

November 2021



WEBINAR MEETING

This month we are again having our main meeting using Webinar. This will be a shortened meeting, with just a guest speaker. The meeting will last approximately three quarters of an hour. Details on accessing the meeting and the required link will be sent out prior to the meeting by Garry Clark. Joining is just a matter of providing your email address and name on the link. It's that easy!



GUEST SPEAKER:

Professor Stephen Hoadley

Geopolitics of Pandemics

The topic includes some history,
politics in the USA,

Europe & WTO, and an assessment of how Covid might alter the balance of power globally. There will be time for Q &A about how we doing in New Zealand.

Dr. Stephen Hoadley is an Associate Professor in Politics and International Relations at the University of Auckland. He gained a doctorate in political science in California and taught at universities in St Louis, Hong Kong and Kobe before settling in New Zealand in 1972. Foreign and security policies of New Zealand, Asia, the United States and Middle East, the politics of trade and International human rights institutions are areas of current research.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Hello members,

Covid19 Delta is not fun. The infectiousness of this variant without any obstacles is around R5-6; that is the number of people you can infect if you get Covid19 Delta variant. You infect 6 people, they infect 6 people each. Etc. What can stop you is if we isolate ourselves from you and get vaccinated. So because many of us are in that position, the R number as of Monday was considered to be 1.2 or 1.3. There are concerns that if the R number gets up to 1.5, our health system will be under serious stress. Last month Margaret Gane gave an enlightening talk about the village of Eyam and the Great Plague, and how the villagers voluntarily isolated themselves so as to prevent other villages in the county from being infected. It worked. At great cost of the people of Eyam. This month Professor Steve Hoadley is talking about Geopolitics of Pandemics; how different pandemics through known history have affected politics of the world. In terms of economics, firstly we heard about a micro-pandemic, now we will learn about macro-pandemics. If there are such words. I did repeat economics 101 a couple of times.

In lighter vein, I am waiting for my gorgeous old-fashioned rose, 'Felitice' to come into flower. When it does, I will take photographs and hopefully share them with you. Unfortunately I can't share the wonderful scent of the roses through a photograph. Keep well. Val Lloyd

NOTICES

Special Interest Groups

All members should be part of at least one special interest group. If there is a talk on in one of the groups that you would like to attend phone the convener and see whether they are happy for you to attend. Members visiting a SIG at another U3A may be required to make a payment at the discretion of that SIG group

Learning what other SIG groups do

If you know in advance what the topic is going to be for your next SIG meeting you might find it an advantage to broadcast it in your SIG report for the newsletter. As long as you clear it with the Convenor first, you are welcome to attend any Browns Bay SIG meeting.

Having your SIG meeting on zoom

It's made such a difference to our club to be able to continue to meet either through Zoom or Webinar portals. Fay Weatherly has already helped many SIG groups continue to have regular meetings via Zoom. She is happy to help other SIGs get started with Zoom. She has also offered to run private practices for people wanting to use PowerPoint on Zoom for the first time. Garry can be contacted by email for help as well.

Powerpoint Presentations

The following screen shot from the Inventors SIG shows that you can easily include a powerpoint presentation as part of your zoom meeting.

HIGH QUALITY, LOW COST ELISA KITS
Over 150 ELISA Kits, Contract Manufacturing and Consultation Services
[Check out our product selection ►](#)

CALBIOTECH
A Life Science Company

The market for manufactured antibodies was worth \$US75 billion in 2015

It is estimated to rise to \$US114 billion in 2022

VAX 2 Jabs Saves Lives

SIG meetings in private homes in lockdown and when we move to the Traffic Light System

We will need to follow the Government regulations and restrictions relating to face masks (encouraged but not mandatory) and continuing social distancing (2 meters apart).

Meeting hosts have the right to set any other restrictions they require for the safety of all eg they have the right to request only vaccinated visitors.

Change of Contact details

Please let the Membership Manager know if your contact details change so our database can be kept up to date.

