

# Marlborough U3A

Newsletter

November 2022 – January 2023

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Cloudy Bay Funeral Services logo and contact information.

# Monthly Meetings



Monthly Meetings are held on the 2nd Monday of the Month at 2.00pm at Cloudy Bay Funeral Services, Boyce Street, Blenheim

## Monthly Meeting Dates

- ◆ November 14 Chris Grant
- ◆ December 12 Cressida Bishop or Glen Webster
- ◆ January 2023 *No meeting*

## Afternoon Tea Roster

- ◆ November 14 Winston Churchill Group
- ◆ December 12 Writing for Grandchildren Group
- January 2023 *No meeting*

President	Helen Hannay	578 1574
Vice President/Editor	Jackie Hall	579 3355
Secretary	Paul Stanley	579 2521
Treasurer	Angus Welsh	577 9114
Groups Co-ordinator	Ann Moore	927 3754
Committee	Ann Turnbull	578 4200
	Ann Anderson	579 4955
	Marilyn Cowe	022 648 8692

Immediate Past President Gwyneth Lowe

## Email addresses:

President - [hjhannay@slingshot.co.nz](mailto:hjhannay@slingshot.co.nz)

Secretary - [u3a.marlborough@gmail.com](mailto:u3a.marlborough@gmail.com)

Editor - [jbblh@xtra.co.nz](mailto:jbblh@xtra.co.nz)

**Bank Account No: ANZ 010 598 0033084 01**

**Life Members: Jacqui Buttle, Charles Riley, Ann MacDonald, Murray MacDonald, Lindsay Moir, Neville Lawson, Gavin Kerr**

# ***President's Report***

*Warmest Greetings to you all*

I would like to thank you for the support you have shown in electing me to this role, which I hope I can fulfil to your satisfaction. Gwyneth is a hard act to follow, having done such a great job over many years. My grateful thanks to her, to those members who have retired from the committee and to our accounts examiner, Walter Scott, who have all done a sterling job over the years. I hope you all enjoy your "second retirement" and look forward to seeing you at meetings and in our interest groups.

A big thank you to Jackie Hall for accepting the position of Vice President. Jackie has done a wonderful job looking after the catering for our monthly meetings and I know she will be an excellent VP. Thanks also to the returning committee members who have offered their services to U3A Marlborough once again, and to I would also like to warmly welcome and thank our new committee members, Ann Turnbull, Ann Anderson and Marilyn Cowe for making themselves available for this role - I hope you all will enjoy yourselves.

We are indeed very fortunate to have such a talented and willing group of people forming our committee and I'm sure you will all join me in thanking them for their services.

My congratulations to our new Life Members, Neville Lawson and Gavin Kerr, who have both served U3A Marlborough so very well over many years and are truly deserving of this recognition.

I hope you are all finding lots of interesting groups to take part in - Ann does a wonderful job of sourcing new lecture series so we continually have new groups forming. While we have several members who offer to coordinate these groups it is very heartening to see others stepping up and taking their turn.

Don't forget you are most welcome to offer suggestions for new groups and of course offers to share your knowledge are warmly welcomed.

The aims of U3A are to tap the great reservoir of knowledge, skills

# *President's Report*

and experience of retired men and women, and to provide a venue for the meeting together of like minded people to learn, contribute and to make new friends in their local community. I have certainly found this to be so and truly value the friendships I have found among our members. You have all had such interesting lives and have so much to share so thank you for being part of U3A Marlborough.

*"Those who teach shall also learn.  
Those who learn shall also teach"*

Personally I have just come back from a 6 day Garden Tour in Canterbury visiting some wonderful park-like gardens. We visited Hanmer Springs, Methven, Akaroa and Banks Peninsula. The rhododendrons in particular were spectacular. We were so lucky with the weather and the folks on the bus were a happy, friendly bunch. Our hosts at the gardens were so welcoming and knowledgeable, the meals were huge, but to help counteract that there was lots of walking! (photos below)

This will be my last newsletter as editor - I have really enjoyed producing it over several years but now it is time to step back and hand it over to our new editor Jackie Hall, our new Vice President, who has kindly offered to take on the role - thanks Jackie.

