

History of Rayleigh

Rayleigh is a historic market town and is the main centre of population in the Rochford District. The town has retained much of its traditional character and is a busy shopping centre, well served by bus and train.

Rayleigh is mentioned in the Domesday Book. The manor of Rayleigh belonged to Sweyne of Essex, the son of Robert FitzWimarc who built a Norman Motte and Bailey castle in Rayleigh. The location is at Rayleigh Mount, which is today owned and maintained by the National Trust. From the top, there are sweeping views across the Crouch Valley.

The word "Rayleigh" is said to derive from two Anglo Saxon words, "Roe", a deer, and "leigh" a clearing in a forest.

The chartered weekly high street market is held on Wednesdays and dates back to 1181, when it was registered in the Exchequer Records of Henry II.

Rayleigh Windmill, built in 1809, is a popular venue for civil ceremonies. Rayleigh Mount, the Windmill, octagonal Dutch style Cottage, Martyrs' Memorial and Holy Trinity Church are the most famous Rayleigh landmarks.

HISTORY OF THE TRINITY FAIR

Records show that the royal charter for Rayleigh's Ancient Trinity Fair dates to the year 1227. The fair was held in the High Street on Trinity Monday at the end of May, beginning of June, when the agricultural community all came together to trade various types of livestock, especially horses, as well as the annual gathering of the farm labourers.

It was not all work though and the local Inns and taverns did a roaring trade which by the late 19th Century led to the well-known saying "as rowdy as Rayleigh's Trinity Fair". However this led to the Fair's closure in 1899 as it was considered to be just an excuse for all day drinking and riotous behaviour.

www.visitessex.com/Rayleigh

Information

Car Parking:

You can pay by cash at the ticket machines or use "Pay by Phone".

You can download the free pay by phone app

Town Guide and Heritage Trail issued by:

Rayleigh Town Council

The Pavilion, KGV Playing Field, SS6 8JD
www.rayleightowncouncil.gov.uk
01268 741880

Rochford District Council: (for Dutch Cottage and Windmill Opening Hours & car parking enquiries)
www.rochford.gov.uk 01702 546366

Rayleigh Town Museum:

1st Floor, 91 High Street, SS6 7EJ
www.rayleightownmuseum.co.uk
01268 773 535
Opening hours, Wed/Fri/Sat/Sun 10am-4pm

Rayleigh Library 0345 603 7628

Adult Community Learning 0333 0139977

Registrars Office 0345 6037632
132/4 High Street, SS6 7BF

Rayleigh Railway Station:

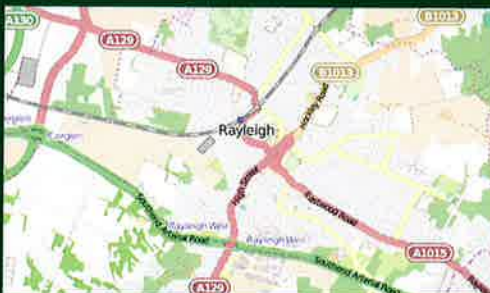
Station Road, SS6 7HJ
www.abelliogreateranglia.co.uk

Bus Services:

www.arrivabus.co.uk/southend
www.firstgroup.com/ukbus/essex

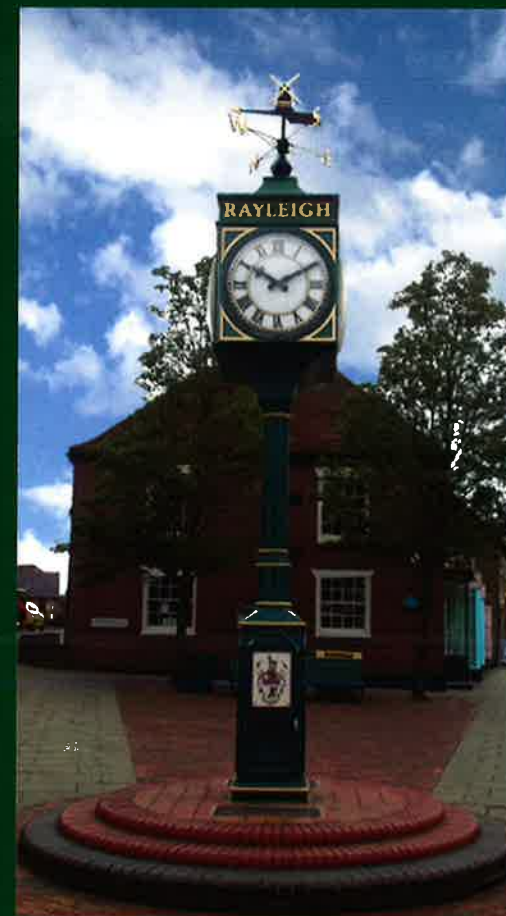
Taxis:

RT Taxis 01268 778000
Bestax 01268 777300



Thanks to Rayleigh Through the Looking Glass
www.rayleighhistory.co.uk for their advice on the merit and location of the heritage plaques.

Rayleigh




Town Guide
&
Heritage Trail

Heritage Plaques are situated at these locations.

KEY TO GUIDE

1. Oldest Secular Building- Museum (On 1st Floor)
2. Peverils
3. Elephant & Castle Inn
4. A127 & The Weir Public House
5. Rayleigh Town Centre Enhancement 1999
6. Reverend James Pilkington
7. Chippingtons & Fields
8. Old Anchor Brewery & Maltings
9. Arthur T Upson Missionary
10. Gilson's Row
11. Dutch Cottage
12. Castle Hill Farm/Railway Station
13. Prison & Hangmans Field
14. Tower Windmill
15. Rayleigh Castle
16. The Peculiar People's Chapel
17. Cosy Theatre & Regal Cinema
18. Edward Francis
19. Chequers/The Saddlery
20. Bellingham House
21. Trinity Fair
22. Post Office
23. Rayleigh's First Bank
24. Area of Correction
25. The Old Parish Rooms
26. Ruffles
27. Barrington's Cottages
28. Barrington Family
29. Kingsleigh House
30. Rayleigh Lodge
31. Fire Station
32. King George V Playing Field

-  Toilets
-  Car parks
-  Tourist Information

