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<b>Stephanie Cox; Valerie Greenslade; Mary Taylor; Erica Tinsley</b>		

## Chairman's Corner

Greetings to you all and welcome to all who have joined since our last newsletter.

The membership remains steady at 140+ members which seems to be a comfortable number for most of us to know each other.

A new financial group has been formed under the helpful eye of Robert Leishman new members are welcome; please look for times and venues as these change due to bank holidays. Some of us may become millionaires and move to warmer climes!

Due to the sensitive information being used the committee felt that one of its members should send out communications in the future. Judi Weston has done a stalwart job for which she has our grateful thanks. I have taken over the task and ask you to bear with me, I am not nearly as efficient as Judi, I apologise in advance for those of you who may receive duplicate messages - I know how infuriating it can be.

The change of time of our monthly meeting does not appear to have caused too many difficulties, on the plus side Questers meet as a continuation; because of this the Questers committee have decided everyone should be part of the group (if they so wish) and are able to participate in visits. It is no longer necessary to pay the joining fee as no costs are being incurred at the moment. Information will be given at the meeting.

The Committee thought that new members often felt unable to connect with groups because they were unable to put a 'face' to the activity. We have re-introduced the short information talk by the groups, not everyone at every meeting, but working through them or for information as required. We hope this will be helpful.

There is a change to the published speaker on 14th June when a member of the Woodland Trust will be coming; It is hoped to re-instate the talk as more work is completed. We have had interesting speakers, including Paul Strickler who told us about the murder of an actress, did you find the man guilty? Thanks to Ron Bryan for his hard work.

It is with sadness that I have to inform you of the death of Bel Hine she was one of the founder members of Anton U3A and for many years ran the raffle enabling us to have the Bar-be-cue. She was always so friendly, cheerful and hard working for us, she will be missed by us all.

Make a note of the Summer Picnic at Appleshaw in August, it would help with catering arrangements if you would let us know if you are definitely NOT attending, thanks in advance.

A big 'thank you' to all who help at the meetings.

A reminder to all that information is to be found on the web site.

*Lynda Stockings*

## Questors

On 17th March, 23 Questers from Anton U3A visited the Ordnance Survey offices at Southampton.

A series of presentations had been arranged to show how information is collected and processed to produce the popular maps that we buy today. We also were told about the total amount of information that is collected to make different versions of maps for other users giving a variation for their needs and to provide digital data for topography, roads, buildings natural features etc.

The printed maps part of the organisation is only a small function of the business which is owned by the Government but has to make its money from commercial operations. The Government only supplies a small income to support public service requirements such as emergencies.

We were told how they ensure the accuracy of the position of the instrumentation to record data. Mapping is now about digital data and digital processing. This could in extreme emergency situations produce a limited area map in 30 mins from ground and/or air observations to a digital map becoming available. Maps are normally updated about every 3 years, using aerial photography and field surveyors. The field surveyors no longer use a telescope type instrument but a sophisticated pole with a communication device, which communicates with radio beacons (these appear to replace trig points) and of course satellites.

Cartographers produce the coloured map by generalising the raw digital data and photographs to reduce the "clutter" of the raw information into easily understood symbols which enables us to read the map.

Future developments were mentioned. The use of Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (drones) to carry out limited area surveys is being investigated. The reduction of raw data through to a printed map without human input is also being developed.

We found it interesting and informative. The demise of the paper map has been predicted for some time, but sales are holding on and apart from their main function of showing where we are going (and significantly the batteries don't run out), some of them are also works of art.

*Peter Brown*

Around 18 Questers visited Lydiard House and Park (owned and run by Swindon BC) near Swindon on 26 April. It was a most interesting day, although there was a very cold wind which detracted from some of the pleasure of walking in the grounds.

We had a conducted tour of the Georgian Palladian house in the morning, and learned about the St Johns and Viscounts Bolingbroke for which it was home for 500 years. Interesting fact: Lady Diana Spencer, the 2nd Viscountess Bolingbroke was an ancestor of the late Princess of Wales, and she too suffered an unhappy marriage and divorce.



In the afternoon there was a guided visit of the parish church of St Mary's, Lydiard Tregoze, which is just behind the house, where there are ex-amples of medie-  
val and 16th Century wall paintings and an unusual St John family polyptych, which is a panel painting divided into sections.