Best wishes to you all for the festive season. I hope you are able to enjoy family time, or if not, at least time with your friends.

I look forward to seeing you at our monthly meetings or in our interest groups.

Kindest regards

*Helen*



# ***Course Coordinators' Report***

## **Greetings to you all**

This year has been a much more positive one. We have been able to get out and about, returning to our group courses and mingling with our friends. It has been most refreshing.

Some new courses were introduced during the past year. These included:



- ◆ Thermodynamics
- ◆ Meteorology
- ◆ Abraham Lincoln
- ◆ Comparative Religion
- ◆ Leonardo da Vinci
- ◆ The Great Tours – France Through the Ages

It was great to add the above to our burgeoning collection.

We are also re-running several of our other courses, including:

- ◆ The Celtic World
- ◆ Winston Churchill
- ◆ Secrets of Mystery and Suspense
- ◆ Foundations of Eastern Civilisation
- ◆ From Athens to Istanbul
- ◆ Museum Masterpieces



Of course, there are also several courses that are lengthy so are carrying on from last year. It is very pleasing that we are able to set up new groups where members can enjoy what The Great Courses have to offer. I have several new courses to add to the collection for next year. These will be available for you to sign up to at the November meeting.

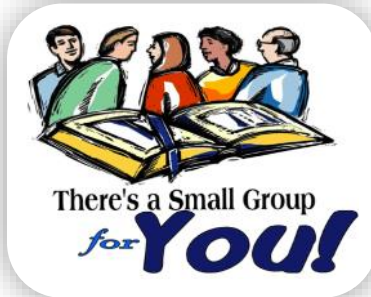
We also have courses and groups that are not part of the above which continue to meet monthly. These include the Documentary, Current Events and TED Talks discussion groups. We have long-standing music, art, photography and writing groups. May they all long continue!

# ***Course Coordinator's Report***

The current Lunch group is also very successful. It has a full membership and members take turns hosting, all bring food to share and the conversation hums! Another new Lunch group meeting on another day would be able to take those members who love to get out and interact with others over a cuppa and lunch once a month and is a great chance to get to know other members on a more personal basis. Think about this and get back to me if you would like to participate.

Thank you everyone for your support and friendship. Special thanks to conveners and hosts who open their homes to our U3A members.

**Ann Moore**  
**Courses Coordinator** [anncm09@gmail.com](mailto:anncm09@gmail.com))



# *Club News*

## MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

**Your 2023 Annual Subscription was confirmed at the AGM and remains at \$10 per annum This is now due for payment within the following three (3) months.**

**Thank you to all who have already paid your 2023 annual subscription. Your promptness is very much appreciated**

**A reminder when paying by direct credit the bank deposit number is: **ANZ 010 598 0033084 01**. Please ensure you include your name when making payments by internet banking.**

**Don't forget participation in our Interest Groups is only open to Financial Members of Marlborough U3A.**

**The following was received from Lindsay Moir** (Current Issues Group), who forwarded it on from Jodie Griffiths, Community Partnerships Advisor, Marlborough District Council, with her message "Please complete yourself and encourage others to take part in the community consultation on rubbish and recycling (link below) this is one of the most talked about topics in our community."

Community consultation on proposed changes to levels of service for rubbish and recycling is now open. The community can access the relevant information on the website using the have your say feature or at the webpage link below.

**<https://www.marlborough.govt.nz/services/refuse/community-consultation-waste-services>**

The consultation closes at 4.00pm on 30 November 2022.

# *Monthly Meetings*

## Monthly Meeting Report for 10 October 2022

The President, Gwyneth Lowe, opened the meeting at 2 pm, welcoming 73 members and two visitors. The first part of the meeting was the AGM and the minutes of that meeting have been reported separately.

