



U3A Hutt Valley

Members' Update November 2021

Dear Members

Unlike some other areas we have been fortunate to be in Covid level 2 recently and able to enjoy our October meeting and various group activities. Fingers crossed we will not see a change in Covid levels and can hold our meeting on the 8th November.

If so, the same rules as last meeting will apply. The meeting is for members only. We will not serve tea and coffee and our seating will be set individually apart. We ask you please to wear masks.

November Speaker



Gill Jolly, the Natural Hazards and Risk Theme Leader at GNS Science.

Gill is a volcanologist from the UK, who after researching magma physics for her PhD, started work at the British Geological Survey.

After exploring for gold and base metals in the UK, Gill became involved in monitoring the eruption of Soufriere Hills Volcano, Montserrat from 1995 to 2005.

In 2006 she moved to GNS Science where she led the Volcanology team through New Zealand and South West Pacific eruptions, and subsequently led the Natural Hazards Division through the response to the 2016 M7.8 Kaikōura Earthquake.

Gill is also a member of the Prime Minister's Chief Science Advisor Forum and acts as a conduit between the natural hazards research community and senior decision-makers.



October speaker

Cathrine Lloyd MA
"The Language of Lace".

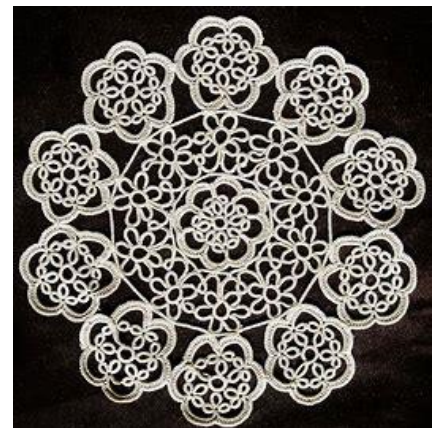
Cathrine spoke about the social history of French lace from the 17th century. She explained the intricacies of the work and how often it was specialised e.g. one woman worked all the buttonhole stitches while others added their specialised knots and stitches.



Because it was women's work lace-makers were unable to form a guild as craftsmen did to protect the interests of their craft and artisans. However, their labours resulted in very expensive lace worn by royalty and the upper classes.

Louis XIV wears lace and other glorious finery to prove his status and wealth.

A bonus at the meeting was a demonstration by three lace makers of lacemaking and tatting techniques, giving us a chance to see how complicated and fine the work is to create such lovely pieces and patterns.



Armchair Travel Group - from Ray

A good response for this new group has 16 members indicating interest. An inaugural meeting is being held this week to get to know each other and to discuss the format, or variations of formats, of how the group will operate.



There are a number of ways the group might decide to work. Some may like to present an experience of their own, others may want to show a destination video and then have an open forum. Others may prefer to participate as a member of the group but not lead any meeting.

That's ok! We just want everyone to enjoy the experience in a relaxed manner. The common area between formats will likely be to focus on discussion and views as much as just getting bogged down on the meeting topic. The next step is to find the type of venue we need.

If other members are interested you are welcome to join at any time. Email Ray to register your interest - 46ray.manning@gmail.com

While the initial concept is to have monthly get togethers it may well be later that some members may choose to get together and make some real journeys out of the Armchair!

Theatre Group

Christine Williams has booked an initial group of seats for the Theatre Group to go to Circa's Pantomime "The Little Mermaid" on the 5th December.

She thinks more seats are available so if you would like to go give her a ring on 568 2342. The price is \$30.

All U3A members are welcome even if you are not on her list.

Local History Group

As part of Heritage Week this group went to Taita on 31 October to visit Christ Church - the oldest church in the Wellington region and second oldest in New Zealand. A little time was spent inside the church (out of the wind) which was filled with the sound of the harmonium played by a musician who knew all his hymns by heart.

The cemetery tour took about an hour and fortunately the tour guide had a good voice to get through to the mostly elderly audience!

He guided the group to the graves of people who were early settlers of the Hutt Valley.

If you want to know where the name of your street came from you'll likely find it on a tombstone at the Taita's Christ Church cemetery! In just a brief visit graves of families Avery, Boulcott, Judd, Liverton, Harris, Pike, Percy and Mabey were found – all with interesting histories.



Heads Up for December

Covid willing we will hold our last meeting for the year on Monday 13th December. As we do not know what the limitations on gatherings will be at this stage we are planning for Level 2 requirements.

This means it will be for members only.

It also means we cannot serve lunch but we will provide you with a package of pre-wrapped goodies.

The great news is that we have been able to secure entertainment that I assure you will be very enjoyable and amusing!

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U3A Hutt Valley Groups & their contacts

Antiques and Collectibles – 4th Tue 2pm.

Convenor – Catherine Chapman 970 4932.

Armchair Travel – date to be set.

Contact Ray Manning on 0274 587 565

Current Affairs and Topics of Interest Group (CATIG) –

4th Mon 1 pm. Russell Keown House, Convenor - Ken Baird 564 2579.

Local History – last day of the month.

Convenor – Brenda Baker 569 5308.

Theatre – Sun pm several times a year.

Convenor – Christine Williams 568 2342.

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See you at the Dowse
Monday 8th November for a 1.30pm start.

<https://u3ahuttvalley.weebly.com/>