



# Rayleigh News

University of The Third Age

Newsletter No.9

September 2008

## **FROM THE CHAIR**

Dear Members,

Welcome to our September Newsletter, which heralds the next part of our Rayleigh U3A year of monthly meetings and events such as our first Luncheon, which will take place at Saxton Hall on Friday 26<sup>th</sup> September. Our speaker is a local well-known Antiques Expert, Jim Gallie whose family have owned Battlesbridge Antiques for over forty years. I look forward to seeing you there at a cost of only £17.50.

Thank you to all of those members who completed the Questionnaire distributed in July. We are really looking forward to assessing the valuable information contained in them, which will help us to put together a varied, interesting and informative calendar of events for 2009.

It is very exciting when other U3A's express a wish to interact with us. Earlier this year Horndon on the Hill U3A's Local History Group showed one of our Essex Church Group's around their village giving a tour of buildings of interest. We are reciprocating on 16<sup>th</sup> September and several of our members are showing the visiting group the Holy Trinity Church, The Mill, The Dutch Cottage and The Mount with a commentary as they walk down the High Street pointing out our interesting wall plaques, monument, drinking trough and pubs.

We are always interested to hear from any of you about ideas you have to bring to the Rayleigh U3A which will benefit all our members.

Best wishes,

*Maureen*

## **GROUP CO-ORDINATOR'S NEWS**

With Autumn leaping up on us its time to get thinking about new groups we can start within the Rayleigh U3A. We have had quite a few suggestions for new groups amongst which are Fishing, Metal Detecting, Croquet, German, Spanish and Tai Chi. Of course we will be looking for Group leaders for these groups and as many of you now know its not such a "daunting" position to hold.

To become a group leader you simply liaise either by phone or email with interested members to get a group together to meet on a regular basis. Meetings can be held at each others homes or there is Stratford House in Rayleigh which many of you may have used in the past. Once the meeting is established that's it and group members help each other to keep it up and running. To find out more please talk to any of our already established group leaders, or myself, who I am sure will offer any help or advice they can.

**I look forward to hearing from any members who would like to put their name down to become a Group Leader.**

At the October Meeting there will be another chance to see what our current groups have achieved during our first year and it will give you more opportunity to join up for any other group activities if you so wish.

Oil Painting. Please note David Taylor, who runs our Water Colours II Group, will be starting an Oil Painting Group. Please put your name down on the list or contact David and hopefully we can get this group up and running during September. (01268 777952).

The Art Appreciation group are looking for a new leader. If you would like to join this group and/or become a group leader please contact me asap. To help the group and keep it going, there is a vast library of DVD/s videos, slides etc. which can be obtained from the U3A Resource Centre. Please contact me for details. (01268 786405).

Yoga – Suzanne Middleton is now planning to start a Six Week Introductory course in October. If you have already put your name down, please contact Suzanne on 01702 557389 to confirm you still wish to have a place in this group. Otherwise add your name to the Yoga list and Suzanne will contact you to confirm the start date. A big thank you to Suzanne for offering her qualified expertise in this field.

French Conversation will be continuing for another 10 week course – please contact Kathy Neville if you would like to join in, subject to spaces available. (01268 773099)

Sue Taylor  
Group Coordinator

## NEWS FROM OUR GROUP LEADERS

### Gardening Group

Linda Clarke's garden in Hockley was open on Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> June. The weather could not have been better and the garden was full of colour. The roses and penstemons were particularly remarked upon and the highlight for many visitors was a magnificent disease resistant rose called Nostalgia. The flowers, which are offset against dark green foliage, start white with a pink tinge and gradually turn red. Over thirty U3A garden section members took a relaxed wander around and then sat in the sunshine to enjoy tea, home-made cake and a good chat. Many members purchased a plant (or two or three) that Linda was selling at very low prices.



