

**Art Group** (Jacqueline Doig-Smith & Cynthia Hampton)

This group has recently reformed and no report is available.

**Book Group** (Erica Maginness)

Another year or interesting, and sometimes lively, debate on the books chosen for 2023.

We have a mix of Fiction and Non Fiction with some fairly challenging reads.

We farewell dear Valerie Strack, a foundation member of this group, who has decided to resign.

We already have a new member lined up to take her place, so we are ready for another year of reading, much book related dialogue, chat and lovely afternoon teas!

**Court Theatre Group** (Sue Milligan)

We attend each production generally on a Monday night at 6.30 p.m. I will notify other members of the date at least two weeks in advance of the next production and my seat numbers so that you can book close by if you wish.

I generally arrive by 5.30 p.m. so that I have time to enjoy a pizza or an arancini ball before the production starts.

We need more members so please contact me on 027-6622-480 or at [suemilligan9@gmail.com](mailto:suemilligan9@gmail.com) if you are interested.

**Choir** (Alison Waghorn)

We meet at 9.30 in the room adjacent to the supper room on the mornings that there is U3A. Unfortunately, our numbers are very small about 14 when everybody is there which is a big responsibility for members. We have learnt a variety of songs some in 2 parts.

We hope that we will be able to sing 1 or 2 carols on our last meeting for the year.

**Epicurean** (Jenny Agnew & Ann Marsh)

Finally, a "normal year"! The Epicurean group have had a splendid time trying different restaurant and café menus.

Our membership at the time of this report is 38 but I suspect there are non-active members on this list who just haven't resigned. The average attendance has been less than last year, about 14.

Liz Gould decided that her two years as co-convenor were up at the end of 2022 and relinquished the task. Ann Marsh very willingly came on board to help choose the venues for our lunches. The theme we chose this year was to choose our restaurants alphabetically.

Our first lunch was at Abalone Thai, a spacious restaurant in Bishopdale. The service was very attentive and there was no fuss when one or two people came unexpectedly. We skipped to C to go to Cocopelli, a pizza bar at The Palms, in Shirley. There was an impressively large menu which featured pizza, of course, but many other choices were offered: pasta, seafood, salads, steak and desserts. Very generous servings meant that many of us were able to take home what we couldn't eat at the time. Service was pleasant, efficient and unhurried.

The B restaurant was the Beach Bar at Sumner. We chose our meals at the time Ann booked the table, so the restaurant was ready for us when we arrived. We then skipped to E to go to Evil Genius at Ferrymead. The downside of the café was the size of their kitchen; it was barely big enough for two people to be inside at the same time! However everyone enjoyed their varied meals which were of an Asian "fusion" style.

At the time of writing our next lunch will be at Good Habit. Our end-of-year dinner will be at Fiddlesticks in November. Several new members joined us this year; we welcome people who are interested in different cuisines and who want to meet members of Rutherford in a different setting than at the lectures. We have made new friends by going out to lunch together.

**Tuesday Film Group** (Barbara Bone)

The U3A Tuesday Film Group provides members with the opportunity to get together to see a wide range of films and enjoy a coffee afterwards. There are around 1 to 15 regulars that meet twice a month. Covid and streaming are making a difference to the number of films

being shown. However, there is obviously an appetite to see good films in a theatre as evidenced by the recent French Film Festival and forward sales for the British and Irish Film Festival.

**Thursday Film Group** (Tony Whatman)

The Thursday Film group met regularly over the winter months. On average four members attended each film. There were eight when we went to a NZ film at Academy Gold on 12<sup>th</sup> October. We try and attend morning screenings. We always meet at a café after the film for a coffee and a sandwich. We rate the film out of five and chat about it with the conversation going in all directions.

We welcome more members. It is a friendly gathering every second Thursday.

Many people love films but never quite get around to seeing them until too late. If you join our film group you will likely see many more films and enjoy the experience.

**Travel Group Report** (Carolyn Marks)

The Travel Group plans to have 6 meetings a year on the 4<sup>th</sup> Friday of each series. It was difficult to stick to that routine this year due to participants overseas travel. However this augers well for forthcoming meetings.

At our meetings we have had some fascinating talks and photos on Iran, South America, Kyrgyzstan, South Africa and Botswana.

We have 2 vacancies for 2 new members to join us.

**Walking Group** (Sue Milligan, relief organiser Denise Duncan)

Meets every Monday at 1.00 p.m. I send an email the previous week describing the walk and the meeting place. Our walks typically last for about an hour and over a distance of approximately 3 km. However I understand that some of you may prefer a shorter walk so there are usually options available to accommodate everyone's preferences.

After our walk we enjoy a coffee break at a local café. This makes it easy to start our walk from the café as parking is usually available nearby. Please text me if you are unable to attend on a day. If it is raining and unsuitable to walk I will cancel the walk by 11.00 a.m.

Please contact me on 027-6622-480 if you are interested in joining us. Stay active and keep walking.