General Business: Ann Morgan spoke briefly about the activities of the Local History Group, which has unfortunately now been in abeyance for several years. She had been running it for the last three years of its active existence. Any members potentially interested in joining a reconstituted group might want to try contacting Ann first; the Secretary can forward messages from those who don't have her contact details.



**Our Guest Speaker, Pieter Johnson,** now living in Blenheim, was born in what was then Southern Rhodesia – nowadays Zimbabwe – and grew up there and in Tanzania and Kenya.

Being from a rural farming family, almost all his childhood friends were from African tribes and he spoke mainly Afrikaans (at home) and Shona (with his friends).

As a youth he got to know Joy Adamson (author of 'Born Free') and spent time with her and her husband in their bush camp "in the middle of nowhere", where lion cubs were roaming freely. He said he knew her more as an artist than as a wildlife protectionist at the time. "Growing up in wild country gives you a different perspective on life", he said. "You learn to respect wild animals and in the process develop an affinity with them".



An affinity that came in useful when a close friend became a photographer for National Geographic and they operated together; subsequently he took photographs for NG in his own right. He



# *Monthly Meetings*

showed one of his photographs: a stunning shot of a leopard and her cub approaching head on at quite close range; he and his colleague had been in the bush for two weeks when that photo-opportunity arrived (patience is a virtue for wildlife photography!).

While still in his teens he was conscripted into the Rhodesian Army (this was just after UDI) but was surprised to find that most of the people they were fighting against were Russian or Chinese; he alluded to his time in the Special Forces there, but without going into detail...



Pieter then described his subsequent work with wildlife conservation and photography, including close encounters with potentially dangerous animals such as gorillas and rhinos. In such circumstances, he said, mutual respect is the safest policy, as they pick up emotions: he also recommended it as a great way to manage all interactions, including with other people.

After further description of conservation work in Southern Africa, including three months in the Kalahari Desert with the Bushmen, he summed up his conclusion that “the logic of the bush is far more logical than the logic of the town”.

Pieter then revealed his long-time love of music, particularly involving ancient instruments such as the ‘Pan Flute’ which he said originated simultaneously in South America, Europe, Africa and China about 12,000 years ago. He then gave us a short demonstration of the flute – the first time ever he had played in public!

Finally he revealed why he came to New Zealand, in 2005: “...here voting is done with a pen, not a gun.”

After a few questions and a word of thanks from Gwyneth, the meeting closed at 1545 – Gwyneth’s last act as President. The next monthly meeting will be on 14 November. Speaker to be advised.

# ***SPECIAL FOR U3A MEMBERS***

## **“FREE RANGE”**

### ***Everyday Poems for Everyday Occasions***

Gavin Kerr’s new book of poems is about to be launched. If you have attended the monthly meetings, you will have had a preliminary taste of his work from his readings and maybe contributed to the praise that followed.

Once again, Gavin is **raising funds for the work done by Alzheimers Marlborough**. The recent talks by some affected by a partner suffering from dementia brought home to all the tragedy of the affliction, as well as the growing enormity of this “silent pandemic” and the huge challenges involved. The need is enormous.

**Pre-launch copies will be on sale for U3A members** at the November 14 meeting.

This is a larger work than the first book, with 83 poems and illustrations, but thanks to Prisma Print the cost has been pared to a minimum of **\$30**. Orders will also be taken for later delivery.

Many people bought his last book “*Under Lockdown*” - which raised \$1500 for Alzheimers Marlborough - as an ideal and easy Christmas present. Can we beat the last figure raised?

**Please come prepared to help** and to be entertained into the bargain. If not attending, ring Gavin for copies at 572 7238 or 027 606 0058.

