

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
Genifer Cowling - <i>Treasurer</i>	gennycowling@hotmail.co.uk	01264 512 646
Barbara Dixon - <i>Membership Secretary</i>	barbara.dixon.37@gmail.com	01264 710 712
Ron Bryan - <i>Programme Secretary</i>	redmanconsulting@btconnect.com	01264 335 652

Stephanie Cox; Valerie Greenslade; Mary Taylor; Erica Tinsley

Chairman's Corner

Greetings on this fantastic summer's day, it is great to have the good weather at last, I am working up quite a tan!

We continue to have a varied and interesting programme, thanks to Ron Bryan for organising speakers, and the groups are flourishing. Following the talk on tsunamis I am wondering if I should be visiting the Mediterranean area. The future talks are on dogs, life as a shepherd and our Christmas meeting, more details nearer the time.

There is a suggestion box available if you have any ideas for future speakers or happenings at our meetings, please do let us know your ideas; I bring it home empty after the meetings....



I hope you enjoyed the Summer Picnic, I had a great time; it was lovely to chat with those who attended. The number of members attending

(50) was somewhat disappointing and we over catered. This was not necessarily bad news as it meant we were able to have plenty of strawberries and some of us did not need another meal. For those who were unable to make it you missed a good feast and convivial afternoon, it would be worthwhile postponing your holiday next year in order to attend. Thanks to all who helped with the food and arrangements.

I would like to thank all those who help throughout the year to ensure that our U3A continues to flourish I am sure you understand that there are too many to name here: just a big "THANK YOU".

It was good to see members who have been ill returning at our last meeting. If you are sick I wish you a speedy recovery and look forward to seeing you soon.

With regret I have to report that Jan Wilson has died, our condolences to Ann and the family.

Lynda Stockings

Questors

The trip on 22nd June was to the old market town of Newbury.

In the morning we split into two groups and were led on a conducted tour from the Market Square where we learnt some interesting facts about the history of the town. From there we proceeded past the Parish Church of St Nicolas and War Memorial to the Kennet & Avon canal (unless you were on the other tour which was reversed!). It was here that we learnt about the industrial heritage of Newbury when it was a very prosperous town (and that was before Vodaphone!)

After separating for lunch the group reconvened to board the MV Jubilee for a trip in a figure of eight on the Canal. This involved manoeuvring through a couple of locks and a swing bridge. Luckily the very efficient female crew meant that we were not required to deal with the locks ourselves! Our jovial skipper kept us entertained with his commentary during the trip and returned us safely to the wharf at the end of our day.

Overall a very enjoyable day with many gaining some additional knowledge about one of our neighbouring towns.

On 12th July a group of Questors travelled to Sussex for their rearranged trip to Arundel Castle.

As the weather was forecast to be fine in the morning most took the opportunity to visit the gardens first. Somewhat smaller than expected for a castle the gardens were very varied and colourful and arranged in a series of rooms. There were some particularly interesting statues, not to mention a magnificent vegetable plot! The family chapel which contained the tombs of previous Dukes of Norfolk provided some historical context and the steward was particularly well versed in some of the folklore of the 'inhabitants'.

The Castle itself contained the sort of things normally associated with castles, namely armour, guns and all sorts of armaments in abundance. Overall although I'm sure some accoutrements of modern life exist for the current inhabitants the feel was very much of the past.

The schedule left time for some of the group to explore the charming town of Arundel itself before heading home.

Anne Scott

On 8th August some thirty of us (including guests) set off on a visit to Buckingham Palace. Luck was on our side firstly with the weather (warm and sunny) and secondly with the journey (unusually quick and trouble free in both directions)

And so it was that we arrived at the Palace in plenty of time for a stroll in St. James park and a cup of coffee before our timed tour at 11.15. The palace tour was as we expected, impressive, interesting and VERY crowded. The tour took us through the State Rooms, and through a temporary exhibition called "Fashioning a Reign", which was an exhibition of some of the Queen's costumes, hats and accessories worn by her over the period 1951 to 2015. This was an impressive display and extremely interesting to all (not just to those who have an interest in fashion), as it reminded us of the changes in fashion over the past fifty years.