New Inquiries to join U3A

If you know anyone who is interested in joining our U3A, please pass their names onto our Membership Liaison Myfanwy Van Hoffen. Your committee has prepared a whole “interest pack” for any such inquiries.

Online network learning

Your attention is drawn again to the online network learning courses available from u3aonline.org.au. Members from U3A Browns Bay are able to join this resource as individual members. Courses and costs are detailed at this website.

U3A Browns Bay Facebook page

Come and join us on U3A Browns Bay Facebook. You can add your photos and all the exciting topics and outings of your SIG for others to read and maybe gain more members. The only rule is that all content must be related to U3A and its members.

A recent posting to the Facebook page



Lucy Casey

Admin · October 5 at 4:58 PM · 🌐



Margaret Gane gave U3A Browns Bay a wonderful talk via webinar about the village of Eyam in Derbyshire and the Great Plague! Lots of parallels with Auckland today but without so many deaths.



The Village of Eyam Derbyshire

(sometimes known as the Plague Village)

1665 - 1666



And so the village closed.

HOW DID THE PEOPLE SURVIVE?



Mompessons Well



THE BOUNDARY STONE

Earl of Devonshire – CHATSWORTH HOUSE



5 Comments Seen by 14

Committee meeting

Your committee meets on the 4th Tuesday of the month, to deal with matters arising, and to agree and finalise your newsletter. This means you are up to date with the Committee's deliberations. The Committee meeting has been included in the table of SIG meetings.

Subscription year

Your committee has decided that the subscription year for the Club shall be from 1 January to 31 December, i.e. a calendar year. Subscription notices will be sent out early in 2022. All members who are currently financial will be considered as paid up to 31 December 2021.

AGM

With the uncertainty of knowing when we will be able to meet again face to face, the decision on when to hold our AGM has been deferred until we know more about the new traffic light system and its timeframe for implementation. This deferment meets the requirements of our Club Constitution.

Joining the Committee

Have you thought about joining the committee? It's great to be able to give back to an organisation that you belong to, and one of the ways you can do this is by joining the

committee. A static committee is the death knell of a club. A successful club is open to new thoughts and ideas – fresh blood in other words.

No we are not calling for nominations at this stage, but we have found it very successful to have Committee members with no specified role who can learn about how our committee functions, without the pressure of having a specific role. I guess this is called in management speak – “succession planning”

Give some thought to coming and joining us when we do ask for nominations as part of our AGM process, as we want to continue to move our club forward.

SIG REPORTS

Active Travellers

In our September Zoom meeting, Lucy took us on a fascinating trip to Turkey. First was a taste of the city on a food tour consisting mostly of a huge range of breakfasts followed by colourful photos of the markets. Then she showed us the beauty of the Hagia Sophia, the Blue Mosque, the Rustem Pasha Mosque, the Topkapi Palace and the Basilica Cistern. Touring around Turkey, she visited Gallipoli, the city of Selcuk by the wonders of the ruins of Roman Ephesus. The last part of her tour was to Daylan the nesting place of loggerhead turtles and where she saw African soft shell turtles on a trip up the Daylan river. Everyone enjoyed a wonderful and colourful escape from the restrictions of lockdown.

