

<b>Stephanie Cox - Chairman</b>	mpsmcox@sky.com	01264 351 716
<b>Carole Leonard - Vice Chairman</b>	caroleann.leonard@btinternet.com	01264 324 271
<b>Clive Ward - Secretary</b>	cliveandleslie@sky.com	01264 332 789
<b>Chris Coffin - Treasurer</b>	kriscoff@gmail.com	01264 392 947
<b>Tessa Cross - Membership Secretary</b>	tessa.cross.84@gmail.com	07544 822 825
<b>Wilson Carson - Programme Secretary</b>	lwilsoncarson@btinternet.com	01264 366 878
<b>Anne Bray; Di Burrows; Barbie Moray-Stone; Mary Taylor</b>		

## Chairman's Corner

### From our outgoing Chairman – Report 2019 and 2020

I (like many of you and others around the world) find myself struggling to understand the previous few months and the sad and tragic loss of life. Whilst we should not dwell on the past, we must not forget the sacrifices made by the health professionals, key workers and all others around the world who selflessly gave up life to allow others to continue theirs. In my mind, they are all heroes. Thank you.

I have certainly had a busy two years. I will not pretend it's been easy due to various factors and other commitments outside the U3A but in the main, it's been enjoyable. Certainly very good for getting a good night's sleep after a meeting! We have said a final goodbye to some old friends during my 2 year tenure and welcomed new ones, hopefully we can all give them the support needed to enjoy Anton U3A and all it can offer.

Our membership figures continue around the 150 mark and the monthly meetings regularly attract 50 attendees. Perhaps the main attraction of our meetings is the speakers. We've learnt many things which, if we were sitting at home as we have recently, we may not know about. Thanks again go to all these speakers throughout the year and of course to Wilson (and previously Ron) for booking them.

There have been 2 very successful Christmas lunches on my watch held at the Abbots Mitre in Chilbolton and I for one have enjoyed them. Good food and good company as always and well arranged by Norma. Our finances continue to be well run, Chris taking over from Genny, both of whom have had a good time in office. A quick personal thank you to Paul, our account examiner, who has agreed to continue in that post for the next year at least. The raffle (previously run by Norma and Brenda and is now run by Mary) continues to bring in some much-needed cash to help keep the summer picnic at Appleshaw free. I think the general consensus is that the food should continue to be consumed indoors, not so many wasps!

Both Questers and AHA groups had varied and interesting programmes lined up for us all but unfortunately, both have had to be cancelled during the current crisis. I for one look forward to the resumption of both groups! The History group continues presenting talks arranged by Erica and ably assisted on the

technical side (Zoom!) by Alan Evans. I have learnt about the Battle for Arnhem and the History of Shoes recently! I believe the French group meets on-line too.

Anne Scott has now returned to health after a hip operation and will once again be leading us a merry dance on the Walking group, hopefully at 2 metres spacing! Reading Group No 2 has recently been established by Carole Leonard and meets every 2nd month, details of this new group and all others can be found on the web page ([www.antonu3a.org](http://www.antonu3a.org)) and my thanks go to Robert Smith who continues his good work keeping this as up to date as possible.

Tricia is thanked for her superb Newsletter and will no doubt be calling for contributions to the next edition soon (unless of course she has done so in the interim!) Again, she needs input from you as she can't write the whole thing herself!

Anyway, I will hang up my microphone and hand over to my successor Stephanie (if indeed she is elected by you, the members) with mixed emotions. As I said at the start, it's been a busy time. We've successfully dealt with GDPR, changes to the committee and we now have Coronavirus and I believe we will get through this as long as we use the common sense we all have.

So, in conclusion, I will say a heartfelt thanks to you all, especially to my committee of Stephanie, Clive, Chris, Tessa, Annie, Barbara, Jean, Mary and Wilson. It is those people who run this U3A and without them, we'd be hard pushed to walk, never mind run!

I now take a back seat in Anton U3A beside my wife Liz and look forward to many years being a member of a successful Anton U3A.

*Pete Duncan*

### And from our new Chairman

Well this is my first Chairman's corner and after chewing my pencil for a very long while, I set out my ruminations below and hope I don't bore you all!

It's certainly been a very strange and unsettling time for us all of late. Trying to fill the days is the main problem and I suspect our houses and gardens have never looked so clean and tidy. I have finally made inroads into the stacks of books in the spare room that I have been meaning to read. I have also been on several interesting free online courses covering a wide variety of subjects from the Life and Times of Richard III to an Introduction to Forensic Science. I also belong to Andover Library book club and throughout the

lockdown we have all kept up fortnightly contact on Zoom when we discuss books we've read in lockdown, films and plays we've seen in the past, plus a bit of gossip too for good measure. It's heartening news to see Andover Library beginning to open its doors again albeit in a very limited way.

