

UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE

Plettenberg Bay

NEWSLETTER NOVEMBER 2017

Greetings to all our members. This is the last U3A newsletter for this year and so, before we look forward to what is coming in November, I want to start with a look back. To date we have completed nine months of U3A meetings, with about thirty-six general meetings at FGV, as well as all the smaller groups each week - the Italian and French conversation, the Mah Jong, the Tai Chi and the Science groups. Added up, they make quite an impressive effort of planning, organising and running, together with the work of all the many special speakers who gave their time to address us.

And now – what is in store for us in the last month of U3A in 2017?

SPEAKERS

This month we feature **Armchair Travel to South America:**

On Wednesday 8th, **Judy and Graham Vos** will give a colourful and very informative talk about the tour they led to **Ecuador** on which they were accompanied by a number of our U3A members who thoroughly enjoyed the experience and then on Wednesday 22nd **Mervyn Prior** will tell us about his travels in **Bolivia and Peru**. Many members will remember Mervyn's previous travel talks, which are always most interesting.

SERIES

All three of our *Great Courses* series come to an end this month.

ARCHAEOLOGY - The World's Greatest Sites:

In keeping with the South American theme, on Monday 6 November, we **Discover the Maya**, starting with the excitement of cracking the Mayan hieroglyphs and visiting temples, tombs and courts. We also see the famous sites of the Nasca Lines in Peru, the tomb of the Lord of Sipan and that most famous Mayan city, Machu Picchu. Next Prof. Cline takes us north, on Monday 20th, to the **Archaeology of North America**, excavating a Confederate submarine, investigating the city of Jamestown in Virginia and considering the impact of the 9000 year old Kennewick man. Finally, after looking at the temples along the Avenue of the Dead in Teotihuacan, we finish off by considering what future archaeologists will interpret about our own civilization in centuries to come.

UNDERSTANDING THE WORLD'S GREATEST STRUCTURES

The final session of this course, on Monday 13th, leaves us with something to think about for ourselves. Firstly we look at tension structures, from the suspended dish roof of Madison Square Gardens to the cable dome of the Olympic Gymnastics Hall in Korea. Then Prof. Ressler tells us how to investigate how any structure works and sends us out ready to find out for ourselves.

MUSEUM MASTERPIECES

By special request, we have included three sessions of this course in order not to miss any of the lectures. They take us on a quick round-up trip in Europe – Venice and Spain, Britain and France. The first, on Wednesday 1st November, covers the grand decorative and history paintings of Venice, including the work of Canaletto; then we move to Spain with, among others, another famous name, Goya. On Wednesday 15th we are in Britain with William Hogarth and George Stubbs (and my personal favourite, his painting of the horse Whistlejacket), as well as Gainsborough and Constable, with their landscapes. The series finishes at our last meeting for this year, on Wednesday 29th, where we hear about Impressionism in France with Manet, Monet and Renoir. Finally comes Post-Impressionism, represented by Van Gogh and his famous *Sunflowers* as well as works by Seurat and Rousseau.

SPECIAL TREAT

To brighten up the final week of our 2017 programme, on Monday 27 November, Michael Lond will show a DVD of the ballet, ***Elite Syncopations*** in a 2010 performance by the Royal Ballet. Kenneth MacMillan, a choreographer whose reputation rests largely on such black holes as *Romeo and Juliet*, *Manon* (which we will see in April 2018) and *Mayerling* suddenly, in 1974, whipped up one of the most irresistibly buoyant pieces of modern ballet ever to music that you will surely recognise.

FILM CLUB

Also on Monday 27th but at 19.00 that evening, the Film Club will meet. The film is ***The Man who Knew Infinity***. All are welcome and wine will be on sale. Written and directed by Matthew Brown, *The Man Who Knew Infinity* is the true story of friendship that forever changed mathematics. In 1913, Srinivasa Ramanujan (Dev Patel), a self-taught Indian mathematics genius, travelled to Trinity College, Cambridge, where over the course of five years, he forged a bond with his mentor, the brilliant and eccentric professor, G.H. Hardy (Jeremy Irons) and fought against prejudice to reveal his mathematic genius to the world. This is Ramanujan's story as seen through Hardy's eyes. (from Wikipedia)

REGULARS – Special Interest Group Meetings

The **Mah Jong**, **French Conversation** and **Italian** groups continue as usual. For contact details, please refer to the Course Calendar.

FINALLY

All that remains is for me, on behalf of the whole U3A Committee, to wish all our members a very happy – and safe – holiday period in December and January. May your Christmas be richly blessed and your New Year filled with good wishes and hope for the year that lies ahead.

We meet again at the start of February, same place, same time, but a brand new programme -

With warmest regards to you all

Lynette Timme

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