



Discussion Groups NEWSLETTER

July 2021

Convener's report

Report for Newsletter June 2021

Another month has whizzed past and we are now all I think beginning to wish Spring is just around the corner.

I find it incredible to think that August is nearly upon us.

I have had notification from the facilitator of the Singing Group that this group will be starting up again on Monday August 9th.

It is on a Monday afternoon at 1pm at the Maori Community Hall on the Corner of Highgate and Balmacewen Road.

If you are interested in joining this very enthusiastic group of members you will be most welcome. Please contact Claire Stevens on cstevensnz@gmail.com if this sounds like you.

I have also had information concerning the Stepping Up programme. I have been using this to get the Android phone people up and running in South Dunedin and found it very good.

I have recently also been informed that the same programme is available at Dunedin Public Library for those of you who live closer to town or are in their shopping and need help with your phone, internet etc. The lessons there are run by the librarians.

For those of us who are really struggling with all of this technology, it is a marvelous way to

Art Collections

Facilitator: Moya Smith
Third Wednesday, 2 pm

E: moya.smith@xtra.co.nz

Book Group

Facilitator: Moya Smith
First Friday, 1.30

E: moya.smith@xtra.co.nz

Dining Group

Facilitator: Karen Wards
Third Friday, 7 pm

E: karendwards@gmail.com

Expanding

Musical Horizons (full)

Facilitator: Paul Wheeler
Second Monday, 10 am

E: wheeler@outlook.co.nz

Film Group 1 (full)

Facilitator: Bill Stanford
Third Wednesday, 1.30

E: w.stanford@protonmail.com

Film Group 2 (full)

Facilitator: Bill Stanford
Second Wednesday, 1.30

E: w.stanford@protonmail.com

Gallery Group (full)

Facilitator: Tash Hurst
Second Wednesday, 10.30

E: tash.hurst@xtra.co.nz

learn about it and it is a totally free service. With cheques and landlines now disappearing out of our lives it is a way to get ourselves up and running with these newer technologies at little cost.

So please take advantage of them. I recommend you ring and make a time and day to go and see them for yourselves. Of course, the same lessons are still available at South Dunedin if that is closer for you.

I have had a poor response to the new groups advertised last month, namely Cards (4), Scrabble (3) and Travel (1). None of these groups are yet viable to get up and running so if any of you still wish to join one of them please let me know.

Unfortunately, we have had a few groups discontinuing. They are namely, Opera, Local History and the German Language group. This is very disappointing but we maybe down, but we are not out.

So, if any of these groups take your eye or you wish to see any other group start up please let me know as soon as possible.

The board is still looking for a replacement to take on the role of Convenor of the Discussion Groups for U3A Dunedin.

If the idea of this appeals to you please contact the chair of U3A Dunedin in the first instance Linda Kinniburgh, at lindakinniburgh52@gmail.com.

Stay warm and continue to watch this space.

Ngaire

454 2170
ngairemichael@gmail.com

Luncheon Group

Facilitator: Patricia Irvine
Second Friday, 12,30
E: trishjockloch@gmail.com

Mahjong Group

Facilitator: Hilary Allison
2nd & 4th Thursdays, 10 am
E: hilary.allison@xtra.co.nz

Monday Current Affairs (full)

Facilitator: Joy Hayward
Third Monday, 1.30
E: joyhayward@hotmail.co.nz

Podcast Group

Facilitator: Ann Broadfoot
Third Thursday, 1.30
annbroadfoot2012@gmail.com

Photography Group

Facilitator: Ann Wood
First Thursday, 1.30
E: ann.wood14blaw@gmail.com

Thursday Current Affairs

Facilitator: Clare Hamel
Fourth Thursday, 1.30
hameldownunder@yahoo.com.au

Singing Group

Facilitator: Claire Stevens
Weekly, Monday, 1 pm
E: cstevensnz@gmail.com

Tuesday Current Issues Group

(full)

Facilitator: Gretchen Kivell
Third Tuesday, 10 am
E: gretchen.kivell@xtra.co.nz

Walking Group

Facilitator: John Hogue
Every Thursday, 10.30
E: hoguetimaru@xtra.co.nz



Announcement



Next Photography excursion!

Ann: We are booked at Olveston for a 2:45pm tour on Thursday 5 August.

It would be good to meet up in the grounds and take some outside

shots from 2 pm. We must be lined up inside and buying our tickets by 2:35 at \$19 per Golden Oldie. (Bring your Gold Card please.)

I've booked for a maximum of 10 so please let me know by Tuesday 3 Aug if you are attending. There can be more than 10 attendees, but Olveston will need to assign an extr.



Facilitators' Reports



Art Collections Group

This group of art enthusiasts have been examining Famous Art Collections now housed in special galleries and museums.

