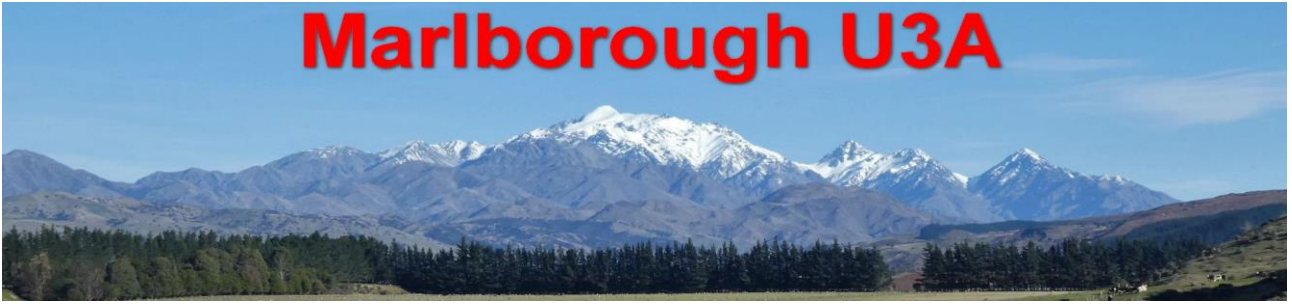


# Marlborough U3A



## Newsletter No 3: August 2024

Marlborough U3A exists to provide educational and interest activities for those who are no longer in full-time employment, to stimulate their intellectual cultural and aesthetic senses, and to provide an opportunity for them to meet, share experiences and pursue common interests.

**Monthly Meetings are held at 2pm on the 2nd Monday of each month (except January) at Cloudy Bay Funeral Services rooms, 15 Boyce St, Blenheim. Entry from the carpark only.**

Date	Speaker		Afternoon Tea
12 August	<b>Paul Davidson</b>	Making Marlborough - the Migrants' Story	<i>Origin of English Words</i>
9 September	<b>Lewis Jones</b>	Fire Safety in the Home	<i>Scrabble 1</i>
14 October	<b>Brian Nicholas</b>	Marlborough District Brass Band - a history	<i>Scrabble 2</i>
11 November	<b>Dave Parsons</b>	Emergency Preparedness	<i>TBA</i>

**Reminder:** a gold coin, please, towards the afternoon tea costs.

### Committee

President	Helen Hannay	<a href="mailto:hjhannay@slingshot.co.nz">hjhannay@slingshot.co.nz</a>	578 1574
Vice President	Peter Yeoman	<a href="mailto:blen.yeoman@xtra.co.nz">blen.yeoman@xtra.co.nz</a>	578 5643
Secretary	Paul Stanley	<a href="mailto:u3a.marlborough@gmail.com">u3a.marlborough@gmail.com</a>	021 663 518
Treasurer	Marilyn Cowe	<a href="mailto:treasurer.u3a.marlb@gmail.com">treasurer.u3a.marlb@gmail.com</a>	022 648 8692
Courses	Ann Moore	<a href="mailto:anncm09@gmail.com">anncm09@gmail.com</a>	021 109 1800
Publicity	Ann Turnbull	<a href="mailto:turnbullann2@gmail.com">turnbullann2@gmail.com</a>	020 4144 0371
Speakers	Ann Anderson	<a href="mailto:ullington@pobox.com">ullington@pobox.com</a>	579 4955
Catering	Linda Batchelor	<a href="mailto:lindabatchelor@yahoo.com.au">lindabatchelor@yahoo.com.au</a>	021 239 3175
Newsletter	Helen Hannay		

### Subscriptions

A \$10 membership subscription is payable on joining U3A Marlborough. Thereafter annual subscriptions are payable **after** the Annual General Meeting (usually held on the 2nd Monday in October) and must be paid by the following 31st January.

Our preferred payment method is by internet banking, to account **01 0598 0033084 01**. Thank you.

**Life Members:** [Jacqui Buttle](#), [Charles Riley](#), [Neville Lawson](#), [Lindsay Moir](#), [Ann MacDonald](#), [Murray MacDonald](#), [Gavin Kerr](#), [Gwyneth Lowe](#).

