

Lynda Stockings - <i>Chairman</i>	stocklynray@gmail.com	01264 359 455
Peter Duncan - <i>Vice Chairman</i>	pete.duncan69@live.co.uk	01264 396 734
Leslie Ward - <i>Secretary</i>	cliveandleslie@sky.com	01264 332 789
Annie Lowing - <i>Treasurer</i>	annielowing@gmail.com	01264 354 240
Barbara Dixon - <i>Membership Secretary</i>	barbara.dixon.37@gmail.com	01264 710 712
Ron Bryan - <i>Programme Secretary</i>	rjb@btinternet.com	01264 335 652
Genifer Cowling; Richard Marriott; Brenda Mole; Erica Tinsley		

Chairman's Corner

Our group continues to grow, we now have 153 members with approximately 70+ attending our monthly meetings.

We have changed the format for our summer event and are having a lunch rather than a barbecue; Richard's trailer finally gave up and it was too difficult to transport the equipment. There will be some hot food, cooked in ovens, quiches and salads; of course strawberries and cream will be on the menu! Our thanks to Richard Marriott, Mike Liberson and Trevor Lewin for their stalwart work in the past, not forgetting Marion, Pam and Jane.

Speakers have continued to entertain and inform us I was especially interested in the antics of the police as reported in the talk about George Bernard Shaw. Talks on, 'Preparing for the Next Tsunami' and 'Snakes' as well as the Summer Lunch are our future programme.

My thanks to everyone who helps organise our meetings, Peter Duncan could use some extra help with the tables and chairs. On the subject of help Robert Smith, who efficiently runs our web site, has indicated that he needs a deputy who could eventually relieve him of the work, he is willing to give help and training. My thanks to Robert.

Look forward to seeing you at the meetings.

Lynda Stockings

Questors

On Wednesday, 16th March, a large group of Questors departed Andover for the 45 minute drive to Swindon to take part in our visit to the Honda factory for a conducted tour. Despite "sharing" our visit with a large group of college students, we had a fascinating insight into what it takes to produce a car from the basic bits and pieces to the final article rolling off the assembly line. Some partook in retail therapy - but nobody bought a car!

Pete Duncan

Visit to Uppark House 19th April

The day out was planned as a visit to Arundel Castle but due to unforeseen circumstances brought about by miscommunication between the Castle and the Organiser it turned out the Castle was closed on that day. Luckily this was discovered before we set off so Plan B came into operation and we duly departed for Uppark House.

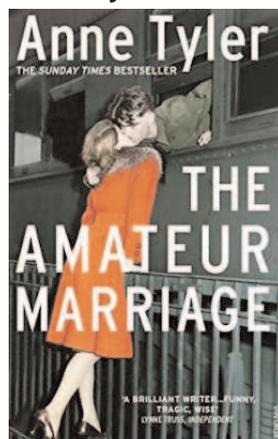
This National Trust property with its recent history of a large fire and subsequent restoration was very interesting. The "below stairs" displays in the cellars were fascinating with some curious domestic implements which had us all guessing, we would have been stuck on some without the help of very knowledgeable guides. The property is sited on top of a hill and whilst this made for superb views of the downs there was a very cold wind which was not conducive to lingering in the gardens but the teashop was very cosy!

So whilst not what anyone was expecting for their day out it was enjoyed by most of the group with Arundel still to come.

Ann Scott

Reading Group

February - *The Amateur Marriage* by Anne Tyler



Michael and Pauline seemed like the perfect couple - young, good-looking, made for each other. The moment she walked into his mother's grocery store in Baltimore, he was smitten, and in the heat of World War II fervour, they marry in haste. From the sound of the cash register in the old grocery to the counter-culture jargon of the sixties, from the miniskirts to the multilayers of later years, we watch their lives unspool

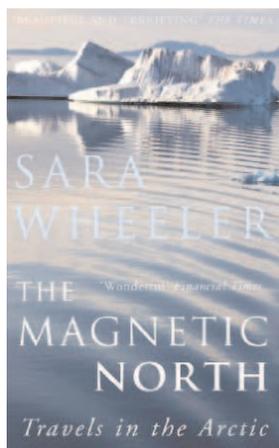
and see the consequences of their very mismatched marriage.

The Amateur Marriage is a story of a marriage, told with ten year gaps between chapters, allowing the novel to reflect the ups and downs of life as it is impacted by events in the world, and changing social attitudes, but most of all the development and growth (and ultimately decay) of a relationship between husband and wife. The title of this book is just perfect - all marriages are "amateur" in that nobody trains you or teaches you in advance how to deal with the calamitous events that come along, nor with the basic and fundamental differences between the character and values of the two partners.

The group enjoyed the book on the whole, although sad in many ways it reflects real life and several

members could relate to the issues it raises. Well worth a read.

