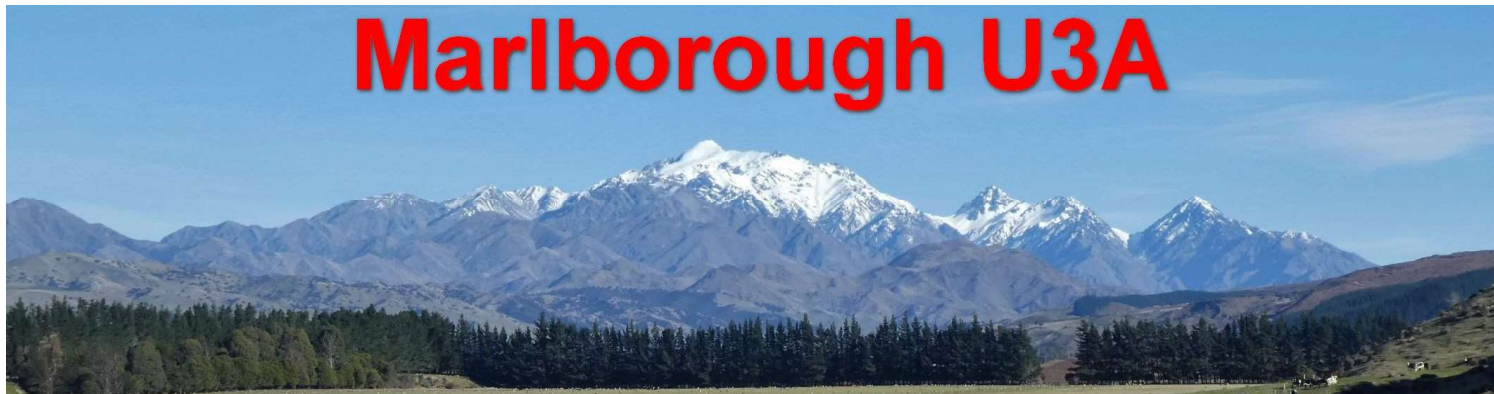


Marlborough U3A



Newsletter No 1 2023

Marlborough U3A is an Incorporated Society whose aim is to stimulate the minds of 'Third-Agers' in Marlborough through educational programmes.

It is affiliated with – but independent of – U3A NZ, and is managed by an elected committee.

Committee

President	Helen Hannay	578 1574
Vice President	Jackie Hall	579 3355
Secretary	Paul Stanley	021 663 518
Treasurer	Angus Welsh	577 9114
Course Coordinator	Ann Moore	927 3754
Catering	Marilyn Cowe	022 648 8692
Publicity	Ann Turnbull	578 4200
Speakers	Ann Anderson	579 4955

email (Sec) u3a.marlborough@gmail.com

Monthly Meetings

Our monthly meetings are held on the second Monday of each month except January, at 2 PM. The Venue is Cloudy Bay Funeral Services, 15 Boyce St, Blenheim.

Date	Speaker	Afternoon Tea
13 February	Steve Austin (Marlborough Museum)	Ambles & Afters
13 March	Sandy Inwood (Hospice Marlborough)	Battles of W History
10 April	Kelvin Watt (Graeme Dingle Foundation)	Book Group (1)

Subscriptions

Please note that annual subscriptions (\$10) were due by 31 December and at the time of going to press over 80 members were in arrears. We prefer payment by direct credit into our bank account, stating the member's name in the details. Thank you all those who have paid so far.

Bank Account **010 598 0033084 01**

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FROM THE EDITOR

Discerning readers will notice a change in format from the previous wonderful newsletters Helen has been providing. Helen has been very helpful and encouraging in this transition. Please tell her how much you have appreciated the work she has invested in you over the years to ensure you know exactly how things work in this great organisation. I am quite enthusiastic to pick up this role as 'Newsletter Person' and you will adjust to my idiosyncrasies eventually, as I bring it into production on a quarterly basis. I am also deeply indebted to Paul who will fine tune this communique, he really is an excellent secretary!

