

<b>Lynda Stockings</b> - <i>Chairman</i>	stocklynray@gmail.com	01264 359 455
<b>Peter Duncan</b> - <i>Vice Chairman</i>	pete.duncan69@live.co.uk	01264 396 734
<b>Leslie Ward</b> - <i>Secretary</i>	cliveandleslie@sky.com	01264 332 789
<b>Genifer Cowling</b> - <i>Treasurer</i>	gennycowling@hotmail.co.uk	01264 512 646
<b>Barbara Dixon</b> - <i>Membership Secretary</i>	barbara.dixon.37@gmail.com	01264 710 712
<b>Ron Bryan</b> - <i>Programme Secretary</i>	redmanconsulting@btconnect.com	01264 335 652

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

## Chairman's Corner

It seems only yesterday that I was wishing you all seasons greetings and here we are nearly at Easter, at least the nights are getting lighter and we can begin to look forward to some warmer weather.

Anton U3A continues to flourish, our membership stays at around 150 and the attendance at meetings has increased now often at 50.

For those who did not come to the meeting you missed a most enjoyable talk by Steve Heera about the Cunard Line; I had always thought that this was a great British company only to learn that it was founded by a Canadian whose father was American and mother was German. How wrong can one get? Ron has organised an interesting programme for the following months these can all be found on the web site.

New arrangements have been made to the meetings. Questers have a table at the meetings and payments can be made before the meeting, during tea and afterwards. This has enabled us to have a more leisurely meeting as we are not pressured by time. All information about the events are published in a monthly news letter. A big 'thank you' to the Questers committee for the interesting programme they arrange.

Thanks go to all group leaders for their hard work in keeping the groups functioning with an interesting and varied programme. Information about their activities can be found on the web thanks to Robert Smith who does a sterling job. Trish Andrews produces this newsletter and my thanks to her especially as she has had difficulties with her provider following her move. We hope you will be happy in your new home. My thanks, also, to Leslie Ward who has had to resign as secretary, her work has been much appreciated.

Barbara and Alan Dixon have started a new skittles group on the last Wednesday mornings of the month.

As always I would like to appeal for volunteers to fill our committees, this is your organisation and we rely on new ideas in order to make it vibrant and enjoyable.

Barbara will be collecting subs at the March and April meetings. Hope to see you at the next meeting.

*Lynda Stockings*

Please ensure that the membership representative on the committee has your up-to-date email address. The current holder of that office is Barbara Dixon.

## Questors

### Anton U3A Questors Group Trip to London Theatre

The 6th December was a fine chilly day for our outing to London. 41 people boarded a coach and left promptly to see 42nd Street at the Theatre Royal, Drury Lane.

The journey was trouble free and navigated with precision by our excellent driver Andy. We travelled along the Embankment and past the Houses of Parliament before being dropped very close to the theatre.

We all dispersed for free time - some to shop and potter around Covent Garden others for a leisurely lunch before the performance at 2.30.

We were seated in the Royal Circle and with an excellent unobstructed view of the vast stage. The next two hours were enthralling - whilst the storyline of 42nd Street is a little weak and predictable this did not matter because the music and dancing were superb. Faultless and very complicated dance routines, stunning costumes and brilliant scenery all made for a thoroughly enjoyable afternoon.

The return journey took us through Trafalgar Square and Knightsbridge so we had sight of some Christmas lights and Harrods Christmas windows. Despite leaving in the rush hour we made good time, arriving back in Andover before 8pm.

The consensus of opinion was that we should do something similar again, certainly a block booking affords huge discounts on seat prices and when everyone co-operates by being in the right place at the right time it makes it easy for the organisers - thanks to all of you who came (whether for the theatre or just the coach trip), for making it easy for us.

### Skittles Lunch January

This Annual event took place on Friday 19th January at the usual venue of the White Hart at Stoke.

We had a spectacular turnout of 47 attending, most of whom played and spent an enjoyable couple of hours trying to knock over the skittles, some with infinitely more success than others!

At the end of the contest Freddie Finlay was a clear winner of the men's prize but three ladies faced a play-off with Penny Greaves being the eventual winner.

As usual Margaret put on an excellent spread for lunch and thanks must go to her and all the staff for their efforts. Thanks also to those who assisted with the sticking up of the skittles.

Overall everyone seemed to have a good time so see you next year!

