

Peter Duncan - Chairman

pete.duncan69@live.co.uk

01264 396 734

Stephanie Cox - Vice Chairman

mpsmcox@sky.com

01264 351 716

Clive Ward - Secretary

cliveandleslie@sky.com

01264 332 789

Genifer Cowling - Treasurer

gennycowling@hotmail.co.uk

01264 512 646

Tessa Cross - Membership Secretary

tessa.cross.84@gmail.com

01264 350 008

Ron Bryan - Programme Secretary

rjb@btinternet.com

01264 335 652

Barbara Dixon; Annie Lowing; Jean Roberts; Mary Taylor

Chairman's Corner

Much has happened in the year that I have been Chairman and for those who read my report in the March issue of the Anton U3A newsletter, most of it has already been spoken about there. We have said sad farewells to Roger Beaumont, plus Trevor and now Jane Lewin, may they all rest in peace.

My first year is almost at an end. My committee has coped with the new GDPR foisted upon us from on high (or as I like to call it "Data Protection Mark 2"). We have various new faces taking over on the committee, Wilson Carson is the new Ron and will be arranging speakers from December onwards whilst being in charge of the sound system. Genny has come to the end of her 3 year tenure and I thank her for all her hard work as treasurer. She is handing over to Chris Coffin and a new member, Colin Ramsden has agreed to understudy our webmaster Robert Smith with a view to assisting and eventually filling that position in the future. We wish them all well.

The membership numbers continue around the 150 mark and our average monthly meeting attracts between 50 and 60 members.

Our speakers continue to inform us with interesting talks on many subjects, thanks go to them all and of course Ron for booking them. A big 'thank you' from me to the Questers committee (and Anne Scott in particular who has handed over to Jane Leishman) for the interesting programmes they continue to arrange. To AHA for continuing to encourage our interest in culture! Likewise, all the other group leaders for their hard work in keeping the groups functioning with varied and fascinating programmes.

Information about their activities plus all other U3A information can be found on the web page (www.antonu3a.org) and my thanks as always go to Robert Smith. Trish Andrews continues to produce the newsletter and my thanks go to her. I have also edited and published newsletters in the past and if the members don't submit articles, it's difficult to fill up an edition. Oh yes, thanks go to my committee who continue to keep me sane and away from sharp implements!

And finally, I must thank everyone who helps make our meetings so successful, you know who you are. Please remember, we are all volunteers, we always need someone to make the monthly tea and coffee for instance. If I don't get volunteers, then we don't have tea or coffee. Simple!

Peter Duncan

History



At the centre of Brenda Mole's talk on George Washington in March was the man himself and the aspects of his life and character which guided him as a founding father and first president of America.

He was born and raised in colonial Virginia. As a young man, he worked as a surveyor and then gained military experience and some reputation fighting in the French and Indian War. On the death of his half-brother, he inherited Mount Vernon and became a rich man. His wife, Martha, was wealthy in her own right.

He entered politics through election to the House of Burgesses and at the start of the American Revolution found himself Commander in Chief of the Continental Army. During the 8 years of war, his particular strength was in keeping his troops motivated no matter how bad their circumstances. With the help of the French, victory was secured and he became a national hero. In 1789 he became America's first president. He set the precedents for the conduct of that role but his particular legacy was that, by his own example, he set the standards for integrity and national purpose which would be expected of future presidents.

Controversial now is Washington's ownership of slaves. He had become increasingly uncomfortable with that but knew that the abolition of slavery was a deeply divisive issue. He put the unity of his new republic first and did nothing, hoping that legislation would eventually come. After his death in 1799 it would take another 60 years and a bloody civil war before Virginia and the southern states were forced to abolish slavery.



