



Tamaki Drive

The Secretary - U3A Tamaki Drive
1/18 Walmsley St., St Heliers 1071

APRIL 2021

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

ISSUE No. 194

President: Murray Holmes Ph. 575 0380
Secretary: Annette Delugar Ph. 575 6560
Treasurer: Maree Holmes Ph. 575 0380

moree@xtra.co.nz
annette.delugar@xtra.co.nz
moree@xtra.co.nz

MEETING WEDNESDAY 28th APRIL 2021 at 9.30 AM

April Meeting Speaker: Loren O’Sullivan - NPH Organisation: Working for vulnerable children and families in 9 countries across Latin America and the Caribbean.

SIG Responsibilities for 28th April 2021

Introducing the Guest Speaker:	Medieval Cities
Written Report on Speaker:	Science & Technology
Morning-tea:	Famous & Infamous
5-10 minute Speaker	Geology
Verbal Reports 1	Our Night Sky
Verbal Reports 2	Living with the Gods

President’s Report:

Hello members, for a change, we are pleased to shelve Covid for a while, and give you some more pleasant news regarding upcoming events.

Firstly, the Convenor, Christine Robinson has rallied enough members interested to re-form the Music Group. The first meeting is scheduled at St Andrew’s Village on Friday 14th May at 10am. There is still room for more members to join this group. Please contact Christine if you require any information.

The Committee is considering further SIG’s for later this year but have agreed to concentrate on one group at a time making sure they are properly settled in with plenty of support.

With the Covid shutdowns last year it was not possible for us to have a group outing. With fingers crossed, we are planning a day trip on Wednesday the 3rd November (9am – 4.30pm approx) to the stunning world-class **Hamilton Gardens**. It is likely the trip cost will be approximately \$55 per head to cover return coach transport and a café lunch. At this stage, there is no commitment required but we do need “expressions of interest” from numbers so we can arrange transport and secure the lunch booking. No payment is required until the details are finalised. If you would like to join in please let Patricia Coleman know Ph: 524 6235 or e.mail: pat-jack@actrix.co.nz This outing is open to U3A members and friends or family.

Strolling through the gardens is easy and there are lots of seats for visitors to sit and enjoy the surroundings.

Please put your name down now and be part of this wonderful outing.

President's Report continued and photographs of Hamilton Gardens:

Coming up soon is the "Celebrating U3A Event" on 29th July. We already have a few members registered from our U3A. Buddy up with some friends and come and join in on this entertaining day. Registrations can be easily done on line. Information was attached to last month's newsletter and is available at the front desk at our next meeting.

With lots to look forward to this year we hope you participate in these special events. See you at our next meeting on the 28th April.

P.S. One more thing please. Thank you for all those who have paid their annual subs. If yours is still outstanding we would appreciate it if you would please see Maree and settle up asap – thanks! Murray



MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTIONS ARE NOW OVERDUE

Thanks to the members who have paid their 2021 subs.
Our U3A subs are due for renewal. The Annual sub is \$40.

PROMPT PAYMENT IS APPRECIATED PLEASE.

Payment can be made by the following methods:

1. **Internet banking (Preferred Method):** Pay direct into our ASB account:- U3A Tamaki Drive - 12-3027-0449506-00

Please be sure to add your first and last names in the particulars and code fields so the payment can be identified.

2. **Cash:** at a monthly meeting.

PLEASE NOTE THAT THE U3A POST OFFICE BOX IS HAS NOW BEEN CLOSED

Members who paid in full (\$40) last year prior to the \$10 reduction when Covid arrived, may reduce their fees to \$30 this year if they wish. Please see me if you are unsure what you paid last year.

Should you decide not to renew your membership we would be very sorry to lose you but please advise us so we can update our records.

Do give me a call If you have any queries and I will be very happy to help you.

Maree Holmes - Treasurer Ph: 575 0380 moree@xtra.co.nz

Exploring History: Continuing our study of Russia we are gradually building up to the time of Peter the Great. But so much happened prior to him becoming Tsar that we have lots of twists and turns, countries being annexed, lost and regained, wars being fought won and lost but most of all, the people in power behind this.

Boris Godunov being one. He is mentioned being at the court of Ivan the Terrible, becoming a member of his personal guard. His female family members being married off into influential families, if not accepted or became widowed, all that was open to them was the convent - taking the veil.. Godunov himself became very powerful usurping the regency. It was not a happy time in Russia for the peasantry, plague and famine and being forced off their land, becoming 'unfree' serfs, and the worst was yet to come. Patricia

Famous and Infamous - At our April meeting, each member contributed to a talk / discussion about the O.E.C.D. It was agreed that the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, of which New Zealand is a member makes a significant contribution to the world, providing a platform to compare policy experiences, seek answers to common problems, identify good practices and co-ordinate the domestic and international policies of its 37 members. Although the OECD does not have the power to enforce its decisions, even following unanimous votes by its members, it is recognised as a highly influential publisher of mostly economic data. Christine.