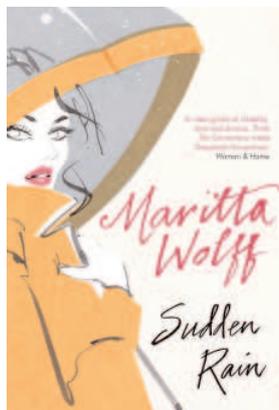
March - *The Magnetic North* by Sara Wheeler



Smashing through the Arctic Ocean with the crew of a Russian icebreaker, herding reindeer across the tundra with Lapps and shadowing the Trans-Alaskan pipeline with truckers, Sara Wheeler discovers a complex and ambiguous land belonging both to ancient myth and modern controversy.

This book is a compilation of a multitude of facts, past and present, sprinkled with a few drops of analysis and dotted with even fewer black and white photos. This compilation is made up of two thirds of research about the Arctic region and one third of real-life travels. The overall result looks like one of those packed-to-bursting suitcases that tourists take on holidays: too much stuff that is of no use for the purpose. There is no sense of adventure in Sara's story and no common thread along the journey on which to hold in order to make sense of it. But the reader will find plenty of history about the region and its explorers, a little of the already quite well known and depressing situation in which the natives of the Arctic live and some up-to-date information on climate change. There is some lovely descriptive writing, and most of the group found it an enjoyable and rewarding read.

April - *Sudden Rain* by Maritta Wolff



In 1972, in the suburbs around L.A., traditional housewives in their 30s and 40s are starting to ask whether they are satisfied by their everyday lives; meanwhile, a young woman in her early 20s feels paralyzed by her options. The story centres around five middle-class, L.A. couples of three different generations and the ways in which their relationships and home lives

are affected by the trends (specifically the rise in divorce and feminism) of the time. The novel takes place in one stormy L.A. weekend, as a literal fog of unrest blows into town, and alters these marriages forever.

This book's back story is more compelling than the novel itself. Wolff's first book, *Whistle Stop* (1941), was published to great acclaim when she was 22. She went on to publish five more novels, but when her publisher asked her to do promotion for her seventh, she refused and put her manuscript in the refrigerator, where it remained for 30 years, until her death.

For the most part the group were not enamoured with this novel. A tedious read, there was little empathy with

the many characters and the story, such as it is, unfolds through very long conversations between these characters. Not recommended.

Diane Richards

Walking Group

March

A lucky thirteen Walkers enjoyed probably the finest day of the year so far as we took a pleasant 4½ mile stroll around Anna Valley. First stop was the Little Ann donkeys, who posed smartly for photos while devouring the carrots that we had brought along. We then climbed gently up through Little Park where Messrs Beaumont and Kemp explained the history of the 1930s Settlement and its successor Co-Operative (who said Walking is not educational?). Next we traversed the new Permissive Path that has been established between the Garden Centre and the Hexagon; All agreed that this is a great improvement indeed on the pedestrian death-trap that is the main Salisbury Road. A fairly level stroll followed through Era Park to Upper Clatford Village Hall and then back along the slopes of Bury Hill to the Poplar Farm Inn where we enjoyed an excellent lunch.

Robert Kemp

April

On a rare (for this year) sunny spring day the Walker Group set out from Whitchurch on a circular walk south of the town. The route took us along part of "the Mill Trail" where we passed some of these very attractive and historic buildings enhanced by the abundance of spring flowers. On returning to Whitchurch many of the group adjourned to the "Kings Arms" for a very pleasant lunch.

We are still short of walk leaders so if anyone would like to volunteer please contact me or Roger Beaumont

Anne Scott

May

Ten members met in the car park of Annie's Tea Rooms in Kimbridge and then walked along Monarch's Way, up the hill behind The Bear and the Ragged Staff, towards Michelmersh village. Just short of the village, we turned north to cross an area of open down land and were rewarded by fine views to the South and West. Descending by means of a very steep hill into Lower Brook, we crossed the main road onto the flood plain of the River Test. After passing some very desirable residences, we walked across Mottisfont Estate land to get to the Village. From there, we moved south, passing Mottisfont Church, still on Monarch's Way, until we reached the level crossing close to Annie's Tea Rooms. After a splendid lunch, we turned for home, having had a very enjoyable morning.

