



NORTH-WEST

Communications to: Secretary: Alexis Langhorne. Phone 835-2237. Email: u3anwest@gmail.com

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NEWSLETTER FEBRUARY 2022

OUR NEXT MEETING WILL BE HELD ON MONDAY 14 FEBRUARY 2020

Please arrive early and be prepared to queue outside Henderson Bowls while members are processed into the room. Henderson Bowls require us to scan the QR code or sign their register, and U3A will need to scan your vaccination pass. Masks will need to be worn. No morning tea will be served. We suggest that you bring your own water bottle.

Programme

9.45 President's welcome and announcements

9.55 Presentation by the Creative Writing Group 1

10.20 A chance to chat

10.45 Guest Speaker: Dr Lindsay Diggelmann is a Senior Lecturer in History, and also Associate Dean (Teaching and Learning) in the Faculty of Arts at the University of Auckland. He teaches a wide range of topics concerning many aspects of European history but his specialist area is the history of the Middle Ages, and particularly the Anglo-Norman period of the 11th and 12th centuries. When he is not teaching, Lindsay is a keen pub-quiz participant and an avid armchair sports watcher. He has been a regular speaker on the U3A circuit for a number of years.



To mark Valentine's Day, he will speak on

The Origins of Romance: Medieval 'Courtly Love'

Modern traditions around Valentine's Day and romantic love have a long history. Many scholars have pointed to the idea of 'Courtly Love', which emerged in Europe in the 11th and 12th centuries, as the precursor to modern notions of romantic devotion. Central to the spread of these ideas were the troubadours: singers and poets who served at the aristocratic courts of the French nobility. But others have argued that 'Courtly Love' is a more modern invention. This talk will survey the evidence for a culture of romantic love in for a culture of romantic love in the European Middle Ages.

A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Your committee decided last year that given the demographics of our membership, there will be those among us with compromised immune systems and, with this in mind, we have no choice but to restrict membership of U3A to fully vaccinated members.

This decision was not undertaken lightly, but with the traffic light system in place and other directives from Government this will help get us back to the socializing we have all missed.

Mike Smith, President

EDITOR'S APOLOGY

I am sorry that the newsletter is so late this month but I have been very unwell.

Rosemary Stagg.

TIME TO PAY SUBSCRIPTIONS

It is now time for us to pay our annual subscription for 2022. Each individual member subscription is \$20.00. There are no joint subscriptions any more.

Please pay using internet banking. The U3A account is with Kiwibank and the account number is 38 9017 0781684 00. Please put your name in the particulars box and add membership 2022 in the reference box. If you do not use internet banking you can pay our Treasurer, John Stagg, in cash at the monthly meeting. Otherwise, contact John (contact details in the committee list) and he will help you to make arrangements to pay.

NEW MEMBERS

Very few new people have joined U3A North-West during the time of lock down, as would be expected. Our most recent new member is Ruth Knight. Welcome Ruth!

ALMONER

Jenny Wilcox is our almoner. If you are aware of anyone who is ill or should be contacted for any reason please let Jenny know. Her email address is jennywilcox@xtra.co.nz and her phone number is 0275382641.

COMMITTEE 2022

The members of the current committee are listed below:

President: Mike Smith, phone 021-1720737, email mike.s@xtra.co.nz.

Vice-President and Study Group Coordinator: Martine McGregor-Reid, phone 021-2113548, email martinem@xtra.co.nz.

Treasurer: John Stagg, 027-2405520, email johnstaggnz@gmail.com.

Secretary: Alexis Langhorne, 835-2237, email alexis@value.net.nz.

Speaker Coordinator: Jude Black, phone 832-4037 and 021-02453347, email: judeblack@gmail.com.

Almoner: Jenny Wilcox, phone, 0275382641, email jennywilcox@xtra.co.nz.

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Morning tea roster: Peter Wright, phone 837-0042 and 021-08251083, email wrightpm2@gmail.com.

Morning Tea Coordinator: Bill Whittome, 836-7433 and 021-02515489, email whittw64@gmail.com.

Greeting Coordinator: Jenny Freewalker, phone 022-0670963, email jenny.freewalker@gmail.com.

