



## SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS DESCRIPTIONS AS AT JUNE 2021

### ANTIQUES & COLLECTIBLES

*Meets on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday of the month at 10am*

*Convenor: Annette Delugar Ph 575 6560*

This group studies all aspects of Antiques and Collectibles. These have included; China, Crystal, Furniture, Jewellery, Book Binding, and we have visited Historic Homesteads, and Antique Houses.

### ART APPRECIATION

*Meets on the 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday of the month at 10am*

*Convenor: Patricia Coleman Ph 524 6235*

These members organise outings to art galleries and exhibitions, occasionally a visit to the studio of a local artist or craftsperson for an in-depth experience. Also, DVDs and films shown in member's homes have proved a convivial way to promote discussion on various aspects of art.

### CLASSIC FILMS

*Meets on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of the month at 1.15pm*

*Convenor: Nancy Crooks Ph 575 8476*

Each month film buffs enjoy nostalgic viewing of a classic film, comic or dramatic, in the comfort of St. Andrews Community Centre. The members choose the film for the month and it is previewed by a synopsis and background to its creation.

### CLASSIC FILMS 2

*Meets on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday of the month at 7.15pm*

*Convenor: Cherry Hankin Ph 521 4251*

A small group meeting 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday a month in private homes to view old films and a supper.

### EXPLORING HISTORY

*Meets on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of the month at 10am*

*Convenor: Patricia English Ph 570 9733*

Each year a country, region or civilisation is selected for exploration of its course through history, the culture, people and way of life etc.. Members contribute to the meeting by presenting a topic of their choice on the subject, which is then open for discussion. The topics presented are enhanced on occasion by documentaries of interest.

This current subject is the "Birth and Growth of Russia."

### GEOLOGY

*Meets on the 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday of the month at 10am*

*Convenor: Ian Simpson Ph 575 0939*

Study of land forms, geology and volcanoes. Learning enhanced by field trips to a wealth of interesting geological sites and curiosities to be found in the wider Auckland area.

### LIVING WITH THE GODS:

*Meets on the 1<sup>st</sup> Monday of the month at 10am*

*Convenor: Judy Simpson Ph 575 0939*

Our studies are based on the British Museum exhibition, "*Living with the Gods*" by Neil MacGregor, a former Director of the National Gallery, London. Described as a panoramic exploration of peoples, objects and beliefs over 40,000 years LWTG focuses on one of the central facts of human existence: that every known society shares a set of beliefs and assumptions that go far beyond the life of the individual. These beliefs are an essential part of a shared identity. They have a unique power to define – and divide us - and are a driving force in the politics of much of the world today.

In his warm, friendly, very readable prose MacGregor uses his wide knowledge of fascinating religious artefacts from all over the world (and now in the British Museum) to present religion not as a private matter but an essential part of a shared identity.

At each group meeting we listen to and discuss a CD from the BBC Radio 4 series written and presented by Neil MacGregor.

## **MEDIEVAL CITIES**

*Meets on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of the month at 1.30pm*

*Convenor: Cherry Hankin Ph 521 4251*

Studies of many of Europe's romantic cities, such as Prague, Dubrovnik, Krakow, with a series of DVD lectures from Professor Kenneth Bartlett of the University of Toronto. A virtual reality walk through each city illustrating the history and culture.

## **MUSIC APPRECIATION**

*Meets on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday of the month at 10am*

*Convenor: Christine Robinson Ph 575 1505*

A mixture of DVDs from several sources are used to inform and entertain members. As well as providing music to listen to the DVDs describe ways in which history has inspired the creation of certain musical works.

## **OPERA**

*Meets on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of the month at 10am*

*Convenor: David Colmore-Williams Ph 522 4158*

A group ideal for those with a love of music and opera. Each month we meet to listen to opera in DVD lectures, discuss and enjoy extending our knowledge of the great composers and their work. Recently the group has been studying the works of Giuseppe Verdi in a series of wonderful DVD presentations by Robert Greenberg of San Francisco whose whimsical delivery and great knowledge has enhanced our appreciation of the subject. Occasionally the group organises an outing to view the Metropolitan Opera films or attend a live opera performance.

## **OUR NIGHT SKY**

*Meets on the 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday of the month at 10am*

*Convenor: Martin Ellis Ph: 528 5116*

The study of astronomy for beginners. An enthusiastic group learning about the stars in our skies and about outer space through lectures and DVDs and visits to observatories and space stations with hands-on activities. A very popular group.

## **SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY**

*Meets on the 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of the month at 11.15am (following the General Monthly meeting)*

*Convenor: Murray Holmes Ph 575 0380*

All manner of interesting and varied subjects researched and presented by our group members or guest speakers. Some of our recent presentations include; Electric Cycles, Future Technology for Motorists, WaterCare Auckland, Human Evolution, and Making NZ Predator Free. The group also have occasional field visits to interesting places such as the Auckland University Faculty of Engineering, Chelsea Sugar Works, an Ardmore aircraft restorer, and a cosmetics manufacturer.

## **THEATRE**

*Meets on the 4<sup>th</sup> Friday of the month at 10am*

*Convenor: Helen Frost Ph 575 4990*

The group enjoys a variety of plays produced mainly in local theatres, comedy, murder and mayhem. The convenor makes the bookings and transport is shared.

## **THE INDUSTRIAL REVOLUTION**

*Meets on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of the month at 10am*

*Convenor: Patricia Coleman Ph 524 6235*

It covers the emergence of the Industrial Revolution in 18th century Britain and the spread of its inventions and ideas to the USA, seeking to show how and why the great modern transformation occurred. The course provides insight into the historical period and into the birth of modern life as we know it. There is opportunity for members to research and present papers if so desired.

## **TRAVEL**

*Meets on the 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday of the month at 1pm*

*Convenor: Josephine Ellis Ph 027 512 7182*

This group for travellers, those interested in travel, and past travellers, creates lots of opportunity for memories shared, venues suggested, helpful information and happy afternoons. A presentation each month by a group member or a guest about a past destination is often illustrated with DVDs, photographs or slides.