*... there is nothing pretentious about these poems. They are honest and thoughtful and there for everybody to appreciate and understand.* David Elworthy

*...a fascinating and wide-ranging collection that will soften the hardest hearts and cheer the grimmest minds*

*These wonderful poems will resonate with anyone who picks them up. Please do.* Peter Jerram



# ***Interest Groups***

## **PLAY READING GROUPS - Help Requested!**

U3A has two play-reading groups - Group 1 meets on the 4th Monday, 9.30, at Maryke Mills' home, 176 Wither Road, and Group 2 on the 4th Tuesday, 9.30, at Juliet Kirke's 56 Thomsons Ford Road, so that we can share the books.

We order sets of books from the Play Bureau in Dunedin - a variety of comedy drama and mystery. Plays vary in number of characters required so sometimes we have to share parts so that everyone can read. From time to time we struggle to have enough readers to avoid confusion!

Both groups would like to hear from anyone who might be available to be called on if needed. No acting skills needed and minimal reading skill as we all have a copy of the play to follow.

**Please contact Margaret Jarman 578 8805 if you could help in this way.**

## **WINE GROUP 2 advise they have vacancies for two or three new members.**

They meet on the last Friday of each month at 11.30am.

**Please contact Juliet Kirke, 578 0692 if you would like to join them.**

## **DOCUMENTARY FILM GROUP.**

Once again this has been an enjoyable year. There have been some new members this year which has increased the group to fourteen. Most attend the meetings which makes our seating a bit tight but it all works well.

We began the year with a three part documentary on the life of Barack Obama. This was excellent and set the standard for a good year.

A wide variety of other topics has also been shown including Female Pilots Flying Spitfires from Factories to Airfields; Amazing Bridges;

# ***Interest Groups***

Hollywood Icons; Life in Cornwall; Climbing the Eiger. YouTube has allowed us to find amazing documentaries.

A special thanks to Charles Riley, John Best and Bruce Dale for hosting us and providing the programmes. I have enjoyed having people at my place as well.

*Lindsay Moir*

## **CURRENT ISSUES DISCUSSION GROUP**

It has been another interesting and enjoyable year for the group during which we have welcomed several new members. We have however been affected by Covid with some meetings cancelled earlier in the year.

It never ceases to surprise that there are so many interesting people in the community doing interesting work and so willing to come as guest speakers. We have heard from:

- Housing First which has housed many homeless families.
- Community Constable Russell Smith who gave us wise advice on home security.
- An expert Hydrologist explaining how and where our rivers flow and the importance of maintaining aquifer levels.
- Speakers from the Salvation Army detailing the survey about “Haves and Have-Nots” in Blenheim. The initial information came from an article in Marlborough Express.
- We met with Jodie Griffiths from Marlborough District Council. Jodie is the community information person and is in contact with so many community groups. From her address to our group came the invitation for U3A to join the Older Peoples’ Forum. The Forum meets monthly and Current Issues sends a representative to the meeting on behalf of U3A. It is in the process of producing a magazine which U3A may contribute to in the future.

# ***Interest Groups***

## **What is being planned in 2023?**

- An invitation to Iwi to hear about their aspirations as we work through changes to our national culture.
- In March to have our annual visit to a local community, with Council members, to hear about the issues and plans for that community. We hope to travel to Picton.
- Women working in a traditional male occupation - trades, construction, truck driving, shearing etc.
- To hear from a newly elected Councillor. His\her aspirations.
- A focus on Youth.
- **And other people who make our life interesting.**

A special thanks to all group members who have contributed so much.

*Lindsay Moir*

## **AMBLES AND AFTERS GROUP**

This newish group of members has been increasing in numbers recently and everyone is really enjoying their walk and exploration of our neighbourhoods. The social side of this group is delightful with lots of mingling and chatting while enjoying the fresh air followed by a most welcome cup of coffee or tea afterwards - a well deserved reward our members think!

There is, of course, room for more members to join us - the walks are not strenuous, we choose walks that are suitable for most abilities and speeds and make sure no-one is left behind! Please check for details with our convenor, Mary Wightwick, if you are not sure whether or not you could manage.

We look forward to seeing you soon.



# *Add to Your Vocabulary*

## **Asportation**

This fancy word for theft dates back to the 16th century.