Like several of you, I receive the Third Age Matters magazine and also the email U3A National Newsletter. The email newsletter link is on our own website too. Head office has several projects on the go.

For the photographers among you, I see head office has the U3A Eye photo project aimed at capturing life around us at this time with a different theme set every two weeks and a selection of photos posted online for all to enjoy. To find out more about this go to [u3a.org.uk/learning/u3a-eye](http://u3a.org.uk/learning/u3a-eye). Also, under the "learning" tab at [u3a.org.uk](http://u3a.org.uk) is information on the Garden Bird Watch project for those bird watchers among you. There are also several U3A videos on the You Tube channel including exercise videos from TV's Mr Motivator for the more energetic amongst us.

It's encouraging to see the many ways Anton U3A members are managing to keep in touch with each other with technology coming into its own, some never been used before by us. I certainly had never heard of Zoom until the lockdown hit. This newsletter will give you a fuller idea what is happening in many of our various Anton groups. If anything there catches your eye, I'm sure the group leaders would be more than happy to hear from you. Keeping in touch with each other at this time is very important as mental health is as important as physical exercise. I know I for one certainly feel so much better after having had a chat with friends.

Sadly, some planned events have had to be cancelled. Not only the Questers and AHA groups who had many and varied visits planned over the summer but also our Summer Picnic planned for August has been postponed until the autumn when hopefully things open up again. Thankyou to all those who have spent a great deal of time in preparing for these outings and events only to have them cancelled. Hopefully the outings can be reset in the not too distant future. Finding speakers for our monthly meetings can be a headache I'm sure but there is added burden to this now in finding a speaker who can give their talk by Zoom. Wilson is doing a grand job on this front and I'm looking forward to the new talks he has lined up.

My great thanks go to those members with the computer knowledge to enable so many Anton Zoom meetings to take place so successfully and being ready and willing to share their knowledge to us who have less knowhow. I've certainly enjoyed several History groups talks via Zoom complete with slides.

Zoom has also enabled us to have a committee meeting and also the successful AGM. This does help so much in keeping the admin of the Anton group on track ready for the day when we will fully open for business again, whenever that might be. My thanks also go to all those on the committee for their individual roles in keeping the Anton group ticking over, I know there has been a lot of additional work for them all over the last few months and its greatly appreciated.

I would also like to mention the sad loss of several of our key members in the last few weeks. Our thoughts are with their families at this sad time.

Finally, I would like to give my thanks to all the group leaders for the additional work they are doing in these strange times and thanks too to all the members for entering into the spirit of the Zoom meetings and keeping in touch. A final thank you to Tricia without whom this newsletter would not be possible.

Stay safe and well everyone and hope to see you all soon.

*Stephanie Cox*

## **Membership Secretary's Notes**

Another little reminder to those members who have not yet paid their subscriptions this year. Obviously it has not been possible for there to be much activity during the recent months, but some groups are holding their meetings using zoom and, as you will have seen, Margaret Cooper has kindly agreed to give a talk, via zoom, on European Wildlife on 8th July.

As subscriptions were due to be paid on 1st April it would be very much appreciated if those still outstanding could be paid as soon as possible. They should be sent to Chris Coffin and may be paid by cheque or Bank Transfer, details of which may be found in the reminder emails previously sent out. Many thanks.

*Tessa Cross*

## **Notes from the Programme Team**

Our speakers have of course been impacted by Covid and unfortunately we were not able to proceed with the April and May talks. Our June talk was due to be given at the AGM meeting and has now been postponed to July as the original July speaker feels that his talk is unsuitable for Zoom. Thus on 8th July Margaret Cooper will deliver a talk on European Wildlife using Zoom. Currently there is no speaker booked for August as this is traditionally the month of our picnic which unfortunately is cancelled this year. Speakers booked for later in the year are being contacted to see if they can deliver their talks via Zoom and depending on responses and the pandemic status I will try to keep the programme on course.

All going well September will be Professor William Dawson talking about where medicines come from and October will be Wessex SERV who provide blood transportation services to the NHS.

*Wilson Carson*

## **Andover and Anton U3A Art**

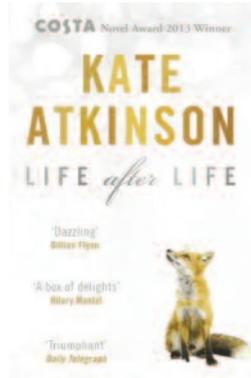
Many of our members have been in touch by phone and email. They have also been submitting paintings and drawings they have done in lock down by email to Renate West our teacher. She has made several inspirational galleries of them sent in emails to us all.

*Annie Willens*

## Reading Group

### Lock Down Literature Reviews June 2020

#### Life After Life by Kate Atkinson



The story centres around Ursula Todd who is born one snowy night in 1910 and dies that night from strangling on her own umbilical cord. On that same night in 1910, Ursula is born and lives. What follows is a strange life full of many deaths that were, at the same time, also avoided. Somehow, in the hands of this extremely talented writer, a concept as trite as second chances becomes original, beautiful and moving.