Archaeology

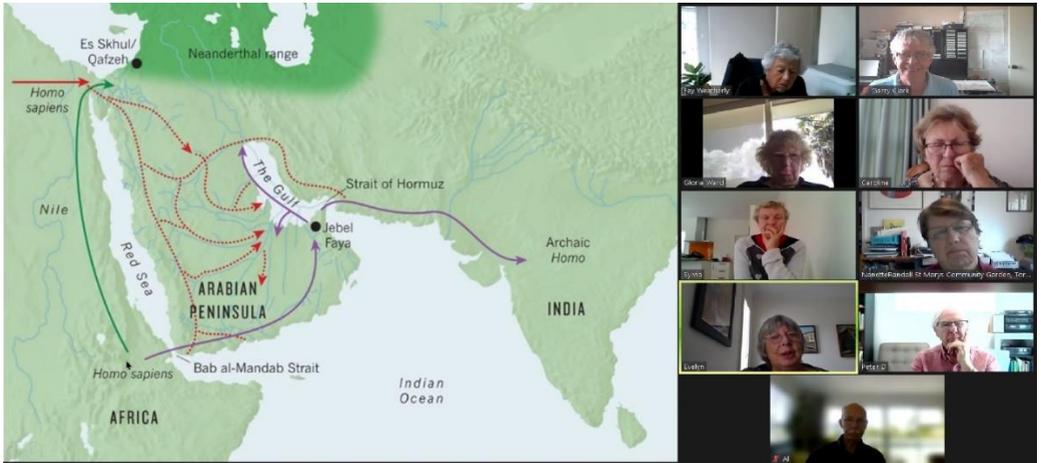
Alula: a World Heritage site

The Royal Commission for Alula is an ambitious project which involves archaeologists from many reputable international institutes here on the invitation of the Government of Saudi Arabia to explore what is the first World Heritage site in the country. Not only is there an amazing collaboration between many experts in their fields but also plans to develop a tourist destination with young local youth being given a career opportunity to develop careers as interpreters of the area.

What was always thought of a barren desert in the northwest corner of Saudi Arabia is now revealed as an ancient settlement area from over 7000 years ago. Not only are there stone constructions of unknown use, carved animals on rock outcrops and wall paintings from millennia, but also the heritage area of Hegra where the Nabatean culture survived with amazing structures hewn in rock which are identical with the famous buildings at Petra and probably date to when the Roman invasion took over the rose red city in Jordan. The carved animals and paintings reveal that the area was once warm and fertile and could support a pastoral lifestyle as was known in the Fertile Crescent.

New technologies are now making it possible to unlock the secrets of thousands of years of human habitation, It is now apparent that this area was an important pathway from Egypt to the rest of the Middle East.

Archaeology's recent zoom meeting



Art History

Spanish painter, sculptor, printmaker, ceramicist and theatre designer, Pablo Picasso was the subject of our Zoom meeting this month. A child prodigy, born in 1881, he produced over 10,000 paintings, drawings and other works in his ninety-two years. Always open to trends and influences, his work passing through many stages, he became a huge influence on art in the twentieth century. Two world wars seem to pass over him unnoticed as he continued with his work, uninterrupted. He sold his creations from an early age and seemed to be free of money worries. He had several wives and many lovers. One of his most memorable works is "Guenica" painted in 1937 as a commemoration of the bombing of this town in Northern Basque Spain by the German and Italian airforce BEFORE WW2 had been declared. The work toured the world for 19 years until Spain had become a democracy [as stipulated by Picasso] before it 'came home'

to the Prado Museum in Spain. During WW2, a German officer, observing a photograph of the work that Picasso kept in his Paris studio asked, "Did you do that?" "No" said Picasso. "You did!"

Art Potpourri No report this month

Book_Group

Two Zoom meetings this month. Books discussed included: *The Last Guests* by J P Pomare; *Miss Benson's Beetle* by Rachael Joyce; *Year of Wonders: a novel of the plague* by Geraldine Brooks; *Apples Never Fall* by Liane Moriarty; *The Cazalets* by Elizabeth Jane Howard; *Shuggie Bain* by Douglas Stewart; *Layla* by Colleen Hoover; *A Parcel of Patterns* by Jill Paton Walsh; *The Jewel That was Ours* by Colin Dexter; *The Sewing Circles of Herat: my Afghan years and Farewell Kabul: from Afghanistan to a more dangerous world* by Christina Lamb; *National Identity* by Simon Bridges; *Worst Case Scenario* by Helen Fitzgerald; *The Killings at Kingfisher Hill* by Sophie Hannah; *Remain Silent* by Susie Steiner; *The Help* by Kathryn Stockett; *Pot-Shots* by Ashleigh Brilliant and *Auē* by Becky Manawatu.

