



University of the Third Age,
Timaru

Series 1, 2021 DEMOCRACY

Organised by Kevin Foley

Welcome to U3A for 2021, and what we hope will be a more normal year's programme than last year's. A special welcome to our new members.

We have our first lecture on Monday 22nd February. Because of a prior booking for West End Hall lectures 2 and 3 of this series will be 2 weeks apart, on 1 and 15 March.

Our Annual General Meeting will be held after the meeting on 15th March and will be followed by afternoon tea. Notice of the AGM and a call for nominations for the U3A Committee will be sent to members shortly.

Thanks to those members who have paid their 2021 subscription. If you have yet to pay please deposit \$25 per member (\$40 per new member) to U3A Timaru, account number 01-0886-0142760-00 with your name as the reference.

U3A lectures are for members only.

We regret we're unable to welcome visitors to our lectures – to do so would be unfair to those on the membership waiting list.

22 February **Brexit and the Misreading of History** *Prof Robert Patman*

Trying to learn from history is both necessary and difficult. It is necessary because the past is the only data we have to deal with new events and challenges. But it is very difficult to apply lessons of history to contemporary situations because the entire process depends on the effective use of reasoning by analogy. And such reasoning can be flawed. This has been highlighted by the repeated claim that Brexit represents Winston Churchill's vision of Britain and Europe.

1 March **How Healthy is Democracy in New Zealand?** *Dr Chris Rudd*

Most of us believe we live in a democracy in New Zealand – and we have the rules and institutions to prove it! But a democracy is more than the sum of its laws and institutions. How well do those institutions function? Do people become involved in the democratic process or do we have an 'audience' democracy? These are some of the issues addressed in this talk.

15 March **Machiavellian Politics and the Rule of Law** *Dr Vicki Spencer*

This lecture examines Machiavelli's advice on how best to retain power in his notorious text, *The Prince*, which remains a handbook for many political advisers today. When its validation of the lust for power comes, however, to override all other concerns, Machiavellianism possesses inherent dangers for modern democracies. It can threaten, amongst other things, the rule of law, something I argue we are currently witnessing in the United States.

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| 2021 PROGRAMME DATES: | SERIES 4: May 31, Jun 14, 21 | SERIES 7: Sep 6, 13, 20 |
| SERIES 2: Mar 29, Apr 12, 19 | SERIES 5: Jul 5, 12, 19 | SERIES 8: Oct 4, 11, 18 |
| SERIES 3: May 3, 10, 17 | SERIES 6: Aug 2, 9, 16 | SERIES 9: Nov 1, 8, 15 |

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| Meetings | <i>Please ...</i> |
| West End Hall, 35a Maltby Avenue, Timaru. Lectures commence at 1.30 pm and conclude about 2.30 pm with questions to follow. Coffee/tea will be provided after the meeting. | Be seated by 1.20 pm Turn your cell phone off Wait until the end of the lecture before asking questions Stand when asking a question, and wait for the microphone |
| | Wear your name tag No talking during lectures |

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| OFFICE BEARERS AND COMMITTEE | Postal address |
| President: Kevin Foley: Phone: (03) 686 2209 Vice President: Reese Hart Waiting List: Kath Calvert: kathcalvert1@gmail.com; (03) 688 8696 Committee: Jill Clarke, Solome Mair, Joan Harris Treasurer: Paul Gill: paulcynthia1@gmail.com; Phone (027) 220 4405 Secretary: John Barton: u3atimaru@gmail.com; Phone (03) 686 2848 | U3A Timaru PO Box 4024 Highfield Timaru 7942 |