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# Notice of Annual General Meeting

**Monday 14 October at 2pm**

Cloudy Bay Rooms  
Boyce Street, Blenheim

All members of U3A Marlborough are encouraged to attend.

## Agenda

**Welcome**

**Apologies**

**Approval of Minutes of the 2023 AGM**

**President's Report**

**Financial Report**

**Groups Report**

**Election of Officers:**

- President:
- Vice President:
- Secretary:
- Treasurer:
- Committee:



*Please note: Nominations should be forwarded to the Secretary or can be taken from the floor.*

**Appointment of Accounts Examiner**

**General Business**

- Subscriptions for 2024/25 to be set (*due for payment after the AGM*)
- Any other business

*After the close of the AGM, we will have our usual monthly meeting and afternoon tea, followed by our Guest Speaker*

**ANNUAL  
GENERAL  
MEETING**

## President's Report

### *Greetings Fellow Members*

*"Life is like a book - some chapters are sad, some are happy and some are exciting, but if you never turn the page, you will never know what the next chapter has in store for you."*

I think this quote sums up life so well. What we do with our "chapters" is what's important and often governs how well we live our lives. Which leads me on to ask, "How many of you have thought about writing down your life story for your family – your children, your grandchildren and perhaps even your great-grandchildren?" Share with them your "happy's", your "sad's" and your "exciting's" while you can. Sometimes we only learn these things at funerals!

I've put some time myself into doing this – brought about mostly by having my parents die before I was able to learn all the things about them and their lives that I wish I knew now. So much there was to learn but of course in my younger years parents didn't often talk about things as freely as we do now.

It's been an interesting experience, reliving childhood memories and the adventures I had with my brothers, recalling my working career (with some difficulty at times – age catches up with us doesn't it, and memories fade). And even when I think I have finished another memory rears up and says – add this to your story – an almost never-ending task but an enjoyable one nonetheless. Even as I write this, I realise I haven't written about my travels – the places I've been so lucky to have visited and the wonderful experiences I've had. I wonder if I will ever be satisfied with the "end" result?

But back to U3A business now. We have, with regret, received Liz Griffiths' resignation as Editor of our newsletter and committee member. Liz has had many other demands on her time with family illnesses and we wish her well as she tends to them. In light of this I offered to continue producing our newsletter for the time being. However, as a result of a request for anyone interested in taking on this role, I am delighted to say that Jill van Angeren has offered to step in. Jill will start with the next newsletter after this one – thanks very much Jill. We have also co-opted Sarah Gunningham to the committee to assist with Ann Moore with her greatly increased task of organising our courses and special interest groups. Welcome to both of these ladies – I'm sure they will be a great asset to the work of your committee.

We are thrilled to have new members joining U3A each month – we usually have 6 or 7 new folks coming along each time (10 in July) and we really welcome you all. As an outcome of this your committee have organised to have a "Welcoming Group", led by our Immediate Past President Gwyneth, to make sure you are greeted as you arrive and are introduced to other members.

It is great to see so many members coming along to our monthly meetings – we are averaging 100 members at each meeting, but there's still room for more! At each meeting there are enrolment forms put out for our new groups so if you are looking for something new to learn about coming to the meetings are the best way to find out what's on offer. We have purchased some very interesting lecture series over the last few years and are always on the lookout for new subjects to inform and entertain you. Of course, we need hosts and contact people for these groups – that's where you members come in. It is not an onerous task but one that we need to share so if you can possibly help, please offer.

We have also found 2 new venues to host some of our courses; the Alzheimers Centre and the Marlborough Library both have offered us a room so that is helping with finding places to meet. As well as the learning opportunities the groups offer us, there is the social aspect as well. A great chance to get to know other members better and chat over a cup of tea or coffee and a bite to eat over morning or afternoon tea breaks. Please remember to contribute by putting in your gold coin towards costs or taking your turn to bring the biscuits for these groups.

*Keep warm and stay well,  
Helen*

## Course Coordinator's Report

It has been a fairly intense time since the last report. Everyone seems to be fully involved and enjoying all the current courses. This is very pleasing. However, it does mean that new courses have had to be put on the back burner until members have finished some of the current ones.

I have had very pleasing comments about some of the courses. Peter Yeoman said the Heroes and Legends in Literature course is one of the best ones he has ever participated in. I can say the same for The Iliad and Homer's Odyssey and The American Civil War. These courses are presented by people who really know their stuff!