The tour, which was unguided, took as long as individuals wished which for most of us was two and a half/three hours. So we had plenty of time to find something to eat and to enjoy the sunshine in the park before a trouble free trip home. A very good day was enjoyed by all.

Kevin O'Leary

[See back page for upcoming Questers' events.](#)

Reading Group

May — *Sleeping Arrangements* by Laura Shaine Cunningham



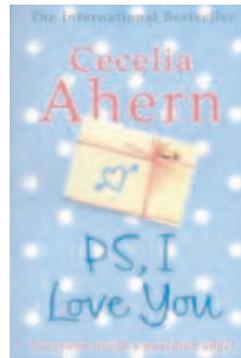
An enchanting memoir of a wildly unorthodox Bronx childhood in the 1950's. This is the magical memoir of Lily Shaine, an orphan brought up by her two eccentric bachelor uncles in New York in the 1950s. Uncle Len is a six-foot-six-inch private investigator, a trench-coated cross between Abraham Lincoln and Sam Spade. Uncle Gabe, a librarian, is a confirmed dreamer who writes gospel songs in his spare time. With these two men as mentors, the human jungle of the Bronx as her playground, the schoolroom as her torture chamber and very knowing little girls as her playmates, Lily learns the secrets of life, sex, death and, above all, family love.

The pages of this memoir are lit with movingly vivid recollections of friendship and adventure and fierce childhood games, but although there is plenty to enthuse about, the book's real magic lies in its understatedness.

Shaine Cunningham's childhood is so very unlikely, and her memory of it so marvellously Technicolor, that the book has the quality of fine fiction. It is touching, without ever being mawkish, socially aware without ever being preachy. It has a lot to say about growing up poor in America, and about living in an immigrant community. It is also invigoratingly frank on the subject of the sexuality of children. But most enjoyable of all, it features a cast of genuine eccentrics - characters with an almost Dickensian resonance.

On the whole the group enjoyed the book, and recommend it.

July — *PS I Love You* by Cecilia Ahern



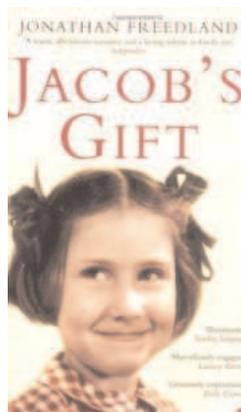
Cecilia Ahern's debut novel, *PS, I Love You*, follows the engaging, witty and occasionally sappy reawakening of Holly, a young Irish widow who must put her life back together after she loses her husband Gerry to a brain tumour.

Ahern, the twentysomething daughter of Ireland's Prime Minister, has discovered a clever and original twist to the Moving

On After Death concept made famous by novelists and screenwriters alike - Gerry has left Holly a series of letters designed to help her face the year ahead and carry on with her life. As the novel takes readers through the seasons (and through Gerry's monthly directives), we watch as Holly finds a new job, takes a holiday to Spain with her girlfriends, and sorts through her beloved husband's belongings. Accompanying Holly throughout the healing process is a cast of friends and family members who resemble the gang from *Bridget Jones* a bit too neatly to ignore (her best friend is even called Sharon).

The reading group as a whole felt that this was a rather superficial tearjerker which even contains the obligatory episode at a karaoke bar. While her style can be at times repetitive and her delivery is occasionally amateurish, Ahern deserves credit for a spirited first effort. Typical 'chick lit' is a phrase which springs to mind - a lightweight (if you get the paperback), unmemorable holiday read.

