

NEWSLETTER
AUGUST 2017

As August approaches, we have so much to look forward to: the holidays are over, the days are growing longer, the weather is warmer, and spring is on its way. This should encourage us to get out more, look for new things to investigate and learn, and attend U3A more regularly. Here is what is coming this month -

DOCUMENTARY

Our first programme, on Wednesday 2 August, is a special documentary on the **Titanic**, which was brought back (the film, not the ship) by Brian and Brenda Hardy from their recent sea voyage in the Pacific.

KEY SPEAKERS - Three in August !

Our first speaker this month is **Rodney Grosskopff**. Some time ago he gave a fascinating talk on the Freemasons and what they stand for; this month he will tell us about the roles played by Freemasons in the Jameson Raid of 1895-6. This will be on **Monday 14 August**.

In the same week, on **Wednesday 16 August** we return to the theme of nature with a talk on the Seahorses of Knysna, and the world, by Louw Claasens.

Following her on **Wednesday 23rd** is another old friend and local expert, **Dr Mark Brown**, who will speak this time not on birds but on fish - to be specific, the shore-based fishing between Plett's Marine Protected Areas. His talk is appropriately entitled **Caught in the Middle**.

SERIES

FRANCESCO'S VENICE : *"The Dramatic History of the World's Most Beautiful City"*.

We continue the series with everybody's favourite Italian, **Francesco da Mosta**. On **Monday 7th**, Part 3, entitled **Sex**, explores Giacomo Casanova, the Black Death, Antonio Vivaldi, and Napoleon's invasion. Part 4, **Death**, describes Byron, tourism, the Venetian Conservationist Movement and Venice's future. This will be shown on **Monday 21st August**.

UNDERSTANDING THE WORLD'S GREATEST STRUCTURES

We are returning to this series that started earlier this year. Though some people were a little dubious about it at first, it has become very popular, especially as we are increasingly aware of its relevance in structures of the past and the present. For instance, when we view the Classical Destinations, we see amazing cathedrals, palaces, bridges, temples based on the very principles and laws explained in these talks. The two lectures on **Monday 28 August** will cover firstly great domes, and then bridges.

CLASSICAL DESTINATIONS II : Great Cities and their Music

Once again, we end the month with this popular series of music and travel. On **Wednesday 30th**, Simon Callow takes us to Paris and Versailles, followed by Madrid, with the music of Bizet and Saint-Saëns, De Falla, Albeniz and Mokranjac.

FILM CLUB Monday 28 August, at 19.00

All are very welcome. (R20 for non- members.) Wine will, as usual, be on sale at R10 per glass.

OUTING

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SCRABBLE - SOMETHING NEW – One of our members has offered to run a group for anyone who enjoys playing Scrabble. If you are interested, please contact Brenda Hardy on 044 533 5489.

REGULARS - Special Interest Group Meetings

The Mah Jong group meets every Friday at 13.30, in the Small Dining room at FGV. Members are asked to contact Lyndsey Wright if they wish to join the group. Her phone number is 044 533 3528. Please remember to wear your U3A membership badge when coming to Mah Jong.

The Italian Conversation Group continues each Tuesday at 10.00, coordinated by Brenda Hardy. Her phone number is 044 533 5489.

The French Conversation Group meets each Friday at 10:00. For further information, please contact Merle Decot (044 533 5879).

Tai Chi : Jennie Anderson's special classes for U3A members continue on Fridays, 9 to 9:45 a.m., at the St Peter's Church Hall. The special rate is R25 and you are asked to present your U3A membership card when joining. Contact Jennie directly on 044 533 0089 (home) or 072 128 7424 (mobile).

The Science group is watching a series of lectures on **What is Time ?** The meetings this month will be on Thursdays 10 and 24 August at 15.00, and all are welcome. If you are interested, contact Henri Timme (044 535 9041 or 078 877 5829) who will confirm the venue of the next meeting.

FINALLY

Many, many thanks to all those who have come forward with offers of films and documentaries. Please remember that your committee is always keen to receive suggestions, ideas, DVDs, speakers' names – anything that you feel others might enjoy. We also welcome volunteers who would like to join the committee and become more involved in our planning. In particular we are looking for a treasurer: if you can handle money, we need you!

Very best wishes for August -

Lynette Timme
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