Psychologically, it is good to embrace change they say. And we don't necessarily like change. However, in this matter change is happening and hopefully it will cover all the aspects required to keep you up with U3A happenings. This new format is actually designed to make it more convenient to read on-line – as a survey conducted by U3A NZ, suggests that is how most people prefer to read newsletters. Also, very few of our members receive a printed copy these days (15/260).

Group Leaders sending me reports: I would very much appreciate the use of the font **Arial size 11** if possible, as it will save me time. (I need to unify the presentation)

As I am responsible for including all the operating groups and contacts in this communique, please let me know if your **group has finished or your contact changed**. I do not want to provide false information (which is the scourge of today's modern world!)

I look forward to working with all group leaders and members who would like to contribute - and am very thankful for being part of such a supportive committee as I move forward in this role.

Jackie Hall

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Greetings and Happy New Year Members

I hope you have all had a lovely break over the Christmas period and are looking forward to once again enjoying your U3A activities. It will be good to get back to our groups and monthly gatherings.

At the end of November and into December I decided to go on a 16 day small-group tour, this time to the United Arab Emirates and Oman. I thought I might as well take the plunge – I could catch Covid just as easily in New Zealand as I could overseas and I found myself with itchy feet again! It was a most interesting trip and I particularly enjoyed Oman as we explored the countryside rather than spending too much time in cities – much more to my liking.

Throughout the trip we enjoyed a wide range of experiences, including a sudden downpour which flooded the streets in Sharjah, a visit to the "Louvre" in Abu Dhabi which was particularly enjoyable for me – they had an Impressionist Exhibition which had paintings we had been learning about in our Monet to van Gogh lecture series, so a real treat. We visited huge mosques, palaces, forts, souks, museums and an opera house, family homes where we shared a meal (served by the men of the household), a falcon hospital, and drank coffee topped with gold leaf.

In Oman we travelled everywhere in 4-wheel drive Land Cruisers or similar (3-4 of us per vehicle) with our own guides/drivers – ours was great. We took a twilight cruise down the coast of Muscat, drove up and down huge sand dunes and stayed in the desert and up mountains, wandered round a dhow building shipyard, saw graveyards that looked nothing like our cemeteries, and were amazed at the mountains with so many different colours and rock formations. All this and so much more! It felt great to be getting back to exploring the world again.

In closing I would like to encourage you all to attend our monthly meetings whenever possible – there's plenty of room, we have a great range of speakers, it's a great way to learn about our community and the wider world - and the fellowship is great for our mental health as well!

I look forward to seeing you at our February meeting and throughout the year.

All the best

Helen

Course Coordinator's Report

I'm looking forward to the start of the U3A year. Courses all appear to be ready to go. This year there are three new courses starting, with the London – A Short History - having to be split as so many signed up for it.

The new groups are as follows:

1. **London Group 1** (meeting every 1st Friday at 10 am at Jackie Hall's home):
8 members.
London Group 2 (meeting every 2nd Friday at 2pm at Murray and Anne McDonald's home):
10 members.

Jackie and Murray, as the Hosts and Convenors of the above groups, will organise sharing the DVDs and any other resources to each group in a timely fashion!

2. **Essential Italy:** There are 11 members signed up for this course. This course will continue on the same day and time from when the Da Vinci one finishes in February. So the group will meet on the 3rd Wednesday at 2pm, starting in March. Venues will be shared as at present. Ann Turnbull will be the convenor.
3. **Barbarians of the Steppes:** 10 people have signed up for this course, which will take place on either the 3rd or 4th Friday pm from next month as some members are doing London as well. Those people who can't do Friday needn't worry as the course can easily be revisited in the future. Charles has offered to convene this course. He is also willing to co-share hosting duties, but is not able to do this every month. It would be great if two others could step up to offer their homes as well.

Other than the above, everything seems to be ready to start off next month. I'm sure it will be a full and interesting year.

Ngā mihi,

Ann Moore

Course Resources on DVD

We have recently acquired the following courses on DVDs from 'The Great Courses' Company in the USA:

- Comparative Religion
- Meteorology – an introduction to the wonders of weather
- The Science of Extreme Weather
- Leonardo da Vinci and the Italian High Renaissance

FROM THE CATERING CO-ORDINATOR

Thank you to the teams who were on duty at our Afternoon Teas in November and December last year. Both teams coped admirably despite the new Catering Coordinator's inexperience!