In the first half of this year, we have examined four major art venues.

1. The Wallace Collection in central London
2. The collection at Waddesdon Manor near the village of Waddesdon in Aylesbury, UK
3. The Documenta held every five years in Kassel, Germany
4. The collections of the French royal family held formerly at Versailles, now found in the Louvre, and in particular, the works of Delacroix.

The purpose has been to introduce the members of the group to some of the great European art collections. These collections are the result of the love of art by the French royal families, while other collections have resulted from wealthy and

enthusiastic families or personal collectors, such as that of Richard Wallace and the Wallace collection.

Some collections like Waddesdon Manor are still maintained by descendants of the original owners, the Rothschilds. Others have been handed over to the State to maintain them.

All of these are essential places of pilgrimage for art lovers worldwide to visit in the UK and on the Continent.

Below are some of the buildings which house the great collections that we visited in the course:

Waddesdon Manor, UK:





The Louvre Palace, Paris



The Palace at Kassel housing the greatest collection of Baroque art in Germany:



The great waterfall in the Kassel Palace park:



Every five years the Documenta is held in Kassel to celebrate contemporary art works. Artists, including those in New Zealand, send their work to be exhibited in the Documenta. This celebration of

modern art attracts thousands of visitors to the Kassel Documenta.

Moya Smith

Gallery Group

Another great visit with the Gallery Group today was to the printing room at John and Anna Holmes house to learn and appreciate the intricacies of hand printing.



Most of us knew very little about this craft but came to understand much more about what is involved in hand printing.

John has worked with many well known local poets and artists to create unique books and pamphlets of poetry, letters and art.

John has brought his artistic abilities to the fore to create one-off character books for his children and grandchildren.

However John also works with the book binders at the university to create limited edition printed books for sale.



Many sell out immediately as often they are of previously unknown works by such authors as Charles Darwin, J.K. Baxter, Kevin Cunningham etc.



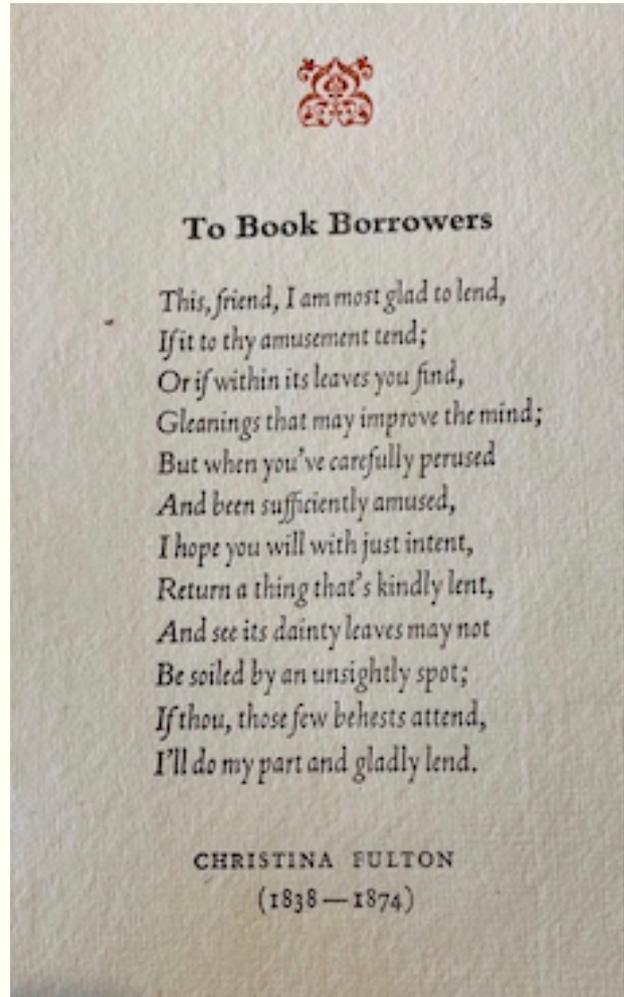
John has had an interest in printing since his boyhood; and has collected printers all his life and now has a room full of equipment.



We were able to squeeze into the print room in small numbers and able to roll the printer creating our own print:



This is the poem we were each able to print:



A most enjoyable way to spend the morning, with Anna providing a lovely morning tea.

A bonus was the panoramic view of the harbour stretching out before us.

Many thanks to Maryalyce for organising this visit as well as to John and Anna for their generosity in hosting our group.

Our next visit is to Mary Jane Sneyd to see her wonderful fabric art that is so widely acclaimed.

Tash

Musical Horizons Group

Since the last report, we have completed the third of a three part series started last year on the topic of New Zealand music.

