



Rayleigh News

University of The Third Age

Newsletter No.18

SUMMER EDITION

July 2009

FROM THE CHAIR

This is a special 'Summer Edition' of our newsletter full of interesting ideas and information to fill the months ahead. **Due to holidays etc. this will be the last newsletter until October.**

Picnic blankets and cool boxes are being dusted off now the long-awaited rise in temperature has arrived. So, as Harry, our own wine expert would say, find yourself some lightly flavoured whites and reds to match the subtle flavour of picnic quiches and cucumber sandwiches and more robustly-flavoured wines to help wash down the heartier flavours of sausage rolls and Ginsters Cornish pasties. Enjoy your special days out in the local park, on Southend seafront or further afield.

The Retirement Show takes place on 17/18th July at London Olympia's Grand Hall. The show has free entry with over 100 exhibitors offering a variety of products and services for retirees including free trial sessions of Tai Chi, Yoga or Pilates. There are cookery, make-up and dancing demonstrations. Have your blood pressure checked in the Health Zone or turn your hand to making something in the Craft Zone. Your questions answered by panels in the presentation sessions. Plenty to do all day and it is free!

Remember you can buy a Senior Railcard that will entitle you to one third off rail fares and when you travel to London you can use your free Bus Pass to travel around the city sights.

If you are interested in finding out about U3A Online courses then look on the website for details. Tutored courses have specific start dates such as 'The Night Sky' starting 13th July; 'China in Transition from Mao to Now' 3rd August or maybe 'Genealogy Online' on 17th August. Cost is £15 for an eight week tutored course and £8 for untutored courses from a range of subjects such as Antarctica, Autobiography & Journaling, Digital Imaging, Food for Thought, Garden History and Genealogy to name but a few.

'The Mature Times' which we have available each month at our meetings is circulated throughout the whole of U.K. Please send in snippets of information that might be of help to all readers. This is a great broadcasting platform for 'Awareness'. Remember to add your U3A contact details or our national office website for more information about U3A. www.u3a.org.uk

Whatever you do, have fun and enjoy yourselves.

Maureen

Chair Rayleigh U3A



Rayleigh News

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Group Co-ordinators News

The Tai Chi Society have kindly offered to repeat the demonstration they gave in May for members who were unable attend. I will keep you informed of the date. RRAVS have also agreed to fund the second session for us.

There are a number of groups in the "melting pot" at the moment and I hope to report on them in October. In the meantime carry on enjoying your groups and if you would like further information on our interest groups please contact the relevant group leaders or give me a call.

Sue Taylor – Group Co-ordinator – 01268 786405

NEWS FROM OUR GROUP LEADERS

Local History Group

Local History Group – "Camulodunum" to Colchester on 23rd July 10.30 a.m. One of the best ways to find out more about the dramatic events that have taken place in Colchester is to take a guided walking tour. The tour takes you through Castle Park, the Dutch Quarter and the High St., only minutes away from each other but each with a very different story to tell.

To book please 'phone or come to the desk at the July meeting. There are four places left.

Heather Flemmings - 01702 204943

Wine Appreciation

We meet once a month on a Tuesday evening, when we sample four whites and four reds.

The samples are very small, we get 20 out of one bottle.

Our next meeting is on Tuesday the 14th July starting at 7.30pm.

If you are interested in joining we maybe able to squeeze you in, please contact

Harry Brickwood 01268-743838

Just to remind members the next meetings are

14 July

No meeting in August

September date will be advised at the July meeting

Meetings are at the Guides Hall, Hockley with a 7.30 start.

Holiday Group

'Northern Lights' 2010

On June 15th we had a successful presentation by Hurtigruten who will be our agents for this trip. 28 people attended the presentation and were pleasantly surprised by the diversity and quality of the packages offered.

Decisions will be made very shortly on which 2 itineraries will be chosen. Both will have the same starting date with 2 lengths of journey (both will spend time beyond the Arctic Circle) which will give us the maximum chance of seeing the Northern Lights at a time of increasing day length and hopefully clear nights.