Anne Scott

## Reading Group

December –

*Parrot and Olivier in America* by Peter Carey

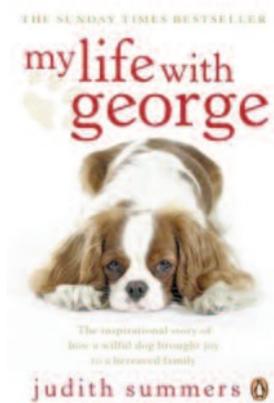


Olivier is a young aristocrat, one of an endangered species born in France just after the Revolution. Parrot, the son of an itinerant English printer, wanted to be an artist but has ended up in middle age as a servant. When Olivier sets sail for the New World - ostensibly to study its prisons, but in reality to avoid yet another revolution - Parrot is sent with him, as spy, protector, foe and

foil. Through their adventures with women and money, incarceration and democracy, writing and painting, they make an unlikely pair.

The narrative shifts from one to the other, which adds a little confusion to the tale. It seemed like it was going to be a really good read, and the first few chapters dealing with the aftermath of the French Revolution, and the persecution of English forgerers, but it was a complicated story told in a complex way, so there was not universal approval from the group. As a shortlisted Booker prize contender (and the author had won this before in 1988 and 2001) we likened it to a typical Turner art prize aspirant, perhaps a bit too intellectual for normal mortals to appreciate!

January – *My Life with George* by Judith Summers

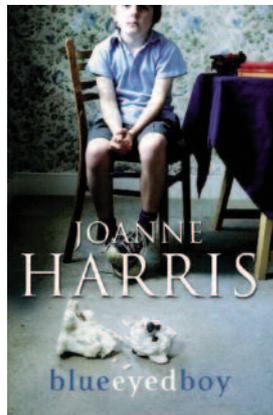


When Judith Summers's husband and father both died within the space of two weeks, she found herself floundering. Life for her and her eight-year-old son Joshua seemed relentlessly bleak. Then George bounced into their lives.

A loving Cavalier King Charles Spaniel with film-star looks, George reawoke their joie de vivre. Yet Judith soon discovered that living with George had its drawbacks. He was a full-time job and as expensive to run as a Ferrari. Wilful and badly behaved, he refused to eat anything other than roast chicken, preferred travelling by car to walking, and became as jealous as a spurned lover if any man dared show an interest in her. And when a near-death tangle with a Staffordshire Bull terrier resulted in costly sessions with an animal psychologist, Judith found that it was she who was put on the couch.

If you like dogs, this is probably an entertaining read. It feels like a journalistic account, and was (I think) originally a weekly piece from a newspaper. It could have been called 'Judith Summers's Dating Life and Some Stories about Her Dog George', as there is as much about her disastrous love life, than the dog. Some of the group thought it lightweight and mildly entertaining, others loved it.

February – *Blue Eyed Boy* by Joanne Harris



'Once there was a widow with three sons, and their names were Black, Brown and Blue. Black was the eldest; moody and aggressive. Brown was the middle child, timid and dull. But Blue was his mother's favourite. And he was a murderer.'

A dark and intricately plotted tale of a poisonously dysfunctional family, a blind child prodigy, and a serial murderer who is not who he seems. Told through posts on badguysrock@webjournal.com, this is a thriller that makes creative use of all the disguise, deception and mind games that are offered by playing out one's life on the internet.

Not an easy read, very complicated to make sense of, and not at all what one expects from this author – Chocolat it isn't!!

Diane Richards

## Walking Group

20/2/2018



The February meeting of the Walking Group saw eleven members, led by Patsy Reed, enjoy a dry if rather breezy walk along the historic paths that cross the Abbotts Ann Estate. On the first leg along Dunkirt Lane, which eventually joins the Salisbury Road at Kentsborough, we were joined by Barbara & Alan Dixon's 'lodger' Maxie the greyhound. At Abbotts Ann Down we turned north on to the old Drove Road along which flocks were originally driven from Winchester to the Weyhill Fair. On returning to the village most members headed straight for lunch at The Eagle but a hardy few carried on to the old Coach Road, which was the original highway to Salisbury, and made their way to The Eagle via the Church Path.

Robert Kemp

## Poetry Group

Meeting, 16/2/2018

Theme: Taste

The group meet every month and read and discuss poetry by published poets on a particular theme; the February meeting was on the sense Taste.

David started off with a reading of Ted Hughes' poem Fulbright Scholars with "It was the first fresh peach I had ever tasted."

