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Stephanie Cox; Valerie Greenslade; Mary Taylor; Erica Tinsley

Committee Notes

In 2017 the time of the monthly meetings will be from 3pm to 5pm. A short Questers meeting to be held towards the end of each meeting.

Chairman's Corner

Seasons Greetings to you all, however you mark this time of year I wish you a happy, peaceful and enjoyable time.

Anton U3A continues to flourish, we celebrated our 10th Anniversary in September/October and received a birthday card from H.Q. Although we did not have a party it is good to recognise milestones in our history.

Starting in January 2017 we will be changing the time of our meeting to 3.00 pm, the hall is in use, by others, until that time. Questers will meet EVERY month after our main meeting (approx 4.45pm).

Have you visited our 'new look' website? It is hoped that group leaders will inform you of the exciting meetings they have organised. Our thanks to Robert Smith for his hard work in bringing our activities and information to your attention. Thanks, also, to the people who keep our blackboard up to date at the monthly meetings, for newer members information about groups can be found there.

The Christmas meeting has a somewhat enigmatic title 'An alternative Christmas' this is a different look at some of our traditions, especially our songs; you may be asked to join in some of them! I hope to see you then.

A number of our members have been unwell, I wish you all a speedy recovery.

Lynda Stockings

Webmaster

The AntonU3A website has an average of 25 visitors a day. These visitors view about 150 pages every day. This month, the maximum number of pages viewed in one day was 266.

The website is designed as a communication medium for our members and as a method of promoting our presence to the world.

There is still a tendency to communicate group activities through mass emails. Sometimes these emails go only to regular group members. If the message was directed to the website, all U3A members

can see it and it might encourage wider membership of the group. Every group has its own page on the website and it should be the main source of information for members. It only takes 2 clicks or taps to get to a group page.

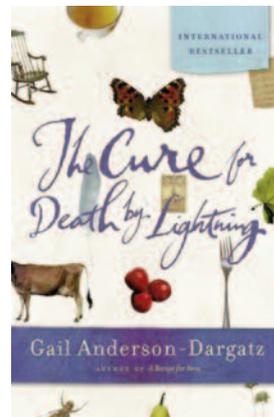
A relatively new innovation is the "News" page. Here groups can report their activities and interests to the whole membership. It can include photographs, maps, tables and narrative reports. It's designed to be our "Newspaper". Groups that have a varied programme of visits and activities will hopefully make use of this facility.

All contributions should be addressed by email to the website randc.smith@virginmedia.com.

Robert Smith

Reading Group

August 2016 — *The Cure for Death by Lightning* by Gail Anderson-Dargatz



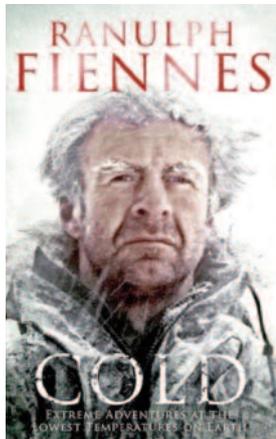
"The cure for death by lightning was handwritten in thick, messy blue ink in my mother's scrapbook, under the recipe for my father's favourite oatcakes: Dunk the dead by lightning in a cold water bath for two hours and if still dead, add vinegar and soak for an hour more."

That is the intriguing way in which this book begins. It tells the story of a 15 year old girl, Beth, from a dirt poor farming family, growing up in rural British Columbia in the shadow of the Second World War. She is befriended by a first nation family shunned by the rest of the community, and it is filled with useful household tips-including the cure for death by lightning - and recipes.

It takes place in the poor, isolated farming community of Turtle Valley, British Columbia, in the shadow of the Second World War. The fifteenth summer of Beth Weeks's life is full of strange happenings: a classmate is mauled to death; children go missing on the nearby reserve; an unseen predator pursues Beth. She is surrounded by unusual characters, and there's the darkness within her own family: her domineering, shell-shocked father has fits of madness, and her mother frequently talks to the dead. The character of Beth's

haunted mother infuses the book with life by means of her scrapbook of recipes scattered throughout, with luscious descriptions of food, gardening and remedies, both practical and bizarre. Seen through Beth's eyes, the West Coast landscape is full of beauty and mysteries, with its forests and rivers, and its rich native culture.

