

Bayside U3A

UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE

Offices: **Beumaris Senior Centre**
 84 Reserve Road, Beumaris (behind the library)

Old Brighton Court House
 63 Carpenter Street, Brighton (next to the Town Hall)

Telephone: 9589 3798 Mobile: 0404 524 028
 Mail: P.O. Box 7269 BEAUMARIS 3193

Email: baysideu3a@gmail.com Web: baysideu3a.org.au

2024 TERM DATES

Term 2 15th April - 28th June 2024
Term 3 15th July - 20th September 2024
Term 4 7th October - 13th December 2024

NEWSLETTER

May 2024



Beumaris Office:
 Monday to Friday 9:30am - 2:00pm

Brighton Office
 Monday to Friday 9:30am - 12noon

PRESIDENT'S MUSINGS

SUE STEELE



As I sit under a cosy blanket writing this, it is the middle of National Volunteer Week. The 2024 Volunteer Week theme is 'Something for Everyone': most fitting for a U3A. We offer such a range of activities and volunteering opportunities for our members and we really do have 'Something for Everyone'.

Everyone you see helping out at our U3A is a volunteer: from Committee Members, to Office Volunteers, to Tutors, Course Leaders and Event Organisers. We are totally reliant on the generosity of our volunteers and cannot exist without them. **Thanks to all of you—we are a friendly, vibrant U3A.**

Being a volunteer has lots of benefits ranging from improving our health and happiness to promoting a sense of belonging, boosting mood and making friends, the case for volunteering keeps building.

Here are some surprising reasons why volunteering doesn't just benefit other people, it will improve your own wellbeing too!

The University of Sydney outlines [7 surprising benefits of volunteering](#)

- ✓ Open the door to life satisfaction
- ✓ It'll make you feel healthier
- ✓ Feel a sense of belonging
- ✓ Embrace your passions
- ✓ You'll feel happier
- ✓ You'll get a 'helpers high'
- ✓ You can catch feel-good emotions

We always welcome new volunteers and new courses, so please consider volunteering with us, if you aren't already.



Save the Date



Wednesday 24th July

Special Event - Christmas in July

At the Beumaris Community Centre

96 Reserve Road Beumaris

The Events Committee are working on creating another super event. Please watch for details by email and in the July newsletter.



Bayside U3A Happy Hour

LAST FRIDAY OF EVERY MONTH

Next Happy Hour
Friday 28th June at 5pm



25 Holyrood Street, Hampton

**It's not all trees and fences.
40 years of talk back radio**

**Our next Bayside U3A Speaker :
Talk back radio lawyer David Whiting**

**2.30 pm, Wednesday 19th June,
at Bayside U3A Beaumaris.**

No need to book – just turn up on the day

David Whiting has been answering curly legal questions for ABC Melbourne listeners since 1992. The listeners are asked “*Do you have a legal question that Google can't answer?*” But now David feels he could be threatened by the advent of AI!

For the last 40 years, David has provided legal advice to listeners at 10am Tuesdays, on ABC radio Melbourne. If you have an old radio, it's 774 on the AM dial.

Outside the radio, David conducts a legal practice. For the last eight years it's been under the name of Whiting Lawyers, dealing with the kinds of issues that come from radio callers, the legal problems we all have.

David has been a member of the Keilor Rotary Club since 1983. He is married to Maree and they have one daughter - also a lawyer.

Writer's note: As an occasional listener to David's segments, I have found him witty and mildly acerbic, but huge value in cutting to the essence of the problem the listener has brought and providing wise, if not always the hoped-for advice. It promises to be a great session for Bayside U3A!



ENERGISATION EXERCISES

Tutor : Manny Goldberg

'The greater the will the greater flow of energy.'

Classes every Friday from 9:45 to 10:45am



The full circuit energisation *exercises* includes 36 sets of exercises/postures. Practising these energisation exercises increases an individual's energy, their awareness of it's flow in the body and their sense of self and well-being. It releases bodily tension .



Participants will become more flexible by using the breath for their 'health, body and mind'.