*Linda's Garden*

As mentioned in the last newsletter, Heather Brickwood's garden was open on 18<sup>th</sup> July for Rayleigh and Basildon U3A members. Again the weather was kind and the garden was in full bloom. The lilies were a special feature with dozens (too many to count) of different flowers and delicious scents to enjoy. There were many varieties of hemerocallis, roses, agapanthus and so much more. The members socialised over their tea and cake.

The 4<sup>th</sup> August visit to Margot Grice's garden near Chelmsford started at Rayleigh Church to hand out maps and organise lifts. Margot's garden was very colourful with crocosmias, dahlias, salvias clematis and many other super plants. There were plants for sale at very reasonable prices. Her husband scored a great hit with his



*Margot Grice's garden*

home-made cakes and we ladies wanted to take him home to cook for us. September is a month of rest for the Garden Group (holidays etc.) but in October we will have our slide show presentation covering all of the gardens that we visited in 2008. Names for this show will be taken at the October U3A meeting and the cost will be £2.50 which will include refreshments.

**Alan Mason “A Gardener’s Life”**  
**Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> September 7.30 pm**  
**Tickets £3.00 from Heather**

Alan had his own television programme on Yorkshire Television for a number of years and was regarded as Yorkshire’s answer to Alan Titchmarsh. This is both a humorous and informative talk on gardening, the tickets are heavily subsidised as this is part of the South East Essex Horticultural group’s programme.

## **Walking Group**

The activities of the Walking Group have enthusiastically continued during the summer months with a walk in Greenwich Park and Blackheath at the end of July and a walk from Mill Green near Ingatestone in early August. The Greenwich walk was quite an experience for several of our members who had not travelled on the Docklands Light Railway before or walked under the Thames in the foot tunnel. As if that was not enough we then had several sightings of the magnificent Zeppelin airship majestically floating above us advertising Stella Artois. It is 246ft. long and wouldn't we all have loved to have been passengers on it for the superb views of London it would have provided. As it was we had to be satisfied with the views from Greenwich Observatory over Docklands and the O2 which are superb anyway.

The Group's next walk is on Wednesday 3rd. September from Danbury Common meeting in the National Trust car park at 10.00 a.m.

Roger Baker - Tel: 01702 331166

## **Wine Appreciation**

In theory we are now full but there are always a few members who are on holiday/have another engagement etc. If you would like to come along to the September meeting you will be made very welcome, but you must ring Harry first to make sure that there is a place available.

At the September meeting we will be sampling wines from Australia, which are currently discounted at Majestic, 4 whites, 3 reds and a rather nice desert wine.

Dates of our meetings, all Tuesdays, are

9 September

14 October

11 November

16 December

January no meeting

All 7.30pm start with a 9.30pm finish

Harry Brickwood 01268743838

John Harrison 01268-774637

## **Singing Group**

We will start again on Tuesday 30th September at 10.30am at Stratford House. We hope to sing something at the Christmas meal in November. Everyone is welcome and if more men would come along we could even try to do some four part harmony !!! You don't have to read music ...just to enjoy singing. It lifts the spirits, and keeps us all smiling.

Marjorie Sale – 01702 346175

## Churches Group III



Group III visiting Essex churches visited All Saints at Maldon on 21st July. We had a very interesting tour of the church by the Vicar David Atkins who also gave us an added bonus by showing us over his Vicarage which is a grade I listed building. A group photo was taken outside the vicarage. We had lunch afterwards at the Ship and Anchor.

My thanks to Val Byford who organized this lovely day out.

Brenda Perrott – Tel: 01268 779590

## HEADLINES from the Editorial Team

Did you know that.....

Harvest Festivals are held near the Sunday of the harvest moon. (Autumn equinox is about 23<sup>rd</sup> September). It used to be celebrated on 1st. August and was called Lammas( 'loaf Mass'). Farmers made loaves of bread from the new wheat crop and gave them to their local church. These were used as Communion bread during the special mass thanking God for the harvest. One man 'Lord of the Harvest' was given the responsibility for organising the field workers and their wages and he brought in the last snook (sheaf) of corn and declared the Harvest safely gathered in then the Harvest Feast would begin. Popular Victorian hymns that are still sung today are 'All things bright and beautiful' and 'We plough the fields and scatter'.