Erica submitted Toast by Olivia Fitzroy, then Glennis with Belloc Do you remember an Inn? Brenda's poem linked smell and taste which made complete sense. Ron read Food of Life (Mark Slaughter) and then John contributed two verses from Keats. John also gave detailed explanations of the hard Greek references. John then read a very short poem To a poor old Woman (Williams 1934) "munching a plum on the street, a paper bag in her hand." This very short poem surprisingly led to the most discussion dealing with egalitarian commentary amongst other things.

Chris Coffin read the most erotic contribution – Strawberries by Edward Morgan which ends "let the storm wash the plates."

Brenda confidently read the difficult to rhyme The Addressing of Cats T S Eliot whilst Simon contributed humorous poetry from Pam Ayres Irish stew. Back to Erica and Jenny Joseph's Purple and then Brenda about the tongue map.

Overall an entertaining and informative two hours with only Caroline absent, although Simon read a couple of her suggestions. Thanks again to the hospitality of Glennis.

*David Thompson*

## New Skittles

On a very cold winter morning the new skittles group began on Wednesday 28th February at The White Hart, Stoke. There were 16 of us and we were all quite competitive, with lots of joshing and groans when the ball sailed straight through the skittles without knocking



*Fifteen of us with Margaret, the hostess. Alan took the photo.*

any down! John Clark was the overall winner with Chris Adams a close second.

Margaret, the proprietor, greeted us with coffee, tea and biscuits and drew up a special menu for

lunch at the next meeting, which will be on March 28th at 10.30.

Anyone who wishes to join should contact Barbara Dixon at [barbara.dixon.37@gmail.com](mailto:barbara.dixon.37@gmail.com) before the next meeting. Details are on the website.

*Barbara Dixon*

## History

It has become Group custom that our December meeting is given over to chatting about things from history that have interested us during the year. This always gives us a varied and often unusual morning, and this year was no exception.

Our conversation covered a number of buildings in Britain. The earliest was the complex of standing stones at Stanton Drew in Somerset – the 3rd largest in England but surprisingly little known. Others were Edinburgh Castle, Dartmouth Royal Naval College, Wentworth Woodhouse, Trafalgar Park near Salisbury and Welbeck Abbey with its elaborate maze of underground tunnels built by the eccentric 5th Duke of Portland. In France there had been visits to The Loire Valley and L'Ossuaire de Douaumont.

We also talked about some interesting people. The herb border at Jane Austen's house in Chawton prompted an interest in Elizabeth Blackwell (1707 –58) the artist and engraver whose magnificent reference book for herbalists and apothecaries "A Curious Herbal" was started to raise money to secure her husband's release from debtor's prison. Lady Anne Mowbray who died in 1481 aged 8 had recently been in the news. She was the child bride of the younger of the Princes in the Tower and her face has been scientifically reconstructed from her remains in Westminster Abbey. We were also invited to dwell on how much the original thinking of Newton and Darwin had changed the world and reminded not to forget the good work done by politicians who had otherwise, often justifiably, received a very negative press.

In January Erica Tinsley spoke about William IV who is perhaps rather a forgotten king. He was 64 in 1830 when he inherited the throne from his brother George IV whose indulgent lifestyle at a time of severe economic distress in the country had brought the prestige of the monarchy to an all-time low. He reigned for only 7 years but they were important years with several major reforms passed into law.

William had been a professional sailor and brought a very different style to the monarchy. He discouraged pomp and treated people at all levels with informality. In relation to government, he took pains to understand the issues. Most significant was his belief that, although he had a role to advise and persuade, it was the King's duty to support his Prime Minister while he retained the confidence of Parliament. That would be very important in the epic battle to get the Great Reform Bill into law in 1832.

That legislation saw Parliament completely change the country's system of representation without revolution

and with acceptance of the new. Erica felt that William, who always did his best with honesty and goodwill, should be given some credit for his part in that. She also felt that William served Britain well in living until June 1837 by which time his niece Victoria had had her 18th birthday and could become queen without the need for a regency. Having himself inherited a monarchy in tatters, William bequeathed to Victoria the securest throne in Europe.

In February Ann Wilson took us through four thousand years of history when she spoke about mining in Cornwall. Well before 2,000 BC Cornwall was producing tin from ore found amongst the gravels of its streams. Added to copper, tin produced the harder alloy bronze and Cornish tin was traded with countries in the Mediterranean. As demand grew, ore was mined using shallow cuttings where tin lodes outcropped and there were underground mines by the 16th century.