Participants should wear loose clothing or a tracksuit, runners or flat, casual footwear. No need for a yoga mat.

Guests are welcome to come and have a look at a class at the Brighton Senior Centre

Enrol at [Energisation Exercises Course : 24HEA002](#)

BAYSIDE U3A SOCIAL MEDIA MANAGER

Bayside U3A is on the hunt for a passionate and creative Social Media Manager.

Our social media platform is internet based and relies on user generated content such as text, photos and videos.

It's prime purpose is to improve social connectedness for BU3A members with other online communities.

The main use is for social networking, building our audience and communication with others.

The Social Media Manager will be responsible for managing the creation of and sharing of information, ideas, interest and other forms of expression within the BU3A membership group and where appropriate, to other community groups.

Please email your expression of interest to BaysideU3a@gmail.com Attention: Sandra Groves by COB 8th June.

THANKYOU ... FROM A VOLUNTEER TO BAYSIDE U3A

This is Volunteer Week. Today as I entered the U3A Centre, I was greeted with a gracious thankyou from our Office Manager, Chris Logan and a packet of sultanas and nuts, an unnecessary but nice gesture! It struck me that in fact I should be countering this gift with one of my own, because I have no doubt I am the one who gains most from this 'deal'.

With the few years on the sidelines after COVID, followed by enforced isolation because of surgery and extensive rehabilitation, I can say with conviction I am a new woman! More than ten years have elapsed since I first became involved with U3A as my professional life came to a close. Through the connection, I maintained confidence, made new friends and definitely put down another layer of insulation around my brain! Working with the Committee, helping with the newsletter, attending the writer's and language groups - even attempting (unsuccessfully) to establish a 'Snooker for Sheilas' group - on many levels I was sustained and eased into retirement and my older age.

The U3A concept, whereby participants come together with one or more facilitators, to learn a new skill or reinforce an old one, and where the values of shared participation and reciprocal learning are upheld, has been for me, a major factor in allowing me to cope with the negative perceptions of old age. I do not feel sidelined, despite the dismissiveness of my family and others (not intentional, just there!!) and if anything, I have gained unlimited confidence and a readiness to stand strong and challenge the world.

When I wrote and published a memoir in 2017, it occurred to me if I can do it, anyone can... then the next step was to share my good fortune with others. I did this a few times pre-COVID, in the form of facilitating short courses and many participants expressed enjoyment in the process. Five years later and with another small group of people interested in writing about themselves, I am again experiencing the joy of connection and gaining so much from new interactions and the generosity of the participants.

To have this feeling of accomplishment and to overcome my own self-doubt has been once again liberating. Thank you U3A for giving all of us the opportunity to have meaningful input into a terrific organisation.

Written by Geri Coulson

<p>Volunteer Opportunities with Brighton North Rotary</p>	<p>Brighton North Rotary </p>
	<p>Bayside Farmers Market</p> <p>Where: Trey Bit Reserve, Sandringham When: 4th Saturday each month Time: 2 shifts options 6.45am-10am and 10am-1.30pm Activities: Set up Tents Pedestrian traffic management Managing entry gates - collection of donations Contact: Malcolm Baird 0419 644 294</p>
	<p>Donations in Kind</p> <p>This major recycling endeavour repurposes hospital/medical, educational and new clothing, saving it from landfill, giving it a desirable, and in fact, treasured purpose. We prepare goods for project wish lists and learn where they will be of assistance. Be inspired in this totally volunteer administered organisation.</p> <p>Where: Shed 39/400 Somerville Rd. West Footscray When: 3rd Thursday each month Time: 9.30am - 12.30pm (Transport arranged via car pooling) Activities: Preparing goods for project distribution in both local and overseas communities. Contact: Gerry Lambourne 0428 949 916 https://rotarydik.org/</p>

HAPPY HOUR

FRIDAY 26TH APRIL 2024

Convenor : Karen Hall

No Happy Hour to report for March due to the Good Friday public holiday.

Longer report than usual this month. It was pleasing to see more than 40 members at the Happy Hour in April. A special thanks to the committee members attending – President Sue Steele, VP Joe Arnephy, Secretary Chris Birch, Office Manager Chris Logan, members Helene Redding, Ray Cupido, Stephen Le Page and yours truly.

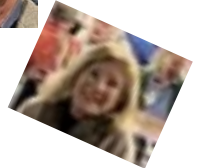
Welcome to several new members who joined us on the night. We hope to see you next time.

Before drawing the raffle, the RSL Welfare Officer expressed appreciation for U3A's support and saluted our new president and VP. 'Choc' then presented us all with Anzac biscuits lovingly baked and wrapped by the CWA.

We had one raffle winner of the generous meat tray with veggies this month – Chris McFadden! Rumours of special favours by her son (the RSL VP in attendance on the night) were greatly exaggerated.

Almost 20 of us stayed on to checkout the recently appointed new Chef. It was surprisingly busy in the Bistro which meant the service was somewhat impacted. Despite the delay, only compliments were overheard about the food.

To receive a reminder for Friday 28th June, please enrol in [Bayside U3A Happy Hour Course: 24SOC004](#)



FRENCH CONVERSATIONS—BRIGHTON

Tutor : Marianne Welton

As the saying goes, a change is as good as a holiday. A holiday brings new perspectives on life, which is what a change to the usual routine of the Wednesday French program has brought to French classes in the Brighton Court House. Once a month, a guest Francophone tutor is invited to the session to present his or her own perspective of French culture and to stimulate French Conversations. Our invitees so far have been:

Faye Leader: Le Meurice Hotel in Paris, a lively talk peppered with amusing accounts of her experiences during events she attended at this grand hotel in the Rue Rivoli.

Anna Berkowitz: A group member who ran the session by providing a thought-provoking article which challenged the group to discuss the pros and cons of dress styles and codes.

Ian Greenhalf: Tour Leader of French Liaisons, with his perspective of 'Life in New Caledonia' from organising and accompanying many different groups on French immersion trips to this beautiful island.

In addition, a 'holiday' from the usual session took the form of a sortie for the group to one of the outstanding films in the recent French Film Festival, 'Divertimento', with a lively discussion of the film at the beginning of the French session the following week.

At the time of writing this report, we are looking forward to our next group sortie, the U3A Arts, Music and International Festival. Vive le Festival!

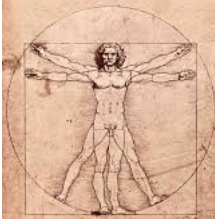
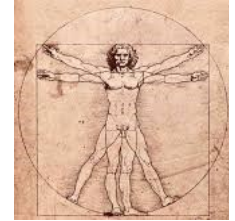


U3A Armchair Travel**Convenor : Claire Andrews****THANKYOU!**

In the last newsletter I asked for presenters for a future 'Armchair Travel' session and I was very fortunate in receiving a number of kind offers to help out.

So, thank you very much to all those people who stepped up to the challenge!

We may even have some presenters ready for 2025!

***THE FELDENKRAIS METHOD...A WAY OF THINKING******Tutor : Marie Arendsen******'Decolonize your body-mind.******Removing outer authority from your inner life – '***

Quote from Moshe Feldenkrais. There are so many invisible rules we follow, often unbeknownst to us.

This was one of Moshe Feldenkrais's stated aims of this work. There are so many invisible rules we follow, often unbeknownst to us. Whether it's an instruction your father gave you in childhood about sitting up straight, or someone scolding you about holding your knees together as an expression of modesty, or a yoga teacher's advice to pull your shoulders in a certain way they thought was 'right' once upon a time – often we are walking around carrying loads of conscious or unconscious instructions about how to be in a human body. I believe in liberating us from these.

Choosing how we inhabit and move our own bodies from a place of conscious sovereignty and not because an 'authority' told us to *do it like this 30 years ago...* I believe this is an essential facet of adult development. One definition of decolonisation includes the 'complete removal of the domination of non-indigenous forces.' I believe it's also important on the micro-level of your own inner life. Regardless of your genetic and cultural history, one place you are indigenous to is your very own body. The slow, gentle, inquiry-based practices of Awareness Through Movement help you to remove the often invisible domination of non-indigenous forces in your own body, mind, and life. It doesn't mean all advice from others is harmful. It means we get to choose, from our own embodied sovereignty, what is life-giving for us and set aside the rest. You can trust your naturalness.

Do what you want!

As Feldenkrais famously said, 'You can't do what you want until you know what you're doing. Once you know what you're doing, you can do what you want.'

He also mused on the humbling fact that it's much easier to do what someone tells you to do than to notice what you're doing. Awareness Through Movement offers a powerful process for helping us to know what we're doing so we can do what we want. This can be as simple as knowing that we're clenching our jaw so we can choose to unclench it, or noticing that we're holding tension in our shoulders, which we could choose to drop once we know what we're doing. It can then translate into noticing we're being an emotionally reactive jerk in our relationship and then choosing to do something different, rather than just indulging the not-so-conscious impulse.

Many people would rather someone just tell them what to do than enter the long and exacting (and deeply rewarding!) process of knowing what they're doing so they can do what they want. Feldenkrais can help you become much freer.

As Victor Frankl famously said, *'Between stimulus and response, there is a space. In that space is our power to choose our response. In our response lies our growth and freedom.'*

This is exactly the territory we explore in Feldenkrais lessons.

LET'S DO DINNER

Convenor : Karen Hall

Rubia's Mediterranean Kitchen in Kingston 6th and 20th April.

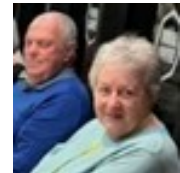
This is a little gem hidden away in the industrial area of Keys Road.

Thanks to Ann Swiers for her recommendation.

The overhead flowers and pink chairs were a highlight.

Not crowded, so it was a relief to be able to hear all the conversation for a change.

Must have been another chef on the second dinner because the food looked and tasted a little less delicious for some choices.



Caulfield RSL (which is actually in Elsternwick) 4th and 18th May

As often happens, we had double the number of diners at the second dinner.

Parking can be a little tricky in the area for late comers.

The open fire was a nice cosy touch – such a shame that it is a fake one.

The chef in charge is ex-Hampton RSL – it was interesting to observe that the food on the second occasion was very different (read better) than the first.

Always a mystery.

Only one dinner is booked for the 15th June at Onyx Café in Cheltenham.

If you wish to be included on dinner invitations and reminders, please enrol in

[Let's do Dinner - Course code: 24SOC003.](#)



PICKLEBALL

Co-Tutor : Marianne Welton

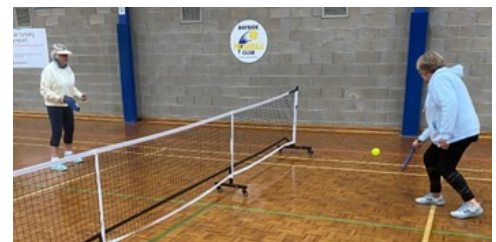
There has been an exciting level of upskilling in many of our players since the beginning of the year!

Nearly all players have now readily adopted the correct way to warm up, allaying health and safety concerns from our volunteer coaches from the Bayside Pickleball Club (thank you Dot and Jill)!

There has also been a pleasing increase in acceptance of the protocol of advising upcoming absences (with apologies) through UMAS. This helps with the smooth running of sessions.

We look forward to welcoming some new members from the wait list in the next few weeks.

(NB: As there is a wait list for this activity, we are keeping a close eye on the absences. We understand that emergencies occur, but appreciate you notifying either the office (9589 3798) or recording your apology on UMAS if you are missing some classes due to travel, grand children sitting, illness etc. at your earliest convenience.)



LAWN BOWLERS TRY SOCIAL BOWLS**Tutor : Rob Coulson**

Many of this year's U3A Lawn Bowlers are getting their feet wet by playing a social bowls game on Tuesday mornings. This puts them into practice for the more advanced lessons they are now getting on Wednesday mornings as we hit mid-term 2. In particular we are dealing with a particular playing position each week, since the individual roles can be quite different.

The weather has been kind to us and the volunteer coaches have been rotated, to further present varying facets of the sport.

Winter can be a good time for new students to discover these sessions, so they get some time in before the season approaches. Accordingly we are providing coaching for first timers each week. So it's not too late to sign up for the Absolute Beginners course.

Enrol in [Lawn Bowls : Absolute Beginners course 24FITS06](#)



Many of our Intermediate Group.

TREASURY OF GOLDEN ERA MOVIES Tutor: Tom Hajdu

The treasure trove of movies carries on unabated and all are welcome to attend, from the curious through to the Golden Era movie die-hards!

Movies are shown on Wednesdays at the Beaumaris Senior Centre at 1.45pm

- ⇒ 29th May (no movie : venue unavailable)
- ⇒ 5th June : The Philadelphia Story (1940)
- ⇒ 12th June : Anastasia (1956)
- ⇒ 19th June : San Francisco (1936)
- ⇒ 26th June : An Affair To Remember (1957)
- ⇒ 17th July : Love Is A Many Splendoured Thing (1955)
- ⇒ 24th July : The Shop Around The Corner (1940)
- ⇒ 31st July : The Three Musketeers (1948)

All those with just a glimmer of interest in any of the above titles, need only to Google them. Once you have done your research you'll agree with me that they all, in their individual ways ,are MUST see movies and you will be welcomed into the fold! Enrol at [Treasury of Golden Era Movie Studies Course: 24HUM015](#)

For any enquiries, call Tom on 0419 377 662

DAY TOURS**Organiser : Joan Gibbs**

Fun Day visiting Mornington Peninsula in April.
In May, touring Altona and Geelong and a Ferry ride from Portarlington to Docklands.
Itinerary from September will be available end of June.

**WINTER WINE TOURS**

YARRA VALLEY Wednesday 19th June **AND** Thursday 20th June

MT MACEDON Friday 19th July **AND** Friday 26th July

MORNINGTON PENINSULA Friday 16th August **AND** Thursday 22nd August

Cost per tour \$80 (Tasting fees apply unless you buy a bottle)

Pick-up/drop-off : Beaumaris Library or Brighton Court House

For more information please call Joan 0417 768 433. Bookings with joanlgibbs37@gmail.com

BAYSIDE U3A WRITERS GROUP**TUTOR: DR CHERYL THREADGOLD**

Jocelyn Wood from the Bayside U3A Writers Group will join Pauline O'Brien in the 88.3 Southern FM studios on Tuesday 18th June at 9am.

Jocelyn's talk will include discussing her poem published in 'Synergy' titled 'A Pilgrim's Progress on the Camino de Santiago' inspired by her walk of the famous trail.

Word of the Month: 'Belief'**BELIEF**

Margaret Boyes-Pringle © Easter 2024

The calf
will bow to the knife,
spill its blood,
yield; its skin
scraped for ground.

Swan and goose
will gift flight feathers,
barbs trimmed,
shaft cured in water
and hot sand.
The cut for the nib

Great trees
will suffer
a cruel peeling of bark,
wounds left bleeding;
their stolen fruit
boiled too in cauldrons
for black ink

while, from the Orient,
the deep blue of Lapis,
the vermilion of Cinnabar
from Spain, are gathered and ground;
the verte de flamme, a green dye
from the wild iris,
the deeper reds of the red ochre,
the violet from sunflowers,
will illuminate, with gold
and silver, these pages.

The silenced Scriptorum-monks
their lives sculptured by Order
will eternally tap drypoint,
or rule leadpoint lines
in a thin wash, then:
copy, copy, copy;
through cold, heat, cold, heat,
three fingers bending;
each body bent
in Faith's cage.

And the souls of the people,
who have no writing,
will be enslaved by an unknown tongue.

BEWARE OF RED LIGHT AREAS

Jim Mynard © 2024

Owen Mannix had a strong belief it was wise, while driving, not to enter an intersection until he could see a space on the other side.

Nevertheless, despite his wise counsel he found he was not getting the message across to his wife, Emma, when she was driving them to visit the shops.

'Stop!' he yelled.

Loud enough for the suddenly perplexed Emma to obey, although unaware of danger.

She stamped her foot on the brake pedal and stopped in front of the green light.

'What the hell, Owen, what's up, what have I done?'

'Toot, toot!' came a blast from behind.

'There is no space on the other side; if the traffic doesn't move, you'll be caught in the red-light zone and you've already got two red-light fines at \$470 each, I've told you often enough; wake up woman,' her annoyed husband said.

'Toot, toot!' came the car's voice from behind just as a space appeared for one car on the other side.

The car on her left shot ahead, cut across to her lane and queue jumped the space as she took her foot off the brake to get under way.

She hit the brake again.

And the lights turned red.

A long 'toot!' came from behind.

'Oh shut up,' Emma said into the rear vision mirror.

The driver from the car behind jumped out, banged on her side door window and yelled, 'What the hell do you think you are doing, you stupid git?'

Emma became upset, but the lights turned green and she could see only three spaces on the other side.

'There must be something slowing up the traffic,' she said to her husband.

The man banged on her car again as she moved off.

Emma was happy to get through and away from the angry man.

'Why are you stopping here Sweetie?' Owen asked when she stopped in the first space.

The car came up behind, tooted and tooted until the lights turned red and there was a flash.

'I think he might have been caught in the red-light zone,' Emma said, as she took her foot off the brake.

BELIEF

Norah Dempster © 2024

'Well, that's my belief,' she said. I watched my daughter run down the front steps of our suburban Melbourne house. Her thick, blonde ponytail swung as she went.

She should cut her hair, I thought, then wished I hadn't.

I go inside and sit at the kitchen table.

I have eaten breakfast two hours ago. Porridge, I still have porridge in the morning like my mother and father before me. Admittedly I cook it in the microwave now. I try not to think about that. I don't know what to think sometimes.

I don't want to think about my daughter.

She came home late last night. I tried not to stay awake waiting for her. After all, she is twenty-two now. She can do what she likes. But can she?

She came into my bedroom. She knew I was awake. I sleep alone now since my husband died.

I make the bed just the same and I keep his pillow on the double bed bedside me. I miss him.

Janice sat on the edge of the bed. I felt an anxiety. I knew something was going to change.

'Mum, I have something to tell you,' Her voice was tense and urgent. But I hear underneath something else. Was it triumph? Some satisfaction I couldn't identify.

'I'm in love,' she said.

Relief flooded through me. *At last,* I thought. *She has never been one for going out much.* Oh, there were a few boys she brought home during her teens but since then she has been on her own. I have worried about her loneliness. Her solitude. Sitting in her bedroom in the evenings on her computer or listening on her own to music. I suppose I did ask her not to play her music in the house where I was. Too loud for me now. I want quietness, a gentle life. She is considerate, my daughter.

She went out with Tim for a long time, our neighbour's boy, a lovely boy. But maybe they just knew each other too well growing up, playing together, in and out of each other's houses. He got engaged to someone else. Janice looked happy when she heard but I did wonder if she was putting on a brave face. We never talked about it.

'I've danced all night,' she said. She was laughing. I could see her at the club, that ponytail hanging free maybe. Her skirt, no, not her skirt, her linen trousers with the pink top with the buttons fitting her slender waist.

'Yes,' I said. I wanted to be encouraging.

Little grandchildren came into my mind. Chubby babies, with round faces looking like Janice was when she was small. I so wished for more children, but it was not to be. I have been grateful for this precious daughter. My Gerry will never see our grandchildren, I thought.

But, and my heart lifted. Now, I too, at the Pilates coffee mornings will get my phone out like the others and say.

'Oh this is my grandchild,' and wait for the chorus of approval. The oohing and the aahing! There has to be a wedding first, though. Maybe she is pregnant. Maybe.

'Yes,' I say again. 'Yes.'

'Are you ready,' she is whispering now.

'Yes', I say.

'I have wanted to tell you for a few months. I was scared but I want too now. We love each other.'

'Very much,' she adds.

'What's his name?', I ask.

