



WHAT ARE THEY UP TO? – See Page 6

THIS MONTH'S MEETING

Friday, 3rd September, 2010
2.00 pm - 4.00 pm

Simon Gilbert
"Another Opening, Another Show"

Rayleigh U3A Website – www.rayleighu3a.org.uk

Registered Charity No. 1134068

September 2010

ACTIVITY CALENDAR - SEPTEMBER 2010

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Art I - Water Colours Ceramics Visiting Essex Churches IV Family History (Beginners)	Bird Working Tai Chi Singing for Health & Pleasure	Art - Water & Oil Walking I	Serendipity II	U3A MONTHLY MEETING History I - (Local History) Lahn Yoga		
Visiting Essex Churches Group I Crib (evening)	Midweek Dining II Tai Chi Tea Pa Bowling Wise Appreciation (Evenings)	Art II - Water & Oil Aviation Crib Debating Drama Kaeli Ale Visiting Essex Churches V Family History II	Family History III History II - (Social) Scrapbooking	Yoga Lahn		Sunday Lunch I
Visiting Essex Churches II & III	Bird Working Digital Photography Dining Group II Tai Chi Singing for Health & Pleasure	Archaeology Art II - Water & Oil Calligraphy Music Appreciation Serendipity III	Art Appreciation Book Reading	Yoga Walking II		Sunday Lunch II
Scrabble	Dining Group I Tai Chi			Yoga		

PLEASE NOTE MEETINGS ARE IN THEIR REGULAR "DAY OF THE MONTH" SLOTS BUT DATES MAY VARY WITH SOME GROUPS - IF IN DOUBT CONTACT THE GROUP LEADER

Gardening: contact leader. Serendipity: contact leader - various dates each month. Local History: contact leader. Golf: contact leader. Theatre: contact leader - various dates each month - usually Friday.
This timetable is correct at time of printing but please always check with your group leader as to the date of your next meeting

FROM THE CHAIR

Dear Members,

Welcome back to the autumn programme for the Rayleigh U3A. I hope you have enjoyed the summer sunshine. This month we have our visit to the Chatham Dockyard – 40's Re-enactment Day - on 18th September, our second Quiz Night organised by Doris and Brian Lambert on Saturday 16th October and our third Anniversary Party on Saturday 23rd October. Tickets for the Quiz Night and Anniversary Party will be on sale at the September meeting. This year's Party will feature the celebrated 'Mayfair Band' and buffet by Adams Caterers. On 26th November is our visit to Bury St. Edmunds Annual Christmas Fayre and to round off our social calendar for 2010 we have our Christmas Lunch at Saxon Hall on Friday 3th December.

Our sincere thanks to Stella Lutterloch, Carol Shrubsole and Bob Lutterloch for organising the successful Quiz for twelve teams which raised over £200 for our funds.

On 14th July a group of us enjoyed a tour around the Southend Campus of Essex University organised by our President Marian Allen ably assisted by Terri Gouldsmith. We are hoping that this will be the beginning of a long lasting relationship with the University.

As you are aware we are half way through our year and it is of concern to myself and the Committee that the Secretary, Treasurer for the Main Account, Membership Secretary, Vice Chair and myself, Chair, will be standing down from our positions as Trustees on the Committee as we will have completed our three years term of office in April 2011. I would like you to consider members whom you feel could contribute to the future of our U3A by putting them forward for the above posts with the aim of them getting to know what the various roles entail.

As Chair I enjoy being a part of a successful U3A with a membership which has enthusiasm and vision and is not afraid to put forward ideas, plans and proposals to encourage others to try new things, take on the role of Group Leader or offer help where or when it is needed.

We want your help now to encourage those with the skills, expertise and knowledge who would be willing to fill these vacancies on the Committee next April. Please remember the future of our U3A is in your hands.

Sincerely

Maureen.

Chair - Rayleigh U3A

Chairman:- Maureen Huntly - 01268 777398

E-mail - Maureen@phuntly.freemove.co.uk.

