



## August 2024 Newsletter

### From the President

Last month I reported that there was a significant number of members had not paid their 2024 subscription. Following reminder letters sent to these members, a few have now paid, several have resigned, and the remainder have not replied. We must assume that the latter do not wish to continue their membership, therefore their names are being removed from our membership list.

The good news is that we can accept new members and this is now happening. For those of you who are receiving this newsletter for the first time, we welcome you to U3A Ellesmere and trust you will find our meetings interesting, informative and providing good fellowship.

### Our July speaker

Peter Howarth gave an absorbing talk on The Holy Mountain in Greece, its long history and how the monasteries located there operate today. His talk prompted many follow-up questions, which indicates the interest that he generated. For anyone who is interested in learning more about this fascinating place, and the exploits of Sandy Thomas in World War 2, including being given refuge by the monks of Mount Athos, Peter has provided the following links:

The best link to the Holy Mountain (Mount Athos):

<https://youtu.be/cNTDa4Jk4C0?si=N40rylOqdbq-nsUh> (or search for “Mount Athos 60 Minutes” on YouTube)

The Sandy Thomas story:

<https://www.nzonscreen.com/title/dare-to-be-free-2004>

### Upcoming speakers

#### Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> August

**Barry Maister** – “Behind the Rings – an insider’s view of the Olympic Movement”

After 20 years of engagement with the Olympic Movement, and 10 years as an IOC member, Barry has the experience to address some of the myths and misconceptions about the Movement, and explain his concerns for the future. He is an Olympic Gold Medallist (Hockey, Montreal, 1976), and a former Rector of St Andrews College. At this time we are assured of a very topical presentation from Barry.

## Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> September

**David Simmons**, Emeritus Professor, Department of Tourism, Sport and Society, Lincoln University – “Rethinking tourism”

David’s bio reads: “I work globally on tourism policy and planning and am a Fellow of the International Academy for the Study of Tourism. My research focuses on managing tourism at the destination area. It is informed by human geography, resource economics and the social sciences but increasingly adopts a multi or interdisciplinary epistemology. I examine broader questions of tourism governance and evolution and public participation in tourism planning. I also focus on economic and sustainable tourism ‘yields’ to direct positive outcomes at the local level. My work significantly informs the development and implementation of the New Zealand Tourism Strategy. With funding from the National Science Challenge, I am now working on two risk management projects for New Zealand tourism: social resilience building through the lens of transient populations (including tourists and sector employees) and longer-term risks around tourists such as biosecurity and bio-health disease vectors.”

## Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> October

**Fiona Brooker**, Chief Memory Officer and Genealogist at Memories in Time – “The Magic of DNA”

Fiona writes: “My passion is to help people trace their family history and then to discover ways to share the stories and memories with their families. Based in New Zealand, I’m researching all over the world.

Memories in Time grew from my research, and helping other people with their research.

Now I’m lucky to be able to do what I love as my full-time career. A combination of researching, mentoring, DNA analysis, teaching family history and publishing which I love. There is nothing better than getting someone else addicted to the hunt for their ancestors.”

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## Interest Groups

John reports - The **Science Group** has outgrown its venue, and now has a waiting list. It’s great that there is so much interest, and consequently we are looking for someone, either from the existing group, or another U3A member, who would like to start a second science group.

Information about the current group and past topics they have enjoyed, can be found on the website. The website address is <https://u3aellesmere.org/> then click on Interest Groups on the black tab at the top and click on Science group.

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**Suggestions please:** We are constantly looking for speakers for our future meetings. If you know of someone who might be willing to speak on an interesting topic, please chat to Errol, Dorothy or John, or send us an email (via our Gmail address below).

## Your committee for 2023/24 is:

**President** – Errol Wood, **Vice-President** – John Prendergast, **Secretary** – Nancy Borrie,

**Treasurer** – Neal Borrie, **Interest Groups Coordinator** - Lyn Minchington

**Tea Team coordinator** – Warren Greenwood, **Membership Coordinator** – Dorothy Jordan

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