## **Blattnerphone**

Journalists, you'll make your interview subjects take notice if you refer to your tape recorder as a *blattnerphone* instead. The word derives from the name of the device's inventor, Ludwig Blattner.

## **Cachinnation**

A 17th-century term for loud laughter.

## **Emption**

A mid-16th-century word for buying something.

## **Enchiridion**

Don't call your copy of *Wine for Dummies* a manual—call it an *enchiridion*. (for our wine groups members)

## **Eructation**

A fancy word for belching, or, as the OED puts it, "The action of voiding wind from the stomach through the mouth."

## **Faffle**

"To be inconsistent in speech," according to one 1781 text. *Mrs. Byrne's Dictionary* defines it as "to stutter or mumble."

## **Feriation**

An obsolete term for not working or going on a holiday. It's not a vacation, it's a *feriation*!

## **Fimblefamble**

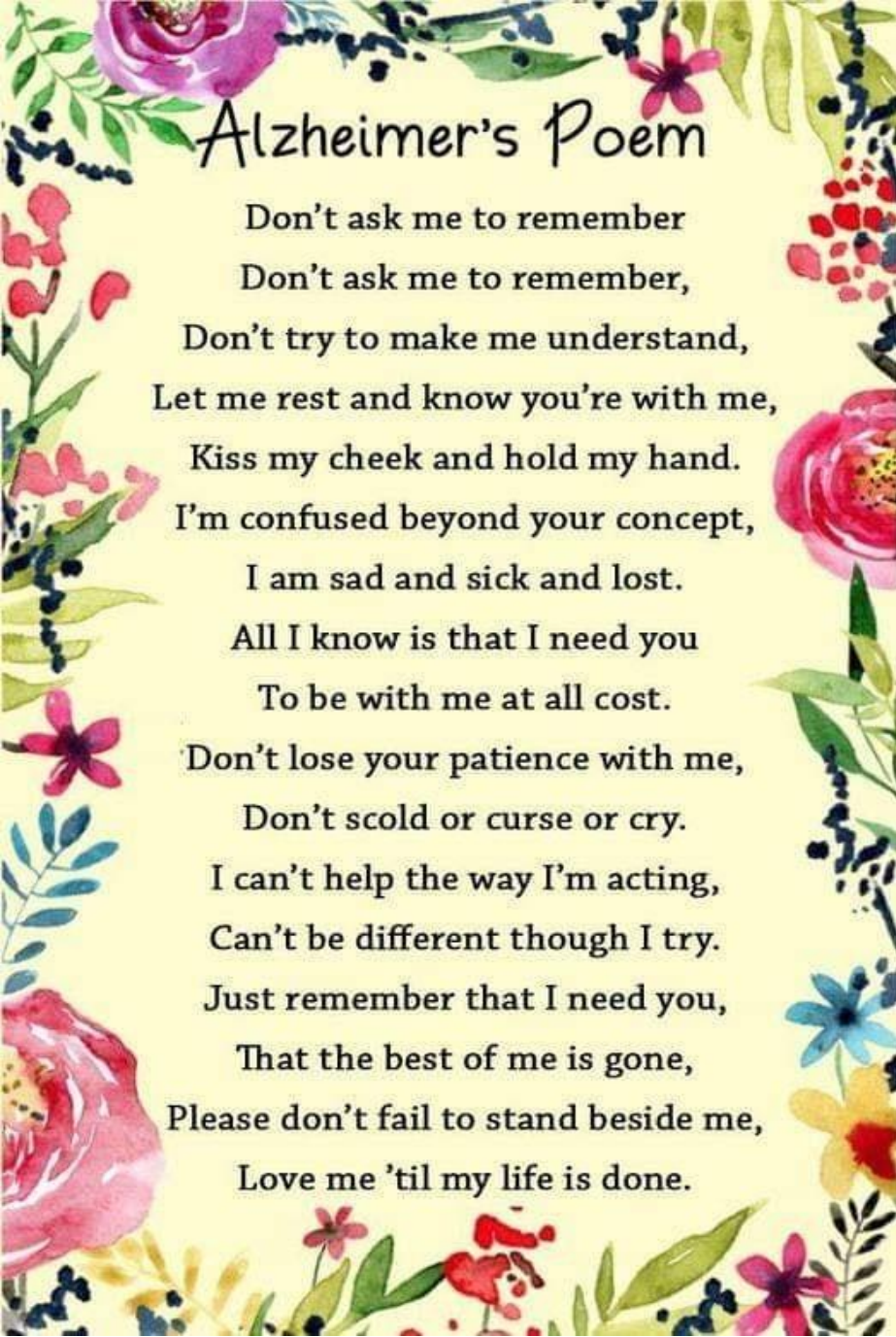
A 19th-century British slang term for a really lame excuse - think "I can't go out because I have to, uh ... wash my hair!"