Membership Secretary:- Irene Carter - 01268 766149

E-mail - efandicart@btinternet.com

Group Co-ordinator:- Sue Taylor 01268 786405

E-mail - susan.taylor106@tesco.net

Newsletter editors:-Janet & David Carlton 01268 452791

E-mail - janetcarlton@blueyonder.co.uk

GROUP LEADERS

Chairman, Maureen Huntly, 01268 777398

Vice Chair, Brian Kersey, 01268 743959

Secretary, Marian Allen, 01268 743339

Treasurer I, Fred Carter, 01268 766149

Treasurer II, Peter Walker, 01702 202225

Membership, Irene Carter, 01268 766149

Group Coordinator, Sue Taylor, 01268 786405

Newsletter Editors, David, Janet Carlton, 01268 452791

Social Secretary, Laurie Denney, 01702 615370

Speaker Secretary, Janet Carlton, 01268 452791

Other Committee: June Morris, 01255 470884;

Frank & Doreen Bodey, 01268 733616;

Pete Huntly, 01268 777398; Terry Gouldsmith, 01268 562803;

Barbara Hodge, 01268 771820; Ian Haynes, 01268 779749

Groups/Group Leaders:

Acoustic Guitar, Vera Ward, 01268 775040

Archaeology, Ian Haynes, 01268 779749

Art Appreciation, Barbara Curry, 01268 775460

Art I – Water Colours, Sylvia Lester, 01268 774201

Art II – Water & Oils, David Taylor, 01268 777952

Aviation, Phil Gendall, 01268 750324

Bird Watching, Laurie Denney, 01702 615370

Book Reading I, Joyce Green, 01268 771263

Book Reading II, Doreen Blake, 01268 774871

Calligraphy, Irene Tyson, 01268 742942

Ceramics, Brenda Perrott, 01268 779590

Crib Club, David Sheffield, 01268 743586

Digital Photography, Brian Kersey, 01268 743959

Dining Group I, June Morris, 01255 470884

Dining Group II, Marion & Laurie Wrentham, 01702 555783

Drama, Joanne Baker, 01268 742252

Family History:

Beginners, Terry Taylor, 01268 786405

Family History I, Sue Taylor, 01268 786405

Family History II, Pete Huntly, 01268 777398

Family History III, Barbara Dale, 01268 772018

Gardening, Heather Brickwood, 01268 743838, & Linda Clarke, 01702 204559

Golf, Kay Nevin, 01268 780855

History I – Local, Heather Flenings, 01702 204943

History, David Fryer-Kelsey, 01702 203455

Social History, David Carlton, 01268 452791

Holiday, Brian Kersey, 01268 743959, & Barbara Dale, 01268 772018

Industrial Awareness, Janet Carlton, 01268 452791

Keep Fit, Janet Carlton, 01268 452791

Latin, Dave Filby, 01268 770023

Music Appreciation, Les Geales, 01702 206966

Scrabble, Margaret Bristow, 01268 747639

Scrapbooking, Janet Carlton, 01268 452791

Serendipity I, Linda & David Clarke, 01702 204559

Serendipity II, Pam & Keith Dunt, 01702 201747

Serendipity III, Pat & John Pomfrett, 01702 230253

Singing for Health & Pleasure, Joanne Baker, 01268 346175

Sunday Lunch Club I, Maureen Goss, 01268 777681

Sunday Lunch Club II, Sue Barrows, 01268 776775

Tai Chi (J), Sue Taylor, 01268 786405

Ten Pin Bowling, Bob Wren, 01702 525311

Theatre, Jean Mackenzie, 01268 510570, & Helena Maxwell, 01268 772061

Visiting Essex Churches:

Group I, Marian Allen, 01268 743339

Group II, Audrey Morris, 01268 771644

Group III, Brenda Perrott, 01268 779590

Group IV, Liz Denney, 01702 615370

Group V (J), Maureen Turner, 01268 750967

Visiting Historic Places, Doris & Brian Lambert, 01702 528252

Walking I, Roger Baker, 01702 331166 / 07867 588879

Walking II, Les Poole, 01268 773174

Wine Appreciation, Harry Brickwood, 01268 743838

Yoga, Suzanne Middleton, 01702 55738

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Saturday, 18th September – Chatham Dockyard – Tickets now on sale - £13

