to join groups, please contact the Group Coordinator,

Paul Reeve by email: paulreeve@rayleighu3a.co.uk

INFORMATION re FUTURE MONTHLY SPEAKERS

September



Howard Slater will give an illustrated talk about the East End of London, from the Huguenots to the Bengalis, taking us around the East End giving a flavour of the history and culture of the area.

November



Bernard Lockett's talk includes the works of Gilbert and Sullivan, a historical background and review of their works. He is an author and speaker, also a Trustee of the International Gilbert and Sullivan Festival that takes place annually (now in its 25th year) in Harrogate.



Arthur Sullivan studied at the Royal Academy of Music in Leipzig and became a composer of church music. He composed the music of a stage farce. When Gilbert, in his role as theatre critic, saw the show, he approached Sullivan: and the magical partnership was launched.

William Schwenck Gilbert came from a wealthy family and was destined for the law, but after 2 years as a barrister he scorned the law, and he became a playwright.

NEWS AROUND OUR u3a

TALKS FOR ALL



For most of us, mention of Lawrence of Arabia, would recall the image of a golden-haired Peter O'Toole in flowing white robes on a camel.

With **“Lawrence before & after Arabia”**, **Colin van Geffen** gave a fascinating and informative talk. He told us that T. E. Lawrence had had a troubled childhood and was a complicated man. Before the war he was an archaeologist working in Syria. He became fluent in Arabic and with the outbreak of the war in 1914 he travelled to Arabia on intelligence missions and became involved in the Arab Revolt.

He was lionised on his return from the war but was unhappy with the attention and retreated from public life. He served in the Army and RAF under assumed names to protect his privacy and went on to become a translator and author writing his autobiography **“The Seven Pillars of Wisdom”**.

His life came to a tragic end when he died at only 46 years old following a motorcycle accident in 1935.

In June, Peter Huntly gave a talk on **“Getting Started with your Family History”**.

Members came equipped with pad and pen and enthusiastically made notes as Peter led us through the winding path to seek out our forebears.

Some people had stories passed through the family and wanted to find out if they were fact or fiction. It is an intriguing subject and completely compelling once you get started.

Hopefully, thanks to Peter's informative talk there will be many family mysteries solved.

GARDENING GROUP

The Gardening Group Visit Writtle University Gardens

We visited the Writtle University College Gardens on a bright and sunny day and were given an interesting and informative guided tour by Charlotte Power, lecturer in further education horticulture.

There are 15 acres of gardens and grounds including landscaped gardens, informal gardens, a centenary garden, orchard meadow and a large collection of trees.

A very pleasant lunch afterwards was at the Wilkins Lordship Tea Rooms on campus.



VISITING INTERESTING PLACES IN ESSEX GROUP

Members visited All Saints Church in the parish of Stock Harvard, in the village of Stock. We enjoyed an interesting talk and then wandered inside and around the church before lunch at The Old Kings Head.

This Grade I listed building sits beside a large graveyard, a garden of remembrance and a glebe – which is used for the dinner dance, flower festival and fete that is one of the biggest events in the village calendar. The first written evidence of the existence of a church in Stock is in 1232, and it is reasonable to suppose that a church, consisting of a nave and a chancel, was erected here in the early Norman period.

The village used to be called Stock Harvard and the ecclesiastical parish is still known by that name. Eighty-one years ago (on 13 December 1940), a landmine fell close to All Saints' Church in Stock, causing this damage to its southern side. The roof and windows were wrecked, the tower severely damaged and a large crater left in the graveyard.

It was 1965 before all the repairs were completed. The crater was filled to create a Garden of Remembrance, which was completed in 1953. In recent years, the top stones became very badly weathered and needed replacement. Thanks to the Friends of All Saints and an anonymous donor, those stones have been replaced.

The Group is still open to new members to join, which meets on the 3rd Monday of the month, members should have their own transport and be interested in visiting a variety of interesting places in Essex.



Val Whitehouse: email val_whitehouse@yahoo.co.uk

COOKERY GROUP



The group, Frank Bodey, Gwen Greenwood, Elaine Woodcock, Pearl Ward, and James Wright cooked a mixed fish and meat Paella.

Enjoyed by all - good company, good food.



NEWS FROM THE PATCHWORK GROUP



Over two years ago I issued a challenge to the Patchwork groups - then Covid struck, and we were delayed in our enterprise. Now at last we are ready to unveil our latest charity work.

This year we are supporting the Nehemiah Project, which, in their words, 'rebuilds broken lives in Zimbabwe'. I came across the work of this charity quite by accident and have helped to raise funds to purchase sanitary products for young girls and women who are very at risk of sexual abuse.

Following a consultation with the Ladies of the Patchwork Group, we decided to support this charity. My challenge to the Ladies, was to find two items from a charity shop which could be repurposed and made into something completely different - but useful, thus supporting two charities at once.

Our imaginations and sewing machines were busy over lockdown and beyond, and we have amassed a variety of items. These range from traditional small lap quilts, cushions, to bags for shopping and a family of Teddy Bears.

So please support us by bringing along your purses and wallets to the

SEPTEMBER MONTHLY MEETING (7th September)

Thank you in advance. *Kate Sawyer*

STROLLING GROUP

Members enjoying the fine weather and peacefulness in Lake Meadows, Billericay.



In July the group made a return visit to Priory Park, hoping that the summer flowers had survived the drought. After the gardens and a coffee stop, the group walked through Churchill Gardens, followed by a visit to the Southend Museum and lunch at ASK Southend.



SAVE THE DATE! TUESDAY 6TH DECEMBER 2022 RAYLEIGH CHRISTMAS LUNCH

Tickets: **£30** per member for a 3-course festive lunch at Saxon Hall
on sale at the **September** and **October** Monthly Meetings.

FOR ALL MEMBERS – SHARING PROJECT

One of the main topics in the news now is the rising cost of living so it seems to be a good time to ask you whether you would like to share your acquired knowledge with the rest of the membership by disclosing your top money saving tips!

You don't have to give your name just share tips that you have found to be effective. These will be published later.

Your ideas can be emailed to Sheila (sh.fa.40@gmail.com). Names will not be published. There will also be a box at the **October** and **November** monthly meetings where they can be placed.