



U3A WARKWORTH - *Learning is forever*

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Newsletter October - November 2006, #5

From the President:

Greetings from Amherst, Nova Scotia where the leaves are just starting to display their fall colours and so far the weather remains warm and sunny. But the locals are not fooled by the mild weather conditions and know the signs that winter is coming. They are moving back into town from their cottages by the shore which they have closed up and secured for the winter, the kids have begun their new school year and furnaces are being checked. Somewhere in the background I guess the town authorities are making sure the snow ploughs are ready and operational! It is a different world and I would love to spend Christmas here even if I did have to buy a whole new wardrobe to keep me warm while out of doors.

However, I am looking forward to being home to greet our spring and watch the changes that take place in our gardens.

And especially I am looking forward to the Helen Moulder presentation of 'Playing Miss Haversham' on the 9th October. I just hope that someone gets me a ticket because I guess that there will be a restricted number. We are just so fortunate to have Helen Moulder with us in Warkworth.

At the last meeting of your Committee we discussed very briefly the possibility of making some of our inaugural members who have made substantial contributions to U3A Warkworth, Life Members. It will be on the agenda for the next AGM in February. The Committee would appreciate your input if you have any opinions for or against this proposal.

Best Wishes
Iris Mee, President

Editor's Desk:

Another person who is also currently overseas is Alan Spicer, your usual Newsletter Editor. Alan and Berris are somewhere in Normandy and enjoying La France, so Sylvia and I have stepped back into a former role to bring you this issue.

The October meeting promises to be a really special one (see overleaf) and I do urge the theatre lovers among you to get organised and reserve a place promptly. The very successful August lunch meeting was organised as an alternative to the usual Christmas function. However, there will be a General Meeting in December and you will receive a Newsletter during November giving details of this.

I would like to thank the Study Group Convenors who have provided contributions for this issue plus Elaine Ellison-Smith's husband, Nevill, for his most interesting account of the recent visit by the Ancient History Group to the Vikings Exhibition at the Auckland Museum.

Well, I think that's all I need to say, so read on.

Ken Diprose

GENERAL MEETING – OCTOBER 9TH

A VERY SPECIAL AFFAIR

As many of you will have heard at the last General Meeting, we are fortunate to be able to offer Members the opportunity to see a performance by the much acclaimed actress Helen Moulder in 'Playing Miss Haversham'.

Helen Moulder is at present travelling around New Zealand putting on this one woman show at all kinds of small venues from school halls to woolsheds. 'Playing Miss Haversham' is described as "an intimate comedy with music, song and an array of endearing characters".

THE STORY – Claudia lives an hour out of Christchurch. Her husband is a farm accountant and her son Ben plays in a band. When an eccentric Irish film-maker comes to New Zealand to make a film of Charles Dickens' Great Expectations, Claudia is keen to audition for the role of Miss Haversham as she sees it as a way out of her humdrum existence. As she prepares for the role, Claudia finds her own life takes on the twists and turns of a Dickens novel.

THE DETAILS:

- Date:** Monday 9th October 2006
- Time:** Arrive by 9.45 am
Performance starts promptly at 10.00 am
and lasts for 90 minutes with no interval
(due to the length of the performance, morning
tea will not be served).
- Cost:** \$10 per head
- To Book:** If you have not already booked, please send a
Cheque for \$10 per head (members only) to:
Jocelyn Sharp, 14 West Park Glen, Warkworth,
to be received by Jocelyn NO LATER THAN
30TH SEPTEMBER. Cheques should be made
payable to U3A Warkworth. A booking is not
confirmed until payment is received.

Other: Places are strictly limited, but if not all seats are taken up, it may be possible for members to bring a guest. If you would like to do this, please let Jocelyn know when you send your cheque to her, **BUT DO NOT SEND MONEY FOR THE GUEST'S PLACE AT THIS STAGE.** Someone from the Committee will contact you after the 30th September if places are available.

There will be no door sales – so please make sure you book if you wish to come.

IMPORTANT: to avoid disruptions to the performance, the doors will be closed at 10.00 am – as they say in the theatre – “Latecomers will not be admitted”.

GROUP NEWS

Reminder about Group News submissions for future newsletters:

November Newsletter: Writing Stories of your life Group: Food For Thought Group

Film Appreciation Group:

Different countries have their own interpretation of the function and purpose of U3A. But universally I believe, is the understanding that as we age, i.e. turn 55, and then some, that some extra stimulation of the mind is desirable. To this end, our Warkworth U3A formed the Gallivanter's Group. Over the first year or so the group visited a number of functions and places of interest both locally and in Auckland.

However, as time progressed it was generally mooted that what the members most enjoyed was a trip to see a film, usually in Auckland. So now known as the Film Appreciation Group, we meet on the last Monday of the month and select the film we would most like to see. Our August visit was to the Bridgeway Cinema in Northcote, where we saw 'Mrs

Palfrey at the Claremont', with Joan Plowright at her finest (and with a very handsome surrogate grandson!). Before or after the movie, depending on its scheduling, we have lunch at a local café and there we dissect the film and generally spend a very pleasant social hour.

Some members no longer like to drive, so we carpool. Each passenger contributes \$10 to the driver (recently increased due to petrol and other expenses).

We are a friendly and gregarious group, and flexible. If there are U3A members who would care to join us, you are most welcome.

Submitted by Beulah Heaven

Jazz Listening Group

The Jazz Listening Group continues to thrive with 4 of its 12 current members now active musicians in the “Mahurangi Ramblers”.