Pete Duncan is a native of Dundee and his choice of subject in April was the RRS Discovery which was built in Dundee and, after a life sailing the

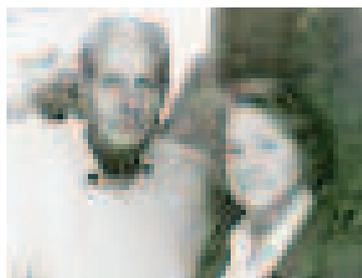
world's oceans, returned there to be put on display by the Dundee Heritage Trust.

In 1899 Sir Clements Markham, President of the Royal Geographical Society had the funding for the 1901 British National Antarctic Expedition but needed a suitable ship. Dundee's shipyards had long experience

of building whalers strong enough to sail through pack ice so he commissioned them to build Discovery, the first ship ever built specifically for scientific research. It had some special features. For example, to ensure the total accuracy of the expedition's magnetic surveys, no iron or steel was used within 30 feet of its magnetic observatory. Discovery sailed for Antarctica in August 1901 and brought the successful expedition home to Britain in September 1904.

In the years that followed she was a workhorse for the Hudson Bay Company and then ran munitions to Russia during WW1, but she was to make two more research voyages. In 1925-27 she took a government research expedition to the Southern Ocean to study whale stocks and 1929-31 she carried the British Australian New Zealand Antarctic Research Expedition led by Sir Douglas Mawson.

By now Discovery was ageing and more modern vessels were available for research. In 1936 she was presented to the Boy Scouts Association and moored on London's Victoria Embankment as a static training ship for Sea Scouts. By 1979 she was in a serious state of dilapidation but her importance in maritime history had been recognised - she was one of only two surviving expedition ships from the heroic age of Antarctic exploration, the other being the Norwegian ship Fram. She was extensively restored by The Maritime Trust and in 1986 returned to her birthplace on the River Tay.



In May Lynda Stockings told us about the life and times of Christabel Bielenberg, the British wife of a German lawyer who lived in Germany during the years of the Third Reich rise of Hitler, a dissident who

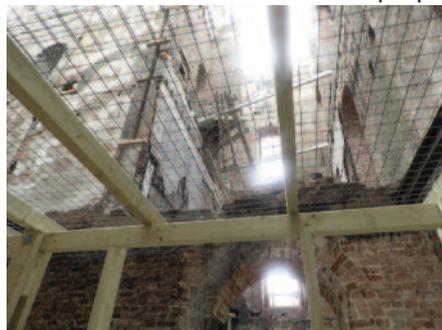
was sent to a concentration camp after the failed coup against Hitler in July 1944.

Erica Tinsley

AHA Group (Art, History and Architecture)

Clandon Park and Hatchlands Park - 25th April 2019

In April members of the Group travelled to the Guildford area to visit two National Trust properties.



The first was Clandon Park, which you will probably recall that the house was badly damaged by fire in 2015.

The National Trust has undertaken a restoration project to restore the principal rooms to their original 18th century design, and the upper floor to be modernised to hold exhibitions and events. Restoration to date has concentrated on stabilising the



surviving structures and enclosing the whole building with 32 miles of scaffolding, with sheeting to protect it from the weather. Members were surprised at just seeing a skeleton of the original structure. This prompted some debate on the value of restoring such badly damaged buildings. However, they had to concede that the restoration was probably conditional on the terms of the insurance claim.

restoration was probably conditional on the terms of the insurance claim.



restoration was probably conditional on the terms of the insurance claim.

restoration was probably conditional on the terms of the insurance claim.



The group then travelled a few miles to another National Trust property, Hatchlands Park. After lunch we had an enjoyable walk around the bluebell

woods and then proceeded to the house. There were a



limited number of rooms open to the public, which contained part of the Cobbe family collection of old masters and keyboard instruments. The paintings included works by

Titian, van Dyck and Gainsborough; also of interest was an anonymous work that is claimed to be the only life portrait of Shakespeare. The exhibition of keyboard instruments included ones owned and played by famous composers including JC Bach, Mozart, Beethoven, Elgar and Chopin. The oldest instrument was a Harpsichord dating from 1622, and there was also a piano played by Marie Antoinette. Most of the instruments are maintained in full working order and often played at recitals by leading pianists. The visit was enhanced by an excellent and knowledgeable tour guide.