Saturday, 16th October – Quiz Night – Tickets now on sale - £3

Saturday, 23rd October – Third Anniversary Celebration – Tickets now on sale - £12

Friday, 26th November – Bury St. Edmunds Christmas Fayre *Tickets all sold*

Wed. 20th April & Wed. 11th May – Olympic London II – Tickets on sale at October meeting - £35

PLEASE NOTE

FOR THIS MONTH ONLY PLEASE SEND ANY ITEMS FOR INCLUSION IN THE NEXT NEWSLETTER TO IAN HAYNES BY 15th SEPTEMBER

DETAILS IN BOX BELOW

FOR THIS MONTH ONLY

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

Ian Haynes
26a Bull Lane,
Rayleigh, SS6 8JD
ian@bertemcam.me.uk

To arrive no later than
15th September, 2010

NATIONAL OFFICE

19 East Street, Bromley, Kent
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Tel: 02084666139

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Web site: www.u3a.org.uk

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resource.centre@u3a.org.uk

Next Month

Friday, 1st October, 2010

2.00 pm – 4.00 pm

Annual Group Presentations

Group Co-ordinator's News

Serendipity III

This group is now up and running thanks to Pat and John Pomfrett.

Tai Chi

For those of you interested in finding out more about Tai Chi there will be a free "taster" session on the 9th September. This will take place in Rayleigh (venue TBA) and will be for one hour. A list will be available at the September meeting for you to add your name if you would like to come along to find out more,

Book Reading II

Marian Allen will be starting this group in October. Please add your name to the list available at the September meeting if you are interested. The date of the initial meeting will be announced at the meeting.

Family History II

Pete Huntly has kindly volunteered to start a new group to replace Val and Vic Taylor. This will be held on the 4th Wednesday of each month. The initial meeting will be held on the 22nd September. Please contact Pete if you would like to join his group. Members with little or no knowledge will be welcome. Please call Pete on 01268 777398 as places are limited.

Scrapbooking

If you are interested in "Scrapping" or any other related paper craft please call Janet Carlton on 01268 452791. Janet is hoping to extend the amount and types of crafts available to our U3A members. Cardmaking is the latest craft available so please let her know if you are interested in joining in. Members with little or no experience are welcome. As with Scrapbooking, occasional workshops will be arranged and members will learn from each other. Meetings held 3rd Thursday each month at Clay Cottage.

The first venture which will hopefully extend the amount of crafts available to our members is for those of you who may be interested in learning Beadcraft.

A small group is already interested and the first meeting for an introduction to this craft is being held on 7th September. Please call Janet or add your name to the list at the September meeting if you would like to know more or if there are any other crafts you might like to learn.

Industrial Awareness

Another new group Janet Carlton has offered to start later this year is Industrial Awareness. Visits will be organised just 4 times a year with the visits generally being arranged on a Friday. If you would like to join this group or would like to know more please contact Janet on 01268 452791 or add your name to the list

available at the September meeting. A number of people have already shown an interest in this group but due to the nature of places which will be visited, a maximum of 20 people will have to be fixed for the amount in the group. A waiting list for a second Industrial Awareness Group will be started if necessary.

Keep Fit

We are hoping to start this group very shortly. The Keep Fit class will be run by a professional trainer qualified, in particular, to teach and train people with health problems. e.g. heart, high blood pressure, mobility etc. but anyone is welcome to join in. Please add your name to the list available at the September meeting to enable us to see if there are enough members to make this a viable group. Contact Janet Carlton on 01268 452791 to find out more.

Group Presentations

The October meeting will be our annual Group Presentation Meeting. Where possible all our groups will be displaying details about their group and will be available to answer questions about their particular subject. I'm looking forward to lots of participation from all our members.

Group Leaders Pack

A sub committee will be formed later this year to update the pack. Group Leaders have already been sent a Membership Details form to be added to their Pack. This will now include **ICE** contact details. i.e. a number of a relative, neighbour or close friend who your group leader could contact **In Case of Emergencies**.