Books and Beyond

At our Zoom meeting this month Monette talked about Becky Manawatu's debut novel, "Aue", which was inspired by experiences in her own life and won the \$55,000 Jann Medicott Acorn Prize for Fiction at the 2020 Ockham New Zealand Book Awards. Told through shifting narrative

perspectives and timeframes, we follow the lives of orphaned 8 year old, Arama, dumped in rural Kaikoura with relatives and his teenage brother, Taukiri, who is escaping to the North Island with his precious guitar and surfboard. The novel takes the reader on a confronting rollercoaster of gang violence, family relationships, motherhood, domestic abuse, race, toxic masculinity, mythology, isolation, addiction, love and forgiveness. Manawatu was awarded the 2021 University of Otago Robert Burns Fellowship and is working on her second novel in Dunedin. As usual our challenge brought to light a wide range of titles (both fiction and non fiction) all clearly set in NZ.

Our challenge for November is for the most memorable book read this year preferably during lockdown

Classical Music No report this month

Creative audio visual No report this month

Creative Writing No report this month

Current Affairs No report this month

Cycling No report this month

Dance No report this month

Early NZ History No report this month

Famous and Infamous

A Zoom meeting of course. John did a PowerPoint presentation on the famous English inventor Sir Clive Sinclair who died in September. Sir Clive invented many great things but also many complete failures.

Heather then did a PowerPoint presentation on Charles de Gaulle.

Film Appreciation

The Film Appreciation group met on 15 October through Zoom. Each member was asked to make a brief presentation on an actor of their choice, resulting in a variety of interesting profiles on actors who included Temuera Morrison, James Dean, Sam Neil, and Kirstin Dunst.

Following the presentations the group participated in a 20 question Film Quiz that included the identification of actors, film titles, film themes, Oscar winners, and memorable dialogue lines - all based on international and Kiwi films.

Although lockdown meant that we were unable to meet for the viewing of a movie, we still have an informative and enjoyable time.

Foodies No report this month

Français pour rire

We had our first zoom meeting for French this month. After a few technical issues (because some of us were new to zoom) we really enjoyed meeting up. Our meeting lasted an hour and a half with a talk about Hemingway in Paris

from Sheila. He was an adventurer and covered many war stories - he went to the D Day Landings and on to the Liberation of Paris. We also had maps of where he stayed in Paris so we could reminisce about our times there and join the discussion. Fay then presented a translation exercise in a power point. That worked very well and we managed to revive our rusty French after so many months. Fay showed a couple of very funny youtube clips about the importance of pronunciation to round the meeting off.

Genealogy

In the September Zoom meeting, members shared quirky and interesting stories from their family trees. These ranged from a 'remittance man' who was given funds by his family to emigrate to New Zealand after a scandalous divorce that shocked Victorian London society, a member who traced a family branch during a visit to Cornwall, to a most surprising case of a man who was actually transported twice to the Australian penal colony.

At the October meeting, also via Zoom, Gay gave a presentation on 'Writing a Family History' with advice and tips, along with examples of different styles of histories written by herself and some of her genealogical contacts.

International Studies

In September the group had a zoom meeting when Rob talked about her years in Shanghai which proved to be very informative about one Chinese city's approach to education, transport, crime, housing etc. She lived in

various parts of the city and the buildings were both varied and very interesting.

Then Heather had a short talk on the city of Manchester in UK ,which became known as Cottonopolis in 19th Century

In October we Zoomed again with Heather sharing her study of Belarus. Closely surrounded by 4 countries who over the centuries have taken land and power. It was 1991 before they became a sovereign state at the breakup of the USSR. The President Lukashenko is in power for life and opposition leaders are exiled to Lithuania. A very sad story of occupation and repression for the dwindling population.

Inventors and Inventions

October followed September with another ZOOM meeting. 12 members logged on for a presentation by Peter on the Abbott Laboratories PanBio Antigen Rapid test now being imported by a consortium of NZ companies to test their staff for Covid-19, and the history of the discovery and manufacture of antibodies that make such a test possible. Terry gave an interesting talk on his personal travel experience of the scale of the Yangtze River Three Gorges Dam project in China, and the disastrous downstream consequences in August this year when after unseasonal rain the dam spilled over. Finally Peter showed a brief video on the ingenious workings of the rear wheel differential drive gearing that we take for granted every time our car turns a corner.

