

**Members attending are welcome to wear masks.**

**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 waiting list.

**6 July      Shakespeare's Sonnets      *Judith Coullie***

Ben Jonson, Shakespeare's chief rival as a playwright, wrote a tribute to the man he dubbed the "Sweet Swan of Avon". Shakespeare, he wrote, "was not of an age but for all time". But are the sonnets indeed poems for our time? What pleasures can these sonnets, written over 400 years ago, still offer us? "Not marble, nor the gilded monuments/ Of princes, shall outlive this powerful rhyme". (Sonnet 55).

**13 July      Why accents aren't lazy      *Kevin Watson***

Young people are sometimes criticised for having pronunciations that are sloppy or lazy. In fact, speech sounds are characterised by remarkably precise patterns. In this talk, I will explore how accents work and how they change over time. Drawing on examples from New Zealand English and other accents, including Liverpool English (from my home city), I will show that even speech that is stigmatised or mocked follows highly organised rules. These patterns reveal the extraordinary precision with which speakers control the sounds of everyday language.

**20 July      35 Years in the Media and the power of words      *Mike Yardley***

After entering the media industry at Radio Waitaki Oamaru, Mike's passion for words has been the anchor in a diversified media career, spanning radio, television and newspapers – including over 20 years as a weekly columnist in The Press. Mike will discuss the profound changes to media, the power of words and the challenges ahead.

**2026 PROGRAMME DATES:**

**SERIES 1:** Mar 9, 16, 23

**SERIES 2:** Apr 13, 20

**SERIES 3:** May 11, 18, 25

**SERIES 4:** Jun 8, 15, 22

**SERIES 5:** Jul 6, 13, 20

**SERIES 6:** Aug 3,10,17

**SERIES 7:** Sep 7, 14, 21

**SERIES 8:** Oct 5, 12, 19

**SERIES 9:** Nov 9, 16, 23

**Meetings**

**are held at The West End Hall,  
35a Maltby Avenue, Timaru.**

Lectures may start a few minutes before  
1.30 pm and conclude about 2.30 pm,  
with questions to follow.

Coffee/tea will be provided after the meeting.

**As a courtesy to our speakers  
and other members, please**

be seated by 1.20 pm.      wear your name tag.  
turn your cell phone off.      don't talk during lectures.  
wait until the end of the lecture before asking questions.  
stand when asking a question, and wait for the microphone.

**OFFICE BEARERS AND COMMITTEE**

**President:** Kevin Foley: telephone: (03) 686 2209  
**Vice President:** Linda Gaskin  
**Treasurer:** Jenny Ensor  
**Secretary:** Léonie Litten: email: u3atimaru@gmail.com  
**Members:** Bob Cumming, Peter Hall, Sharon Peck,

**PLEASE NOTE:**  
**Series 5 begins Monday  
6 July 2026  
at the West End Hall.**