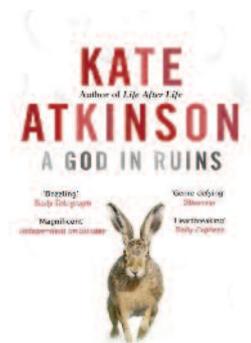
It has an unmistakable old-fashioned Englishness about it - all tea time and "goodness gracious" - which works very well with the time and setting. The novel seems to gather layers as it goes. One minute you're sipping tea and enjoying the relationship dynamics, and the next you suddenly look back and realise that this quiet little wartime story has become steeped in philosophical detail, without seeming pretentious or too try-hard.

Many of the most poignant storylines derived from the hardship of the setting – England spanning the two world wars. You might imagine that air raids, deprivation, and loss of loved ones would leave little time for character development beyond a collective stiffness of upper lips, but you'd be wrong. The descriptions of Ursula's experiences in the Blitz are incredibly pictorial and moving, she actually describes what it is like to be there when a bomb explodes.

What if Hitler had been killed before he had influence? How many lives would have been spared? What would our culture be like had there been no Holocaust? Or, as Ursula wondered, what if the US had not spent its way out of the Depression during the war and become the dominant purveyor of goods and lifestyles.

*Review by Diane Richards*

#### A God in Ruins by Kate Atkinson



"A man is a god in ruins. When men are innocent, life shall be longer, and shall pass into the immortal, as gently as we wake from dreams." – Ralph Waldo Emerson.

Whereas 'Life after Life' was about Ursula Todd, 'A God in Ruins' is about her brother Teddy, and his life as a Halifax pilot in Bomber Command. This is a companion piece rather than a sequel. Neither novel is exclusively about the war, nonetheless it is Ursula's and Teddy's individual and shared experiences of the war that permeate their lives. Ursula lived many versions of her life, and this book could be one of Ursula's lives, as yet unwritten.

Teddy is a would-be poet, heroic pilot, husband, father, and grandfather, and he navigates the perils and

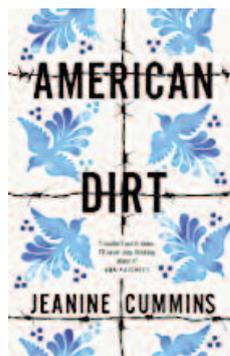
progress of a rapidly changing world. After all that Teddy endures in battle, his greatest challenge is living in a future he never expected to have.

The stories of the men who served in Bomber Command are all extraordinary, documenting as they do not only the prized virtue of stoicism but a heroism and determination that seem almost alien to us nowadays. As a member of Bomber Command, Teddy's life is fraught with danger – some facts and figures: The average age of these volunteers (they all were) in Bomber Command was 22 and of aircrew flying at the beginning of the war, only 10 percent saw the end of it.

I found this book, like it's companion, to be a fascinating and compelling read, and also educational – ie. I learned stuff!! This was an England, never to be realised again in the aftermath of these terrible wars. Had we not exacted such revenge on Germany after the first war, would someone like Hitler never have risen to such prominence, would a united Europe be a powerful force to be reckoned with, would Britain not have lost her imperial empire so drastically and finally. And the greatest 'what if' of all, of course, the staying of Princip's gun hand at Sarajevo.

*Review by Diane Richards*

#### American Dirt by Jeanine Cummins



This book has hit the heights as a best seller in the USA and was the key talking subject with everyone we met in Hawaii at the start of the year.

American Dirt tells the story of a mother and son who join the migrant trail to the USA after 16 members of their family are gunned down at a family barbecue by a narcotics cartel in Acapulco.

Lydia owns a book shop in the town and has started a friendship/flirtation with one of her customers, Javier, who turns out to be more evil than Lydia believes. Her husband is a journalist who exposes Javier for his real identity and the story begins.

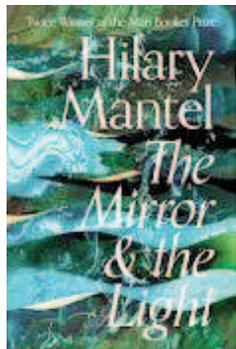
Lydia and Luca escape from Acapulco and check into a hotel out of town but there are the eyes of the cartel everywhere and they have to make a rushed escape using the hotel's back stairs and then various buses, changing frequently. The story charts their journey to American soil and their encounters with other migrants on the La Bestia freight train (where they travel on the top of various trains). There is a humanity in the way the story evolves with locals and other migrants helping them with shelter, food etc on their way and the encounter with migrants who have been deported from the USA but are reliving the journey to return. As they progress towards the US/Mexico border they have to pay a people smuggler to navigate the final part of the journey. The journey is very tough and the heat / cold of the desert relentless with the loss of 2 members of the group after one of them has a bad accident which stops him from continuing. Their perseverance helps them be successful but the story doesn't end there as

migrants they have no status in the USA.