Bob Taylor & Rosemary Crumplin

New Art Centre and Salisbury Museum Exhibition - 24th May 2019

In May due to last minute change of dates to accommodate this venue, a small group of members visited the New Arts Centre near East Winterslow. It was a beautiful sunny, quiet morning and the sculpture park looked impressive, offering spectacular views of the surrounding countryside. We had great fun looking at the exhibits; these range from more



Large Left-handed Drummer

fun looking at the exhibits; these range from more



conventional sculptures, albeit in unusual settings, to the way-out often having difficulty linking the exhibit with its title. Everybody was particularly moved by Silent Howler II by Laura Ford; we were really impressed by the detail in this work. We were unable to complete a full tour of the sculptures and galleries and the consensus was that a return visit would be something for the future. The park has a spectacular example of a foxglove tree (*paulownia tomentosa*) well worth seeing when in flower.



We then moved on to Salisbury for a bite of lunch to replace our energy for a visit to Salisbury Museum to see their current exhibition – Augustus John: Drawn from Life. The works on show ranged from line drawing to oil paintings. The draughtsmanship on some of the pencil sketches was outstanding, however opinions on his paintings was mixed. Works included several drawings and paintings of his long-term mistress Doirela McNeill and paintings of T.E. Lawrence and Thomas Hardy.



Thomas Hardy

Don't forget to look at U3A Anton website, to see what is coming up over the next few months!

Bob Taylor and Rosemary Crumplin

Questors

BBC Studios Bristol

A full minibus took us to Bristol (thanks to Robert for driving), where we had a really interesting and enjoyable time at the studios of the BBC.

Amongst other activities they have full responsibility for producing all of the wildlife, nature & farming output which may then be sold on throughout the world; all of the antiques themed programmes and regional programmes for the West Country.



We were taken to the place on the roof from where the west country weather forecasts originate. We learned that the forecaster also has to operate the cameras whilst he is speaking.

Because it is becoming increasingly difficult to film animals in the wild as a consequence of rapidly diminishing habitat and the encroachment of mankind, global warming, etc, innovative new technology is frequently utilised to give some of the more spectacular close ups we regularly view.

Cameras attached to drones, animal activated cameras particularly for night time shots and underwater work have all contributed.

Typical programme control desks with a dozen or more screens & places for the director and his/her team were shown, together with how they interact.



We had a go at creating sound effects.....all great fun; however the highlight for some was our own special version of a short play starring Pete Duncan & John Clarke followed by the weather forecast featuring Norma.....What talent we have lurking in Anton U3A!) All participants agreed that it was much more difficult than they initially imagined.

Salisbury Playhouse

Twenty One Questers visited Salisbury for a backstage tour in the morning followed by a matinee performance of Agatha Christie's play 'A Mirror Cracked' in the main house.



The backstage tour was very comprehensive & interesting, including visiting the Costume Dept where we were informed that the majority of fabrics utilised were obtained locally. The Wardrobe Mistress gave a good insight into the design & making of the various outfits, including wigs. They have an impressive archive of every

production since the inception of the Playhouse. We saw the 'Green Room', Set design and the building where they are constructed.

We were told that some complete stage sets go on tour, so they have to be easily dismantled & re-erected. The current set of a Mirror Cracked will go on to Dublin at the completion of the run.

Salisbury is one of the very few remaining provincial theatres retaining all of these facilities. Feedback regarding both the tour & the play was very positive.

Poppy Factory

One of the newer TVBC mini-buses, with Leslie at the wheel, took us on a sunny day to Richmond, where the Poppy Factory is located. Initially we had an hour or so to look around the historic town, where the ancient centre is well preserved and delightful, although some members preferred shopping!