Nice cafes, and an 18th Century walled garden (with no right angles) completed the visit - it was a good day - thanks to Pam Finlay for organising it.

*Diane Richards*

## Reading Group

**February - *Our Betty* by Liz Smith**



Liz Smith was one of Britain's much loved character actresses. This is her life story - rom her cosseted yet lonely childhood with her beloved grandparents, through the war, marriage and children, divorce and poverty, long years working in dead-end jobs to her big break at the age of fifty.

This starts out really well with Liz Smith providing a fascinating insight into her childhood, youth and adolescence, National Service and her early entry to the Theatre. Thereafter, it goes off the boil and becomes something of a laboured recollection of someone who at once appears star struck and painfully unaware of the esteem in which she is held as a comic/character actor. It's almost as if the first half was written by a professional ghost-writer

and then finished by Liz herself in crayon, she didn't have the writing talent necessary to do herself justice.

**March - *We Need New Names* by Violet Bulawayo**



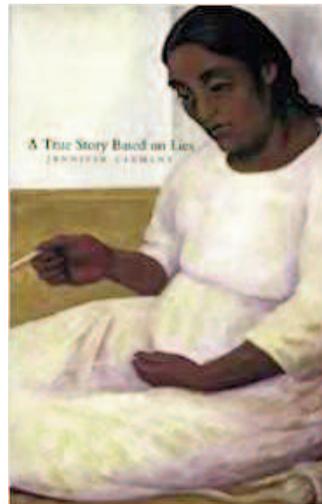
This is the 2013 debut novel of expatriate Zimbabwean writer NoViolet Bulawayo. The first chapter of the book, "Hitting Budapest" was initially presented as a story in the Boston Review, and won the 2011 Caine Prize for African Writing, and was shortlisted for the Man Booker Prize in 2013.

It tells of the life of a young girl named Darling, first as a 10-year-old in Zimbabwe, navigating a world of chaos and degradation with her friends, and later as a teenager in the Midwest United States, where a better future seems about to unfold when she goes to join an aunt working there. It begins with a group of young children playing in the area around their huts in a village in Zimbabwe. They are cheerful and innocent as they seek out trees bearing guavas and eagerly eat the fruit. But their lives have very dark undertones – hunger, forced evictions, exorcisms, child rape, abortions with a coat-hanger and AIDS. But Darling has been promised a ticket to USA to live with her aunt. When that happens she thinks everything in her life will change for the better.

Darling goes to USA but it is not the America of her dreams. Here there is insecurity – she is undocumented so cannot leave the country. She misses her mother and her old friends. Her African roots are being left behind. She seems to be surrounded with modern problems: the obsession with weight and looks, celebrity culture, gun crime and pornography.

NoViolet Bulawayo writes with flair and energy. The language matured as Darling grew older. The life of the children in Zimbabwe really came alive. However it felt that the book lost its way in the second part. There was no real story, just a series of events.

**April - *A True Story Based on Lies* by J Clement**



This is a remarkable first novel that addresses the universal issues of class discrimination, male oppression, and female servitude through dual narratives, mainly prose but combined with some poetry, of spellbinding power. Set in contemporary Mexico, the book charts the consequences of a sexual relationship between Leonora, a servant in the wealthy O'Connor home, and her

master. When a child, Aura Olivia, is born from this union she is brought up as the daughter of the house. As the novel unfolds, the "true" story gradually emerges.

A short original Mexican narrative it is a story of dominance, explaining the socially accepted abuses of men over women, of the rich over the poor. Very mixed reactions from our group, some loved it and others not.

*Diane Richards*

## Walking Group

### March

Twelve lucky walkers set off from the Plough Inn at Grateley on the only clear sunny day of the week. Our walk took us down the leafy glades of Georgia Lane out to the boundary of Middle Wallop Air Base and then north across Georgia Down. Although seemingly quite flat, the Down is actually the highest point of that part of Salisbury Plain and is notorious for its strong winds blowing in directly from the Atlantic, and it did not disappoint! The path back to Grateley tracked the main railway line to the south, passed right through the middle of Gollands Farm, a large working arable establishment, and then behind the Monxton Road Driving Range from where several golf balls were retrieved. Having covered four and a half miles in two and a quarter hours, the party adjourned to sample the excellent new Pensioners' Lunch menu at the Plough Inn courtesy of landlord Mike.