## Visit to Tutankhamun Exhibition

A very interesting and enjoyable day out was enjoyed by 48 of our members in July. We were met at the British Museum in the morning by our Blue Badge Guide for a guided tour around the lower galleries of the museum which included Ancient Egyptian treasures, the Rosetta Stone and Elgin Marbles. Our guide kept our interest throughout keeping our attention with her sense of humour and knowledge of the best sights and treasures to see in a short space of time. Following time for coffee and a look around the Museum shop we were back on the coach for the journey on the south bank of the Thames to the O2 in Docklands. Once again our guide pointed out places of interest on the way. At the O2 there was time for lunch before visiting the Golden Age of the Pharaohs Exhibition. The treasures were wonderful and it was hard to believe they were over 3,000 years old. The vibrance of colours and perfect preservation of the artifacts kept hidden for so long in Tutankhamun's tomb was wonderful. As this was the last opportunity to see these treasures outside Egypt it was an opportunity not to be missed on what turned out to be a wonderful day out.

## **Book Stall and Bring and Buy**

Our Book and Bring and Buy stalls will continue with books and items for sale in the Underspire Room at our monthly meetings during our break for coffee and tea. Please continue with your support remembering that proceeds help pay towards our speakers and entertainment in the future.

## ***DATES FOR YOUR DIARY and WHAT'S ON IN ESSEX***

### **Chelmsford Cathedral Lunchtime Concerts**

**Lunchtime Concerts will recommence on Friday, 5<sup>th</sup> September at 12.30pm – more details next month.**

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### **Antiques Quiz Lunch**

**Friday, 26<sup>th</sup> September** at Saxton Hall, Aviation Way, Southend Airport. We are pleased to be holding our first luncheon. Guest speaker Jim Gallie will give an informed talk about Battlesbridge Antiques Centre and hold a table quiz with curios from bygone eras. Tickets are now on sale and will be available at the June meeting. The price is £17.50.

### **Christmas Lunch**

**Friday, 28<sup>th</sup> November** at Saxton Hall, Aviation Way, Southend Airport. Three course luncheon £19.50. Deposits of £5 are now being taken.

### **Mountbatten Festival of Music**

**Thursday, 19<sup>th</sup> February, 2009 at the Royal Albert Hall.**

Tickets for the event will be on sale on a first come, first served basis at the October meeting. Further details can be seen in the July Newsletter and will be available at the meeting.

It is anticipated that the total cost including coaching will be approximately £40-£45.

## **U3A NEWS**

**COPIES OF U3A NEWS – THE U3A QUARTERLY MAGAZINE –  
WILL BE AVAILABLE AT THIS MONTH'S MEETING  
PLEASE REMEMBER TO COLLECT  
YOUR COPY.**

**MATURE TIMES**  
The Voice of your generation

Copies of this free newspaper will be available each month at our meetings. This is an informative newspaper packed with interesting articles on Campaigns, news, entertainment and competitions.

WWW.MATURETIMES.CO.UK  
Available on line every fortnight, also available in large print

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*Please send items for inclusion in  
the October newsletter to:-*

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*To arrive no later than 15<sup>TH</sup> Sept, 2008*

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**RAYLEIGH U3A WEBSITE**

**[www.rayleighu3a.org.uk](http://www.rayleighu3a.org.uk)**

**THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH**

**Hope sees the invisible, feels the intangible and  
achieves the impossible**

**A little bit of nonsense to make you think :-**

**WHAT IS THE SPEED OF DARKNESS?**

**REMINDER:**

**The October meeting will be on Friday, 3rd October from 2-4 p.m. in Holy Trinity Church Hall. - Group Presentations - an opportunity to see our progress with many new groups.**