## **Gallinipper**

When the mosquito you're looking at is huge, call it a *gallinipper* instead.

## **Nicknackatory**

Why call it a toy shop when you can call it a nicknackatory?



## Alzheimer's Poem

Don't ask me to remember  
Don't ask me to remember,  
Don't try to make me understand,  
Let me rest and know you're with me,  
Kiss my cheek and hold my hand.  
I'm confused beyond your concept,  
I am sad and sick and lost.  
All I know is that I need you  
To be with me at all cost.  
Don't lose your patience with me,  
Don't scold or curse or cry.  
I can't help the way I'm acting,  
Can't be different though I try.  
Just remember that I need you,  
That the best of me is gone,  
Please don't fail to stand beside me,  
Love me 'til my life is done.

# ***Interest Groups & Contacts***



Please get in touch with the listed Group Contact Person if you are interested in joining any of the following groups.

**Ambles and Afters:** 2nd Friday of each month at 9.30am.  
**Contact is Mary Wightwick, 578 8747 / 027 440 2047.**

**The Decisive Battles of World History combined with History's Great Military Blunders and the Lessons They Teach:**  
4th Thursday of each month at 10.00am.  
**Contact : Angus Welsh, 577 9114.**

**Books and Authors Group 1:** 2nd Thursday of each month at 2.00pm.  
**Contact is Jackie Hall, 579 3355.**

**Book and Authors Group 2:** 3rd Tuesday of each month at 10.00am.  
**Contact is Wendy Cass, 578 9144.**

**Card Making:** 1st Thursday of the month at 10.00am.  
**Contact is Gloria Mitchell, 577 7833.**

**Celtic World (2):** 2nd Wednesday of each month at 1.30pm.  
**Contact is Ann Turnbull 578 4200.**

**Classic Films Group 1:** 4th Thursday of each month at 2.00pm.  
**Contact is Bruce Dale, 578 9672.**

**Classic Films Group 2:** 3rd Thursday of each month at 1.30pm.  
**Contact is Murray MacDonald, 579 4844.**

**Classical Music:** 1st Monday of each month, at 10.00am.  
**Contact is Ann Moore, 9273754.**

**Current Issues:** 1st Tuesday of each month at 9.45am.  
**Contact is Lindsay Moir, 578 5262.**



# ***Interest Groups & Contacts***

**Comparative Religions:** 3rd Tuesday of each month at 2.00pm  
**Contact** is Paul Stanley, 579 2521.

**Documentary Films:** 3rd Wednesday of each month at 10.00am.  
**Contact** is Lindsay Moir, 578 5262.

**Foundations of Eastern Civilisation:** 3rd Thursday of each month at 2.00pm.  
**Contact** is Lyn Coates, 578 5273.

**Garden Group:** 1st Friday of each month at 10.00am.  
**Contact** is Jan Richardson, 578 0989.

**Geological Wonders:** 3rd Thursday of each month at 10.30am.  
**Contact** is Trish Johnson, 027 241 7021.

**Great Ideas of Philosophy:** 4th Thursday of each month at 2.00pm.  
**Contact** is Paul Stanley, 579 2521.

**History:** 3rd Tuesday of each month at 1.30pm.  
**Contact** is Margaret Fairhall, 578 2507.

**How Winston Churchill Changed the World:** 2nd Tuesday of each month at 2.00pm.  
**Contact** is Mike Mitchell, 577 7833 or 027 339 7584.