In recent months the Group has listened to recorded presentations of “*Smooth Jazz*”, “*Jazz Piano Styles*” and watched a DVD of Michael Bublé in concert. Bublé’s singing style has often been compared to Frank Sinatra or Bobby Darin – famous crooners from the past. Coming up in September will be the “*The*

History of Jazz from Dixieland to Swing”. In October it will be pianist Dudley Moore and vocalist Cleo Lane.

In November the Group will be listening to J.S. Bach who is said by some to have been the forerunner of improvisation, i.e. making music up as you play, which is certainly a well recognised feature of jazz. Perhaps a cantata for the cantankerous might soothe U3A.

Submitted by Graham Ryburn

Ancient History Group THE VIKINGS

On Friday 1st September, the Ancient History Group hired a bus and visited the Viking Exhibition at Auckland Museum.

This visit was made all the more interesting because our Convenor Jim McKinlay had, for our August meeting, run us over the history of the Vikings and their ferocious expeditions from Scandinavia around the coasts and rivers of Europe.

Here at the exhibition we were to see an impressive collection of archaeological evidence and historical data showing how these Nordic people lived at home in Norway, Denmark and Sweden and how their warriors, in the late 700’s through to the 1100’s, terrorised and controlled Britain and the Normandy coast and colonised Iceland, Greenland, and briefly the Labrador and Newfoundland coast of North America 400 years ahead of Columbus.

These Nordics had been an agriculture based people who in the 8th century AD were running short of agricultural land following a strong growth in population. It is thought that this may have prompted them to search for the greener

pastures for which they are famous. The exhibition shows they had impressive skills in artistic and practical metalwork, woodwork, weaving and other crafts, including runic writing. They built wooden framed houses, horse drawn vehicles, and made attractive bracelets and jewellery. They forged swords, spears and arrowheads for their warfare. Their shipbuilding was quite advanced and enabled them to cross the North Atlantic in the late 900’s with seaworthy 100 ft. (30 metre) vessels and with knowledge of navigation that ensured their return to Norway.

Earlier expeditions in the 700’s from Norway and Denmark into Britain and Europe were for trading but in the year 793 Norwegian Vikings attacked and looted Lindisfarne monastery on the Northumberland coast and followed with lucrative raids on other churches and monasteries in England, Scotland and Ireland where they terrorised the populations and went on in the 800’s with the Danes to attack France, Spain and Italy. In the year 886 the Danish Vikings rowed their vessels up the Seine River and held Paris under siege for a year until Charles 11 of France paid an enormous sum as protection money for

their freedom. Their Swedish neighbours made their forays into Russia and on to the Black Sea and the Caspian through the Volga and Dnepr Rivers and settled in Eastern Europe.

The Vikings had a remarkable history and the exhibition shows a great variety

of relics and displays presented in a most interesting way, and was considered well worth visiting.

Submitted by Nevill Ellison-Smith

Why not visit a new Group? – You may become a convert.

Diary notes:

- 1. Next General Meeting 11th December**
2. Deadline for items in the November Newsletter is 20th October.

If you would like your next newsletter sent by email please send a blank message to:
yes@u3a.co.nz

Visit your Web Site: www.u3a.co.nz

U3A WARKWORTH STUDY GROUP MEETINGS - 2006

STUDY GROUP	Convenor	Phone	Time	Date	October	Date	November
Ancient History	Jim McKinlay	422-9063	9:30 a.m.	6th	Pot Pourri - any subject 49 Willjames Ave. Algies Bay	3rd	Pot Pourri (continued) 14 Kitty Fraser Lane, Omaha
Book Talk	Lorraine Edwards	422-7071	10:00 a.m.	3rd	At Deb Green's - 8 Harbour View Road Pt. Wells	7th	At Daphne Halkyard's - 16a Waimanu Place Pt. Wells
Current Affairs	Elaine Ellison-Smith	425-9138	2:00 p.m.	19th	At Jean Fraser's - 7 David William Place, Warkworth	16th	At Max Hope's - 9a Bennett St. Warkworth
Film Appreciation	Beulah Heaven	425-6545	Varies	30th *	Ring Beulah Heaven if interested (note date change to avoid Labour Day)	27th	Ring Beulah Heaven if interested
Food For Thought	Anthea McKergow	422-6219	1:30 p.m.	25th	Mediaeval Food (Linda Moore) 38 Kawau View Road, Snells Beach	22nd	Group Lunch
Jazz Listening	Graham Ryburn	425-0536	2:00 p.m.	19th	Pianist Dudley Moore & vocalist Cleo Lane 4 Melwood Drive, Warkworth	16th	J.S. Bach 4 Melwood Drive, Warkworth
Mediaeval History	Chris Hoogerwerf	425-5022	9:30 a.m.	20th	Rembrandt 1/10 Pound Street, Warkworth	17th	The Picts, et al. 16a Waimanu Place, Pt. Wells
Music Appreciation	Valma Gidman	425-9869	1:30 p.m.	5th	Piano Man 9a Bennett St. Warkworth	2nd	Arts Programme 1 Hibiscus Avenue, Snells Beach
NZ Art Appreciation	Berris Spicer	422-2685	10:00 a.m.	4th	Visit to various artists at Leigh	8th	NZ Sculpture on Shore (Devonport) (note changed date)
Play Reading	Iris Mee & Lorna Laxton	425-7934 422-7840	9:30 a.m.	10th	'A Man for All Seasons' 1001 Sandspit Road, Sandspit	14th	'A Man for All Seasons' continued 99 Upper Whangateau Road.
Poetry Reading	Yolande Carter	425-5988	1:30 p.m.	18th	Seamus Heaney, venue TBA	15th	TBA
Writing Stories of Your Life	Joan Romano	425-5517	1:30 p.m.	9th	Venue TBA	13th	Venue TBA