Our ship will travel by day and night calling at small communities on a journey North or South depending on which one you choose. There will be **NO Single Supplements**

If you would like to join us on this exciting adventure please ring
BRIAN KERSEY on **01268 743959 for more details**

I intend to close the list by the middle of July so be quick.

At the moment the list is growing daily but with no limits on numbers as yet.

Serendipity - "Good luck in making unexpected and fortunate discoveries"

On 14th May our group visited the magnificent Wallace Collection displayed in the superb surroundings of Hertford House which was the London townhouse of Sir Richard Wallace until his widow bequeathed the house and the collection to the Nation in 1897.

The wonderful works of art were collected in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries by the first four Marquesses of Hertford and Richard Wallace, son of the fourth Marquess.

Coffee and homemade cookies awaited our arrival and we took our refreshment with the actor John Standing at an adjacent table. He was apparently in cabaret at a local hotel.

We had a delightful and highly knowledgeable American lady to guide us around some of the finest exhibits. At an early stage a man of Eastern European origin attached himself to our group but after many black looks he was eventually informed that having paid £6 each for the tour his inclusion for free was not welcome.

We saw paintings by Titian, Rembrandt, Hals (The Laughing Cavalier) and Velazquez. We also saw superb furniture by Boulle, the finest museum collection of Sevres porcelain in the World, Limoges enamels, majolica glass and bronzes and too much more to mention.

The house itself features beautiful rooms with period fireplaces, clocks, chandeliers and decorated ceilings. We enjoyed a light (and very good) lunch of quiche and salad in the stylish restaurant and many washed it down with a glass or two of wine.

Our thanks to John Harrison for leading this trip and organizing everything so efficiently.

Kensington Palace - Thursday 16th July 2009 (Led by Harry Brickwood)

Please collect your information/instruction sheet from the Serendipity desk. There will also be a menu available as you will need to select your lunch in the Orangery.

Group Meeting - Thursday 13th August 2009 10.30 a.m. to 12.30 p.m.

Yew Tree Room, Holy Trinity Parish Rooms

The venue for this meeting has changed from Stratford House to Holy Trinity as above. The format will be firstly a discussion on possible visits for the next 6 months to March 2010 with a show of hands to indicate interest. Secondly a break for tea/coffee and biscuits. Finally, Brian Kersey has volunteered to give a slide show on the subject of Darwin as a forerunner to the Darwin connections in our September 10th visit to the Natural History Museum (info leaflets on the trip will be available at this meeting). Would all main group members please attend if at all possible. Your input is really important. There will be a small charge of approx. £1.30 to cover the hire of the hall and the refreshments.

Anticipated dates for your diary:-

Natural History Museum and Darwin Centre - Thursday 10th September

The Mansion House and St Mary le Bow - Thursday 8th October

Sorry that the proposed trip to the London Zoo had to be cancelled at such short notice due to the tube strike. We do hope that those who intended going were not too disappointed.

Linda & David Clarke 01702 204559/ 07941 813650 e-mail - clarked46@talktalk.net

Gardening Group

Garden Report for July onwards

Furzelea 8th June

Almost 30 members made the short journey to Danbury to visit Avril and Roger Cole-Jones lovely garden. This garden of almost 1 acre is a country garden packed with plants for colour and scent; the David Austin roses were looking superb. The large circular main lawn is surrounded by very large borders which contain many perennials which were in flower. The large thatched summerhouse stood out as the late afternoon sun acted like a spot light on it. Tea and cakes were all home made and delicious; there was also wine.

Glen Chantry 19th June

Wol & Sue Staines have been gardening here since 1976 and slowly the 3 acre site has been transformed into one of the best gardens in Essex. It is now at the peak of its maturity, magnificent and impeccably maintained. The design is both elegant and rather informal, with lawns swooping around beds massed with the rare and the unusual. Plants with different requirements thrive in a variety of carefully cultivated habitats thus creating a very wide range of flowers. Our party of 40 members thoroughly enjoyed the visit and many went on to lunch at the Benton Hall Golf Club which is just a few minutes away.