*Robert Kemp*

### April

We set off from Goodworth Clatford to look for bluebells in Harewood Forest. Our route took us across the Andover Golf Course, past the Gamekeeper's Cottage with its guinea fowl and on into the forest. Many of the trees were just turning colour into the beautiful light green of spring. This contrasted well with the blue haze of the bluebells at their feet. On through the forest, a string of roe deer crossed our path quite close to us. We left the forest into open countryside and to distant



*"Irish" crop circle!*

views of Cow Down and the A303. It was here that Pete Duncan caught sight of a very rare Irish crop circle - see photo. Back in Goodworth Clatford we had lunch in the sunshine in the

garden of the Royal Oak.

*Roger Beaumont*

## Photo Club

Our last three meetings have been somewhat different to the norm inasmuch that our March meeting was called off at very short notice because I had been called away and there was no venue available. It was agreed that at the April meeting we would submit two sets of prints, Fashion for March and Metal for May. Fashion being won by Ernie with a pair of Jeans and metal by Brenda with a picture of milk churns taken from a train.

Our May meeting followed our more normal format although the attendance was limited to three with other members sending their pictures beforehand. The subject was Circular and Erica with a photo of a circular stair taken in The Midland Hotel Morecambe.



We are all looking forward to our June challenge, macro (very close up).

*Chris Penney*

## Bird and Natural History Group

### A Visit to Keyhaven in March.

At the start of our walk along the sea wall, we were greeted by a small flock of Brent geese in the misty harbour. Further on we came across a small flock of redwing flitting in and out of a nearby bush. It was high tide so we were able to see birds on both sides of the sea wall. There were several little egrets around the lakes, supervised by a lone heron. Numerous redshank were feeding on the edges of flooded tussocks of grass. We had a close view of a single curlew exploring a patch of coarse grass. Further on, we came across a



single spoonbill unconcernedly feeding quite close to us. It was dabbling in the mud, throwing some juicy item into the air and expertly catching it in the spoon end of its bill. We

saw several shoveler, pintail, wigeon, cormorant, shell duck and both black-backed and herring gull. From time to time, we were entertained by the evocative calls of oyster catchers flying over the marshes.

We walked inland and were rewarded with the sight of several woodland birds. The most memorable of these was a lone stonechat and a very loud chiffchaff.

After lunch we walked towards Milton on Sea and came across more Brent geese and a small group of turnstones feeding at the water's edge, almost at our feet. We saw them later flying away as a small flock showing the vivid black and white zig zag patterns on their backs. Later we saw a pair of roe deer which watched us very intently as we passed.

In spite of the misty conditions, we saw and recorded about 35 different species of bird and heard a few more.

*Roger Beaumont*

## Stanpit Marsh - 6th April

These salt water marshes lie within Christchurch Harbour and gave us four distinct habitats. On the eastern side we had salt water, on the western side were the combined rivers Stour and Avon providing fresh water. The northern area had patches of woodland and scrub and in between there were patches of reed bed. The varieties of the 20 bird species we recorded

*Dunnock*



reflected these different conditions. Among them, we saw: herring gull, oyster catcher, little egret, curlew, shell duck, reed bunting, blackbird, green finch and dunnock.

*Roger Beaumont*

## WWT Arundel - 16th May

The two Rogers are in the wars these days. I (Roger 1) will soon own the controlling shares in Winchester Outpatients Dept and my namesake has recently had his money's worth out of the NHS with an enforced week's holiday on the same hospital wards after his daughter's cat (i.e. his grandcat) decided to sharpen its claws on Roger's arm.



*Emperor Goose*

So it was on May 16th, as I had a day off from outpatients and Roger2 was still busy chatting up the ward nurse, I went with twelve others to the

lovely Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust Reserve at Arundel. It was a superb day out with ducks and geese proudly showing off their new families, while swallows, black headed gulls and many other species were sitting on nests. Marsh harriers were much in evidence and Anne Bray distinguished herself by spotting a kingfisher on a branch at some considerable distance. She was so thrilled, we'll never hear the end of it!! Well spotted Anne.



*Mr & Mrs Shellduck and family*

Arundel holds a brilliant collection of wildfowl from all over the world in addition to native species which come and go as they please. At

this time of year, they are all resplendent in breeding plumage and I recommend it as a great day out for anyone, ornithologist or not.