**Leonardo Da Vinci and the Italian Renaissance:** 3rd Wednesday of each month at 2.00pm.  
**Contact** is Dorothy Hasseldine, 578 1769.

**Life Writing:** 1st and 3rd Tuesday of each month at 1.30pm.  
**Contact** is Lis Davys, 579 3167.

**Luncheon Plus:** 2nd Thursday of each month at 11.30am.  
**Contact** is Lyn Coates, 578 5273.

**Mah-jong Group:** 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of each month at 2.00pm.  
**Contact** is Evan Wood, 578 2093, [evin42@hotmail.com](mailto:evin42@hotmail.com)

# ***Interest Groups & Contacts***

**Memory Lane Music:** Last Thursday of each month at 10.00am.  
**Contact** is John Best, 578 0595.

**Monet to van Gogh:** 3rd Tuesday of each month at 10.00am.  
**Contact** is Helen Hannay, 578 1574.

**My Favourite Universe:** 3rd Monday of each month at 2pm.  
**Contact** is Mike Mitchell, 577 7833

**Play Reading Group 1:** 4th Monday of each month at 9.30am.  
**Contact** is Margaret Jarman, 578 8805. **Vacancies**

**Play Reading Group 2:** 4th Tuesday of each month at 9.30am.  
**Contact** is Juliet Kirke, 578 0692. **Vacancies**

**Poetry Appreciation:** 2nd Friday of each month at 2.00pm.  
**Contact** is Jan Poswillo, 578 9834 or 021 142 6931.

**Photography:** 1st Monday of each month at 1.30pm.  
**Contact** is Charles Riley, 578 0109.

**Scrabble One:** 1st Monday of each month at 2.00pm.  
**Contact** is Pam Taylor, 578 8816.

**Scrabble Two:** 3rd Thursday of each month at 1.30pm.  
**Contact** is Lorraine Jensen, 027 365 862.

**Secrets of Great Mystery and Suspense:** 3rd Wednesday of each month at 10.00am.  
**Contact** is Jenni Walker 021 133 0582.

**TED Talks:** , 3rd Wednesday of each month at 10.00am. Held at the Picton Library  
**Contact** is Rosemary Jorgensen, 573 5245

**The Great Tours - France Through the Ages:** 3rd Thursday of each month at 2pm.  
**Contact** is Kathryn Nicholls, 021 1438 423

# ***Interest Groups & Contacts***

**The Wonders of Weather and Science of Extreme Weather:** 1st Thursday of each month at 10.00am  
**Contact** is Paul Stanley, 579 2521.

**Ukulele:** 2nd and 4th Wednesday of each month at 10.00am.  
**Contact** is Neville Lawson, 021 480 073.

**Water Colour Painting:** 1st & 3rd Mondays of each month at 9.30am.  
**Contact** is Gavin Kerr, 572 7238.

**Wine Appreciation 1:** 3rd Friday of the month, usually at 11.00am.  
**Contact** is Murray MacDonald, 579 4844.

**Wine Appreciation 2:** Last Friday of each month at 11.30am.  
**Contact** is Juliet Kirke, 578 0692. Vacancies.

**Writing for Grandchildren:** 1st and 3rd Mondays at 9.45am.  
**Contact** is Gladys Sloss, 578 3191.

***A gentle reminder - you must be a financial member to take part in these groups. Please check with Secretary Paul or Treasurer Angus if you aren't sure whether your subs are up to date.***



***"never stop learning"***

**Return Address:**

8a Purkiss Street  
Springlands  
Blenheim 7201



**THE UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE**

***"never stop learning"***