GARDEN VISITS

Garden visits are open to all members of the Rayleigh U3A

July – Monday 6th Visit to RHS Garden at Wisley, This has been fully booked for some time

August	Garden visit	Thatched Cottage	Entry £4.00
Monday 10 th 2pm	You need to book	Billericay	Includes refreshments

Linda Clarke 01702-204559
Slide Shows/RHS London Shows

Heather Brickwood 01268-743838
Garden Visits/Days out/Holidays

A separate list giving full details of Garden Visits/Gardens Open is available at the U3A monthly meetings.
Bookings should be made at the “Gardening Desk” at the monthly U3A meetings

ORCHARD COTTAGE

219, Hockley Road, Rayleigh.

Opposite the blue and white “Hockley” sign

Open 11am-5pm Refreshments available plus Plants for Sale

This is Heather & Harry’s garden and on the **19th of July** is open to the public for the NGS Charity

There is no need for you to book for this garden, just turn up.

Digital Photography Group

The July Meeting will be **Seeing the Seals** by boat from Wallasea to the sandbanks in the mouth of the river Crouch. To date, I do not have a date or times for July sailings to hand but if you would like to go please ring me on 01268 743959.

You don’t have to be a member of the Digital Group to come.

Cost is about £15 a head

August Meeting is to arranged so please keep in touch as there is no Newsletter in August and this is your only contact, so **down to you to be interested and ring me for any queries and details.**

Brian Kersey on 01268 743959

Theatre Group

On the 19th May a large group of us went to the Globe Theatre in London for a tour and exhibition. We had a wonderful and interesting day. We had a lovely young man as our guide who made it all so interesting that we felt inspired to attend a play. After our tour we went for lunch after which we strolled around the exhibition which kept us absorbed for the afternoon. 12 members are going to see "Singing in the rain" at the Cliffs Pavilion on the 24th June and of course we have "Evita" (which will be booked shortly) at the Cliffs, "The Lion King" and our overnight trip to Thursford for the Christmas Spectacular in November. All this to look forward to. As for next year, ideas in consideration are to see "Mamma Mia" in London next Spring, hopefully a trip to the Globe for a Shakespeare Play in the Summer, a visit to The Mill at Sonning for the Dinner theatre, and of course an Agatha Christie play at the Palace Theatre as well as other local trips.

Lots of lovely possible things to go and see. However, we would urge any current members who do not wish to participate to please let Helena and I know, as we do have a waiting list of prospective keen members.

Jean Mackenzie - 01268 510570

Helena Maxwell - 01268 772061

Singing for Health and Pleasure

Singing for Health and Pleasure starts up again weekly every Tuesday for 10 weeks starting on Tuesday, 1st September. Venue and time to be confirmed. Please contact Majorie Sale for further details.

Marjorie Sale - 01702 346175

“Have your say”

We are holding our first meeting on Wednesday 16th September at 2pm. All those interested in coming to the initial meeting to get the group off the ground please contact Maureen Huntly or Eileen Harrold.

The idea of the group is to bring along up-to-date newspaper snippets/articles of your choice for the group to discuss. There will be no heated arguments but plenty of differing points of view. We are hoping to hold the monthly meetings in a pub of our choice, enjoy a snack meal together then ‘have our say’ about stories we would like to discuss. So please ring now and book your place in the group. Numbers will be limited.

Maureen Huntly – 01268 510570

Eileen Harrold – 01268 772061

Please remember to look on the Notice Board in the Underspire Room for any further news/ photos and other group information.

HEADLINES FROM THE EDITORIAL TEAM

Last Month's Monthly Meeting

Our speaker last month was Paula Short who gave a fascinating talk on her travels to Argentina. On her travels she visited Buenos Aires and gave an account of a city full of vitality and astounding contrasts. Paula continued by showing slides of her holiday as she travelled north where she rode horses and encountered the gauchos, the iconic Argentinean cowboys. She finally held us spellbound by showing slides of the Iguazu Falls.

The falls are awesome and almost fade Niagara and Victoria Falls into insignificance. There are 270 falls spread over 2 miles and divide Argentina and Brazil.

