

Hi,

*Margaret Copland, our March speaker, is a great storyteller as she proved to us by her fascinating tales of early Polish settlers to Christchurch.*

*Her pronunciation of many difficult names was so fluent, and her portrayal of the characters (her relatives) was extremely realistic.*



*This was a highly informative and enjoyable session.*

**Note:**

*The Local History interest group has an interesting tour around Greendale on Wednesday March 24 starting at 1pm. All Malvern members welcome. See below in special interest groups for full details.*

***April Meeting:***

Date: 9<sup>th</sup> April 2021

Venue: Darfield Baptist Church, 15 Greendale Road, Darfield

Time: 10am (Cuppa, then members announcements followed by the speaker)

Topic: Pseudo Science and how to tell the Difference

Speaker: Dr Simon Pollard

*Were the moon landings faked? Is the earth flat? Are vaccines dangerous? Dr Simon Pollard from Canterbury University will talk about how science works and why it is different from the pseudoscientific claims of its often-vocal detractors.*

***Speakers during 2021***

**May 14<sup>th</sup>, 2021 (AGM):** Canterbury Vegetation.

*Peter Gatehouse will explore what was the natural vegetation of the Canterbury Plains.*

Reminder that [nomination forms](https://u3a.nz/lists.htm) for Officers and committee members are available on the website <https://u3a.nz/lists.htm> under Malvern, or at the meetings.

**June 11<sup>th</sup>, 2021:** Understanding Highland Clearances.

*Martin Sutherland grew up in Darfield and spent a number of years working in the Justice department before completing a PhD in History at the University of Canterbury and training for the Baptist Ministry. Martin will explore the mass movement of communities and the subsequent depopulation of the Scottish Highlands between 1760 and 1860 that had many causes.*

**July 9<sup>th</sup>, 2021** Lance Jennings, Clinical Virologist

**August 13<sup>th</sup>, 2021** Influence of Religion in USA

*Dr Peter Field says: “An American, I have lived in Canterbury for 20 years on and off. I also teach in the USA, although not lately!*

*I am completing my 4th book—this one on Abraham Lincoln. The first two books were related to American religion.*

*I am now head of Humanities and Creative Arts at Canterbury. In truth, I am a teacher. And I love my job.*

*America and religion is a complex issue. The country was settled in part by very religious folk. Yet its Founding was decidedly secular. Today there is a great divide between the religious (Right) and the agnostic Left. Yet, paradoxically, the Right seem to be devotees of the Founding and the Left seem to manifest traits some have compared to religious enthusiasm. Let’s see what we can sort out in under an hour.”*

**November 5<sup>th</sup>, 2021** Sue Bagshaw has agreed to speak on Young People of the Future.

### **Attendance Notice**

Attendance at Darfield Baptist Church in 2021 for U3A meetings will be in accordance with common Covid-19 practice. Attendees will need to register their presence by telling the people on the desk. Remember to bring your name tags! New attendees will be asked for their name, email and phone number.

Financial members who have paid a sub since the last meeting will be able to collect name tags from the entry table.

Anyone who is unwell or feels uncomfortable about being in crowds at this time is encouraged to stay at home.

### **Subscriptions**

The next year’s subscription is to be set at the AGM on May 14<sup>th</sup>, 2021. It will be payable online, or in a cash deposit at Kiwi Bank, or on a meeting day to the treasurer. Those who are not financial are casual attendees and will be asked for a koha per meeting until joining.

## ***Special Interest Groups***

We have the following groups operating and will start a waiting list for those groups that are full so contact the Group leaders to register your interest.

**Mahjong**. Members are very active meeting 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of the month with Susan Baldwin tutoring. Contact Ruth Warren: [rwifwarren@gmail.com](mailto:rwifwarren@gmail.com)

**Current Affairs** 12 members meeting on 4<sup>th</sup> Monday of the month. Interesting discussions on elections, economic recovery etc. A topic is set at each meeting so members can research for the next meeting. Contact Ian Warren: [rwifwarren@gmail.com](mailto:rwifwarren@gmail.com)

**NZ and Local History**. NZ and Local History. **Wed 24 March**. Ian Warren and Paul Jarman are hosting a visit to: Greendale, a fertile farming area established in the 1860's where descendants of the original settlers still farm.

Starting at the TW Adams Arboretum – 60 Adams Road, at 1pm, there will be a short drive past the old Baptist Church, the old store and the old blacksmiths to the Greendale Domain and Hall. At the Domain there is the millennium project and War Memorial gates. Another short drive then, past the school to the Methodist Church and the future museum followed by a visit to the Greendale cemetery. If wet discussion will be held in the hall but still meet at the Arboretum.

Contact Jim Copland: Phone: 03 3181712 or email [adjimcopland@gmail.com](mailto:adjimcopland@gmail.com)

**Everyday Te Reo**. Up to 5 members currently meeting weekly at 4pm on Wednesdays in Darfield. Contact Margaret Copland: [coplalex@snap.net.nz](mailto:coplalex@snap.net.nz)

### **Appreciation of New Books and Authors**

More members are needed to start the interest group for this Library based group. Put your name down on the list at the desk next meeting if you are interested or contact Jim.

Jim Copland is still keen to hear from you with ideas for **new topics for interest groups**. There will be a box to post ideas in at each meeting.

Phone 318-1712 or email [adjimcopland@gmail.com](mailto:adjimcopland@gmail.com)

### ***Canterbury Network Curious Minds Seminar- May 14<sup>th</sup>, 2021 is cancelled***

Due to the uncertainty around Covid 19 the above seminar is cancelled. A large attendance was needed to make this viable and that was not feasible at present.

*We look forward to seeing those of you able to attend the meeting in April.*

*Janet MacDougall, Newsletter and Website Co-ordinator*