September 2016 — *Cold* by *Ranulph Fiennes*

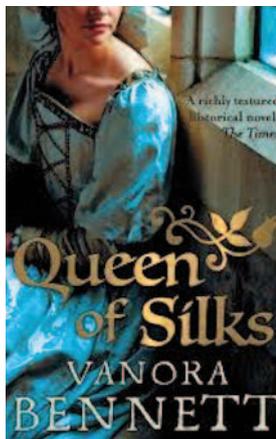


Few humans have evolved who can survive and thrive in the bitter cold. Below a certain temperature, death is inevitable. This book is about this aspect of our environment and about Sir Ranulph Fiennes' own life experiencing the extreme cold, from his adventuring apprenticeship 40 years ago on the Greenland Ice Cap to masterminding over the past 5 years the crossing of the Antarctic during winter; the

'coldest journey on Earth', where temperatures will regularly plummet to minus 92.

Why does this man spend his life putting himself in so much danger? An endless tale of glaciers and crevasses and sledges, interesting in parts but not well structured, and much of it rehashed from his previous books.

October 2016 — *Queen of Silks* by *Vernora Bennett*



As the Wars of the Roses draw slowly to a close, England is a place of turmoil. Edward IV is on the throne but his position is unstable & he finds himself challenged by a man who would become Henry VII. But one woman, a silkweaver to the court & mistress to Richard III, can cut through the turmoil with her clever ways & pretty smile.

The group couldn't get into this book, unfortunately. It was difficult to empathize with the characters that Bennett sets in 15th century England. The protagonist, Isabel, never really seems to seize the day and attempt to carve out her own destiny. The details on the silk trade are lacklustre and the greater political matters of the time are given a less than satisfactory treatment. It was neither interesting from a historical point of view, nor a good romance story.

The writing itself was awkward, stumbling and difficult. The characters were not at all developed. The emotions and the events that unfold do not ring true and there is an all over lack of period detail.

Diane Richards

French

We continue with our fortnightly meetings - numbers varying from about 5 to a dozen or so. We always start

off with a subject decided upon the previous rendezvous — The Church provided quite a lively topic and the latest subject was Technology.

Gilly Roberts

Walking Group

September

Just five hardy walkers braved the 'Chalkhill Blue' on the old Andover Airfield site, and the majority of those managed to get lost trying to find the entrance to the pub car park from the new Business Park. Once assembled though, we had a fine day for walking as we made our way past the Co-Op Megashed and then crossed the military railway three times before climbing Piper's Hill with its fine view back over the Business Park and the town. We returned via Ampport and Monxton, then once more over the railway, through the Army Camp, and back to the pub where we enjoyed excellent '2 for £10' lunches!

Robert Kemp

November

The November walk explored the countryside around the Wallop villages. Our route from Middle Wallop, took us north, past the back gardens of the houses on the main road through Over Wallop and on, westwards, into the open countryside towards the Porton Ranges. We were lucky to have fine weather on our walk and even a short burst of sunshine. However, there had been heavy rain storms over the previous 24 hours, resulting in large deep puddles on our route. Luckily, these were safely circumnavigated and nobody suffered from wet feet. We turned south, worked our way towards Nether Wallop, crossed the village road and took a path towards Middle Wallop which took us behind more back gardens. This path was notable for its many stiles - 10 in all! Back in Middle Wallop, we took a leisurely lunch in the George Inn.

Roger Beaumont

Questors

Marchwood Power Station

Thirteen members of the Questors group enjoyed a visit to the Marchwood CCGT (Combined Cycle Gas Turbine) Power Station on 29th September. We had a talk about the function of the power station then were divided into two groups, a technical group and a general group. When the organiser was considering this trip, he was influenced by the fact that he started his career in the Electrical Power industry at the original Marchwood Power Station in 1963! The current power station produces about twice the output of the old station from a very much smaller "footprint". The building and plant were much cleaner than the old station. We were quite surprised to find out that about 45% of the UK's electricity was generated by gas fired power stations on Tuesday 27th Sept. Control was from the ubiquitous computer screen and mouse in an office, not the special room with steel panels, switches and lights of the previous power station. We were able to see the output from the station change in response to the demand for power at

lunchtime, illustrating that generation and consumption of electricity are instantaneous.

Peter Brown and Marilyn Price

Stowe House and Gardens 18th October

Our Group were given a guided tour of the House in the morning and a tour of the Gardens in the afternoon. Stowe House is the home of the independent, Stowe School. It is now owned by the Stowe House Preservation Trust (SHPT). The Landscape Gardens are owned by the National Trust.



The original house was bought in 1541 and subsequently developed by the ancestral family of the Dukes of Buckingham into the magnificent

structure we see today. At one time this was the richest family in England and they filled their house with priceless treasures. Owing to enormous debts in 1848, the contents of the house were sold by auction and were thus scattered. Since that time the maintenance of the house and gardens was neglected, so much so, that the World Heritage Fund placed Stowe on its List of Most Endangered Sites. In 1997, the SHPT took over the stewardship of the House and the National Trust acquired the Landscape Gardens.