The duty roster for Afternoon Teas is taken from the Newsletter's alphabetic list of courses and is shown on page 1 of this newsletter.

So as a reminder, the next duty teams are:

- February:** Ambles and Afters
- March:** Battles of World History
- April:** Books & Authors Group 1

The relevant group coordinator will be given the Afternoon Tea Procedure in good time so the group can see this in advance.

The procedure is straightforward. Ideally at least 4 four team members being ready, willing and able to turn up at 1.30pm on meeting day to set up. I will meet you there with biscuits milk etc. Then afternoon tea is served at 2.30pm and duty finishes once the kitchen is clean and tidy with second dishwasher load underway.

So thank you in advance to the duty teams.

Marilyn

GROUP LEADERS'REPORTS

SCRABBLE

The Scrabble group is about to undergo change due to its excellent Leader Pam Taylor, moving away. Pam has generously catered for up to 16 people on a monthly basis for many years now, the wonderful fellowship, and delight, in playing with the word challenges this game throws up, has been a hallmark of its existence. Thank you Pam for your perseverance in getting this group underway all those years ago.

The new regime will continue in the home of Jackie Hall at 22b McCallum Street, Springlands on the same first Monday of the month, from 2 pm. But, there is only space for 8 players, and we have a full complement at present. However, there is a second group which Lynne Blacker hosts at 11 Olwyn Place on the 3rd Thursday of the month. There is a small window of opportunity to join this group, as she can only cater for 6. Lynne's number is 9723739. And a third option is to form another group which is up to interested participants.

Jackie Hall (new convenor)

BOOK GROUP (1)

Another year of wide ranging genre has been read and discussed by its twelve enthusiastic members. The new topics for 2023 are in hand and hope to challenge the reading scope of its members once more. Topics are chosen to provoke (quite intentionally), to push people outside comfort zones, widen reading horizons, but offer opportunities generally, for reading within a topic - using either fiction or non-fiction as the vehicle. (Sometimes we do focus on just a fiction genre though.) On only one occasion in the last 4 years as leader of this group, have we had two books of the same title

reviewed. Members are fascinated at the variety of books people find to read, and often comment on their enjoyment, as they would not have gone down this track in reading if it had not been suggested. We have one person who uses auditory input for her book, and never fails to astonish us at the articulate recall of her review. The 12 members meet on the 2nd Thursday each month at one of the member's homes

Jackie Hall (Leader)

MAH-JONG

The Mah-Jong group is without a permanent home at the moment, after the closing of the Clubs, but we will find one early in the new year. We would welcome new players, or past participants, who would enjoy learning a new game at the same time as meeting new friends and having some fun.

We meet on the first and third Wednesday of the month from 1.30 to 4.00pm.

Contact **Evin Wood** (Leader) at 578 2093 or evin42@hotmail.com

CARD-MAKING

U3A Card-making Group currently has 4 members attending and although a small group we have fun exploring the making of different types of greeting cards. No equipment required as it is all supplied. There is room if anyone else would like to come and see what we do. It all happens on the first Thursday of the month from 10am until 12. Any enquiries phone **Gloria Mitchell** (Leader) on 035777833.

CLASSIC FILMS (1)

We commenced the year on 26th January with a screening of THE PAJAMA GAME - a classic 1957 musical - and will continue throughout 2023 viewing films from many genres like Drama, Musical, Comedy, War and Westerns. We have room for a couple more members and meet on the fourth Thursday on the month at 1.30pm (normally) Please see me if you are interested.

Bruce Dale (Leader) 5789672.

WATERCOLOUR PAINTING

This group will re-start at the end of February. There is room for one more member who has at least some basic experience.

Contact **Gavin Kerr** (Leader) at 0276060058 or 5727238 or gekerr@slingshot.co.nz

POETRY APPRECIATION

Our group meets monthly on the second Friday of the month at 2pm. We have met regularly during the last year taking turns to host and to choose the theme for the meeting. There is always plenty of variety in everyone's selection of poems which makes for a stimulating afternoon of appreciation. Some of our group even choose to write and share some of their own writing.

We have room for one or two new members.