Paula's talk was interesting, awe inspiring and humorous and she ended by telling of her experience when visiting a nightclub to see a demonstration of the Argentinean Tango. She told of high leg swishing and stamping feet and left most of us feeling happy just imagining ourselves "swishing" our ankles!!

Volunteers

I would like to extend my thanks to all the volunteers. No matter what is requested of you there is no hesitation in helping. Rayleigh U3A really appreciates your help. If there are any other members willing to volunteer please add your name to the list at the information desk or see or telephone me.

Thanks a lot - June Morris - 01702 527506

I would also like to offer my thanks to our volunteers. In particular, Sheila Beaney who so gallantly and efficiently coped with the Apsley House "rush" for tickets to Apsley House at our last meeting. Thank you Sheila-I really appreciated your help!! - Janet Carlton

Parking at Holy Trinity

Please remember to always display a **U3A Car Park Card** on the dashboard of your car when parking in the Church Car Park for our monthly meetings. If the car park is full please use the Council Car Parks. If you do not have a **U3A Car Park Card** please ask for one from Brian Kersey, Vice Chair of Rayleigh U3A.

The Holy Trinity Car Park is only be used by our members when attending a Meeting held at Holy Trinity. If you are attending a meeting at Stratford House or another venue in Rayleigh you are **not allowed** to use the Holy Trinity Car Park. Please adhere to these requests from the Rector. Thank you.

U3A - Nationally - "What's going on?"

U3A Summer Schools - For more information see Notice Board or contact
Eileen Harrold, Secretary, on 01268 775911

For other U3A National and Regional news see the Notice Board

Our new Notice Board is now in use at monthly meetings. Full details of any courses etc. going on nationally or regionally within the U3A will be posted on the Notice Board under the heading "**U3A - National and Regional News**". There is always something new going on so be sure to look on the board.

U3A Conference/AGM at Heriot-Watt, Edinburgh, 3rd-5th September

The Annual U3A Conference/AGM is to be held in Edinburgh this year and Rayleigh U3A is looking to send a representative from our Committee to attend on behalf of the membership.

Some visits and events to look forward to

Rayleigh U3A - Autumn Visit - Apsley House

As the response for places to visit Apsley House was so overwhelming at our June monthly meeting and so many members were disappointed in being unable to obtain places for the visit on 1st October, a second visit has been booked for Thursday, 15th October. Those members who placed their name on the reserve list for the 1st October visit have been contacted and most have booked and secured a place for 15th October. Tickets are still available for the second visit on 15th October and will be on sale at the monthly meeting on 3rd July and as always will be on a first come first served basis.

Full details of the visit will be posted on the Notice Board. The cost will be £25 including coach, driver and guide's gratuity.

If you would like to go to Apsley House and are unable to attend the meeting and as there will be no monthly meeting until 5th September and no newsletter until October please telephone Janet Carlton - 012568 456791.

Rayleigh U3A/Rayleigh Grange U3A - Joint Anniversary Celebration

Following the announcement last month that a joint anniversary celebration is to happen at The Grange Community Centre, Little Wheatleys on Saturday, 17th October we are pleased to announce the final details.

ANNIVERSARY PARTY

To include music and entertainment by Frank Sinatra Tribute Singer

Buffet supper Bar available

Saturday, 17th October - 8p.m - midnight

TICKETS £10

Tickets will be on sale at the July, September and October Meetings

Rayleigh U3A/Rayleigh Grange U3A - Christmas Lunch

CHRISTMAS LUNCH 2009 - FRIDAY 4TH DECEMBER.

12 p.m. for 12.30p.m

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

Tickets £21.50

To include, Three course meal with tea, coffee and mince pies. Free raffles & musical entertainment & tips for waiting staff.

Tickets will be on sale at the October Meetings

Lunch with Antiques Expert

LUNCH WITH ANTIQUES EXPERT - Friday, 29th January, 2010

Mark Stacey of Stacey's Auctions, Leigh-on-Sea
At Saxon Hall, Aviation Way, Southend-on-Sea, SS2 6UN

On Friday 29th January, 2010 - 12.00 p.m for 12.30p.m

Tickets £15

2 course meal to include tea, coffee & mints. Tip for waiting staff included in ticket price.