The book is a good read and shows the challenges migrants have to overcome and also the different reasons for them to risk their lives on top of trains to reach their goal – lives which have become impossible in Mexico and Central America.

*Review by Jean Saunders.*

### **The Mirror and the Light** by Hilary Mantel'



What a joy, this is more like a poetic epic, Mantel's prose is absolutely sumptuous, and how about this for coincidence, on page 509 and the aristocrats are staying in seclusion somewhat to avoid the plague! It's a good way of learning a bit of history, the only difficulty is remembering who's who as there are so many characters so occasionally have to turn back a page or two, and there are a lot of pages!

It is the sequel to 'Wolf Hall' and 'Bring Up the Bodies', and right from the off Mantel doesn't spare us the horrific spectacle of Anne Boleyn's decapitation, overseen by Thomas Cromwell, Secretary to Henry VIII and his right-hand man.

Lowly born Thomas escaped the wrath of his brutal father, blacksmith/brewer, by at the age of 15 moving to Europe, where by using his innate intelligence, acquired several languages and studied law enabling him to facilitate the wishes of Henry, be they to keep his enemies at bay and to assist in his need to find a bride to give him a son.

Needless to say, to keep Henry content, Cromwell's life of intrigue, having to foresee plot and danger; who must be placated and who must be done away with. In the midst of the turmoil of the age, rapacious relatives and the hostility of papists following the schism with Rome and the destruction of the monasteries, Henry declared the spiritual Head of the Church of England, Cromwell needed all his wits about him.

Hilary Mantel is adept at drawing us into the foetid atmosphere of the sixteenth century; the cruelty, the eviscerations, the burning of heretics, compared with the luxury, the vast wealth, gargantuan feasts, the jewels and the garments of fur, silks, velvet and embroideries. When she writes of the tete a tete talks with Call Me Risely and Chapuys, his son Gregory and attendants Matthew and Christophe, it's almost like being there and listening in.

The tragedy was the death of Jane Seymour, loved by Henry and sadly died shortly after giving birth to his son Edward. Once more a new wife was sought, this was the beginning of the end of Thomas Cromwell - having spoken in favour of Anne of Cleves Henry was appalled at the sight of her, so much so their marriage was never consummated and some months later she was pensioned off!

Henry was furious and gave the order for Cromwell's execution which he later regretted.

*Review by Valerie Greenslade*

### **Aprons and Silver Spoons** by Mollie Moran



The heartwarming memoirs of a 1930's kitchen maid.

This was the book that the group read prior to lockdown, we did not have the opportunity to discuss it so this is my comment/view on the book.

I enjoyed the book especially as it helped to fill in the information I had gleaned from various TV dramas. The author had refused a job, on leaving school, in a family shop; I think this must have needed great strength of character as her family were exceedingly needy. Her father was an invalid following his wounds in WW1. One reads of the life of ex-servicemen but I had not realised that some were given garden huts to sleep in following stress – thank goodness for modern methods.

Mollie led a fairly free life in childhood, much better than today as there was no 'health and safety', and on her way home from school (alone) she was able to climb trees and play. However did she manage to live to the age of 90 without the confines of H&S ?

I think she must have worked in a fairly forward thinking household to be given free afternoons and money at Christmas, could this have been the result of her employer being a widower? She still had a hard life and was expected to work long hours. I wonder how many of us would have put up with the conditions?

Mollie was fortunate in having friends and colleagues who supported and encouraged her to make the most of opportunities. Her great disappointment was not going abroad to work due to the demise of her employer. She was adventurous, for example she often climbed out of a window to go to local dances: I wonder what would have happened had she been caught?

What would Mollie have achieved if her family had been less poor or if she had received a more fulfilling education?

*Review by Lynda Stockings*

## **French**

We have carried on 'meeting' fortnightly, courtesy of Andover U3A, on Skype. They have a very skilled French member who kindly organises the meetings which are divided into 2 one hourly slots with contributions from members to each half. We write an essay on a chosen subject and send it to her beforehand so she is able to correct it and we then read it out during the meeting. There have been the usual glitches but on the whole it works and we have been able to stay in contact.

*Gilly Roberts*

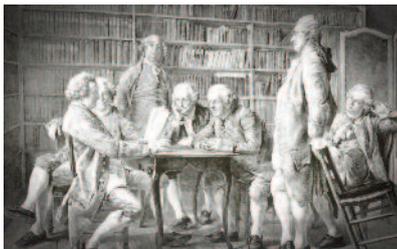
## **History**

For her talk in March, Erica Tinsley took the group back to the 18th century and to a group of friends who came together informally as The Lunar Society of

Birmingham. Through their friendships, they helped to give the industrial revolution a head start in Britain and had a hand in changing the world.