After a detailed survey of the house, SHPT undertook an extensive restoration programme. They are now able to show us much of the house as it would have been before the auction. They have been able to trace and acquire some of the original paintings and artefacts, and make copies of others. The result impressed us all.

The first gardens in front of the house were laid out in the early baroque, parterre style which was the fashion in large houses in England in the 17th century. In 1711, Lord Cobham wanted something different. He employed a team of architects and gardeners and developed the idea of what we now know as the Landscape Garden. Over the next 50 years or so the landscape around the House was developed into very much what we see today. This was achieved under the guidance of famous designers such as John Vanbrugh, James Gibbs and William Kent. Lancelot Brown was appointed head gardener. It was his work on this garden under William Kent that started Brown on his independent career as 'Capability' Brown, spreading

the idea of the Landscape Garden into the great estates of England. Many of the Palladian style buildings in the Garden were designed by Gibbs and Kent to illustrate various classical theme which were popular



Temple of British Worthies

at the time. An example is the Elysian Fields with its Temple of Ancient Virtues which looks across to the famous Temple of British Worthies.

When the National Trust took over the gardens in 1997, they were in a poor state. The Trust decided to restore them to the last available plan of the garden dated 1843. One aim was to gradually replace with replicas, some of the 100 pieces of statuary which had been sold. Another was to restore the main views in the garden and the views between the buildings and monuments. Our Guide took us to several of these viewpoints and explained the significance of some of the garden themes.

The enormous size of both the Garden and the House merit another visit - there is much more to see and find out.

Roger Beaumont

Photo Club



majority was of "The Angel Inn", Laycock by Chris.

The photo group meeting for September was held on the 19th and our subject was "Pub Signs", a comment about their work and the team adding much useful criticism and comment. Voting for the individuals best submission it was agreed was quite difficult but finally we had 8 good pictures for the second round. The picture voted first by a small



trailing red smoke", by Chris, seconded by Pam's Dog in red hat & coat and Mike's portrait "Jayne with red hair".

For our next meeting on October 17th the subject was "Red". It was attended by 8 members and provided for a great discussion and critique on our subject of the month. As usual with a subject like this the pictures displayed such a varied range of ideas that it made selecting a best picture very challenging. The first print was of a "Parachutist

There followed a discussion on a number of topics and a question about ISO.



The best print was by Ernie, a tree branch on the

Our November meeting was held on the 21st attended by 7 members, the topic was "Lichen". Due to the time of the year selected for this subject the predominant colour was green and the consensus was that the lichen had dried out and was past its most colourful.

diagonal with a vivid green patch of lichen well lit. A discussion followed about future assignments and these will be: December "Music"; January "Nighttime" and February "Food".

Chris Penney

Bird and Natural History Group

Anton lakes - 13th October

There was an Autumn nip in the air as we set off around one of our local nature reserves - the Anton Lakes. The trees were still fully clothed in their summer greenery, so we could hear birds in full song but couldn't see them. The usual water birds were there: coots, moorhens, Canada geese, mute swans, gadwall, tufted ducks, black headed gulls and of course, the ever present mallards. More exotic was the Little Egret which moved about the site while we were there. A lone cormorant saw us and flew to the top of a tree to keep an eye on us. The grey squirrels were busy collecting food to store for the cold weather. One of the high points of the visit was a good view of a common buzzard flying over us at tree top level. The Anton lakes is an amazing place for wildlife considering that it is surrounded by houses, is a favourite place for dog walkers and for children on bikes. We recorded 20 varieties of birds on this visit and our guide and mentor, Brian Cartwright, a photographer, has recorded 77 varieties of birds and has seen frogs, newts, dragon fly, brown trout, foxes, otters, rats, water voles and a minkjack deer around the lakes, over the past 2 years.

Roger Beaumont

A small party of members visited one of our favourite reserves at Titchfield Haven in late October. It was a beautiful autumn day with little wind and beautiful sunshine. The atmosphere was very clear, with spectacular views across the Solent to Calshot and Fawley and of the coast of the Isle of Wight from Cowes to Ryde.

On the way into the reserve we saw our usual group of Turnstones, but as the tide was fully in there were no stones to turn. So, they were perched in a long line on a fence waiting for the beach to be uncovered again. Inside the reserve the trees were just starting to turn colour and drop their leaves. Most of the bushes were displaying their fruits and berries. Together, they made a beautiful display in the sunshine. In passing, we came across several varieties of fungus, mainly on logs and fallen trees.