Sue Taylor

Group Co-ordinator

01268 786405 email: susan.taylor106@tesco.net

NEWS FROM OUR GROUP LEADERS

THEATRE GROUP

July was a quiet month for us. On September 30th a large group of us are going to London to see "Warhorse". Would all members who are going to this performance please come to collect your tickets from Helena in the Underspire room either prior to the meeting or during the break. Sandra Wilson has kindly obtained some tickets for some of our members to attend a live performance of "Loose Women" at the T.V Studios on 2nd.

November, and she will contact people. Perhaps some of us will be seen on TV! The "Carols by Candlelight" concert at the Royal Albert Hall on the 18th December is now fully booked. This should be a perfect start to Christmas.

A REMINDER TO ALL THEATRE GROUP MEMBERS – OUR NEXT MEETING IS ON FRIDAY 22ND OCTOBER AT 10.30 A.M. IN THE CLOISTERS ROOM, TRINITY HALL.

Jean Mackenzie – 01268 510570

Helena Maxwell – 01268 772061

Some visits and events to look forward to

Quiz Night

Tickets are now on sale for the Quiz Night arranged for Saturday, 16th October. Maximum of 8 per team and is not restricted to U3A members. Bring your own drinks and nibbles. Tickets are £3 on sale at the ticket desk. Please see or contact Doris and Brian Lambert for further details – 01702 528252.

Lee Valley Olympic London - II Tours

TWO DATES FOR 2011: 20th APRIL, 2011 & 11th MAY, 2011

Following this year's popular Olympic London Tours, arrangements have been made for two more tours next Spring to see how the development is progressing.

We will meet the guide at 10.30am to buy morning refreshments at the ExCel Exhibition Centre in London's Royal Docks (which will host the boxing, judo, wrestling, table tennis and weightlifting events). We will then re-join the coach and visit the viewing point at the Olympic Park (as per previous visits).

We will then drive to Waltham Abbey for lunch where legend tells us King Harold was buried following his defeat at Hastings.

After lunch we drive past the site of the 2012 canoe and kayak events and board a boat at Broxbourne for a gentle 90 minute cruise through the Lee Valley Park. A cream tea will be served which is included in the tour price.

Please note that morning coffee and lunch are not included in the price.

Price - £35 - includes coach fare, guide, boat trip, cream tea and gratuities.

Tickets will go on sale at the October meeting and as usual will be on a first come, first served basis.

PLEASE NOTE WE MUST SELL 36 SEATS ON THE FIRST COACH BEFORE WE CAN RELEASE PLACES ON THE SECOND ONE.

Liz and Laurie Denney – 01702 615370

Anniversary Celebration

Tickets are now on sale to celebrate Rayleigh U3A's Third Anniversary. It has been booked for Saturday 23rd October and will be held at Rayleigh Grange Hall with a buffet and live band included in the price of £12 per ticket. For further details please ask at the ticket desk in the Underspire Room.

Other visits and events are being considered for the future and you will be notified as soon as more details are known.

“FAMILY HISTORY I” AND “BEGINNERS FAMILY HISTORY”

I started the Family History Group with very little knowledge of how to trace my ancestors but by sharing knowledge with other members of this group we have all become very successful in doing just that.

It began when I took early retirement almost 5 years ago. Both Family History Groups were full in the Basildon and Billericay U3A and their Group Co-ordinator suggested I become a group leader and run my own group. This horrified me at the time as I knew nothing about the subject!! However, I took the plunge and started. When Rayleigh U3A was formed, some of the group moved from Basildon and Billericay U3A and we had several new members join who are still part of the group.

My husband, Terry, followed suit and became very interested in tracing his ancestors. He has been very successful in tracing them back to the early 1800's and beyond. He then decided to start a Beginners Group to share his knowledge with other members who are interested and want to start tracing their families.

Both groups are still going strong and meet on the first Monday of each month sharing knowledge and learning more ways of getting to the hidden secrets we have all found during our investigations.