The unique geology of Cornwall has given it many other minerals, including copper, zinc, lead, silver, tungsten, iron and arsenic, which have all been mined as people have discovered how to exploit and use them. By the 18th century copper was the most important mineral being produced. Combined with zinc it produced brass. The ore was shipped up to Bristol which became an important centre for brass production and to smelters on the South Wales coalfield. In return, coal was shipped back to Cornwall to power the beam engines that pumped the mines and carried men to the workings. By the 1870s, Cornwall was producing half the world's arsenic which was used in paint, weedkillers and insecticides.

During the late 19th and 20th centuries mines in Cornwall closed as cheaper sources of minerals were discovered around the world. Ann explained that mines are not worked out and may be reopened as economic conditions change or new technology needs different materials. The price of tin is rising and several companies are also looking at Cornish mines for tungsten and for lithium, the precious metal used in the batteries of the phones we all carry in our pockets.

*Erica Tinsley*

## Mahjong

We continue to meet on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of each month. We began as complete novices under the able tutelage of Barbie and have been slowly progressing in knowledge of the game.

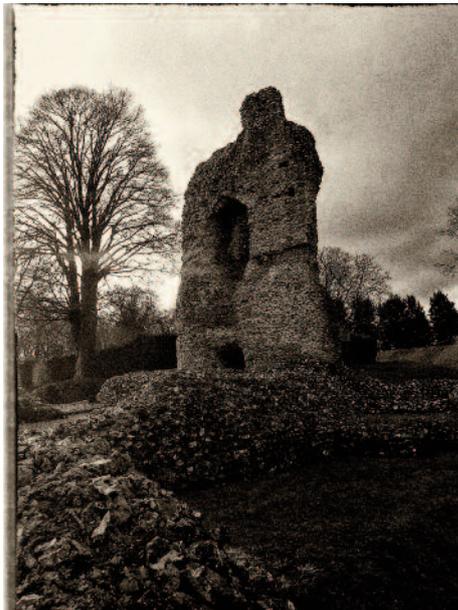
Mahjong is a Chinese game using tiles. There is a European style of playing, but we have chosen to stick to the Chinese rules that Barbie has been teaching us. It would normally be played fast, but to date we are fairly sedentary, speeding up as we improve. Hands are scored and money chips change hands, and so we are slowly learning strategies to win!

Our group size varies from week to week, but on a day when all are able to join us we have a group playing over two tables with some left over. We are a jolly group who enjoy the game, the coffee, and each other's company.

We are very happy for others to join the group, whether novice or already know the game, all are welcome.

*Leslie Ward*

## Photo Club



### January

Decided to do some monochrome work today so took the bus to Ludgersall and spent an hour at the castle.

I think it would make a good venue for a club meeting in the future.

Our February meeting was a great success although only attended by

six. Several members had sent in their apologies and three had managed to send their Winter Weather prints for the monthly competition. Our winner this month was



*Winter, Bishops Way*

Brenda and this picture will be included in the 2019 calendar, well done Brenda!

Alan presented a 2018 calendar he had designed and had printed at his own expense with pictures from his and my archives as a template for the group to assess.

This was embraced with 100% enthusiasm and it was agreed that the winning picture each month for a calendar year ending in September 2018 would be featured in the 2019 calendar. This would give us time to have it produced by October 2018 ready for advance orders.

*Chris Penney*

## MOTO

We continue to meet, mostly at The Lights, on the second Monday of each month.

Just recently we have had several lunches out for a change – in December we had our Christmas Lunch at

### Some reasons to be grateful if you grew up speaking English

1. The bandage was wound round the wound.
2. The farm was used to produce produce.
3. The dump was so full that it had to refuse more refuse.
4. The soldier decided to desert his dessert in the desert.
5. Since there is no time like the present, he thought he would present the present
6. I did not object to the object suggested.
7. The insurance was invalid for an invalid.
8. There was a row amongst the oarsmen about how to row.
9. They were too close to the door to close it.
10. The buck does funny things when the does are present.
11. To help with the planting the farmer taught his sow to sow.
12. Upon seeing the tear in the painting I shed a tear.

### Anton U3A Monthly Meetings

March 14th	Women in the First World War	<i>Dan Allan</i>
April 11th	A Few Appropriate Remarks – The Gettysburg Address	<i>David Skillen</i>
May 9th	Work of the British Antarctic Survey	<i>Capt Tim Stockings</i>
June 13th	AGM	

### FirstAssist Commercial LawCare

The Third Age Trust has an arrangement with FirstAssist to provide legal advice to U3A members. It is a free service, available 365 days a year, 24 hours a day. Just phone: **01455 251 500** and quote the AntonU3A code number **70494**

#### GROUP CO-ORDINATORS

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