Our special thanks to Richard for driving us safely and efficiently there and back.

*Roger Bennett*

## History

In April, Ron Bryan gave the first of two talks for the Group looking at the Crimean War (1853-56). The immediate trigger for hostilities was a dispute between

France and Russia over custody of religious places in the Holy Land but the causes of the war lay in the political and economic instability of the Ottoman Empire. The great powers of Europe came into conflict as some sought to take advantage of the Ottoman's weakening military strength while others sought to maintain a balance of power.

Britain's forces had not been involved in war since the defeat of Napoleon in 1815 and their administration and operation had remained unchanged. Ron spoke about some of their activities prior to their engagement in the Crimea demonstrating how ill prepared they were for the war that was to come and which he would cover in his next talk.

Bob Leishman's told us about the Panama Canal, built to shorten the route between the Atlantic and the Pacific and avoid the hazardous passage around Cape Horn. In a presentation that used film as well as photographs, he explained how the first attempt to construct a sea-level canal through the Isthmus of Panama was made by a French team led by the builder of the Suez Canal, Ferdinand de Lesseps, in 1881.

The French failed because of the challenges of the mountains, the challenges of landslides and raging torrents in the rainy season, the challenges of the dense jungle full of venomous snakes and insects, and the huge loss of life from yellow fever and malaria. Then it was not known that the canal would have to have locks because of a difference in sea level between the Atlantic and the Pacific, and that mosquitos were the carriers of disease. The United States started to build in 1904 helped by systematic fumigation to eliminate mosquitoes. The engineering challenges were gradually overcome and the canal was finally opened in 1914.

Bob explained the operation of the canal, the increase in the size and volume of shipping throughout the 20th century, the needs of cruise ships now transiting the canal and the work that has been done to increase the capacity of the canal and keep it competitive as global warming opens up shorter shipping routes through the Arctic.

*Erica Tinsley*

## Mahjong



The Mahjong group meets at 1-45 on the first and third Wednesday of each month at 43 Tower Close, Charlton. Mahjong is a Chinese game using

tiles. We are all fairly new at the game and still learning. It is a game that is fairly easy to pick up the basics, and then takes a bit of time to learn to play fast and to score, and use the money sticks. But it is good fun. Because we are all novices and fairly new to the game anyone wishing to join us need not feel outclassed. We welcome newcomers.

*Leslie Ward*

## AHA Group

I have arranged a village walk of East Meon, for Friday, June 29th 2017. We will be guided by a member of the very active East Meon Historical society. I have chosen

this village as it links up with some of the themes we have followed over the last two years.

We encountered Henry de Blois (1098-1171) several times. He was the brother of King Stephen and supported Stephen against Mathilda in the Civil war, He was the Bishop of Winchester, the founder of St Cross, as well as holding several important Offices of State. Henry gave the Black Basalt Baptismal font to the Cathedral. Henry's Summer Palace was at East Meon and the village grew in importance because of Henry.

The village has many houses dating from early times. many of them are in private hands and some of these we are hoping to see including the Court house dating

from 1390. All Saints Church is of particular interest. There is a large modern tapestry, beautifully mounted on the north side of the church.

We have seen the black 'marble' font in Winchester Cathedral which Henry brought over from Namur. We saw a similar one at St Mary Bourne, but whether it was given to St Mary Bourne by Henry or it 'fell off the back of a cart ' as the guide book wittily suggests, no one knows. There are only six such fonts in England.

I will circulate definite details of the visit at the beginning of June and will ask for firm commitments then. Transport will be by private car.

Glennis Dale

### Anton U3A Monthly Meetings

June 14th (AGM)	Frances Halstead	<i>The Woodlands Trust</i>
July 12th	Gavin Edgerley-Harris	<i>History of the Gurkhas in the British Army</i>
August 9th		<b>SUMMER PICNIC</b>
September 13th	John Smith	<i>The Roman Army: fact or fiction</i>
October 11th	Margaret Cooper	<i>Elephant Safari</i>
November 8th	Graham Horn	<i>The McMillan Way</i>
		<i>Walking from Lincolnshire</i>
December 13th	Nick Thomas	<i>Groucho Marx</i>

#### 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)	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 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
Money Matters	Occasionally by arrangement	Robert Leishman (01264 351059)	bleish@oldreccs.com
MOTO	2nd Monday 2.15pm	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