Roger Beaumont

Bird and Natural History Group

Anton Lakes - 31st March

We had a pleasant walk around this local Nature Reserve, this time extending our walk towards Knights

Enham and the source of the River Anton. This was made easier due to a newly improved path thanks to Test Valley Borough Council. As well as the usual water birds, which included little egret, gadwall and tufted duck, we saw numerous smaller woodland birds. Goldcrest and bullfinch were good sightings as well as newly arrived migrants such as the chiffchaff and blackcap although some of the latter have been



left a Bullfinch;
below a Goldcrest

*Photographs courtesy of
Brian Cartwright*



spending their winters in the UK. At first we thought that we had spotted a garden warbler, but due to further examination of a photo taken by Brian Cartwright, this was confirmed as another chiffchaff by Steve Oakes (Salisbury RSPB). The colour tends to be quite variable between individuals. Birds of prey seen were red Kite and sparrowhawk, firstly identified as a kestrel - Brian's photo again helped with the final ID. Towards the end of our walk, Brian pointed out a long-tailed tit's nest to us. We saw 29 birds in total and heard another two, greenfinch and pheasant. Our thanks go to Brian Cartwright for his knowledge and photos of Anton Lakes.

Margaret Cooper

Titchfield Haven, 28th April

This visit's highlight has to go to one bird, not for its rarity value but for its sheer numbers, the black-headed Gull! These birds had taken over all the small islands in order to nest. We did manage to see a few avocet among them as well as some black-tailed godwit. The usual ducks, gadwall, shoveller, teal and shelduck were seen in small numbers along with other water birds such as the great crested grebe and oyster catchers.



left a Black-headed Gull;
below Black-headed Gulls
nesting

*Photographs courtesy of
Margaret Cooper*



The often seen turnstones were busy along the shore turning over seaweed and small stones looking for food. When walking to the hides we were startled by the loud call of the cetti's warbler but did not manage to spot it. A walk to the hides overlooking the meadows and River Meon added swallow, lapwing and a hovering kestrel, along with more black-headed gulls! A total of 31 bird species were seen.

Margaret Cooper

Blashford Lakes Nature Reserve - April 6th

All the birds we saw on this visit were showing off their very best plumage, this being the middle of the breeding season. Most of the waders we saw were a good distance from us, sheltering from the strong wind. However we were privileged to watch a part of the seldom seen, courtship dance of a pair of Great Crested Grebes.

Another highlight of the visit was the intense activity of the woodland birds seen from a hide which was fitted with one-way glass windows. This allowed us to sit within 4 or 5 feet of several large feeders, each of which was covered with a great variety of woodland birds. Gold Finches, Brambling, Common Redpoll, Green Finches, Siskin, Chaffinches, Coal Tits, Reed Buntings, and of course, Robins on the ground. One unusual sight was a Spotted Woodpecker which was perched, on one of the feeders, resting, for about 10 minutes. It was completely oblivious of us, sitting only an arm's length away from it.

An interesting fact emerging from our recent visits, only a week apart, was that we saw more bird species around our own Anton Lakes, which is surrounded by houses, than we saw in the Blashford Lakes Nature Reserve.

A visit to the New Forest, May

On a gloriously sunny day in early May, 11 of our members set off, driving through the New Forest. The pale green sheen of the newly emerging leaves on the trees, with glimpses of drifts of bluebells under, was a promising start to our visit to Keyhaven. Our objective was to visit the nearby Pennington Marshes to find out which birds might be in residence.

Birds are busy nesting at this time of year and tend to keep under cover, so we did not expect to see very many. In the event, we were surprised to record 23 different varieties. One of the highlights was to witness several, delicate, Little Terns feeding very close to us. They hovered at about 15 feet above shallow water with very rapid wing beats and dived, picking up something very small - probably insect larvae. Another highlight, was the sight of a solitary whimbrel flying quite close to us over inter-tidal marshland.

After lunch in the local pub and a short walk to the shingle spit leading to Hurst Castle, we returned home through the new foliage of the forest, reflecting on what we had seen that day.

Roger Beaumont

Anton U3A Monthly Meetings

June 8th	AGM	
July 13th	Trevor Guymer	<i>Preparing for the Next Tsunami</i>
August 10th	Summer BBQ	
September 14th	Robin Miller	<i>Snakes</i>
October 12th	Lucy Hooper	<i>Work of the Dogs' Trust</i>
November 9th	David Sullivan	<i>My Life as a Shepherd</i>
December 14th	Bonny Sartin	<i>An Alternative Christmas</i>
December 15th	Christmas Lunch:	<i>Tidworth Golf Club</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	1st, 2nd & 4th 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)	revrogbennett@googlemail.com
Bridge	2nd & 4th Thursday 10.15am-12.15pm	Barbie Morrey-Stone (01264 335 597)	beesbubbles4@gmail.com
Krafty Crafts	3rd Wednesday 2.30pm	Annie Lowing (01264 354240)	annielowing@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 & 3rd Wednesday 2.10pm	Leslie Ward (01264 332789)	cliveandlesie@sky.com
MOTO	2nd Monday	Tricia Andrews (01264 736 227)	TriciaOnTheHill@btinternet.com
Petanque	1st Friday – am	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

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