Your chance to bring along a small item of interest. Mark Stacey will chat to us about some of the items and you will have the opportunity to ask him questions.

Tickets will be on sale at the October Meetings

Coach Holiday to the West Country - 26th/30th April, 2010

A five day holiday is being organised by our U3A for the period 26th./30th. April 2010 staying at the 3-star Arnos Manor Hotel, Bristol, on a dinner, bed and breakfast basis. Excursions will be made each day by coach, including visits to Wells, Cheddar Gorge, Clifton, ss. Great Britain, Malmesbury and the National Trust properties at Tyntesfield and Stourhead, accompanied on three of the days by a Blue Badge guide. The cost is £265 per person (with a £45 supplement for single rooms, and a £20 reduction for National Trust members). Partners and friends are welcome to accompany members, but single accommodation will be available strictly for members only as availability is very limited. The holiday is being organised on behalf of our U3A by Roger Baker and he will provide full information on request and at the July meeting. Bookings will be taken on a 'first come, first served' basis at the July meeting and should be accompanied by a £25 per person deposit (payable by cheque in favour of Rayleigh U3A). This promises to be a very interesting holiday in a lovely part of the English countryside with visits arranged to a variety of attractions which even if you have been there before warrant another visit. It is not a walking holiday, but obviously walking is involved if you are to get the most out of the sightseeing that will be done.

Roger Baker - 01702 331166

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

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Thursday, 1st October - Apsley House – fully booked

Thursday, 15th October – Apsley House - Tickets on sale in Main Hall to the left of the Speaker's Chair – July and October meeting.
OR 'phone Janet Carlton - 01268 452791

Saturday, 17th October – Rayleigh U3A/Rayleigh Grange U3A Joint Anniversary
Celebration

Tickets on sale in the Main Hall to the left of the Speaker's Chair
for Rayleigh U3A tickets or at Rayleigh Grange monthly meetings
OR 'phone Janet Carlton – 01268 452791

Friday, 4th December - Rayleigh U3A/Rayleigh Grange U3A Christmas Lunch
Tickets go on sale at the October meetings.

Friday, 29th January, 2010 - Lunch with Antiques Expert
Tickets go on sale at the October meetings.

September Meeting - Friday, 4th

September

2.00 p.m. - 4.00 p.m.

**Maureen Scollan - "The History
of Policewomen**

October Meeting - Friday, 2nd

October

2.00 p.m. - 4.00 p.m.

"Annual Group Presentations"

**A chance to see the progress of our
many and varied interest groups**

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

*Janet Carlton,
35 Curlew Crescent,
Basildon, SS16 5HR*

*Tel: 01268 452791
janetcarlton@blueyonder.co.uk.
To arrive no later than 15th September, 2009*

NATIONAL OFFICE

**19 East Street, Bromley, Kent BR1
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Web site: www.u3a.org.uk

Resource Centre: e-mail:

resource.centre@u3a.org.uk

RAYLEIGH U3A WEBSITE

www.rayleighu3a.org.uk

THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH

**Don't wait for your ship to come in
Swim out to it!**

Chairman:- Maureen Huntly - 01268 777398

E-mail - Maureen@phuntly.freeserve.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 editor;-Janet Carlton 01268 452791