We recorded 20 varieties of birds, mainly waders, including small flocks of Oyster Catchers, Lapwings, Snipe and Black Tailed Godwits. A rare treat was the sight of a lone Water Rail walking across the mud between two clumps of reed right in front of the hide. Another highlight of the visit was the sight of two male Stone Chats who posed for us on a nearby fence, in the sunshine, in full autumn plumage.

Roger Beaumont

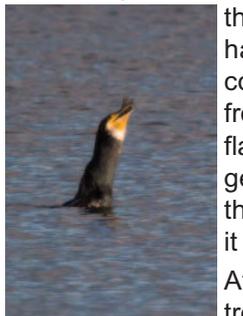
We visited the Blashford Lakes Nature Reserve on a lovely sunny day in November when the late autumn leaves were at their best in the extensive woodlands. We didn't see a great variety of water birds on this visit, but enough to make the visit interesting. There were several grey heron standing quietly about the edges of the lakes, patiently waiting for something to come within range of their long slender necks and dagger like bills.



At one of the hides, we had a very good view of a pair of shoveler, which were feeding quite close to us. An unusual sight was that of one of the many cormorants catching a really enormous fish. There was an epic struggle on the surface followed by an attempt to start to swallow the fish, which was still wriggling. The heavy fish was apparently stuck a quarter of the way down the bird's gullet. Eventually, the fish started to go down until only the tail was visible. We watched the bird struggle to finish it off for quite a long time. Eventually, the fish went down completely and the bird slowly swam away with its neck still visibly going through the swallowing action.



About half an hour later, we saw a cormorant attempting to take off from the water, with little success. It flapped and flapped, but could not get airborne. If it was our cormorant, that fish was obviously too heavy for it to take off.



At the Woodland Hide, we were treated to a wonderful display of woodland birds on feeders, close to the one-way windows. There were countless tits: blue, coal and great. There were nuthatches, chaffinches, robins, dunnocks, blackbirds and our favourite Great Spotted Woodpecker.



Roger Beaumont

Poetry Group

The Poetry Group continues to meet on the 3rd Friday of the month at 3, St Peter's Close, Goodworth Clatford. We have nine regular members.

Over the last few months we have read and discussed a variety of poetry by a variety of poets covering a wide range of subjects. There is the opportunity for members to read their own compositions. In December we are looking at satire.

Glennis Dale

Anton U3A Monthly Meetings

December 14th	Bonny Sartin	<i>An Alternative Christmas</i>
December 15th	Christmas Lunch	<i>The Abbots Mitre, Chilbolton</i>
2017		
January 11th	Duncan Brown	<i>A Tale of Two Firemen</i>
February 8th	Prof. Jim Barber	<i>How Science may alleviate Global Warming</i>
March 8th	Anthony Wood	<i>Pamela Digby Churchill</i>
April 12th	Paul Strickler	<i>The Murder of an English Actress</i>
May 10th	Janet Diamond	<i>From Nomads to Nation</i>
June 14th (AGM)	Jeremy Clutterbuck	<i>Excavation or Aldi Saxon Site in Andover</i>

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 2-4pm	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)	revrogbenett@googlemail.com
Bridge	Thursdays 10am-12noon	Barbie Morrey-Stone (01264 335 597)	beesbubbles4@gmail.com
French Conversation	Wednesday 10am-12pm fortnightly	Gillian Roberts (01264 335 899)	pelhamhouse@gmail.com
Genealogy	Fourth Wednesday 2pm	Mary Taylor (01264 364 752)	roberttaylor@btconnect.com
History	2nd Friday	Erica Tinsley (01264 365 563)	erica.tinsley@btinternet.com
Mah Jong	1st Wednesday 1.45pm	Leslie Ward (01264 332789)	cliveandlesie@sky.com
MOTO	2nd Monday	Tricia Andrews (01264 736 227)	TriciaOnTheHill@btinternet.com
Petanque	1st Friday 6pm	Ian McFarling (01264 736 127)	ian@mcfarling789.plus.com
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	Diane Richards (01264 392367)	georgeandedward@sky.com
Reading Group	1st Tuesday - 10am	Diane Richards (01264 392367)	georgeandedward@sky.com
Walkers	Third Tuesday 10.15am	Roger Beaumont (01264 710504) Anne Scott (01264 323011)	ardeebie@btinternet.com anne.scott@yahoo.co.uk
Webmaster	Contact webmaster to update website	Robert Smith	randc.smith@virginmedia.com

Contributions to the Newsletter to Tricia Andrews - TriciaOnTheHill@btinternet.com or 01264 736 227