Also, Barbarians of the Steppes has finished, with acclaim. I'll put it out for a new group at the August meeting.

I have had great recommendations for From Athens to Istanbul and Great Tours - Ireland. These courses can be done again next year.

Armchair Travel is organised and ready to start. We have obtained another spot at the Marlborough Library for this meeting and it is full at present.

Exploring the Roots of Religion is ready to start when a day, week and fill-in host is chosen. Sheenah Barron has offered to host from September except in the three winter months when she is overseas each year.

Understanding Russia, A Cultural History hasn't got enough people signed up for it yet. I know Russia is a bad word at the present time but learning about its history could help us understand it better as a continent and people. I would welcome more signing up for it.

A lot of Convenors have let me know how their courses are going. Thanks so much for this information. It helps when deciding what to purchase next.

Thank you everyone for your participation and enthusiasm.

**Ann Moore**

*Happy 23rd Birthday  
U3A Marlborough Inc*





### **Ancient Writing and the History of the Alphabet – summary so far**

The course is narrated by John McWhorter, he is a very entertaining lecturer and easy to understand making the course very good to listen to. We have only listened to the first 6 courses. We started with the basic history of writing and its origins around 5,500 years ago, then moved on to Cuneiform script which is nothing like what we would understand today.

Next was Egyptian Hieroglyphs that we would all recognise from the Pyramids & Tombs in Egypt, but translating these symbols to understand what they meant was a different matter and took the finding of “The Rosetta Stone” in 1799 to sort it out. Then the “Alphabet” moved around East Asia before we discover where the letters A, E & O came from.

So, it is a very worthwhile course which we are all enjoying and is fairly short at only 16 lectures.

**Paul Gunningham**

### **Picton Discussion Group**

At the July meeting we were led in discussion about how electricity is supplied in New Zealand and how it is used. This kept us amused for nearly an hour before we could break for coffee. We didn't discuss the distribution companies but the general opinion seemed to be that it was a pity that it was not still a government distribution centre.

Next meeting will be the Implications of Government use of AI. And the month after, the title of the talk will be - Meet the Mighty Transistor.

**Rosemary and Geoff**

### **A History of India**

This is another of our new Great Courses lecture series and is off to a good start with Professor Michael H Fisher sharing his in-depth knowledge. Our first four lectures discussed Earliest history of the Indian Subcontinent, Migration and the Adivasi, Indus Valley Civilisation and Indo-European Vedic Culture.

Quoting from the introduction in the handbook, *“Over the past 5,000 years the cultures and people of the Indian subcontinent have developed in fascinating and complex ways. Today, India, Pakistan and Bangladesh comprise one of the most dynamic and increasingly significant parts of humanity. South Asians currently total 20% of the world’s population.”*

A fascinating part of the world to investigate indeed.

**Helen Hannay**

### **Card Making Group**

There are two vacancies in this group who are creating a wonderful range of cards. If you are interested, please contact Gloria Mitchell, phone 577 7833.

### **From Jackie Hall, who convenes several groups:**

Our Celts study is only half way. It is an excellent one, too, and I would encourage anyone else to pick it up next time it is run.

Our Scrabble group is flourishing with 12 enthusiastic participants rotating round the new super Scrabble game each time.

And my Book Group continues to be challenging around an array of topics - the amazing thing is that no one ever has the same book.

## Can You Help?

The following guidelines are designed to assist members who kindly volunteer to convene our Study Groups:

- Most meetings are held in members' homes.
- Email or phone reminders are sent prior to each meeting, asking for confirmation of attendance or any apologies. This is to assist your host/hostess in setting up the meeting room.
- You may wish to keep a record of attendances on the forms provided, along with member contact details (handy for meeting reminders).
- In general, modest group expenses are the responsibility of the group. Morning or afternoon tea responsibilities can be shared, with each member taking a turn to bring food to share and the host providing tea, coffee and milk. A gold coin donation should be contributed towards the host's costs.
- Your group may be called upon to provide brief notes for inclusion in the quarterly newsletter - this can be the part of the role of the convenor or another group member may wish to contribute in this way.
- Your group may wish to share your experiences and knowledge gained at monthly meetings. Please contact the President to arrange a date if you would like to do this.
- Please advise the Newsletter Editor if you have any vacancies.
- Please advise the Groups Coordinator and the Editor when your group finishes.