Jan Poswillo (convenor)

MEMORY LANE MUSIC

During the final three meetings of 2022 we introduced a segment where one specific artist or composer is featured. A brief sketch of their lives is given and three or four examples of their work are played. About twenty – often quite dissimilar, for variety’s sake – ballads, orchestral, choral and musical/opera pieces make up the rest of the programme.



In November we listened to the music of Jimmy Kennedy and Michael Carr. They were a very successful pair of composer/lyricists in Britain during the 1930s and early 1940s. Although they are heard rarely today, their most popular tunes like “Home Town” and “South of the Border” still wear very well.

A very fine two-CD set of Oscar Natzka’s recordings was made in 2000 by NZ National Library. Natzka’s widow, Winifred Coburn, made her collection of his recordings available to the compilers. The old 78s were reproduced with much care by National Library. We used this set for our “featured” programme in October.



Hollywood produced film versions of most of Sigmund Romberg’s very successful stage musicals. The Austro-Hungarian composer also wrote songs for some original film musicals. “Viennese Nights” was the first the of them (made in collaboration with Oscar Hammerstein in 1930.) Prints of many of these very early musical films are lost but, interestingly, a colour version of “Viennese Nights” has survived. Parts of it – and several 78rpm selections – are back in circulation, thanks to You Tube. Romberg’s melodies are always worth listening to. We heard some from this film at another of our meetings in the last quarter of 2022.

John Best (Leader)

CURRENT ISSUES DISCUSSION GROUP

At this time the group has a membership of 26, which is a maximum number. We will again meet monthly in the Community Room at the Springlands Lifestyle Village. This is an excellent venue.

A plan is in place for guest speakers for the first half of the year, beginning with Grey Power in **February**. Also in the first half of the year we hope to have these speakers:

March: Care Marlborough

April: (In Picton) Port Changes, Tourism , Conservation , Iwi aspirations , local issues.

May: First time Marlborough District Councillor.

June: Iwi Aspirations. Possible changes to Marlborough 'culture'.

July: Changing status of women in the workforce. From construction site managers to truck drivers to shearers.

A special thanks to all members who attend meetings and contribute so much to our discussions.

Lindsay Moir (Leader)

DOCUMENTARY FILMS

This is quite a large group and is at maximum numbers at this time.

We have had our first meeting where we saw U-tube documentaries. They included 'The discovery and reburial of Richard Third' and 'From under a Leicester City carpark to reburial in Leicester Cathedral.' Then, U-tube again , a group of older men on a nine day tramp from Puysegur Point to Port Craig on the southern coast of the South Island.

At our next meetings we may have "The History of the Lancaster Bomber'. Also the Discovery of the Erabus and Terror from Franklin's 1840's expedition in the Arctic near the NW passage.

So plenty to look forward to. And – thank you to members who host our meetings and prepare the programme.

Lindsay Moir (Leader)



Marlborough Flyer, photographed by Ray Clearwater – U3A-Marlborough Photographic Group

Interest Groups and Contacts

Each of our groups meets on a specific day and week of each month. Please contact the group coordinator direct if you are interested in joining any of the groups.