## CONTACTS

**Chairman:- Maureen Huntly - 01268 777398**

**E-mail - [Maureen@phuntly.freeserve.co.uk](mailto:Maureen@phuntly.freeserve.co.uk).**

**Membership Secretary:- Irene Carter - 01268 766149**

**E-mail - [efandicart@btinternet.com](mailto:efandicart@btinternet.com)**

**Group Co-ordinator:- Sue Taylor 01268 786405**

**E-mail - [susan.taylor106@tesco.net](mailto:susan.taylor106@tesco.net)**

**Newsletter editor;-Janet Carlton 01268 452791**

**E-mail - [janetcarlton@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:janetcarlton@blueyonder.co.uk)**

**Group Activities** - Please telephone Group Leaders to ascertain dates and venues of meetings.

<b>Group</b>	<b>Leader</b>	<b>Telephone No:</b>	<b>Place</b>	<b>How Often</b>
Acoustic Guitar	Vera Ward	01268 755040	House Meeting	Monthly
Art Appreciation	Kathleen Downs	01702 558558	House Meeting	Monthly
Art – Water Colours	Sylvia Lester	01268 774201	House Meeting	Monthly
Art – Water Colours II	David Taylor	01268 777952	House Meeting	Weekly
Bird Watching	Laurie Denney	01702 615370	Contact Laurie for details	Fortnightly
Book Reading	Joyce Green	01268 771263	Rayleigh Library	Monthly
Bridge/Whist	Barbara Hodge	01268 771820	Contact Barbara for details	Monthly
Cross Stitch & Crochet	Jackie Lewis	01245 401123	House Meeting	Monthly
Digital Photography – Beginners	Brian Kersey	01268 743959	Contact Brian for details	Monthly
Digital Photography – Advanced	Brian Kersey	01268 743959	Contact Brian for details	Monthly
Family History -Beginners	Terry Taylor	01268 786405	Initial Meeting June 2nd	Monthly
Family History I	Sue Taylor	01268 786405	House Meeting	Monthly
Family History II	Val Taylor	01702 206416	House Meeting	Monthly
Family History III	Barbara Dale	01268 772018	House Meeting	Monthly
Gardening	Heather Brickwood Linda Clarke	01268 743838 01702 204559	Contact Heather or Linda for details	Monthly
Language - French	Kathy Neville	01268 773099	Course begins 28 <sup>th</sup> May	Weekly
Scrabble	Margaret Bristow	TBC	TBC	Starting September
Scrapbooking	Janet Carlton	01268 452791	House Meeting	Monthly
Singing for Health & Pleasure	Marjorie Sale	01702 346175	Trinity Church	Restarting Sept
Sunday Luncheon Club	Maureen Goss	01268 777681	Various venues	Monthly
Ten Pin Bowling	Alan Hudson	01702 202158	CJ's Bowling Alley	Monthly
Theatre & Cinema	Jean MacKenzie	01268 510570	Call Jean for details	Various
Theatre & Cinema II	Helena Maxwell Maureen Euphrat	01268 772061 01268 778055	Call Helena or Maureen for details	Various
Visiting Essex Churches I	Marian Allen	01268 766149	St Mary at Latton and Baptist Chapel, Harlow	Monthly
Visiting Essex Churches II	Audrey Morris	01268 771644	Thaxted Church	Monthly
Visiting Essex Churches III	Brenda Perrott	01268 779590	St Mary's, Runwell	Monthly
Visiting Essex Churches IV	Liz Denney	01702 615370	TBC	
Walking	Roger Baker	01702 331166 mob: 07867 588879	To be advised	Monthly
Weekday Dining Group	June Morris	01702 527506	Various venues	Monthly
Wine Appreciation	Harry Brickwood	01268 743838	Guides Hall, Bulwood Approach, Hockley	Monthly