**Convening a group should not be onerous - remember others in the group will be happy to assist when asked. The Groups Coordinator or Committee members are also available to assist if required.**

**If we don't have volunteers to act as Convenors for our groups, we will be limited to what we can offer and new interest groups may not be able to get underway.**



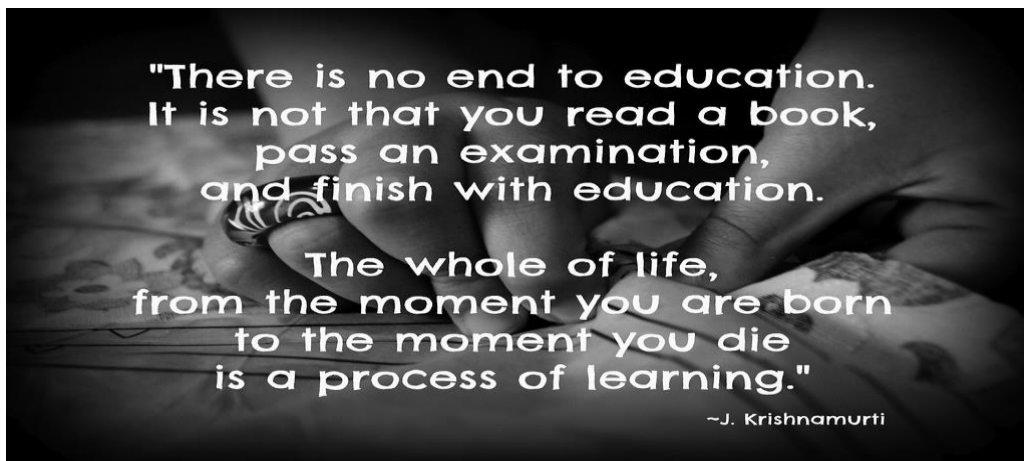
## Interest Groups and Contacts

Each of our groups meets on a specific day and week of each month. Please contact the Group Contact person if you are interested in joining any of these groups or come along to our monthly meetings and sign up for our new groups.

- **A History of India:** 3rd Tuesday at 1.30pm. **Contact:** Anne Whitaker, 021 944 989.
- **Ambles and After's:** 2nd Friday at 9.30am. **Contact:** Margaret Reilly, 027 222 9608.

- **American Civil War and Abraham Lincoln:** 4th Friday at 2pm.  
**Contact:** Ann Moore, 021 109 1800.
- **Ancient Writing and the History of the Alphabet:** 1st Monday at 2pm.  
**Contact:** Paul Gunningham, 021 0801 0148
- **Armchair Travel:** 4th Wednesday at 2pm. **Contact:** Helen Hannay, 578 1574
- **Black Holes, Tides and Curved Space-time: Understanding Gravity:**  
3rd Tuesday at 2pm. **Contact:** Paul Stanley, 579 2521.
- **Books and Authors:** 2nd Thursday at 2pm. **Contact:** Jackie Hall, 579 3355.
- **Card Making:** 1st Thursday at 10am. **Contact:** Gloria Mitchell, 577 7833.
- **Celtic World**  
**Group 1:** 1st Friday at 2pm. **Contact:** Colleen Cox, 027 241 1467.  
**Group 2:** 1st Wednesday at 10am. **Contact:** Jackie Hall 579 3355.
- **Classic Films Group 1:** 4th Thursday at 1 30pm. **Contact:** Bruce Dale, 578 9672.  
**Classic Films Group 2:** 3rd Thursday at 1.30pm. **Contact:** Murray MacDonald, 579 4844.
- **Classical Music:** 1st Monday at 10am. **Contact:** Brian Mudge: 027 226 3630.
- **Comparative Religion:** 3rd Thursday at 2pm. **Contact:** Trish Johnson, 027 241 7021.
- **Current Issues:** 1st Tuesday at 9.45am. **Contact:** Juliet Kirke, 578 0692.
- **Discussions on Points of Interest.** 1st Wednesday at 10 am at Picton Library.  
**Contact:** Rosemary Jorgensen, (03) 573 5245
- **Documentary Films:** 3rd Wednesday at 10am. **Contact:** Lindsay Moir, 027 694 9416.
- **Everyday Engineering:** 4th Friday at 2pm. **Contact** Marilyn Cowe, 022 648 8692.
- **Exploring the Roots of Religion:** 4th Tuesday at 2pm. Contact Sheenagh Barron, 577 6434  
or Ann Moore, 021 109 1800.
- **Garden Group:** 1st Friday at 10am. **Contact:** Jan Richardson, 578 0989.
- **Great Tours - From Athens to Istanbul:** **Contact:** Ann Anderson, 579 4955.
- **Great Tours - England, Scotland and Wales:** 2nd Tuesday at 2pm.  
**Contact:** Peter Yeoman, 578 5643.
- **Great Tours - Ireland and Northern Ireland**  
**Group 1:** - 1st Tuesday at 10am. Contact: Ann Turnbull, 020 4144 0371.  
**Group 2:** - 2nd Tuesday at 2pm. Contact: Ann Anderson, 579 4955.
- **Heroes and Legends: The Most Influential Characters of History:** 1st Tuesday at 2 pm.  
**Contact:** Peter Yeoman, 578 5643.
- **History:** 3rd Tuesday at 1.30pm. Contact: Margaret Fairhall, 578 2507.
- **Homer's Iliad and Odyssey:** 3rd Monday at 2pm. **Contact:** Ann Moore, 021 109 1800.
- **Life Writing:** 1st and 3rd Tuesdays at 1.30pm. **Contact:** Lis Davys, 579 3167.
- **London: A Short History of the Greatest City in the Western World:** 3rd Monday at 2pm.  
**Contact:** Sarah Gunningham, 021 105 8559.