We listened to some more pioneers, “firsts” and trend-setters in popular and classical styles. We listened to music by Jenny McLeod, who at the age of 29 years was appointed Professor of Music at Victoria University, the first female and first Maori to hold the position.

We also listened to the first electro-acoustic music that was composed by her predecessor Douglas Lilburn.

On the popular side, among other groups, we listened to Herbs, considered to be the greatest Pacific reggae group ever, and many more not so well known among the better known compositions by outstanding Kiwi artists and composers.

We also covered the remaining sessions of a series on the Romantic Period, concluding last year’s focus

on that favourite subject. This year, we investigated the innovations of the period – new forms, new instruments, new ways of composing and organising music.

Someone asked about child prodigies as a number of our composers were outstandingly talented at a young age. As it happened, coming up on our programme for the morning was a highly talented seven-year old playing a Chopin Nocturne.

Too young? Chopin was composing these when he was only eight himself. It is not too difficult to find outstanding young people on YouTube. The period was the age of the virtuoso and also of new dance forms, so we watched top performers and authentic dance routines on YouTube.

In our picture here are one or two of the composers and artists we have listened to since our last report – Anthony Ritchie, Jenny McLeod, Charles-Valentin Alkan and Georges Bizet -- with Herbs and Split Enz in front.



Notice Board

Hi Facilitators! July group reports: Diners, Singing, Photography.... But if you want to send an unscheduled report, please do! Thanks!

Photography Group Gallery

This month the Group visited St Paul's Cathedral! Firstly as individuals at the Midwinter Festival, then as a group...

Ann Wood grants us a icy view of the Winter celebration:



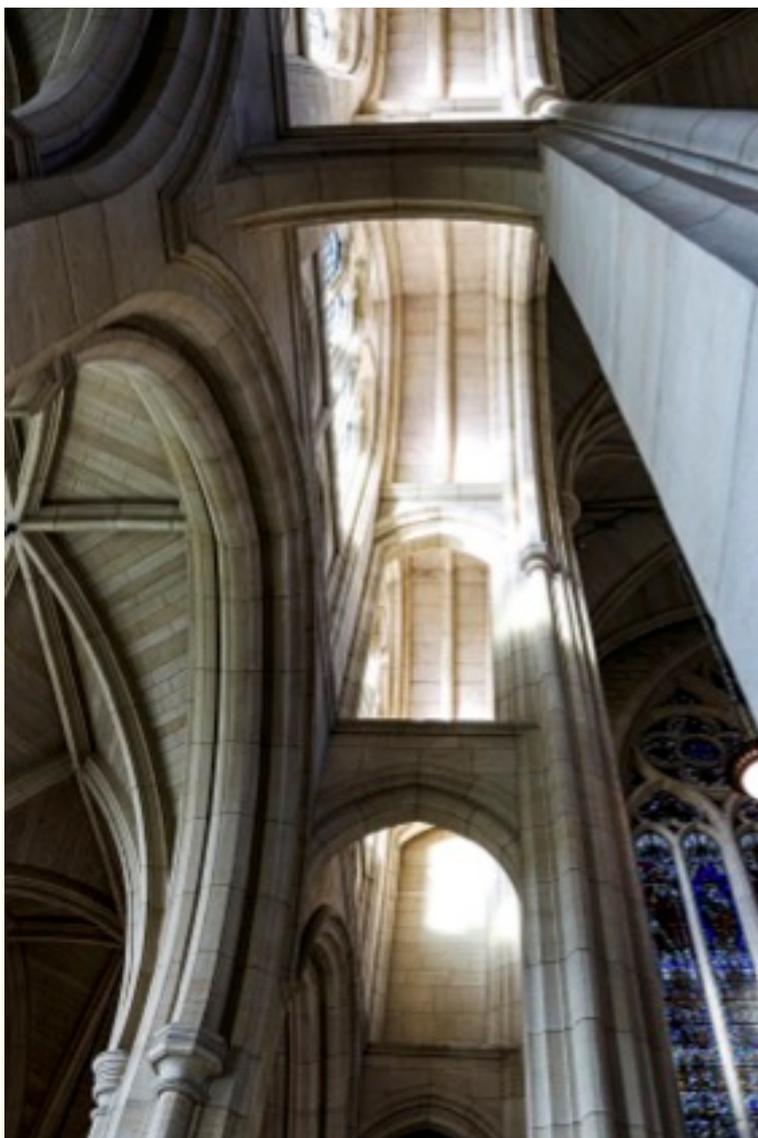
then Ann show us some of the variation which this spectacle presented:



While Graham Corbett presents us with a splendid view of the interior:



Ann Trewern instructs us to cast our eyes upward!



While Ann Wood shows us something closer:



The birds & beasts are not forgotten, as Ann Trewern observes:



While Charmian Smith shows us more of the whole interior:

