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**Stephanie Cox; Annie Lowing; Mary Taylor; Erica Tinsley**

## Chairman's Corner

Greetings to you all.

We have continued with a membership of approximately 150, we seem to be replacing any who have left us and have an attendance at meetings of 44-50. The speakers have continued to give interesting talks, especially our 'homegrown' ones! Thanks to Ron Bryan for all his work.

The Summer Picnic, now ages ago, was enjoyable despite the weather, it could not have rained harder if we had planned it. We met in the hall which created a great atmosphere, it was a pity more of you were not brave enough to battle the elements. A plus was that there was plenty of food for tea as well as lunch. The proceeds of our monthly raffle pay for the event and we are grateful to Norma Ryan for all her work in organising them.

If you have prizes you would like to donate I am sure Norma would be happy to accept them.

We have managed the change in the times of our meetings. I hope the darker evenings will not prove a barrier to you attending in the coming months. Please note that Questers is after our main meeting. It is a tight squeeze time wise but we seem to be able to manage. Talking of Questers they require committee members and a treasurer in July, Carol O'Leary will have come to the end of her time - thank you - please consider if you can help.

Following the AGM, when concern was voiced that some committee members could be in post for 9 years, a discussion of governance of our U3A was held at a Special General Meeting in November when two motions to clarify the Constitution were passed.

Our December speaker will be light hearted but as members appear very busy and rush off at the end of meetings we have decided not to plan anything in particular.

Thanks to everyone who helps at the meetings and with publicity to ensure that we know what is happening. A particular thank you to all group leaders and the committee.

For those of you who have been or are unwell I wish you a speedy recovery let us know if you need any help.

I wish you all a very happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

*Lynda Stockings*

## History

In September, Derek Armitage spoke about the Battle of Taranto in November 1940 between the Italian Navy and the British Royal Navy. Both were fighting to maintain their own supply convoys to their armies fighting in North Africa. For the British, supporting Malta was especially important because of their longer supply routes.

The Italians had a powerful fleet based at Taranto on Italy's south-east coast, well positioned for a sortie attack on British shipping. To remove this threat, the Royal Navy mounted a surprise night attack on the harbour at Taranto using two waves of Swordfish bi-plane torpedo-bombers from the aircraft carrier HMS *Illustrious*. The success of the raid, which included the sinking of three battleships, demonstrated for the first time the power of naval aviation over the big guns of battleships.

In her illustrated talk 'Long Road to Freedom' Brenda Mole took us through the life of Nelson Mandela from his birth in 1918 to 1990 when he was released after 27 years in prison.

She showed us the rural landscape of Eastern Cape Province where he was born and spent his early years. We saw the people who influenced his formative years such as Chief Jongintaba Dalindyebo who became his guardian when he was 9 after the death of his father. We learnt how he progressed from local mission school through college in Fort Beaufort and the University College of Fort Hare, and how his ambition to be a lawyer took him to study at the University of Witwatersrand.

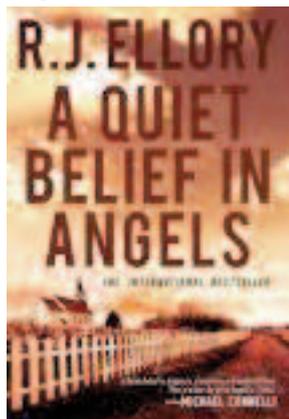
We saw some of the people he met on that journey who held the same ambitions he had for the future of South Africa without apartheid and were committed to non-violent protest. We learnt about events which persuaded him that some direct action had to be taken and the sabotage campaign against the government in 1961 which led to his arrest and sentence to life imprisonment.

We stayed in the 20th century for Paul Leedham's talk on aspects of country life that had seen great change as that century progressed. Paul drew on his early life in the countryside working in farming and then, as he moved on to selling agricultural supplies, on his contacts with farmers as they were forced to change and adapt.

*Erica Tinsley*

## Reading Group

**September** - *A Quiet Belief in Angels* by RJ Ellory



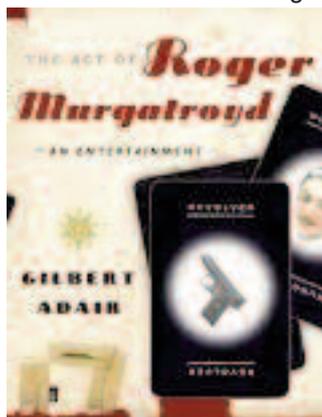
How exactly does a person move beyond a childhood filled with death? Death that seems to take form and follow... yet stay in front all the while, taunting with its ability to control the very life one tries to escape?

This story begins in early 1900s with the death of a young boy's father - and what follows is a not so sweet serial killer mystery in surrounding

Georgia country where everyone is suspect and one boy is destined to be haunted - if not hunted - forever. Joseph Vaughan's life has been dogged by tragedy. Growing up in the 1950s, he was at the centre of series of killings of young girls in his small rural community. The girls were taken, assaulted and left horribly mutilated. Barely a teenager himself, Joseph becomes determined to try to protect his community and classmates from the predations of the killer. Despite banding together with his friends as 'The Guardians', he was powerless to prevent more murders - and no one was ever caught. Only after a full ten years did the nightmare end when the one of his neighbours is found hanging from a rope, with articles from the dead girls around him. Thankfully, the killings finally ceased. But the past won't stay buried - for it seems that the real murderer still lives and is killing again. And the secret of his identity lies in Joseph's own history novels.

Recommended for its beautiful prose, historical authenticity and a slow burning plot.

**October** - *The Act of Roger Murgatroyd* by Gilbert Adair



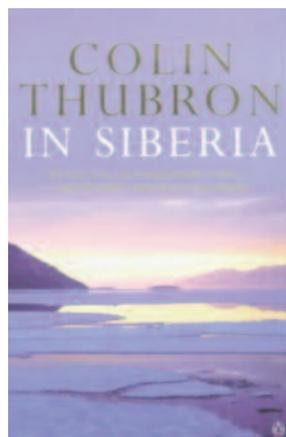
Boxing Day circa 1935, a snowed-in manor on the very edge of Dartmoor, a Christmas house-party and overhead, in the attic, the dead body of Raymond Gentry, gossip columnist and blackmailer, shot through the heart. But the attic door is locked from the inside, its sole window is traversed by thick iron bars and, naturally, there is no

sign of a murderer or a murder weapon. Fortunately (though, for the murderer, unfortunately), one of the guests is the formidable Evadne Mount, the bestselling author of countless classic whodunits. In fact, were she not its presiding sleuth, THE ACT OF ROGER MURGATROYD is exactly the type of whodunit she herself might have written. Gilbert Adair has somehow managed to poke fun at Agatha Christie and the entire whodunit genre, while at the same time admiring them. The contrived setting and characters are hilarious, quirky and intelligently crafted; his prose is clever and completely enjoyable to read, particularly in the

description of his creations and their various peculiarities.

Recommended as a light bit of fluff – amusing and easy to read..

**November** - *In Siberia* by Colin Thubron



In the late 90s, post-Soviet Union, Colin Thubron decided to explore Siberia, by truck, bus, and boat. The result is an evocative account of an extraordinary region. He travels through exotic cities and deserted villages, meets nostalgic old Stalinists and aggressive Orthodox churchmen, and generally interweaves Siberia's fascinating history with a description of the place today. You'd think

this would be a book about the beauty and harshness of nature in Siberia, and so it was a bit, but mainly it is a book about the people who lived in Siberia in the late 90s, and it was almost unremittably sad, with just the odd page here and there with even the faintest trace of optimism. All rather depressing - where else would you find a mother who worked for thirty-five years, saving all her pension (around 6000 rubles), only to find that now it amounted to a mere two loaves of bread?! It's doubtful that much has changed in the roughly twenty years since this was published. A cold forgotten land of forgotten and forsaken people.

*Diane Richards*

## Walking Group

**September Walk**

Our first walk after the summer break started between the thatched cottages of the village street in



picturesque Chilbolton. Our route gave us a good view of the 25m, white dish of the Chilbolton Observatory's radio telescope. We moved on to enter the nature reserve on West Down where we were treated to magnificent views across the Test Valley. After descending from the Down, we joined the Test Way on the route of the old 'Sprat and Winkle' railway. After crossing the Test, we arrived at what used to be

Fullerton Junction Station - now a private house. From there we walked the short distance to the hamlet of Cottonwood and continued along the road in the direction of Wherwell.



This road ran parallel to another disused railway which used to run from Fullerton Junction, through Wherwell and the Harewood forest, to Longparish and beyond. After about half a mile, we took a bridleway onto a long boardwalk crossing a part of the Test. The path led us onto the ancient, 48 acre,

Chilbolton Cow Common which dates back to 1284. We crossed two more parts of the Test flowing across the Common, to arrive back in Chilbolton Village where we enjoyed an excellent lunch.

*Roger Beaumont*

## Beginners Bridge

The beginners bridge group meet every Thursday at The Lights starting at 10.00am until 12.00. We do not pay for using the The Lights, the condition is we all buy a drink during the morning.



We are a small social group, if you think you would like to try bridge, no need for a partner. Please give Barbie Morrey-Stone a call on either my land line 01264 335597 or mobile 07802 803604 or email beesbubbles4@gmail.com. Hopefully we'll see some new faces in the new year. Bridge helps to keep "the little grey cells" working.