- **Lost Worlds of South America:** 1st Tuesday at 2pm. **Contact:** Peter Yeoman, 578 5643.
- **Luncheon Plus:** 2nd Thursday at 11.30am. **Contact:** Marilyn Welsh, 577 9114.
- **Mah-jong:** 1st and 3rd Wednesdays at 2pm.  
**Contact:** Evin Wood, 578 2093, evin42@hotmail.com.
- **Memory Lane Music:** Last Thursday at 10am. **Contact:** John Best, 027 246 1006.
- **Origin of English Words:** 4th Thursday at 2pm. **Contact:** Margaret Conway, 579 1956.
- **Physics in Your Life:** 1st Tuesday at 2pm. **Contact:** Ann Anderson, 579 4955.
- **Poetry Appreciation:** 2nd Friday at 2pm. **Contact:** Jan Poswillo, 578 9834 or 021 142 6931.
- **Photography:** 1st Monday at 1.30pm. **Contact:** Charles Riley, 578 0109.
- **Scrabble Group 1:** 1st Monday at 2pm. **Contact:** Jackie Hall, 579 3355.  
**Scrabble Group 2:** 3rd Thursday at 1 30pm. **Contact:** Lyn Blaker, 972 3739.
- **Science of Extreme Weather:** 1st Thursday at 10am. **Contact:** Paul Stanley, 579 2521.
- **The Decisive Battles of World History, and History's Great Military Blunders and the Lessons they Teach:** 4th Thurs at 10.0am. **Contact:** Angus Welsh, 577 9114.
- **The Remarkable Science of Ancient Astronomy:**  
**Group 1:** 2nd Friday at 2pm. **Contact:** Phil Scadden, 027 346 3185.  
**Group 2:** 3rd Thursday at 10am. **Contact:** Paul Stanley, 579 2521.
- **Watercolour Painting:** 1st & 3rd Mondays at 9.30am. **Contact:** Gavin Kerr, 572 7238.
- **Wine Appreciation Group 1:** 3rd Friday at 11am. **Contact:** Angus Welsh, 577 9114.  
**Wine Appreciation Group 2:** Last Friday at 11.30am. **Contact:** Juliet Kirke, 578 0692.
- **Winston Churchill:** 4th Thursday at 2pm. **Contact:** Robin Cox 578 4115
- **Writing for Grandchildren:** 1st and 3rd Mondays at 9.45am.  
**Contact:** Gladys Sloss, 578 3191.



Please remember you must be a current financial member of Marlborough U3A to take part in any of these groups.