

THE UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE

PLETTENBERG BAY

NEWSLETTER

AUGUST 2018

Greetings to All

Here is the outline of what you can expect in August. Mondays continue with the series we have been showing before. On Wednesdays we have three speakers on widely differing topics, a documentary on nature/astronomy and we finish the month with art at the Louvre.

MONDAY SERIES

The Genius of Michelangelo

Monday 6 August, brings the first two episodes on the **Sistine Chapel**. This is such a master work that the discussion continues in a third part, to be shown on Monday 20 August, together with a somewhat different lecture entitled **The story of Marble**. For more information contact David Hall Green, on 044 533 4578.

Egypt – Rediscovering a Lost World

Part Two: The Great Belzoni

We started this series with the two-part story of the discovery of the tomb of Tutankhamun. This month we follow the story of Italian engineer and circus strongman **Giovanni Belzoni**, who became the most unlikely Egyptologist the world has ever seen.

Monday 13 August – Episode three: The Pharaoh and the Showman

In 1816 Belzoni is hired to recover the massive Head of Memnon, a statue of the Pharaoh Ramesses the Great, as a gift for the British Museum. He is faced with opposition from a gold rush of black market antiquities dealers. With great difficulty, he manages to devise a plan to move the massive head, using the same techniques as its builders had used 3,000 years earlier. Belzoni then heads south along the Nile to Abu Simbal, where Ramesses built two temples. Belzoni locates the entrance to the Great Temple but finds it blocked; he vows to return to excavate the site the following season.

Monday 27 August – Episode four: The Temple of the Sands

In Cairo, Belzoni's struggles against the French antiquities dealers continue, but eventually he begins to excavate the Temple at Abu Simbal, finally uncovering the entrance to the magnificent interior. Finally he moves into the area later called the Valley of the Kings, where he opens up an undiscovered tomb, the burial chamber of the Pharaoh Seti I. This discovery secures the Egyptologist's reputation and makes him a celebrity in his adopted home of London.

For further information, contact Lynette Timme – 044 535 9041.

WEDNESDAY SPEAKERS

My Bic pen and I in South East Asia

On Wednesday 8 August, **Rodney Grosskopff** will give us a presentation of drawings of his recent trip through South East Asia, together with the stories that go with them and some photographs to set the scene. Rodney, one of our favourite guest speakers, is an Architect who loves to travel. He has spent the last 40 something years with his Bic ball-point pen trying to capture his own holiday pictures. He has exhibited his art on a few occasions but never his drawings which he has kept, piled up, knee deep in his study. This will be a first for him as well as us.

National Sea Rescue Institute

There can be no-one in Plett who does not know what **NSRI** stand for. When the siren rings out over our town, we can feel relief to know that there are brave men and women “out there”, carrying out another rescue and saving lives. But how much do we actually know of all that their work entails? On Wednesday 15 August, **Judy Venter** of the **NSRI** will be talking about the organisation and work of this wonderful service. Living in a seaside town as we do, we need to give them our full support. Feel free to invite friends to this meeting – it is important for us all.

Mike Walker (083 298 6507) is the one to contact for further information.

Jill Baker: The Horns

On Wednesday 22 August, we will have a visit from **Jill Baker**, who is publishing her new book, **The Horns**, the first of a series of three. She writes: *I have written this from my knowledge of growing up in what was first Southern Rhodesia, then Rhodesia. As a white child, my best playmates until I went to school were three black children. The paths our lives took could not have been more divergent. By the inclusion of verifiable landmarks in our history, bound together by some fact and some fiction, the early lives of these four key players form the start of an intriguing trilogy.* Jill is an excellent public speaker, and has many years broadcasting experience, both in Zimbabwe and Australia. This is sure to be a very interesting meeting.

For further information, contact Lynette Timme – 044 535 9041.

WEDNESDAY DOCUMENTARIES

Wednesday 1 August – Orbit: Earth’s Extraordinary Journey

Right now we hurtling around the Sun at 100,000km per hour. In the next year we will travel 584 million miles, to end up back where we started. In this three-part series, presenters Kate Humble and Dr Helen Czerski follow the Earth's voyage around the sun for one complete orbit, to witness the astonishing consequences this journey has for us all.

In this first episode they travel from July to the December solstice, experiencing spectacular weather and the largest tides on Earth. To show how the Earth's orbit affects our lives, Helen jumps out of an aeroplane and Kate briefly becomes the fastest driver on Earth.

Wednesday 29 August: – Museum Masterpieces: The Louvre

De La Tour, Le Nain and 17th Century Painting

This lecture focuses on the careers of Georges de La Tour, the most profoundly original French painter of the first half of the 17th century and the Le Nain brothers who created a completely new kind of painting in France. The work of these artists is contrasted with that of equally French artists who were trained in Italy.

Claude and Poussin

Nicolas Poussin and Claude Lorrain were without question the most important figures in French painting of *Le Grand Siècle* and although each of them exerted a profound effect on painting in his native France, each spent essentially his entire working life in Rome.

Michael Lond (072 838 6949) will be able to tell you more.

FILM CLUB Monday 27 August - TBA

Brian and Brenda Hardy are on holiday overseas, so the title of the August film will be announced on their return. The film will start at **19.00**. Wine will, as usual, be on sale.

REGULARS – Special Interest Group Meetings

The **Mah Jong** group meets every Friday at 13.00. Prospective players are asked to contact Lyndsey Wright. Her phone number is 044 533 3528. Please remember to wear your U3A membership badge when coming to Mah Jong.

The **Italian Conversation Group**, which meets on Tuesdays, will be run by Ingrid James this month. She will also run the **French Conversation Group**, which meets each Friday morning. For further information, please contact Ingrid on 044 533 0212.

The **Science Group** continues its meetings every fortnight. The August sessions will take place on Thursdays 9th and 23rd at 15h00. The discussion topic continues with ***The Principles of Celestial Navigation***. If you are interested, please contact Henry Timme on 07 88 77 5829.

FINALLY, a special appeal –

Looking ahead to the composition of the U3A Plett committee for next year, we will have a number of vacancies that have to be filled. We make an appeal to interested members to come forward. If you have enjoyed the meetings, you will know that it is a worthwhile activity. And if you have not enjoyed them, this is your opportunity to input your ideas and improve our work. Think about it and contact us in person at a meeting or drop us a line to the email address below.

We look forward to seeing you at the meetings this month. Best wishes to all -

Lynette Timme
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