*Barbie Morrey-Stone*

## Bathroom Singers

### Proposal for introduction of New U3a Group.

How many members save their singing to the bathroom, acoustically satisfying in this tiled auditorium and in comparative privacy? I have been so encouraged for most of my life. Barbara, the missus, says UGH!

At the November monthly meeting I offered up the possibility of leaving the soap and shampoo behind to join with others in an informal tutorial courtesy of the Internet, and in a homely environment

If you could be vaguely interested then I might suggest you access You Tube...Verba Vocal Techniques on [youtube.com/watch?v=sU2VD5ckFOc](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sU2VD5ckFOc).

Here you will find a most likeable young vocal coach whose methods seem well pitched for all potential singers. My personal interest would be songs from the hit musicals - such as Oklahoma, My Fair Lady, Calamity Jane, Sound of Music and in addition ballads of the 50s and 60s. We should know most of the lyrics, shouldn't we? Can download Lyrics anyhow.

Formation of a choir?

**No.**

Likend to Karaoke?

**Not at all.**

Singing for pleasure, enlivenment, and just great fun.

**Yes!**

*alandixon712@gmail.com*

## Questors

Pete Duncan took these pictures on a recent questors visit to Oxford.



*The Dining Hall at Balliol College*

## U3A Information

### National Organisation

The Third Age Trust is the national representative body for the Universities of Third Age (U3As) in the UK. U3As are self-help, self-managed lifelong learning co-operatives for older people no longer in full time work, providing opportunities for their members to share learning experiences in a wide range of interest groups and to pursue learning not for qualifications, but for fun.

### Anton U3A

Monthly meetings, where all members meet together and hear talks by invited speakers, are at Burghclere Down Community Hall, Berry Way, Andover, SP10 3RZ on the 2nd Wednesday of each month at 2 pm. In 2017, meetings will start at 3 pm.

Groups pursue programmes decided by their members and are coordinated by group leaders. Interest Groups meet at various times and venues during the month.

### Anton U3A Monthly Meetings

December 13th    Nick Thomas                  *Groucho Marx*

#### **2018**

January 10th        Anthony Wood                  *Sir Francis Younghusband*

### FirstAssist Commercial LawCare

The Third Age Trust has an arrangement with FirstAssist to provide legal advice to U3A members. It is a free service, available 365 days a year, 24 hours a day. Just phone:

**01455 251 500** and quote the AntonU3A code number **70494**

#### GROUP CO-ORDINATORS

SUBJECT	DAY & TIME	CO-ORDINATOR	E-MAIL
Art	Tuesdays 2.30-4.30pm	Ann Truss (01264 313 242)	aatruss@yahoo.co.uk
Art, History & Architecture	By arrangement	Glennis Dale (01264 323356)	glennis.dale@yahoo.co.uk
Birders & Natural History	4th Thursday at 10.30am	Rev Roger Bennett (01264 782 336)	revrogbennett@googlemail.com
Bridge	Thursdays 10am-12noon	Barbie Morrey-Stone (01264 335 597)	beesbubbles4@gmail.com
French Conversation	Wednesday 10am-12pm fortnightly	Gillian Roberts (01264 335 899)	pelhamhouse@gmail.com
Genealogy	Fourth Wednesday 2pm	Mary Taylor (01264 364 752)	roberttaylor@btconnect.com
History	2nd Friday 10.15am	Erica Tinsley (01264 365 563)	erica.tinsley@btinternet.com
Mah Jong	1st & 3rd Wednesday 1.45pm	Leslie Ward (01264 332789)	cliveandleslie@sky.com
MOTO	2nd Monday 2.15pm	Tricia Andrews (01264 736 227)	TriciaOnTheHill@btinternet.com
Petanque	1st Friday 6pm	Adrian & Ann Truss (01264 313 242)	aatruss@yahoo.co.uk
Photography	Third Monday 10am	Chris Penney	ccpenney@btinternet.com
Poetry	Third Friday 10.30am	Glennis Dale (01264 323356)	glennis.dale@yahoo.co.uk
Questers	By arrangement	Anne Scott (01264 323011)	anne.scott@yahoo.co.uk
Reading Group	1st Tuesday - 10am	Diane Richards (01264 392367)	georgeandedward@sky.com
Walkers	Third Tuesday 10.15am	Roger Beaumont (01264 710504) Anne Scott (01264 323011)	ardeebie@btinternet.com anne.scott@yahoo.co.uk
Webmaster	Contact webmaster to update website	Robert Smith	randc.smith@virginmedia.com

Contributions to the Newsletter to Tricia Andrews - TriciaOnTheHill@btinternet.com or 01264 332 921