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Wilson Carson - <i>Programme Secretary</i>	lwilsoncarson@btinternet.com	01264 366 878
Anne Bray; Di Burrows; Mary Taylor		

Anton u3a Annual General Meeting (AGM) – 23 June, 10am

This year's AGM will take place on Wed 23 June at 10am using Zoom. The Treasurer will present the accounts and we will need to elect/confirm committee officers and members. Details will come out nearer the time (by 1 Jun) but it would be helpful if you could let me know if you are volunteer as Secretary (under the Constitution he/she is required to stand down after 3 years served) or a replacement for Mary Taylor (6 years served). We are also carrying one vacancy following the departure of Stephanie Cox.

Name	Committee Appt	Elected AGM	Standown AGM	Comment
Carole Leonard	Chair	2020	2023	Started Dec 2020
Barbie Morrey-Stone	Vice Chair	2020	2023	3 yrs as officer
Chris Coffin	Treasurer	2019	2022	3 yrs as officer
Clive Ward	Secretary	2018	2021	3 yrs as officer
Wilson Carson	Member	2019	2025	
Tessa Cross	Membership Sec	2018	2024	
Mary Taylor	Member	2015	2021	6 years a member
Anne Bray	Member	2020	2026	
Di Burrows	Member	2020	2026	
Vacancy	Member			Stephanie left mid year

Chairman's Corner

In spite of Covid restrictions I cannot believe how fast this year is going! Perhaps it's the wealth of activities that u3a members turn too that enables so many of us to keep busy. The recent lifting of some restrictions have meant that a limited number of our interest groups are now able to meet. It is important that we check and comply with the Government Covid website before undertaking any face to face group meeting and complete a risk assessment form. The form can be found on the Anton u3a website.

How and when further easing of restrictions will take place largely depends on the 21st June Covid review however the committee have decided to plan ahead with the picnic provisionally pencilled in for 11 August 2021. Annie has volunteered to co-ordinate the event and will need plenty of help so please volunteer your services.

Owing to the uncertainty of the Covid situation the AGM will take place via Zoom on the 23rd June 2021 at 10am. At the time of writing we have 3 vacancies on the committee one of those is for a Secretary. Under "normal" circumstances Clive would stand down after serving 3 years however we propose to ignore the Covid year and extend his service. The bottom line is that we still require volunteers to sit on the committee. As I have mentioned the committee I would like to say thank you for all their time and effort in ensuring Anton u3a continues to thrive.

Wilson has continued to source some very entertaining speakers on a wide variety of subjects from poetry, IT, Natural History to 1930's sleaze! What more could we ask for!

Like so many of you I am looking forward to a time when the sun shines and we can meet without too many restrictions, in the meantime please support one another and keep safe.

Carole Leonard

Notes from the Programme Team

We have not received many recent new contacts from speakers using Zoom but we still have a number to work through.

Hopefully what we have had so far this year has been enjoyed and is of the required quality, I would love to receive any feedback you may have, good or bad, regarding the talks.

June and July will both be Zoom talks and then in August we will have the summer picnic. In September we have a speaker planned for the hall but depending on the Covid situation at the time this may have to change. I think we booked the speaker before the first lockdown and she does not Zoom.

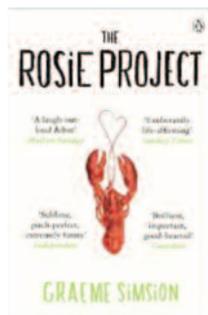
Nothing as yet is booked for October or November but December should be Summerdown Mint where they will bring along some lovely produce for you to purchase. I think this was also booked pre-Covid. I don't think Zoom conveys either taste or smell so hopefully this will take place in the hall.

...it is almost time to start thinking about 2022!

Wilson Carson

Reading Group

Jan 21 – *The Rosie Project* by Graeme Simsion



Don Tillman is an Australian genetics professor who has spent his days organising his life with the expectation that it will reduce inefficiency, improve himself as a person, and make him an all-round happier person. He does not fit in well with others, which has kept Don from dating and having a satisfying romantic life. This is something that

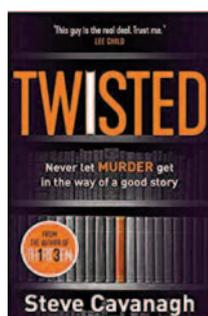
confounds him, as he believes that his IQ, physical health, finances, and social status should otherwise make him an appealing mate.

After spending time with his best friend and womanising colleague Gene and his wife Claudia, Don comes up with the idea of the "Wife Project", a questionnaire that would help find the perfect mate. This turns out to be something more easily done in theory, as his questionnaire fails to produce a satisfactory woman and alienates many potential candidates.

Soon after, Gene introduces him to Rosie, a bartender whom he quickly eliminates as unsuitable per his criteria. Despite this, Don finds himself quickly drawn to her. She is everything Don is not looking for in a partner, the opposite of him in fact, which leads to some humorous situations.

An entertaining read, (so much so, for me that I read the two sequel novels too). Don appears to be on the spectrum of autism, so this makes it especially interesting.

Feb 21 – *Twisted* by Steve Cavanagh



J.T. LeBeau is a mystery thriller writer, who tastes stupendous success after a lukewarm opening of his debut novel, which later on becomes a blockbuster through a word of mouth. Nobody has seen him or met him nor knows his real identity. Anyone who suspects his real identity is found dead.

Maria is an unhappy housewife with troubled past. Her husband Paul is out mostly on work, leaving her bored at home with nothing to do in a small town of Port Lonely. She meets a waiter cum scuba diving instructor, Daryl, and falls love with him. She discovers a bank statement in Paul's study drawer, showing a fat balance of twenty million dollars. The money has been paid in instalments of one million dollars over the years by a company named LeBeau Enterprises.

Is Paul the mystery writer? That's exactly what Maria suspects. Now she wants to confront him and wants Daryl's help in doing so.

So, who is JT LeBeau, and by the end, who cares? A very convoluted and complicated story with (as one would expect from the title) loads of twists and turns.

March 21 – *Confession with Blue Horses* by Sophie Hardach



Tobi and Ella's childhood in East Berlin is shrouded in mystery. Now adults living in London, their past is full of unanswered questions. Both remember their family's daring and terrifying attempt to escape, which ended in tragedy; but the fall-out from that single event remains elusive.

Where did their parents disappear to, and why? What happened to Heiko, their little brother? And was there ever a painting of three blue horses?

In contemporary Germany, Aaron works for the Archive, making his way through old files, piecing together the tragic history of thousands of families. But one file in particular catches his eye; and soon unravelling the secrets at its heart becomes an obsession.

When Ella is left a stash of notebooks by her mother, and she and Tobi embark on a search that will take them back to Berlin, her fate clashes with Aaron's, and together they piece together the details of Ella's past and a family destroyed.

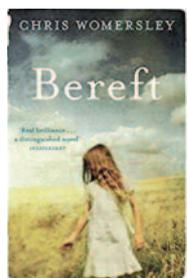
This is a story of East and West Germany and the devastating impact of political division has on an ordinary family's life when the quest to find a missing sibling and the truth about a childhood in the GDR becomes an obsession. It is a very thought-provoking story of a family in Berlin during the dying days of communism.

There is a wonderful sense of time and place in this atmospheric novel and you feel the fear and dread of the characters as they remember back to a time when saying the wrong word could have serious consequences for a whole family.

This is really good! It provides a fascinating insight into living in East Berlin before the wall came down, the brutality of the Stasi, including neighbour spying on neighbour (even relatives), and yet the acceptance of the Communist regime which protected and preserved the ordinary everyday life of the families.

We felt that the author could have concluded a little tidier, just a few details to give the reader hope that all will be well for the characters.

April 21 – *Bereft* by Chris Womersley



In 1909 twelve-year-old Sarah Walker is found brutally raped and murdered in a shed in a small town of Flint in New South Wales. Standing over her with the bloodied knife in his hand is her sixteen-year-old brother Quinn. Their father Nathaniel and uncle Robert are the first ones to discover what has just happened. Quinn immediately runs off

and no one hears from him until years later when his mother receives a telegram telling her that Quinn was killed in the First World War.

Ten years later Quinn returns to his hometown of Flint which is in the grip of the infamous flu epidemic and his mother is amongst those dying from the epidemic.

Carrying the physical and mental scars of the war Quinn, has returned to try and find answers and to clear his name from what happened to his sister. He hides out in the hills as he knows if someone was to recognise him his life could be in danger. Whilst hiding out he comes across a young girl named Sadie Fox. Sadie is also hiding out in the hills as she awaits the return of her brother who is returning from the war. In some ways Sadie appears to be a mystical character and Quinn sees her as the sister he was unable to protect all those years ago.

We quite enjoyed this book although the ending was a bit rushed, as it seemed to be tied up neatly in the last few pages which we felt left the reader wanting just a bit more. A well written story of murder, mystery, love, loss, and survival and one which we would recommend.

Diane Richards

Reading Group 2

Anton u3a book club 2 was formed in 2020 however owing to Covid and other difficulties we delayed discussing our chosen book till 3 Feb 2021 hosted on Zoom.

This book club is a little different; all members have chosen a book and we are gradually working through the list. The criteria is decided by the individual but the guidance is that it is a book that we feel we would like to read, a classic or a genre that may provoke more discussion. Our selections have given us an eclectic mix. We meet bi-monthly (every other month) which enables the members to obtain copies and read other material in the interim.

Emphasis is placed on having fun and enjoying the opportunity to discuss and share our thoughts.

Our recent choice was "The Salt Path" by Raynor Winn. Our book club has decided that we will not provide reviews of books that we have read but will share our feelings and a few pertinent comments.

The Salt Path is a true story of 2 people overcoming tremendous difficulties, making the decision to walk the South Coast Path and re-evaluating their lives. I will not write more as I don't want to spoil it for other readers. Overall everyone enjoyed the book, we felt it was well written and provoked food for thought.

In complete contrast (except it was in and near the sea) was our April selection "The Cruel Sea" by Nicholas Monsarrat. Not all the group enjoyed the book especially in the early stages however perseverance paid off and the majority found "The Cruel Sea" to be a well written and well researched book. I found out later that Nicholas Monsarrat served in the RNVR so his descriptions of the horrors of crossing the Atlantic in the second World War left me feeling so proud of the men and women who were involved.

Our next book is "Touch Not The Cat" by Mary Stewart and will be reviewed on 16 June 2021 at 10am.

Carole Leonard

French

The French Group has continued - in conjunction with the Andover U3A - with fortnightly Zoom meetings. The system usually works ok and we have written and then chatted on subjects such as Humour, Preferred Means of Travel, The Weather (a very English subject!) and Signs & Symbols.

Gilly Roberts

Andover and Anton U3A Art

During lockdown we have all continued to paint, sketch and draw, sending some of our work to our facilitator Renate West. She has, with her unswerving positivity and enthusiasm, guided us and encouraged us, remembered all our birthdays with messages of such joy and commitment that we have felt included and celebrated throughout. She has sent us 4 galleries, collections of our work via e-mail, now totalling over 100 art works throughout lockdown and here is an example of one gallery.



We hope to restart in July or as soon as regulations allow and the hall is ready.

Annie Willens

Questors

The Questors committee will be meeting again on 30th June when we hope to confirm plans for August and beyond.

Meanwhile we are delighted to be getting back to normal and look forward to the trip to the New Forest Fruit Farm on 1st July, this is now fully booked. Nearer the date further details will be sent to those who have signed up.

The next planned outing is to Hungerford on 27th July, we have a guided morning walk with time for lunch before a private boat trip along the Hungerford canal. This will be a self drive event, there are still some places available. If you are interested please contact Bob Leishman - oldreccs@gmail.com, or 07725 048067

I understand that the Unity mini bus hire is going to be available which is good news for future events all of which will be confirmed on the Questors website after our meeting on 30th June.

Jane Leishman

Petanque

The petanque group meets on the first Friday of the month usually at 6pm at Hurstbourne Tarrant British Legion Hall. We are looking forward to our first meeting this year on Friday 4 June.

The petanque pitch suffered some damage due to coaches and parents of pupils at Farleigh school using it as a car-park. However, a member of the petanque group kindly weeded the pitch and the members of the British Legion are making a barrier to prevent further damage. The British Legion members have worked

hard to improve the area around the pitch with planters of bulbs and are redecorating the hall and bar area. It all looks a lot more welcoming.

Adrian and I visited the Legion on 1 May and asked what we could do to assist. Apparently it helps to be a member of the Hurstbourne Tarrant branch of the British Legion so Adrian and I have joined and are now members.

We look forward to seeing existing members on 4 June, weather permitting. If anyone would like to join us please contact Adrian & Ann Truss on 07584 924963

Adrian & Ann Truss

AHA Group (Art, History and Architecture)

Due to the Covid, it has been 20 months since we have been able to enjoy a visit to an AHA selected venue. Therefore, we have no reports for the May Newsletter, but what we do have is an update for you!

Wow, are we all ready to put on our sun hats and go out and play?

The AHA Committee met recently to discuss ideas to revive the AHA group and we are feeling optimistic to arrange future events. We will be taking it very slowly by keeping relatively close to Andover and staying to outside venues until the Country can be made free to move around without restrictions.

We plan to arrange a visit for Friday 25th June '21, so please keep this date free, come on put it in your diary! Details of this visit will follow within the next week as we are just in the process of gathering the relevant information.

The AHA Committee are really looking forward to seeing existing Members, also to see some new Members of Anton U3A.

The following is very much of what you already know, and I am sure that many of you have been doing. We want to make our trips as close to what we have considered to be normal and to ensure that everyone is comfortable with arrangements. For those who are comfortable with car sharing can do so, but you and your passengers must wear a face mask whilst in the car. We are presuming due to our age group that everyone has had their two vaccinations, but if for any reason you have not, it may be wise for you to travel separately. Please contact me if anyone has any concerns. In addition, whilst you are within a enclosed environment you are also required to wear a face mask.

We will continue with our recommendation of cost towards car sharing as this is only fair to help with the fuel and any parking charges. As we have done in the past, we will show the recommended cost on the information sheet issued prior to the event and it is up to driver to recover any cost.

We look forward to seeing as many of you as possible and in the meantime please stay well and safe.

Rosemary Crumplin-Clark AHA - Excursion Co-ordinator

Beginners' Bridge

During these unprecedented times the bridge for beginners group has remained in contact with each other,

using our WhatsApp bridge group which I set up over a year ago. Several members play on-line bridge using our computers and an app called "house party" on our mobiles which enables us to see and hear each other. This is not ideal but it keeps our hand in. We are all desperately waiting to recommence our Thursday morning bridge at the Lights. I'm in regular contact with the director of the Lights and she is as eager as us to return.

Continuing our walks

As I mentioned in the previous news letter, during lockdown Tricia and I have been "socially distanced" walking, we also wore masks. We took the belt and braces approach. This year we didn't start walking again until the beginning of March when we had both had our COVID 19 vaccinations.

As we were slightly unfit we started with shorter walks around Vigo Park. Tricia is a member of the photographic group, the topic for that month was 'yellow', (actually yellow is the in colour this year). Whilst we were in the park we looked for the best patch of crocus and celandine. I cleared the dead leaves and debris away to enable Tricia to take a clear picture. Just for fun Tricia took photos of chicks and ducklings in a window display.

On another occasion whilst walking around Vigo Park, just for fun, I asked Tricia would she like a ride on the slide as there was no one around. I did offer to catch her!!!! The look Tricia gave me was enough (didn't catch it on camera). I'll knock you over said Tricia and it's wet. My reply was "well someone has to go first and dry it.

At long last we can now sit outside (socially distanced) and have a coffee hurrah! The first time we went to



Costa. It was a lovely sunny day, a tad windy as you can see from the photograph. and now you understand why I'm not a member of the photographic group.

After our photo shoot we sat down to enjoy our coffee, Tricia put her cup to her face to drink and hit the visor which she had forgotten she was wearing. It still has a dent in it. Sorry no photograph as we were both laughing so much. It's good to laugh albeit silly little things like this. We do quite a lot of laughing on our walks. Thank you Tricia for letting me keep you company, I always look forward to our walks.

Barbie Morrey-Stone

Mahjong

After no mahjong for well over a year a valiant few finally made it for the first face to face game. After a year if we thought it would be like riding a bike, we have just fallen off! There were cries of 'how many tiles to make up the wall?' 'What is a chow?' Followed by a 'mahjong!.....o no it's not!' However, by the end of the afternoon we agreed that we had finally got back on the bike albeit a bit shakily. A very pleasant afternoon was had by all with plans being made for the next game. It was so lovely to be able to share a cup of tea, share a few laughs and enjoy a game together without a mask in sight, no track and trace sheet to sign. A few

of our number were unable to join us for our first session so we look forward to a complete set of players next time. And if anybody would like to join us whether beginners or seasoned players we would welcome you into our jolly band.

For those who aren't sure what mahjong is: it is a Chinese game using attractive tiles. It is played by collecting suits. There are some very strange rules and twists laced with superstition. The Chinese play it as a very fast gambling game, here at Anton U3A we play it fairly slowly, with a lot of laughter, not too dissimilar to rummy but using tiles not cards (in its simplest form). So do give us a go.

Leslie Ward

Photography Group

After the departure of Chris Penney, Rosemary Crumplin coerced John Hawke into taking over the reins. Rosemary and I contacted past members to ask them to participate in a Zoom meeting to discuss the way forward and that resulted in a desire by 7 hard core members to restart the Group using Zoom as the way forward. (Thanks for all the help given by Clive to set the Zoom meetings up by the way)

It was decided that each participant would submit a portfolio of 4 photographs based on a common theme. with the only post processing treatment allowed being a crop – this would place most emphasis on taking a composed photograph. One 'archive photograph' was allowed within each portfolio to encourage members to go out and take pictures.

The first meeting of the Group was held on Monday 8th March. Apart from the occasional hitch, it seemed to go remarkably well with seven participants in all.



March Best Picture: Glass Apple Reflection - Rosemary Crumplin

The theme was 'Household objects from unusual angles'. This allowed members to obey the Covid rules by photographing indoors. This proved to be quite a technical challenge but all the portfolios showed

imagination and flair with several baffling the members as they tried to guess what the objects were – special mention for Pam Liberson here! Portfolio with most votes was by John Hawke – closely followed by Pam. Rosemary Crumplin obtained the most votes for best picture.

The second meeting of the Group was held on Monday 12th April. Apart from the inevitable hitch, it seemed to go smoothly with 5 participants in all. The theme was 'Yellow'. Nobody submitted photographs of daffodils



April Best Pictures: Bald Eagle – John Hawke



Pussy Willow – Pam Liberson

because everyone thought someone else would have taken them! Portfolio with most votes was by Pam Liberson. John Hawke obtained the most votes for best picture with Pam's 'Pussy Willow' a close second – the latter taken using her mobile phone.

The third meeting of the Group was held on Monday 10th May. There were 5 participants in all again. The



*May Best Pictures:
Fulford Mill, Whitchurch –
John Hawke
Stockbridge Pond –
Pam Liberson*



theme was 'Water'. All the portfolios had an emphasis on river/pond scenes, surprisingly. One imaginative participants exhibited a picture of hand washing – apt for these Covid times! Covid restrictions precluded much outside activity – along with recent bad weather. The low turnout resulted in a tie for best picture. Portfolio with most votes was by Erica Tinsley. John Hawke and Pam Liberson tied for Best Photo.

Until Covid restrictions are fully relaxed, the Photography Group has decided to continue with future meetings using Zoom and we desperately need new members! All that is needed is a love of taking photographs, using cameras or 'phones, and the wish to join a friendly discussion group.

The Group meets at 10 a.m. on the second Monday of the month. Each member submits a portfolio of 4 photographs based on a theme agreed by members. These will then be shown at the meeting allowing for group discussion. The best photographs are posted on the Group website. Any current Anton U3A members who are interested in joining the Group should contact John Hawke (hawkejhm@gmail.com) for further details.

John Hawke

Poetry Group

The poetry Group has met every month since January, courtesy of Zoom which has worked well.

We have read poems by Swinburne, Simon Armitage (Poet Laureate), Gerald Manley Hopkins and found poems on such topics as distance.

COVID-19 variants permitting, in June we are hoping to meet 'face to face' in the newish room at St Peter's Church, Goodworth Clatford.

Glennis Dale

History

The History Group has continued its regular meetings using Zoom and has been pleased to welcome members from the wider Anton U3A. Its programme has been interesting and varied. Janet Hesketh gave us An Early History of Drama - From Ancient Greece to Jacobean London. With Glennis Dale we had An Appointment with the 14th Century and then Ron Bryan and Erica Tinsley took us into the early 19th century talking about The Corn Laws. Jane Leishman's subject

was the remarkable Elizabeth Garrett Anderson (1836-1917), who amongst many 'firsts' was the first woman to qualify in Britain as a physician and surgeon. Then Colin Ramsden took us to South America with a talk on Simon Bolivar (1783-1830) the soldier and statesman who played a key role in countries' move to independence from Spain. I hope to include more about these talks in the next Newsletter.

Erica Tinsley

Floral Art

The Floral Art group has continued to meet on the first

Thursday afternoon of the month, as yet we are still meeting via Zoom. We set a subject, make the arrangement and send a photograph to Trish. At the meeting we discuss the merits, offer advice and suggestions as to how improvements could be made.

We have produced arrangements celebrating Easter and using only one type of flower, the latter proved to be challenging. Interpretations have been different but all have been pleasing. At the moment there are 5 members others would be welcome.

Lynda Stockings

Anton U3A Monthly Meetings

June 9th	An Armchair Walk Around Medieval Southampton	<i>Jake Simpkin</i>
July 14th	A History of Shaw House	<i>Sarah Somerville</i>
August 11th	Summer Picnic - tba	
September 8th	Where do novelists get their ideas from	<i>Bobby Darbyshire</i>
October 13th	tba	
November 10th	tba	
December 8th	Summerdown Mint	<i>Ian Margetts</i>

GROUP CO-ORDINATORS

SUBJECT	DAY & TIME	CO-ORDINATOR	E-MAIL/PHONE
Art	Tuesdays 2.30-4.30pm	Annie Willens	antonu3asec@gmail.com 07538596344
Art, History & Architecture	By arrangement	Rosemary Crumplin-Clark	re.crumplin@gmail.com 07570 962112
Bridge	Thursdays 10am-12noon	Barbie Morrey-Stone	beesbubbles4@gmail.com 01264 335 597
Floral Art	3rd Thursday 2pm	Lynda Stocking	antonu3asec@gmail.com 07538596344
French Conversation	Wednesday 10am-12pm fortnightly	Gillian Roberts	antonu3asec@gmail.com 07538596344
Genealogy	Fourth Wednesday 2.30pm	Mary Taylor	mary-bobt@outlook.com 01264 364 752
History	2nd Friday 10.15am	Erica Tinsley	antonu3asec@gmail.com 07538596344
Mah Jong	1st & 3rd Wednesday 2pm	Leslie Ward	cliveandlesie@sky.com 01264 364 752
MOTO	2nd Monday 2.15pm	Tricia Andrews	TriciaOnTheHill@btinternet.com 01264 332 921
Petanque	1st Friday 6.30pm in Summer 10.30am in Winter	Adrian & Ann Truss	aatruss@yahoo.co.uk 01264 313 242
Photography	Second Monday 10am	John Hawke Rosemary Crumplin	hawkejhmail@gmx.co.uk re.crumplin@gmail.com
Poetry	Third Friday 10.30am	Glennis Dale	glennis.dale@yahoo.co.uk 01264 323356
Questers	By arrangement	Jane Leishman	antonu3asec@gmail.com 07538596344
Reading Group 1	1st Tuesday - 10am	Diane Richards	georgeandedward@sky.com 01264 392367
Reading Group 2	1st Wednesday alternate months April onwards at 10am	Carole Leonard	caroleann.leonard@btinternet.com 01264 324 271
Skittles	Last Wednesday of each month 10.30am	Barbara Dixon	barbara.dixon.37@gmail.com 01264 710712
Walkers	Third Tuesday 10.15am	Anne Scott	anne.scott@yahoo.co.uk 01264 323011
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