We met again at the factory where they provided a light lunch, & subsequently commenced the tour with a short

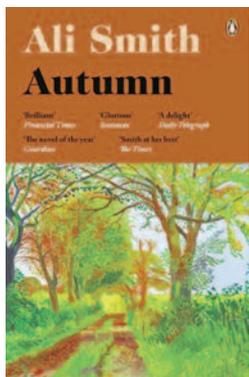
film about the history of the poppy as an emblem of the great sacrifices made in many wars, but particularly WWI. The poppy, inspired by the famous poem 'In Flanders Field' by the Canadian John McCrae and initially used in the USA, but now confined to the UK & Commonwealth has been used since 1921. They make about 6m poppies each year which are all sold to the British Legion, a separate organisation, who produce some 42m standard ones themselves. The factory also produces all of the poppy wreaths used on Armistice Day & the special corsages & boutonnieres worn by the Royal Family & Commonwealth guests at the Remembrance Day parade in London.

All poppies made at Richmond are still assembled by hand, providing work for disabled employees, now reduced from a peak of 180 to about 30 today. Our group had the opportunity of assembling their own standard poppies and see a demonstration of how the larger ones are put together and buy for a donation. Profits are channelled into assisting retired veterans, with many recent grants going towards resolving combat stress-related problems. Many hundreds of retired service personnel now undertake a full & active role in society as a consequence of the help given them by the Poppy Factory. Everyone on the tour said they enjoyed the visit and our collection contributed to this fine work.

Norma Bryan

Reading Group

March – Autumn by Ali Smith



This is the first of a quartet planned to span the four seasons. Set in 2016, in a bitterly divided United Kingdom during the unsettled, disheartening months following the Brexit vote, its heroine is a plucky 32-year-old art lecturer named Elisabeth Demand who is facing the loss of two things she holds dear: basic human decency, and the elderly neighbour who was her unofficial

babysitter and unconventional soulmate in her childhood.

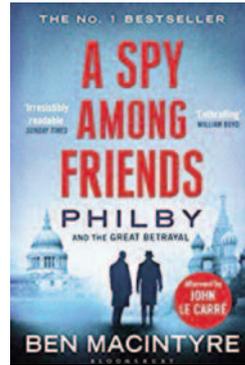
As Daniel Gluck lies sleeping in a nursing home near Elisabeth's mother's village, she reads *A Tale of Two Cities* to him, and in his somnolent state Daniel twists Dickens' opening lines to "It was the worst of times, it was the worst of times. Again. That's the thing about things. They fall apart, always have, always will, it's in their nature.

In the village, someone paints GO HOME on an immigrant's house — which leads to the response, "WE ARE ALREADY HOME THANK YOU," along with bouquets of flowers left on the nearby pavement, as if to mark the spot where civility was murdered.

If you like a linear plot, you will not find it here, though it is mostly set in the period after Brexit, it goes back and forth in time. To a friendship between a young girl and an elderly man, a man who had quite a past, which is slowly uncovered.

A bit of a conundrum, it was shortlisted for the 2017 Man Booker Prize.

April – A Spy Among Friends by Ben Macintyre



This book provoked more debate within the group than any other for some time.

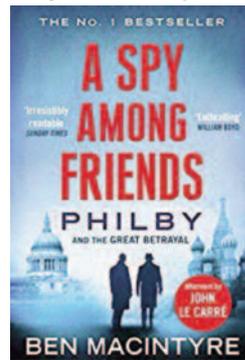
Kim Philby was the most notorious British defector and Soviet mole in history. Agent, double agent, traitor and enigma, he betrayed every secret of Allied operations to the Russians in the early years of the Cold War.

Philby's two closest friends in the intelligence world, Nicholas Elliott of MI6 and James Jesus Angleton, the CIA intelligence chief, thought they knew Philby better than anyone, and then discovered they had not known him at all. This is a story of intimate duplicity; of loyalty, trust and treachery, class and conscience; of an ideological battle waged by men with cut-glass accents and well-made suits in the comfortable clubs and restaurants of London and Washington; of male friendships forged, and then systematically betrayed.