As well as our regular monthly meetings we have visited various records offices etc., such as the Essex Record Office at Chelmsford, British Newspaper Library and the London Metropolitan Archives. These visits have helped all our members gain even more information and members of the two groups are looking forward to a visit to Kew some time in the near future.

Sue & Terry Taylor, Group Leaders – Family History

OPEN GARDEN ON BEHALF OF FAIRHAVENS

Linda and David would like to thank the Latin, Archaeology and Serendipity I groups and friends for their support for the Fairhavens Charity. We raised £110.50 on the 29th and 30th June and this was duly handed over to the Hockley Branch on the 5th July. The sun shone, the tea flowed, and a great deal of chatting was undertaken with great enthusiasm. All in all two lovely days

Linda and David Clarke.

PLEASE NOTE - Christmas Cards and Calendars

Joanne Baker, Rayleigh U3A Drama Group Leader, will be selling Calendars and Christmas Cards on behalf of Holy Trinity Church in the foyer during the refreshment break at the September meeting. Calendars cost £5.50 each or two for £10.00 including envelopes and the theme is "Rayleigh through the seasons". Proceeds from the sale will go towards the restoration of Holy Trinity Church Tower. Please contact Joanne on 01268 742252 for further information.

2011 U3A Diaries

The diaries have now arrived and will be on sale at the September meeting. If you have ordered one please go to the information desk to collect and pay for your diary. There are a few additional diaries for sale and more can be ordered.

Gardening Group

The garden outings during the summer saw us visiting a total of 10 gardens. All were contrasting sizes, design and types of flora. We started at Tudor Roost, close to Fingringhoe, where there was a large selection of plants, many of which were climbers of many different colours. On the same day we visited the Beth Chatto garden, famous for its dry garden. Most members took advantage of the large plant sales area so the coach was heavily laden with plants on the journey home.

Our next outing was to West Hanningfield Hall, very much a country garden with fine borders and lovely views. Next was my own garden, lots of colour and only a short distance for members to travel.

Early August saw us heading to Norfolk for a short holiday where we visited five very different gardens. Our first garden on Sunday was Gable House at Redisham. This is very much a plantsman's garden with thousands of plants in hundreds of varieties. Our next stop was Corpusty Mill a large garden with wonderful lawns, splendid shrubs and trees and many interesting features. We then moved on to The Exotic garden. This is in the middle of Norwich and is landlocked so the owner can only open on Sundays when the offices which border the garden are closed. There were numerous tropical plants, interesting nooks and crannies plus a very large tree house on top of an oak tree in which there were tables and chairs and a bedroom. We then moved on to our hotel, Dunstan Hall, which received as many compliments from members as the gardens.

We were all up bright and early on the Monday and our first garden was a surprise. Norfolk is known for its flat countryside, but this garden, Lake House, exploded that myth as from the terrace there was a series of large ponds with waterfalls going down a gradient of about

1 in 2, to feed a very large lake. The whole area spread across many acres. From here

we were off to an excellent lunch at The Olive Branch and then on to The Old Vicarage garden at East Ruston. Without doubt this is one of the best gardens in England. Four full time gardeners plus four part time and, of course, the two owners ensure that it always looks immaculate.

Last but not least we visited Buckingham Palace gardens on the 31st of August.

Heather Brickwood – 012678 565478

Gardening Group – Slide Shows

**“WOODLAND THROUGH
THE SEASONS”**

Monday, 25th October, 1-4 pm

Cloister Rooms, Trinity Hall.

£2.50 Tea and biscuits included

The Garden Slide Shows start again in October and I will be happy to take your £2.50 at the next meeting on the 3rd September. Barry Kaufmann-Wright has been asked back again as he was so popular last year and I am sure he will be just as interesting this year. The show is open to all Rayleigh U3A members.

Linda Clarke - 01702 204559

10 Pin Bowling

It was great to be back with the tenpin bowling group in July. It seemed a long time since I have been with my wonderful friends. As far as the bowling is concerned, I think I am correct in saying that, while I was away, a first time winner was Vera Henderson. Other winners were Brian Lambert and Graham Godfrey. Our next meeting will be on the 14th September

at CJS Bowling Centre, Hockley, at 2pm.