U3A Network representative: Peter Wright, phone 837-0042 and 021-08251083, email wrightpm2@gmail.com

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR SERVING MORNING TEA

This is a request for help with preparing and serving morning tea and coffee at our monthly meetings. If you are able to volunteer for this would you please get in touch with Peter Wright. He will put out a clipboard out at the meeting and you can speak to him then. You can also email him at wrightpm2@gmail.com.

UPDATE OF STUDY GROUPS HANDBOOK

This year's edition of the Study Group Handbook is now in preparation and will be ready for distribution in March. Martine MacGregor-Reid, our study group co-ordinator, is preparing it now. She asks all study convenors to check the entry for their group in the yellow March 2021 edition and notify her of any changes to the description of the group, times or venues. Please complete this by mid February.

U3A online for 2022

The club is again registered for U3A online. This is an opportunity for you to study a wide range of topics with the following advantages

- All the material is prepared for you
- You can pick and choose the units to study
- Research and study can be at whatever level you are most comfortable
- No presentation required.

Last year a group studied the unit 'What is Wisdom' and found it to be so enjoyable that we have decided to continue and study 'The History of Science 1'. This group is currently full, with a waiting list, but another group can be formed if there is sufficient interest. This group studies one section a month and then meets to discuss their research and opinions.

If you are interested in studying a unit it is important to have others that you can discuss the work with. For this reason I would ask that you first look at the list of Courses available by going to <https://www.u3aonline.org.au>. Then go to the top menu 'Our Courses', 'Independent Study Course'.

If you wish to continue contact Martine (Course Coordinator), at martinem@xtra.co.nz or 021 211 3548 and I will advertise the course for you. There must be a minimum of 3 people who wish to study before the course is obtained.

Once that happens you are free to use the course material in the way that suits you best.

THE U3A RECORDER GROUP

Early in 2019 Celia Wood-Calvert agreed to tutor the new U3A ukulele group which unaccountably attracted a budding, beginner recorder player. Barbara Sandeman agreed to provide her with tuition. By the end of 2021 the group had 7 members playing together, sometimes in two groups of beginners and more advanced players. Playing together provides us with great pleasure and company. If you would like to join us please contact Martine at martinem@xtra.co.nz or on 021 211 3548.

THE RECORDER

Recorders are a family of ancient woodwind instruments of the flute or whistle class. Archaeological digs have unearthed recorders dating from the 13th and 14th centuries. The instrument was widespread in Europe in the 1500's and 1600's before it was superseded by reed woodwinds such as the oboe and clarinet. These instruments were much easier to play using keys rather than the fingers to cover the holes and they produced a much louder sound. This was important as the symphony orchestra developed in the 18th century. King Henry VIII was an accomplished musician who played a number of instruments including recorders. At his death an inventory listed 76 recorders and their cases in his possession.

There have been many different types of recorders in the past but today there are 5 that are most commonly played including the tiny soprano, soprano (descant), treble (alto), tenor and bass. Some tenor and all bass recorders have keys on lower notes. Recorders were traditionally made of wood but now most are made from a cheaper plastic resin. Modern wooden recorders are made of ebony, pear and maple and are very much more expensive than resin ones but they generally have a sweeter, clearer tone. Groups of recorders and recorder players are called consorts.

The recorder was at its height during the Renaissance with composers such as John Dowland and William Byrd writing works, and during the Baroque period Handel, Bach, Scarlatti and Vivaldi all wrote compositions for the recorder. Then for about 150 years as the recorder went into decline, virtually no recorder music was written and there are no records of performances.

The twentieth century saw the revival of the recorder through the efforts of the Dutch musician Frans Bruggen, and French father and son Arnold and Carl Dolmetsch. They produced various ancient instruments at their workshop in England, including the recorder. During WW2 Carl made plastic parts for planes and after 1945 he began making cheap plastic recorders for use in schools. He also encouraged composers such as Paul Hindemith, Malcolm Arnold and Leonard Bernstein to write works for the instrument. The recorder has also featured on popular music recordings by the Beatles, Rolling Stones, Led Zepplin and Jimi Hendrix.

For those of you familiar with the awful squeak of some recorder playing, it is good to know that there are now virtuoso players. One of the best known is Danish Michala Petri. You can listen to her on YouTube, for example The Sound of Baroque. In 2012 and 2014 recorder players reached the finals of the BBC Young Musician of the Year.

Martine McGregor-Reid