It was a time when people believed that knowledge and progress could be achieved through rational thought and they came together in learned societies, in coffee houses and in dining clubs to discuss anything and everything. The Lunar Society was very small and active for only 35 years but it is the most famous and important of all these clubs. The friends met monthly in each other's houses and on a day as near as possible to the full moon to give themselves as much light as possible for a safe journey home.

They were not academics but they all had brilliant minds and a deep interest in studying everything in the natural world. Their numbers included Mathew Boulton the innovative industrialist, James Watt the inventor and engineer, Erasmus Darwin polymath and inspirational thinker, Josiah Wedgwood the potter and canal pioneer, chemists Joseph Priestly and James Kier, William Murdoch engineer and inventor of the gas light, John Whitehurst maker of clocks and scientific instruments, and William Withering the doctor and botanist who discovered the properties of the foxglove (*digitalis*) in treating heart disease.



Their meetings were fun. They discussed how new discoveries could be put to practical use. They explored each other's problems and devised plans for solving them. They did pioneering experiments in chemistry, physics, engineering, and medicine, and eventually ten of them, would go on to be elected Fellows of the Royal Society.

Erica gave examples of how their diverse knowledge and expertise, and their collaboration both inside and outside of the society's meetings produced many things essential for industrial progress such as steam power, canals, accurate instruments for manufacturing, and even soap for the great unwashed..

She explained that the Lunar Society of Birmingham was different. It was not an academic society for the presentation of learned papers but a forum for the discussion of new ideas. It was not in London with membership from the upper echelons of society. It was in Birmingham and its members were manufacturers, doctors, skilled craftsmen and businessmen. And above all, its main focus was on the practical application of science to manufacturing, mining, transport, health, education and commerce.

By the time of the March meeting, the prospect of a coronavirus lockdown was already on the horizon but the Group was clear that it wanted to continue with its programme if possible. On 23 March when lockdown was imposed, Alan Evans offered to enable the Group to continue using Zoom if the leaders for each meeting were willing to do it. In the U3A spirit of lifelong learning, the group decided to take up the challenge. Derek

Armitage volunteered to be the first to have a go.

For the April meeting Derek gave a very successful talk on the Battle of Arnhem. The battle in autumn 1944 was part of Operation Market Garden and the idea of Field Marshal Montgomery. The operation was intended to speed up the Allied advance into Germany by establishing a route across the River Rhine which would enable them to by-pass German defences on the Siegfried Line and attack the Ruhr.

Three Allied airborne divisions would seize bridges and canal crossings at Eindhoven, Nijmegen and Arnhem, while Allied tanks and troops of XXX Corps would advance by road to secure them. The bridge furthest from the Allied front line was the bridge at Arnhem and its capture was allocated to the British 1st Airborne Division with the 1st Polish Parachute Brigade attached.

Derek took the group through the planning and execution of the operation at Arnhem pointing to the decisions which ultimately contributed to its failure. The first of many was that the officer placed in command of 1st Airborne Division was Major-General Roy Urquhart who, until then, had been a senior staff officer. He had never commanded, never been a member of an airborne unit and was prone to airsickness.

The second and most serious was the choice of drop zone. The army relied on the RAF for transport and the drop zone chosen by the RAF was on heathland eight miles from their objective. It was too far away from the target and no provision was made to drop a small force at the bridge to hold it while the main force fought its way into the town. If Urquhart had been experienced in airborne operations he would not have accepted the RAF's choice of drop zone.



There were many other problems – inadequate numbers of transport aircraft prevented all the troops landing on the first day, there was a failure of intelligence so they encountered more German troops than anticipated, many radios were not working, for a while Urquhart lost contact with his HQ and could not direct the battle, and bad weather in England prevented the Polish Brigade from flying in when planned. Also, the troops' lack of progress towards Arnhem meant that their re-supply drops, on which they depended, were now landing on ground re-taken by the Germans. Only the 2nd Battalion under Lt Col John Frost reached the Arnhem Bridge itself and they set up defensive positions around its northern end.

The other part of Market Garden was the Allied force, of tanks and troops, coming up on the narrow road from the south to link up with the airborne forces. They were led by the Guards Armoured Division and met considerable opposition. By the time they reached Arnhem, the bridge had been lost but Derek explained that had the Guards continued their advance through the night, instead of following their normal practise and stopping, they may have saved the day.

Some 10,600 British and Commonwealth troops took part in the battle but only 2,400 returned. Over 1,500 were killed and the rest were captured or wounded.

In May, Erica Tinsley's topic was the evolution of Shoes in Britain. She explained that shoes were such an everyday part of life that the history tended to overlook them. For example, might say how many shells were sent to France in WW1 but fail to mention that the UK sent 70 million pairs of boots and shoes as well. So her talk was a small contribution to putting that right

The oldest leather shoe found in Britain dates from about 400 years before the building of Stonehenge. It is single piece of leather with holes punched along the edges for thongs to pull the leather up around the foot. This was the usual footwear in Britain when the Romans arrived.

Excavations, especially at the Roman fort of Vindolanda on Hadrian's Wall, have shown that the Romans brought more advanced footwear. The Roman soldier's caligae - heavy-duty, thick-soled openwork marching boots which seem so inappropriate for our climate - were actually a very practical design.

The Anglo-Saxons brought the turn shoe. The pieces of leather forming the shoe were stitched together and then the shoe was turned 'inside out' to put the seams on the inside. All the shoe leather had to be flexible leather but now the sole could be made of a slightly tougher leather. The Vikings used the same technique and this way of making shoes continued for many centuries

The 14th saw the real start of "fashion" in both the clothes and shoes. In shoes, the fashion was for wearing "poulaines" which had very long, pointed toes. The longer the toe, the higher your status. Extremes of fashion led to the passing of sumptuary laws from the 14th to the 17th century. These laws dictated what people could wear to ensure modesty and ensured people didn't dress above their station in life.



Fashions changed and tipped towards very wide toed shoes such as those worn by Henry VIII in Holbein's pictures. And it is

Henry's warship the Mary Rose that has told us a lot about the shoes that were being worn when she sank in 1545. Some of the shoes are very basic but others show the development of a new type of shoe – the welted shoe.

Erica explained why the welted shoe was a major advance. It could be made of much stronger hide to which a heel could be attached, it was more waterproof and it could be repaired. She went through the following centuries explaining how the fashions changed and how the need for military footwear provided the impetus for the 19th century industrialisation of boot and shoemaking.

Britain is still a world leader in the manufacture of stitched, leather shoes but today these are a very small part of the world's shoe production. Now shoes for every application are moulded, glued and made in a variety of materials. She concluded with a reminder

that some of the shoe fashions we have seen in our lifetimes - the Teddy Boys' thick soled brothel creepers, the winkle pickers, the platform shoes and even some of our more extravagantly designed trainers – are no more bizarre than the fashions that have gone before.

To help U3A members in lockdown, the Group extended an invitation to all for its June Zoom meeting and welcomed six guests to hear Ron Bryan's talk on The Tolpuddle Martyrs.

The Tolpuddle Martyrs were six farm labourers from the village of Tolpuddle in Dorset. In 1833, in the face of desperate poverty, they decided to form a friendly society and for that they were arrested and sent to an Australian penal colony. Their case would change the face of employment rights for future generations.



James Loveless John Standfield James Brice  
James Hammett George Loveless Thomas Standfield

Ron started by explaining the living conditions of farm labourers at the time. Their average wage at 10 shillings a week was already well below the national average wage. In Tolpuddle, the men were earning only 7 shillings a week and were threatened with more cuts. He showed the cost of the most basic living at the time and how close to starvation these families were. There was nothing illegal in their decision to form a friendly society to try to improve their situation.

He went on to set the scene and bring in the other players in what happened to these men. England was ruled by the landed classes who, in the light of the French Revolution, were nervous about the growing civil unrest in the country. 1830 had seen the Swing Riots across the rural southern counties and 1831 had seen urban riots when Parliament decided against reform that would have transferred some power to the growing middle classes. The landowners also controlled the administration of justice because they were the local magistrates and landlords of the farmers who made up rural juries.

The local magistrates were alarmed when news of the new friendly society in Tolpuddle reached them. As the society was not illegal, they searched for other ways of stopping it and hit upon the fact that at its first meeting the founder members had done what was normal in similar societies and sworn to abide by the society's rules. They obtained the approval of the Home Secretary, Lord Melbourne, to arrest the leaders for taking 'unlawful oaths' under an obscure statute of 1797.

On 22 February 1834, George Loveless the leader of the men and five others were arrested. They were tried at Dorchester assizes in front of a jury made up of local farmers and found guilty. As an example to others, the judge gave them the maximum sentence of seven years in a penal colony in Australia.

Ron described the conditions of their journey and the life they had on arrival in Australia. In England there was outrage and, after years of major protests all over

the country and a change in Home Secretary, the six men were given a complete pardon, and four years later they returned home. Only one chose to stay in England while the others emigrated to Canada, but the courageous actions of these and the outcry provoked by their treatment helped to pave the way for the creation of trade unions and the protection of employees' rights.

