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WELCOME TO THE FIRST NEWSLETTER FOR 2024

Happy New Year everyone. We do hope you have had a great summer break and we would like to welcome all new and old friends to a fresh year of stimulating lectures.

This year will be the first in our new venue at Rārākau Riccarton Centre. As detailed in our last Newsletter this is a modern building with enhanced presentation facilities and well located for all our current and potential members.

Some parking is available onsite and the Westfield car park is also close by.

SUBSCRIPTIONS FOR 2024

To those of you who have already paid their subscription – Thank You. For those that still have not done so, payment at the earliest opportunity would be appreciated.

We have attached a copy of "U3A Arts Centre, Information for Members, 2024". as a reminder of matters related to payment and operation of the lectures.

COURSE ONE

Course One commences on **Friday 16 February** and runs on consecutive Fridays until **15 March**.

Venue

Kahikitea Room in Rārākau Riccarton Centre .at 199 Clarence Street.

Time

Friday mornings **10.00 am for morning tea** followed by the lecture from 10.30 am till 12 noon.

Chairperson

Wendy Gallagher
Phone 022 090 5982
Email
gwaswendy@gmail.com

Secretary

Pip Voller
Phone 021 257 6931
Email
pip.voller@gmail.com

Treasurer

Clyde Phillips
Phone 322 8849
Email
ctam@xtra.co.nz

Membership

Email
arts.centre.u3a@gmail.com

COURSE ONE DETAILS

Alexander Pope: ‘The proper study of mankind is Man.’

People nowadays may be unfamiliar with the poetry of Alexander Pope (1688-1744), but will know many of his pithy witticisms such as ‘To err is human; to forgive, divine’. What may not be common knowledge, is that, according to some sources, Pope is the second most quoted English writer after Shakespeare.

In this series, we consider why Pope is recognised as a great master of poetic form, an eloquent satirist, and a representative of the culture and politics of the Neo-Classical period in English literature.

The presentations will cover the following topics:

Lecture 1. Introduction to Pope:

Famous quotes;
Historical context

Lecture 2. The literary context and Pope’s early career (to 1713)

An Essay on Criticism (1711) and key features of Neo-Classicism
Windsor Forest (1713)

Lecture 3. 1714-1726: Pope’s career as a poet to be reckoned with is established

The Rape of the Lock (1714): we focus on this mock-heroic poem which satirises a minor incident of life in which a suitor had cut off a lock of young lady’s hair without permission.

Other notable achievements in this period are:

Translation of the Iliad (1715-1720)
Pope’s edition of Shakespeare in 6 volumes
Translation of the Odyssey (1725-1726)

Lecture 4 1727-1732: Satire

The Dunciad (1729): The poem celebrates a goddess Dulness and the progress of her chosen agents as they bring decay, imbecility, and tastelessness to the Kingdom of Great Britain.

Lecture 5. 1733-1744: Moral Essays and Pope’s Legacy

Pope’s *Essay on Man* and *Moral Epistles* were designed to be the parts of a system of ethics expressed in poetry.

An Essay on Man (1733) seeks to vindicate the ways of God to man (l.16), a variation of John Milton’s claim in the opening lines of *Paradise Lost*, that he will “justify the wayes of God to men” (1.26).

The Moral Essays (1731-1735) refers to four poems, written as epistles to various people. The poems comment on four key topics of social morality--the character of men, the character of women, the use of riches, and the virtue of taste.

Course Presenter - Judith Lütge Coullie

Judith obtained her MA in English literature from Syracuse University (USA) and PhD from the University of Natal (South Africa). For her doctorate, she studied the autobiographies of South Africans across racial, class and gender categories published during the apartheid period (1948-1994). Before immigrating to New Zealand, she was Professor of English at the University of KwaZulu-Natal. For nine years, she worked as a learning advisor at the University of Canterbury. She has published several chapters in books, and articles in academic journals. 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); a CD on the poet Roy Campbell (2004); interviews on southern African auto/biography (2006); and the memoirs of Roy Campbell's daughters (2011). She also co-edited *Antjie Krog: An Ethics of Body and Otherness* (2014)..

Future Courses in 2024

We have been busy developing future courses and will update members in our regular Newsletters on specific details for each course. In the meantime we can provide a broad outline of the next 2 courses for which planning is well advanced.

Course 2 Christchurch's Cultural Heart

April 5. The Christchurch Museum

April 12. Court Theatre

April 19 Art Gallery

April 26 Arts Centre

May 3. Future Plans

Course 3. The Criminal Justice System

May 24 The Criminal Mind

May 31 The Police Service

June 7 The Prison Service

June 14 The Youth Justice System

June 21 Prisoner Aid and Rehabilitation

U3A Arts Centre, Information for Members, 2024

Our **NEW** meeting location for 2024 will be in the Kahikitea Room at Rārākau Riccarton Centre (199 Clarence Street). Lectures are held on a Friday morning and are usually around a common topic known as a Course. Each course consists of 5 weekly lectures with a gap of two to three weeks between courses. There are five standard courses during the year with a shorter Mini Course at the end of the year.

Members are notified about course details by newsletter, preferably by email, prior to each course.

Annual membership

Under our Rules of Constitution, membership is from 1 January to 31 December in any one year. A single fee of \$90.00 is payable before the end of January. This covers all lectures, but does not include the Bus Trip or the End of Year Lunch. Members may arrange payment with our Treasurer, Clyde Phillips, 322-8849 or at email ctam@xtra.co.nz

If paying by **Internet banking** please add your name and the subject(s) of the payment eg Annual sub, bus trip charge, etc.. Our bank account number is **06-0996-0091423-00**.

Rārākau Riccarton Centre opens at 9:45am in order for members to meet for morning tea at 10am. The lectures start at 10:30am.

In the Foyer Be aware that the foyer is a public place and ensure your handbags etc, are safe at all times. Please make sure that you are not blocking the ability of the public and other users of the facility to pass.

Name cards are provided for enrolled members. Wearing a name card confirms your membership. Please remember to wear yours at each function.

Attendance Register. Members will on arrival, be invited to tick their attendance in the Register at the reception desk in the lecture room. Please ensure that you carry out this function as we may need to provide the venue with a list of attendees in the event of an emergency.

Members wishing to bring a friend may invite them to **one** lecture once only at no charge. If they wish to attend more lectures then a discounted rate of \$20 is payable for each series that they attend. Should they wish to become full members that amount would be credited to them against the membership fee charged in that year.

New members. When coming to your first meeting, please identify yourself to a committee member who will be wearing a name card with a red dot upon it. The committee member will welcome you and see that you obtain your name card.

Please inform a member of the Committee if any liquid or food is spilt while having morning tea.

Question Time Unless a speaker indicates that questions are welcome during the lecture, please refrain from asking a question until the end of the address. Indicate to the Chair that you have a question by raising your hand and wait for the microphone. When asking questions, please hold the roving microphone horizontally and speak directly into it so we may all hear.