A screen shot from Inventors recent zoom meeting.



Local History No report this month

Mah Jong Start time 10 am and new members welcome

Medical Science and History

Dorothy talked about how mRNA became a vaccine game changer. mRNA is messenger ribonucleic acid, whereby a recipe for creating a particular protein is transferred from the cell nucleus to the cytoplasm, the part of the cell where proteins are made . Vaccines prepare the body to defend itself against a specific disease. mRNA vaccines contain instructions for making the spike protein which is found on the surface of the Sars-Cov-2 virus. The immune system recognises the spike protein copies as foreign and makes immune cells and antibodies which can recognize and attack the SARS-Cov-2 virus via the spike protein. Katalin Kariko is a Hungarian-born biochemist who helped pioneer the mRNA technology from the 1980's. She worked with Drew Weissman to produce a modified mRNA that would not activate a negative immune response. The technology

was only put in place in 2010 because it needed to be widely recognized and financed but was used in trials for other vaccines in 2015.

Mini Topics included: “Masks”, “Heliobacter Pylori” and “? Possible to give Covid and Flu Vaccines together”.

Modern History

Our presentation this month was about Gustave Eiffel the French engineer best known for the construction of the Eiffel Tower, completed in 1889. We also learnt about his other achievements. He contributed to the construction of the Statue of Liberty, designed and built many buildings and bridges in over 20 countries around the world, and his research into meteorology and aerodynamics in his later life, made significant contributions in both fields. Eiffel had an outstanding career and although we all knew about, and most had visited, the Eiffel Tower, we found there was a lot more to Gustave Eiffel than just the Tower. No wonder he was known as the 'magician of iron.'

Notably this was our first Zoom meeting ever and our thanks to John Ewen for setting us up and 'supervising' and to Patricia for such an outstanding presentation

Music - Mainly Classical No report this month

Puzzles Patterns & Paradoxes No report this month

Renaissance

Patricia's talk via zoom, illustrated by a PowerPoint presentation, was about The Field of the Cloth of Gold, a summit meeting held in 1520 between English King Henry

V111 and King Francis¹ of France. It took the form of a splendid tournament full of pomp and ceremony, designed to cement a lasting peace between the two nations. Such expense was lavished on the event, and the tents and clothes of the participants were adorned with vast quantities of cloth of gold, that the meeting was forever referred to as such.

Fay's talk was about Vittoria Colona, a widowed Italian marchioness, who, to express her grief at her husband's death, spent years writing sonnets about him. One hundred of these were published in 1538. She later revised this book including further sonnets about her devotion to Christianity. When she was 46 she became friendly with Michelangelo [then61] . They wrote poetry to each other and he gifted her one or two paintings and drawings. At the end of her life, he said " Death has deprived me of a very great friend". He used the word 'amico', used in Italian for 'male friend'.

The Maori World No report this month

Travel No report this month

Ukulele

Meetings Via Zoom on all Wednesdays at 1.30pm until 90% double jabbed in all of Auckland. Even then ???

Under lockdown conditions on Zoom are the only satisfactory way to get some tutoring and a timed practise in place. Other U3A Ukulele players from around the country come and join our group. The sessions include

"Playalongs" to music tracks with the chords and Lyrics. This month have used some resources from Bob Guz of Austin Texas. From his unique style of treble tracking himself on "I can see clearly now"

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3M1QQwIDHuc> or to joining the 200 plus Ukulele players for "Sweet Caroline" Neil Diamond song

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=60nmUS32zLU>

For our Zoom sessions, the new tracks are downloaded to ensure the adverts are not included. We have a considerable library of downloaded ukulele resources with the tutorials and music available on our website. www.ukulele.u3a.nz

New Members and friends welcome, even to just Karaoke (sing along). Contact Garry. for a Zoom link for Wednesdays Ukulele Jam session via:-

www.ukulele.u3a.nz