*Erica Tinsley*

## Questors

### Visit to Harnham Water Meadows in March.

The final visit of Questors Group before the national shutdown was a very rewarding trip to Salisbury to see the water meadows, which are one of the best preserved 'drowned meadow' landscapes remaining in the UK. The site which now has SSSI status, dates back to the 17th century, covers some 80 acres close to the centre of the city, but is accessed via a footbridge close by the Old Mill Hotel in Harnham. The meadows are largely managed by a Charitable Trust, staff or volunteers being our friendly and informative guides for the morning.

We gathered at Rose Cottage where they provided hot drinks prior to an explanation of how the 'drowned meadow' system could produce two or three times more grass than a normal meadow. The land is first formed into broad ridges similar in appearance to those resulting from centuries of strip farming in feudal times. Along the top of the ridge a small gully is dug to which controlled flows of river water are fed, for a week at a time, via a complex network of small canals from the river several times during the year. The water overflows the gullies ideally to a depth of about 25mm and flows down to channels at each side of every ridge where it is fed back into the river.

River water carries many beneficial nutrients which naturally enrich the soil, but probably more importantly, in the winter it is some 10 degrees warmer than the soil, encouraging grass to grow 3 to 4 weeks earlier than it otherwise would have done. After the talk and our questions answered, we walked around the meadows for about an hour and the evidence of the effectiveness of the system was all around us. The grass was indeed much taller than we expected it to be. Our guide opened one of the sluice gates to demonstrate a sample 'drowning' and it worked perfectly.

After a most interesting morning we thanked our guide and moved next door to the Old Mill Hotel for lunch, which was really excellent and proved to be a suiting end to a very interesting morning.

*Norma Bryan*

PS Visits will resume once it is clear that it is safe to move about once again, meanwhile KEEP WELL.

## Petanque

We are missing our monthly chats at the Blue Onion and weather permitting Petanque at Hurstbourne Tarrant. Meanwhile, here is some catch up chat from Adrian and me.

On 18 March we visited the Blue Cross, Southampton, to meet and adopt a cat, Adrian's idea not mine.

Just over a month later we had a 'contactless' delivery of a 12 year old, toothless Siamese cat. Tallulah is very active, affectionate, clever and as challenging as a 2 year old toddler; we are gradually weaning her off 5 am feeds. The first day out in our garden she managed to find a baby Blue Tit, just out of the nestbox, fortunately she has not found any more.

Adrian has been doing a weekly shop during the 'elderly hour' at the supermarket, I have been in isolation apart from a daily walk. I look forward to going shopping even if it is just to the supermarket.

We would love to hear from you by phone or email, you know the group's emails so you may wish to share any news with the group.

Looking forward to meeting at 10 am on the first Friday of the month at the Blue Onion cafe and even better the Petanque pitch at the British Legion, Hurstbourne Tarrant, weather permitting, as soon as we come out of "lockdown".

Anyone wishing to join the group, please contact me, you will be most welcome.

Meanwhile, take care,

*Adrian & Ann Truss*

## AHA Group (Art, History and Architecture)

### March 2020

Normally at this time I would be trying to put together the latest article ready for the next AHA newsletter, but sadly, our last planned visit to Greys Court and Nuffield House had to be cancelled due to the awful Coronavirus. In addition, we have also cancelled the April visit to Russell Coates Gallery in Bournemouth and May's visit to Houghton Lodge and Gardens, near Stockbridge. I am sure that you all will be aware that the Coronavirus is taking hold of the country and is causing so much heartache and disruption throughout the world. Hence, it appears likely that future planned AHA trips will be cancelled beyond May, so please keep checking the Website.

I want to let you know, that once we have all got through the next few months, the AHA Committee will be straight back on track and planning days out again. At that time, we all will be able to relax, smell the roses, take in the sea air and enjoy ourselves once again.

Nobody wanted to find themselves confined to their homes, but looking on the bright-side it's an opportunity to relax and take stock; complete all those jobs that you have been promising to do for years; actually manage to do the spring cleaning in spring and such like. Meanwhile, various national art organisations are making considerable efforts to keep us in touch with art; for example why not take a virtual tour of the paintings in the National Gallery? In addition, I am sure that in many other areas of national interest you would find similar activities direct on-line.

Finally, I hope that you all are following the rules, taking good care of each other in keeping safe and well. So

let's all keep our chins up and look forward to summer.  
Very best wishes to you all,

### June 2020

Hello all, or to show that we have not lost our cultural skills it could be: Guten tag, Dobry den, Buen dia, Bonne journée, Kalí méra or Buona giornata – this is your teaser!

Since early March it has been such a testing time for so many, and it has been quite interesting to hear what ingenious ideas that people have invented to fill their time. For myself I seem to have been busier, but one thing for sure I do truly believe that most people gardens look absolutely perfect and very pretty – not a weed in sight. Therefore, I trust that you all have managed this time and achieved some of those jobs that you always promise yourself to do and don't.

