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WELCOME TO THE FIFTH NEWSLETTER FOR 2023

Following an excellent series of lectures on a range of topics the next series (**Series 5**), commencing on September 1, will be titled “Re-reading Jane Austen”. Details follow below.

As always lectures commence at 10:30 am at St Mark’s Church (150 Withells Road) and are preceded by morning tea in the lounge. Lectures in this series have been organised by **Wallace Woodley**.

Series 5 - “Re-reading Jane Austen:”

<p>1 September</p>	<p>Introduction</p> <p>Why is Jane Austen still read and re-read more than 200 years after she died? A clue can be found in this famous quote from Emma: “seldom, very seldom, does complete truth belong to any human disclosure” (III.xiii). This lecture explores Jane Austen’s life and accomplishments.</p>
<p>8 September</p>	<p>Northanger Abbey</p> <p>In this novel Austen responds to the genre of Gothic fiction which was popular – and which she herself read -- in the 1790s and in the years thereafter. We consider the elements of this genre in Northanger Abbey, and how Austen’s heroine’s fondness for it impacts on her life.</p> <p>Sense and Sensibility</p> <p>Our discussion centres on the novel’s exploration of the precarious, dependent condition of unmoneyed women.</p>
<p>15 September</p>	<p>Pride and Prejudice</p> <p>Epistolary novels, that is novels which consist of letters between characters, made up half of all new novels published in English in 1787. We consider what one critic refers to as the “finely calibrated range of epistolary voices” in Pride and Prejudice. But Pride and Prejudice is not an epistolary novel. Instead, it employs a third person narrative which skilfully allows the narrator to explore the contours of consciousness of a host of characters.</p>

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<p>22 September</p>	<p>Mansfield Park</p> <p>Austen’s novels are loved for the author’s engagement of what she herself referred to as the reader’s “Ingenuity”, that is, the reader’s own interpretative skills. We consider the significant silences and allusions in Mansfield Park, including the curtailed treatment of the theme of slavery.</p>
<p>29 September</p>	<p>Emma</p> <p>Emma stands out for its concentration on a single setting. Today, we examine the novel’s examination of the English system of rank, in what one critic has referred to as “its finest and supplest calibrations”.</p> <p>Persuasion</p> <p>This novel achieves what critics have described as an “unprecedented intensity of focus on the consciousness of its heroine”, exploring as it does the crushing psychological consequence of wrong decisions and ongoing regret.</p>

Notes on Speaker’s background

Judith Lütge Coullie

Judith obtained her MA in English literature from Syracuse University (USA) and PhD from the University of Natal (South Africa). Before immigrating to New Zealand, she was Professor of English at the University of KwaZulu-Natal. Her book publications include a compilation of South African women’s life writing (*The Closest of Strangers*, 2004); an edited collection of critical essays on Breyten Breytenbach (2004); interviews on southern African auto/biography (2006) and the edited memoirs of Roy Campbell’s daughters (2011). More recently, she co-edited *Antjie Krog: An Ethics of Body and Otherness* (2014). She is currently a learning advisor at the University of Canterbury.

Calendar for balance of 2023

October 20: Bus Trip, led by Dr Colin Meurk and Dr Sam Hampton.

October 27: Lily Purdon, Fracture Liaison Service: Bone Health, Sports Canterbury: Strength and Balance Classes.

November 3: Hayley Guglietta, Avon-Otakaro Network: Red Zone / Otakaro Sea.

November 10: AGM and lecture to be finalised following AGM conclusion.

November 24: End of Year Lunch: at Monteith’s Bar, Avonhead Mall.