Alan Hudson – 01702 202158

Serendipity Group II

On 1st July 19 members from our Group

went on a "Front of House" tour at the Royal Albert Hall. When we arrived, tea/coffee and biscuits were waiting for us which were most welcome after our train journey plus the fact that it was a very warm day.

After refreshments, our tour began with our guide, Andrew. We were given an extensive look at the Hall's Front of House areas and the opportunity to view the magnificent auditorium from the comfort of a private box as well as being given exclusive access to the Royal Family's private suite, the Royal Retiring Room. Whilst on our tour we were able to sit listening to an organ rehearsal preparing for the evening concert. During the tour Andrew told us he had worked as a Steward at the Albert Hall for 31 years and told us some fascinating stories about some of the famous people he had met. The tour itself was superb and Andrew was an excellent guide. We all thoroughly enjoyed the tour.

After our tour we went to Hyde Park and sat on the grass near Diana's Memorial Fountain. We had a picnic lunch under the shade of the trees and a few of us dangled our feet in the Fountain to cool down. This was a very enjoyable day out.

Our next trip is on Thursday 2nd September to the Household Cavalry Museum.

Pam and Keith Dunt – 01702 201747

Visiting Historic Places

With regard to the newly formed "VISITING HISTORIC PLACES GROUP", the first visit will be to Coalhouse Fort, Tilbury and not Tilbury Fort as previously mentioned in the July newsletter.

Doris & Brian Lambert – 01702 528252

Scrabble

The Scrabble Group will now be meeting

on the second Wednesday afternoon each month at 2 pm. If anyone is interested in joining us please contact Margaret Bristow for more details and the venue.

Margaret Bristow - 01268 747 639 or mabristow@talktalk.net

Archaeology Group

This summer we returned to the Rochford Hundred Field Archaeology Group site at Noak Hill, near Harold Hill. Some of us trowelled away in the trench while the rest of us absorbed ourselves in "potwashing" – i.e. cleaning the things that had been found to reveal all their colours and details in order to identify them. Tea and coffee flowed and we ate quite a few biscuits and homemade pieces of cake to keep us going!!

It did decide to pour with rain. In fact the heavens opened (see photo on front of Newsletter featuring Yvonne Byford, Peg Foster and Norma Thompson) but not before one of our members had found a copper Charles 1st Rose Farthing, later dated to 1644 and the only coin found on the site causing a great deal of excitement.

Archaeology Appeal!

How would you like a 1m square trench dug in your garden to find out what is there? We are looking for a place to dig another trench in September or October and we'd be in and out in one day. Before we left we would backfill the trench and return the ground to how we found it. Anything that came up would be yours, not ours and we would produce a written report for you on what we had found. How about it? If you think you might be interested, please contact me or any member of the Archaeology group.

Ian Haynes - 01268 779749

HEADLINES AND ACTIVITIES

UPDATE ON OUR SISTER U3As

Rayleigh Grange U3A celebrated their first year in June with a celebratory lunch at Saxon Hall. Their Committee has gone from strength to strength and they now have two hundred Members. They meet on the first Wednesday of each month from 2pm until 4pm. Their membership is closed until their year end when new applications will be considered.

Hullbridge U3A – Members enjoyed two meetings in June and July and have an enthusiastic Steering Committee with plans in place for an interesting programme of speakers and events planned for the coming months starting again in September. They meet at Hullbridge Community Centre on the third Tuesday in each month except August and December from 1.15 pm until 3.15 pm.

Hadleigh U3A – A group of people from Hadleigh have formed a Steering Committee and are planning to hold their first U3A meeting at the Hadleigh Baptist Church on the first Monday in October from 1.30 pm until 3.30 pm.

More news next month – **Maureen Huntly**

NEW THIS MONTH

Group Profile of the Month

Starting this month we are starting a feature which will highlight some of the various interest groups within Rayleigh U3A. The first of our groups to be featured follows overleaf. We hope you will enjoy reading and learning more about the interest groups which are at the centre of our U3A.