Geology - The Group went to Stony Batter on Waiheke for a Geology and History Field Trip. Stony Batter has some unusual large, rounded and fluted andesite boulders from a broken up lava flow from a volcano active about 8 million years ago. However, it is also the site of a huge tunnel complex constructed in WWII for three 9 inch guns to protect the outer harbour. The complex was very secret and the constructors and military were not able to leave the site during the construction. We were given a guided tour by Tim Moon who is a historian and has been the key instigator of the site preservation. We were amazed by the whole project. - Stony Batter is at the far end of Waiheke and to reach it requires a 20k drive and a scenic 1k walk from the car park. It is well worth a visit. - Our next meeting will be a field trip to Mangere Mountain volcano weather permitting. If not then there will be a very interesting BBC video "When the earth melted". Ian Simpson



Site of engine which powered the complex



Group at Stony Batter Car Park

Industrial Revolution - One of our 36 Lectures will discuss Poets, Novelists and Factories so Patricia Coleman opened our meeting with some insights to stimulate our thinking of the types of presentations available to us, should we so wish to do a so. And it has been picked up.

Agriculture, Cities and Manufacturing Traditions was our main focus for today. discussing the shift to enclosure of fields therefore depriving those who had no proof that they had legal entitlement to the land were thrown off; more for the wealthier landlords. Improvement in animal breeding saw new breeds of sheep and cattle for wool and meat. Innovations in farm machinery improved production of wheat, barley etc. In particular, seed drills were used instead of the usual "broadcasting" of seed - but the birds went hungry. The city of London had long been the port where everything manufactured in the colonies was brought to be exported, with trading companies holding a monopoly - a bone of contention for many people. Bristol, Edinburgh, Norwich, York, Exeter and Newcastle were alternative ports for the smaller hinterland with Bristol, Liverpool and Glasgow all facing the Atlantic Ocean therefore growing prosperous through trade in slaves, tea, tobacco and sugar. Patricia.

Living with the Gods - We meet on the first Monday of each month. Public holidays mean that our first meeting of 2021 will be on Monday May 03. We have only 2 more topics/meetings to study. Allowing for Queen's Birthday the course will conclude with "Living with the Gods in the current century" on Mon. 05 July.

Patricia Coleman has very generously offered to lend us her DVD Great History Course: "**Understanding Russia: A Cultural History**". Group members please let me know if you wish to continue with this study. (Judy Simpson.)

Music Appreciation - An informal coffee meeting was held recently to discuss the structure of a Music Appreciation Studygroup for U3A Tamaki Drive.

It has been agreed that the group will meet every 2nd Friday morning of the month, at the arranged venue, St. Andrews Retirement Village, at 10 am. The room allocated for us has good seating and can take many members, has a DVD player installed and a large T V. screen mounted upon the end wall of the room.

We will be viewing throughout the remainder of the year a mixture of DVDs from several sources. They are : Classical Destinations 11, The Great Composers [Mozart, Beethoven, Hayden and Chopin] and a series of "The Great Courses" lectures from Music as a Mirror of History. Combined these DVDs will provide much music to listen to, as well as showing the ways in which history has inspired the creation of certain musical works.

Please phone me [575 1505] should you need further information

Christine Robinson

[convenor]

LIST OF SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS

Antiques and Collectibles
 Convenor: Annette Delugar Ph: 575 6560
 Co Convenor: Cherry Hankin Ph: 521 4251
 3rd Friday of each month @ 10.00 am

Art Appreciation
 Convenor: Patricia Coleman Ph: 524 6235
 Co Convenor: Jennifer Black Ph: 575 2068
 1st Thursday of each month @ 10.00 am

Classic Films
 Convenor: Nancy Crooks Ph: 575 8476
 Co Convenor: Janet Shaw Ph: 575 6015
 2nd Monday of each month @ 1.15pm

Classic Films 2
 Convenor: Cherry Hankin Ph: 521 4251
 2nd Friday of the month @ 7.15 pm

Exploring History
 Convenor: Mavis James Ph: 575 8385
 Co Convenor: Patricia English Ph: 570-9733
 2nd Monday each month @ 10.00 am.