I would like to reassure you that the AHA Committee are ready to commence organising of outings just as soon as it is possible. I know that some of the Coronavirus rules have been relaxed a little, but it is quite a way off for us to successfully and confidently to move on. However, we need to keep in mind our senior years and health issues. As you know, our Group visits are very much planned around car sharing, this is still very much a NO. To take groups of people into museums, art galleries etc., are still very much controlled by numbers. And on our excursions we enjoy including a light lunch, afternoon tea etc., and this could prove a problem for us to remain as a group. Recently I took the opportunity to speak to our Chair, Stephanie Cox, to discuss my concerns and to get the opinion of our U3A and to see if any advice had been received from U3A nationally – there is none. It is Stephanie's

opinion that my thoughts are very much in line with hers and we just have to patiently wait for our time to return. You can be assured, just as soon as possible we will return with gusto to get our excursions back on track and all the time adding new ideas to our long list.

Wishing you all well and enjoy the summer to the best of your ability – I have heard from a number of sources that alcohol sales have gone up – how many trips have you made to the bottle bank?

Keep your distance and stay safe.

*Rosemary Crumplin-Clark  
AHA - Excursion Co-ordinator*

### Beginners' Bridge

The beginners Bridge ceased to meet with lockdown. I set up a bridge chat group on WhatsApp to enable everyone to stay in touch. This has been quite successful. We have had several shared jokes. Pictures of each others pets and grandchildren. A lovely Easter painting video courtesy of Tricia. A great home movie from Jenny with her daughter, a great rendition of "A mouse in a windmill in Amsterdam ja". We have shown each other more recent additions to our gardens. A water feature, also balcony ornaments..... there has been no end of contributions through the group. Some members have decided to try "on line bridge" which is not as sociable as meeting in person, which hopefully will not be too far away.

I would like to add my thanks to my friends in the bridge group who have given me wonderful support through my husband David's devastating illness with cancer. Also to All U3A members.

*Barbie Morrey-Stone*

### A cheerful photograh submitted by Lynda Stockings



This is a different view of Burghclere Down, just around the corner from U3A meetings. Our VE party on 8th May. We all sang the Vera Lynn songs even the youngsters found the words on their iPhone and everyone stood for the Queen's speech.

*Lynda*

## Mahjong

Although it is theoretically possible to play Mah Jong online it was/is a step beyond our social Mah Jong group so during lock down we have been meeting on Zoom just to socialise. One benefit is that my tea and coffee stocks have remained high throughout. Zoom is a tremendous tool but it's not like the real thing and I for one very much look forward to the day when we can

resume this fiendish game staring each other in the eyes and daring someone to call Mah Jong. Perhaps the next step is to meet in my garden (socially distanced of course) for tea and scones One day I am sure we will be able to resume sitting at a table but not for now.

*Leslie Ward*

### Anton U3A Monthly Meetings

July 8th European Wildlife  
 August 12th Summer Picnic  
 September 9th Where do medicines come from?  
 October 14th Volunteer Bloodbikers  
 November 11th Life After Iran  
 December 9th Summerdown Mint

*Margaret Cooper*  
**Cancelled**  
*William Dawson*  
*Robert Smith*  
*Sandra Simmonds*  
*Ian Margetts*

#### 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	Rosemary Crumplin-Clark (07570 962112)	re.crumplin@gmail.com
Birders & Natural History	4th Thursday at 10.30am	Robert Kemp	antonu3a.birders@btinternet.com
Bridge	Thursdays 10am-12noon	Barbie Morrey-Stone (01264 335 597)	beesbubbles4@gmail.com
Floral Art	3rd Thursday 2pm	Lynda Stocking (01264 359 455)	stocklynray@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)	mary-bobt@outlook.com
History	2nd Friday 10.15am	Erica Tinsley (01264 365 563)	erica.tinsley@btinternet.com
Mah Jong	1st & 3rd Wednesday 2pm	Leslie Ward (01264 332789)	cliveandlesie@sky.com
MOTO	2nd Monday 2.15pm	Tricia Andrews (01264 332 921)	TriciaOnTheHill@btinternet.com
Petanque	1st Friday 6.30pm in Summer 10.30am in Winter	Adrian & Ann Truss (01264 313 242)	aatruss@yahoo.co.uk
Photography	Third Monday 10am	Chris Penney (01264 354521)	ccpenney@btinternet.com
Poetry	Third Friday 10.30am	Glennis Dale (01264 323356)	glennis.dale@yahoo.co.uk
Questers	By arrangement	Jane Leishman (01264 351059)	grandma@oldreccs.com
Reading Group	1st Tuesday - 10am	Diane Richards (01264 392367)	georgeandedward@sky.com
Reading Group 2	1st Wednesday alternate months April onwards at 10am	Carole Leonard (01264 324 271)	caroleann@btinternet.com
Skittles	Last Wednesday of each month 10.30am	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