E-mail - janetcarlton@blueyonder.co.uk

Group	Leader	Telephone No:	Place	How Often
Acoustic Guitar	Vera Ward	01268 755040	House Meeting	Monthly – 2 nd Thurs
Archeology	Ian Haynes	01268 779749	House Meeting	Monthly – 4 th Wed
Art Appreciation	Barbara Curry	01268 775460	House Meeting	Monthly - Last Thurs
Art – Water Colours	Sylvia Lester	01268 774201	House Meeting	Monthly – 1 st Mon
Art – Water Colours II	David Taylor	01268 777952	House Meeting	Weekly –Wednesday
Art – Oil Painting	David Taylor	01268 777952	House Meeting	Weekly –Wednesday
Aviation	Phil Gendall	01268 750324	House Meeting	Monthly – 3 rd Wed
Bird Watching	Laurie Denney	01702 615370	Contact Laurie	1 st & 3 rd each month
Book Reading	Joyce Green	01268 771263	Rayleigh Library	Monthly - Last Thurs
Book Reading II	Doreen Blake	01268 774871	TBD	Monthly – 1 st Thurs
Calligraphy	Irene Tyson	01268 742942	House Meeting	Monthly – 4 th Wed
Computing	Keith Dunt	01702 201747	Stratford House	Monthly – last Friday
Cross Stitch & Crochet	Jackie Lewis	01245 401123	Stratford House	Monthly – 1 st Wed
Digital Photography – Beginners or Advanced	Brian Kersey	01268 743959	Contact Brian	Monthly – Tuesday mid-day
Dining Group - Midweek	June Morris	01702 527506	Various venues	Monthly – 4 th Tues
Dining Group – Midweek II	Marion & Laurie Wrentham	01702 555783	Various venues	Monthly – 3 rd Tues
Family History -Beginners	Terry Taylor	01268 786405	House Meeting	Monthly – 1 st Mon
Family History I	Sue Taylor	01268 786405	House Meeting	Monthly – 1 st Mon
Family History II	Val Taylor	01702 206416	House Meeting	Monthly – 2 or 3 Wed
Family History III	Barbara Dale	01268 772018	House Meeting	Monthly -
French	Terri Gouldsmith	01268 562803	TBD	TBD
Gardening	Heather Brickwood Linda Clarke	01268 743838 01702 204559	Contact Heather or Linda	Monthly – last Monday
Golf	Kay Nevin	01268 780855	Dunton Golf Course	TBD
Have your say	Maureen Huntly Eileen Harrold	01268 777398 01268 775911		
History I – Local History	Heather Flemings David Kelsey-Fryer Connie Parker	01702 204943	TBD	TBD
History II – Life History	Marian Allen	01268 73339	Various	Monthly – last Wed
History III – Social/Economic History	David Carlton	01268 452791	TBD	TBD
Holiday Group	Brian Kersey	01268 743959	Contact Brian	Monthly - Monday
Latin	Dave Filby	01268 770023	TBD	TBD
Music Appreciation	Les Geales	01702 206966	Contact Les	Monthly – last Wed
Scrabble	Maureen Huntly	01268 777398	Stratford House	Monthly – last Mon
Scrapbooking	Janet Carlton	01268 452791	House Meeting	Monthly – 3 rd Thurs
Serendipity “Experiences & New Discoveries in & Around London	Linda Clarke David Clarke	01702 204559	Various Outings	Monthly - varies
Singing for Health & Pleasure	Marjorie Sale	01702 346175	Stratford House	Tuesday (am)
Sunday Luncheon Club	Maureen Goss	01268 777681	Various venues	Monthly – Sunday
Sunday Luncheon Club II	Sue Barrows	01268776775	Various venues	Monthly – 3 rd Sunday
Ten Pin Bowling	Alan Hudson Gill Hudson	01702 202158	CJ’s Bowling Alley	Monthly – 2 nd Tues
Theatre	Jean MacKenzie Helena Maxwell	01268 510570 01268 772061	Call Jean or Helena for details	Various usually on a Friday
Visiting Essex Churches I	Marian Allen	01268 743339	Contact Marian	Monthly – 2 nd Mond
Visiting Essex Churches II	Audrey Morris	01268 771644	Contact Audrey	Monthly – 3 rd Mond
Visiting Essex Churches III	Brenda Perrott	01268 779590	Contact Brenda	Monthly – 3 rd Mond
Visiting Essex Churches IV	Liz Denney	01702 615370	Contact Liz	Monthly – 1 st Mond
Walking	Roger Baker	01702 331166/ 07867 588879	Contact Roger	Monthly – 1 st Wed
Wine Appreciation	Harry Brickwood	01268 743838	Guides Hall, Bulwood, Approach, Hockley	Monthly – 2 nd or 3 rd Tuesday evening
Yoga	Suzanne Middleton	01702 557389	Stratford House	Weekly - Thurs