'Jeanne,' she replies. Then she pauses. 'I love another woman, Mum. That's how it is for me. I was scared to tell you, but I have to now. We are going to get engaged. We want to be together. For always.'

I didn't argue then. I lay back and closed my eyes and she kissed my forehead and left the room.

But this morning I had to speak.

'It's not right', I said. I wanted to say it's not natural. I wanted to ask what she thought her father would say. And I did say those things. I said things I wish I hadn't. But most of all I saw the grandchildren disappearing and dissolving like flakes of snow when rain comes.

I started to cry.

'It isn't right', I whispered. The gossip, the neighbours. The talk.

'You can't marry a woman,' I say.

'Yes, you can now,' she replied. 'It's legal.'

I want to shake her, but I don't. I have never felt like that before.

I try again.

'It won't last,' I say. 'It's just a fad, a fashion.'

I am desperate. I don't want my daughter the object of ridicule and gossip. Pointed out and named by others, discussed at morning teas, their voices dropping. 'She's a lesbian, you know. A homosexual.'

'How can you love a woman' I ask, 'The way I loved your father?' I feel dread at the reality of it all. I don't want to know.

'Yes, I can,' she says. 'Mum, I'm sorry. I was scared to tell you. Now I have to go to work. I don't want to be late. But I want to say, this will last with Jeanne forever, I know. That is my belief. Because we love each other.'

And she ran down the steps, her blonde ponytail swinging.

A FLY IN AMBER

Geoffrey Dobbs © 2024

Figures in a painting, thought Robert Forster, imagining for a moment how they might appear to an observer; something from the last century, a Watteau or a Fragonard maybe? He in his frock coat, the Reverend Septimus Beauchamp, in his formal clerical garb and — Mrs Isobel Beauchamp, a swirl of colour in that silk, lace-trimmed, peach-coloured dress, as she perched on her chair like an exotic butterfly; all of them seated in white cane chairs around the ornate wrought iron table, their heads bowed close together as they examined the 'curiosities' laid out before them.

Robert leaned over the table and tried to fix his gaze unwaveringly on the cluster of objects in front of him. But Mrs. Beauchamp leaned forward too, the neck of her dress opening out just enough to expose the beginning of her cleavage. A faint, lavender scent seeped out from her into the heavy air. Once again Robert felt unnerved by her presence, as he had at their first meeting, earlier that afternoon. Mrs. Beauchamp, wife of the Reverend Septimus Beauchamp, he had imagined as a plain middle-aged woman dressed severely in black and white. So, he was completely unprepared for the young woman who had greeted him so warmly. True, he had seen her at church a few Sundays previously. (He wasn't a regular churchgoer but as the new doctor in the town he thought he should put in an occasional appearance.) On that occasion, seeing Mrs Beauchamp from a distance, he had immediately assumed she was the clergyman's daughter.

He was still under that delusion when she greeted him in the drawing room at the rectory earlier that afternoon. At that moment he had felt overwhelmed by Isobel Beauchamp, first by her appearance and then by her warm, slightly husky voice.

'Dr. Forster, how delightful that you could find time to join us. My husband has been eager to meet you, ever since he heard of your talk at the Mechanics Institute.'

The word 'husband' shocked Robert into silence for a moment. He was surprised by a sudden sense of disappointment.

'He *heard of it*. So I assume that he did not attend himself?'

'A few of our parishioners did, or at least they knew people who had. Do please sit down. My husband will join us shortly. He is completing the notes for his sermon this evening.'

Mrs. Beauchamp sank gracefully into an armchair and Robert perched himself formally and rather uncomfortably on an upright dining chair opposite her. She was indeed striking, he thought. Of medium height, shorter than him or her husband, she had a generous figure that was not entirely hidden by her voluminous silk dress. He had not at first glance thought her face pretty but its round, wide contours were offset by lively, piercing blue eyes and framed by a cascade of light brown curls. They glowed in the light streaming in through the Rectory's tall, Georgian windows.

'I have to admit', said Robert, 'that I did not expect interest in the subject from this quarter. But I look forward to meeting your husband. I already know that he is held in very high regard by his parishioners.'