With access to newly released MI5 files and previously unseen family papers, and with the cooperation of former officers of MI6 and the CIA, this definitive biography unlocks what is perhaps the last great secret of the Cold War.

This was a good read, interesting, especially since a documentary on this subject was broadcast whilst we were reading it. There are several pages of photographs which add to the content. There was much discussion in the group relating to the privileged upbringing which begat so many of our infamous traitors.

May – Reading In Bed by Sue Gee



Opening at the Hay Festival, and ending with the prospect of a spring wedding, Sue Gee's novel is a lively story of tangled relationships and the sustaining powers of good books, loyal friends and conversation.

Friends since university, with busy working lives behind them, Dido and Georgia have long been looking forward to carefree days of books and conversation, when each finds herself caught up in unexpected domestic drama. Dido, for the first time, has cause to question her marriage; widowed Georgia feels certain her husband will return to her. Meanwhile, an eccentric country cousin goes wildly off the rails, children are unhappy in love, and perfect health is all at once in question.

It's a thought provoking look at what happens after marital happily-ever-after. The over sixty-year-old friends have to deal with a full range of uncomfortable issues: bereavement, serious illness, betrayal, an ageing relative, worrying adult offspring and the emptiness of retirement. At times, it's pretty bleak but

the honesty of the writing and the moments of humour balance that out.

I loved this book, she is an excellent storyteller, there are no murders, everyone is sort of nice, middle class and educated, upon whom life's ups and downs have an impact. Oh dear, maybe I'm just a philistine, but I am so pleased to have found a new author to follow! (Just tried 'Coming Home' by this author – very good.)

Diane Richards

French

The French Group continues to meet fortnightly and subjects recently under discussion have been 'Countryside and regions', 'Walking', 'May' and 'Greek Gods'. The latter was a huge subject and great fun.

Gilly Roberts

Anton U3A Monthly Meetings

June 12th	"Inky – some memories of school days and a bit of history" and AGM	<i>Erica Tinsley</i>
July 10th	Sherlock Holmes (The Ardlamont Mystery)	<i>Dan Smith</i>
August 14th	Summer Picnic	
September 11th	History of Army Chaplains Since 1796	<i>David Blake</i>
October 9th	The Berlin Airlift	<i>Derek Armitage</i>
November 13th	Life Behind The Veil (Part 2)	<i>Sandra Simmonds</i>
December 11th	Round the World in 40 years	<i>Ian Hamilton</i>

GROUP CO-ORDINATORS

SUBJECT	DAY & TIME	CO-ORDINATOR	E-MAIL
Art	Tuesdays 2.30-4.30pm	Annie Willens (01264 324 324)	anniewillens@gmail.com
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 351 137)	revrogbenett@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 2.30pm	Mary Taylor (01264 364 752)	
History	2nd Friday 10.15am	Erica Tinsley (01264 365 563)	erica.tinsley@btinternet.com
Mah Jong	1st & 3rd Wednesday 2pm	Leslie Ward (01264 332789)	cliveandleslie@sky.com
MOTO	2nd Monday 2.15pm	Tricia Andrews (01264 332 921)	TriciaOnTheHill@btinternet.com
Petanque	1st Friday 6pm 10.30am in Winter	Adrian & Ann Truss (01264 313 242)	aatruss@yahoo.co.uk
Photography	Third Monday 10am	Chris Penney	chrispenney42@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
Skittles	Last Wednesday of each month	Barbara Dixon (01264 710712)	barbara.dixon.37@gmail.com
Walkers	Third Tuesday 10.15am	Anne Scott (01264 323011)	anne.scott@yahoo.co.uk
Webmaster	Contact webmaster to update website	Robert Smith	wincorms@gmail.com

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