- **Ambles and Afters:** 2nd Fri at 9.30am. **Contact:** Mary Wightwick, 578 8747 / 027 440 2047.
- **The Decisive Battles of World History, and History's Great Military Blunders**
4th Thurs at 10.0am. **Contact:** Angus Welsh, 577 9114.
- **Barbarians of the Steppes:** TBA – 3 or 4th Friday. **Contact:** Charles Riley 5780109 (Co Host)
- **Books and Authors Group 1:** 2nd Thurs at 2pm. **Contact:** Jackie Hall, 579 3355.
- **Book and Authors Group 2:** 3rd Tues at 10am. **Contact:** Wendy Cass, 578 9144.
- **Card Making:** 1st Thurs at 10am. **Contact:** Gloria Mitchell, 577 7833.
- **Celtic World:** 2nd Wed at 1.30pm **Contact:** Ann Turnbull 578 4200.
- **Classic Films Group 1:** 4th Thurs at 2pm. **Contact:** Bruce Dale, 578 9672.
- **Classic Films Group 2:** 3rd Thurs at 1.30pm. **Contact:** Murray MacDonald, 579 4844.
- **Classical Music:** 1st Mon, at 10am. **Contact:** Ann Moore, 9273754.
- **Current Issues:** 1st Tues at 9.45am. **Contact:** Lindsay Moir, 578 5262.
- **Comparative Religions:** 3rd Tues at 2pm **Contact:** Paul Stanley, 579 2521.
- **Documentary Films:** 3rd Wed at 10am. **Contact:** Lindsay Moir, 578 5262.
- **Essential Italy:** 3rd Wednesday at 2pm **Contact:** Ann Moore 927 3754
- **Foundations of Eastern Civilisation:** 3rd Thurs at 2pm. **Contact:** Lyn Coates, 578 5273.
- **Garden Group:** 1st Fri at 10am. **Contact:** Jan Richardson, 578 0989.
- **Geological Wonders:** 3rd Thurs at 10.30am. **Contact:** Trish Johnson, 027 241 7021.
- **Great Ideas of Philosophy:** 4th Thurs at 2pm. **Contact:** Paul Stanley, 579 2521.
- **History:** 3rd Tues at 1.30pm. **Contact:** Margaret Fairhall, 578 2507.
- **How Winston Churchill Changed the World:** 2nd Tues 2pm. **Contact:** Mike Mitchell, 577 7833.
- **Leonardo Da Vinci & the Italian Renaissance:** 3rd Wed at 2pm **Contact:** Dorothy Hasseldine, 578 1769.
- **Life Writing:** 1st and 3rd Tues at 1.30pm. **Contact:** Lis Davys, 579 3167.
- **London: Group 1** 1st Friday morning from 10am **Contact:** Jackie Hall, 5793355
London: Group 2 2nd Friday afternoon at 2pm **Contact:** Murray McDonald 577 9903
- **Luncheon Plus:** 2nd Thurs at 11.30am. **Contact:** Lyn Coates, 578 5273.
- **Mah-jong:** 1st and 3rd Weds at 2pm. **Contact:** Evan Wood, 578 2093, evin42@hotmail.com
- **Memory Lane Music:** Last Thurs at 10am. **Contact:** John Best, 578 0595.
- **Monet to van Gogh:** 3rd Tues at 10am. **Contact:** Helen Hannay, 578 1574.
- **My Favourite Universe:** 3rd Mon at 2pm. **Contact:** Mike Mitchell, 577 7833
- **Play Reading Group 1:** 4th Mon at 9.30am. **Contact:** Margaret Jarman, 578 8805. **Vacancies**
- **Play Reading Group 2:** 4th Tues at 9.30am. **Contact:** Juliet Kirke, 578 0692. **Vacancies**
- **Poetry Appreciation:** 2nd Fri at 2pm. **Contact:** Jan Poswillo, 578 9834 or 021 142 6931.
- **Photography:** 1st Mon at 1.30pm. **Contact:** Charles Riley, 578 0109.
- **Scrabble One:** 1st Mon at 2pm. **Contact:** Jackie Hall, 5793355.
- **Scrabble Two:** 3rd Thurs at 1 30pm. **Contact:** Lynne Blaker, 9723739.
- **Secrets of Great Mystery and Suspense:** 3rd Wed at 10am. **Contact:** Jenni Walker 021 133 0582.
- **Great Tours - France Through the Ages:** 3rd Thurs at 2pm. **Contact:** Kathryn Nicholls, 021 1438 423
- **The Wonders of Weather and Science of Extreme Weather:** 1st Thurs at 10am
Contact: Paul Stanley, 579 2521.
- **Ukulele:** 2nd and 4th Wed at 10am. **Contact:** Neville Lawson, 021 480 073.
- **Water Colour Painting:** 1st & 3rd Mons at 9.30am. **Contact:** Gavin Kerr, 572 7238.
- **Wine Appreciation 1:** 3rd Fri of the month, at 11am. **Contact:** Murray MacDonald, 579 4844.
- **Wine Appreciation 2:** Last Fri at 11.30am. **Contact:** Juliet Kirke, 578 0692.
- **Writing for Grandchildren:** 1st and 3rd Mons at 9.45am. **Contact:** Gladys Sloss, 578 3191.