Famous & Infamous
 Convenor: Christine Robinson Ph: 575 1505
 3rd Monday of the month @ 10.00 am

Geology
 Convenor: Ian Simpson Ph: 575 0939
 Co Convenor: Jill Goldkorn Ph: 521 8424
 1st Thursday of the month @ 10.00 am

Living with the Gods
 Convenor: Judy Simpson Ph: 575 0939
 Co Convenor: Roselda Stevens Ph: 522 1483
 1st Monday of the month @ 10am

Medieval Cities
 Convenor: Cherry Hankin Ph: 521 4251
 Co Convenor: Patricia Coleman Ph: 524 6235
 3rd Monday of the month @ 1.30 pm

Music Appreciation
 Convenor: Christine Robinson Ph: 575 1505
 Co-Convenor: Toni Howe Ph: 528 1966
 2nd Friday of Month @ 10 am

Opera
 Convenor: David Colmore-Williams Ph: 528 4158
 Co Convenor: Toni Howe Ph: 528 1966
 2nd Tuesday of the month @10am

Our Night Sky
 Convenor:
 Co Convenor:
 1st Tuesday of month @ 10.00 am

Science & Technology
 Convenor: Murray Holmes Ph: 575 0380
 Co-convenor: Tony Keen Ph: 022 355 1223
 4th Wednesday of the month after Gen. Meeting

Theatre
 Convenor: Helen Frost Ph: 575 4990
 Co Convenor: Fay Nicol Ph: 521 2469
 4th Friday of the month @ 10 am
 at Meadowbank Village

The Industrial Revolution
 Convenor: Patricia Coleman Ph: 524 6235
 Co Convenor: Patricia English Ph: 570 9733
 3rd Thursday of the month @ 10 am

Travel
 Convenor: Josephine Ellis Ph: 027 512 7182
 Co Convenor: Gary Robinson Ph: 585 2248
 1st Wednesday of each month @1.00pm

Our Night Sky - This month we heard about the unmanned spacecraft missions to Mars by : China, the United Arab Emirates and NASA of the United states. All three missions were launched last July to take advantage of the close alignment of Earth and Mars. NASA have successfully landed the Perseverance rover [in February 2021] near an ancient river delta and will now spend 2 years drilling into rocks that may hold evidence of life ,3—4 billion years ago, upon the red planet. New members are most welcome to join our group. Christine

Science & Technology - Last month our group had one of our most interesting field visits ever. We had two groups on different days visit Buckley Systems who custom manufacture precision electromagnets, charged particle beam line systems and high vacuum equipment used in medical therapy systems, particle accelerators for physics research and the semiconductor ion implant industry. Our members were amazed at the hi-tech products that are being produced by this privately owned NZ company who have earned itself a world-wide reputation for exceptional innovation and high quality.

This month, Ram Ramadas, one of our group members, will be speaking at our meeting on "Essential Bacteria". Murray Holmes - Convenor



Travel Group - This month we did have some real travel to report as Josephine described her fascinating 3-week road trip around the South Island. There were old favourites to visit, plus new sights and adventures. February proved to be a wonderful month, weather-wise, so excursions such as Kaikoura Whale-Watching, Tekapo Night Sky, and Milford Sound overnight cruise, all missed on previous travels due to unsuitable weather, were all top successes this time. Chatting to locals about the best sights produced two fantastic experiences: the jet boat trip on the Tasman Glacier Lake, past mini-icebergs, right up to the magnificent icy face and then the Omarama Clay Cliffs - a sight which should be world-famous-in-New-Zealand, but that I had never heard of before. However the star attraction had to be The Giant's House garden in Akaroa; this is worth a special trip to Christchurch to see. Home to dozens of beautiful Gaudi-esque mosaic sculptures set in a beautiful hillside garden, it is a sight of truly world standard. Book your tickets! Our May meeting will cover yet more of the Great Churches of the World, then in June we have an Antarctic Adventure to look forward to.

NOTICE TO U3A TAMAKI DRIVE MEMBERS

Please do not attend the meeting if you feel unwell or have a Cough, Sore throat, Shortness of breath, Runny nose, Sneezing, Post-nasal drip, Loss of smell.

Other Committee Members and Helpers:

<i>Vice President</i> Patricia Coleman	Ph: 524 6235	pat-jack@actrix.co.nz
<i>Speakers:</i> Mavis Haigh	Ph: 534 8891	m.haigh@auckland.ac.nz
<i>Interest Groups:</i> Christine Robinson	Ph:575 1505	jc-rob@xnet.co.nz
Liz Mitchell		lizmitchell750@gmail.com
<i>U3A Network:</i> Nancy Crooks	Ph: 575 8476	nancymetacrooks@gmail.com
<i>Secretary / Almoner:</i> Annette Delugar	Ph:575 6560	annette.delugar@xtra.co.nz
<i>Newsletter:</i> David Colmore-Williams	Ph: 528 4158	davidcolmorewilliams@gmail.com
<i>Asst. Newsletter:</i> Bev Collier	Ph: 575 5387	bev.collier@xtra.co.nz
<i>Membership:</i> Patricia English	Ph: 570 9733	patricia.english19@gmail.com
<i>New Members:</i> Patricia English	Ph: 570 9733	patricia.english19@gmail.com
“ “ Terese Phillips	Ph. 570 1816	teresehillips51@gmail.com
<i>Past President:</i> Judy Simpson	Ph: 575 0939	judyandian.simpson@xtra.co.nz