July — *Jacob's Gift* by Jonathan Freedland



Jonathan Freedland looks on as his eight-day-old son is about to be circumcised and admitted into the Covenant of Abraham'. So begins a search for the meaning of his son's inheritance and an epic journey into the nature of this, the world's oldest civilisation. Freedland digs deep into his own family's past, telling the story of three remarkable people, each of whom came up with radically different answers to a quintessentially modern dilemma: how to live as a minority in the modern world. Rich in both human drama and reflection, *Jacob's Gift* is the story of this quest.

The group were divided in their opinions of this book, some found it tedious and difficult to retain interest, others found it thought-provoking and enlightening.

Diane Richards

Walking Group

June

For the June walk the group led by Anne Scott visited Barton Stacey. The walk was varied taking in woods, fields and country lanes. An interesting site was the

totally unexpected Yurt Teashop at Bransbury where the leader generously offered coffee and cake for walkers, unfortunately the Cafe is closed on Tuesdays! Although the weather on the day was good the extremely heavy rain on previous days had caused a tremendous spurt of growth to the undergrowth - particularly the stinging nettles! Not enjoyed by those in shorts!

The final part of the walk should have led us up a hill with lovely views, however the Army had decided to practice and had put the red flags up so a less attractive route was necessary. Still we met a very enthusiastic volunteer tending the trig point. On returning to Barton Stacey we had a good lunch in the recently refurbished Swan.

Anne Scott

August

This month's walk explored the area around the historic village of Kings Somborne. On a gloriously sunny morning we walked along a section of the Clarendon Way and on to join a part of the Test Way. We returned to the village through the site of John O' Gaunt's Palace to have an enjoyable lunch at the Crown Inn.

Roger Beaumont

Photo Club

The last 3 months has seen a great change to our meetings. Each member now showing their pictures and having the opportunity to talk about how, when and where they were taken and the group gives their opinions and constructive critique leading to a very lively discussion which is beneficial to all.



Our topics over the last quarter have been: 4 pictures of the same place or subject; Prints with titles the letter 'B'; and Sport.

Our August meeting on Monday 15th

was attended by all members the subject being Shining. Again this produced a great range of subject matter from seascapes, landscapes, close-ups of silverware and vehicles.

Future topics are: September 19th *Pub Signs*; October 17th *Colour Red*; November 21st *Lichen*; and December 19th *Music*.

Chris Penney

Bird and Natural History Group

A dodgy knee has stopped me attending the bird watches since Easter, hence these are being reported by other members of the Group. However, I did manage go on the two most recent occasions and how glad I was to have done so!

We have been visiting the RSPB farm at Newton Tony for some years now, first to see the wild flower meadows and secondly to try to catch a glimpse of the elusive stone curlew. This year, the wild flowers were more beautiful than I ever remember and whereas in previous years we have always failed to see a stone curlew, this year we scored, thanks to the incredible sight of one of the group. It was a distant view, but nevertheless we saw it with the aid of a telescope and it remained around for a good while for everyone to see.

Our annual July pilgrimage to the New Forest to look for nightjars has rarely been successful, to say the least. Not so this year. First at 9.30pm we heard their strange call which is not unlike an electric motor. Then for the next hour we were treated to them flying all around us. Thanks to Steve's telescope, we were even able to see them in the dusk resting along tree branches. What an evening: certainly our most successful nightjar evening of all.

It's been pleasing to welcome new members on our outings, so consequently our numbers are always encouraging. However, there is still room for you. No experience is required, just enthusiasm and a pair of binoculars. Be assured of a warm welcome.

Roger Bennett

We have noticed how few birds we are seeing in the garden. The bird feeders are hardly used. This is because birds work so hard to raise their young and then moult their feathers. At this time they are vulnerable to predators and tend to keep out of sight, so it is not generally a good time for bird-watching.



One day we heard an unfamiliar bird call, went outside and a Little Owl flew across the garden. It then landed on the chimney of the house across the road and we took this picture.

Another neighbour, called us to say she had two Green Woodpeckers on her lawn. By the time we had picked



up cameras and got there, one had gone - the other one posed for us though. Roger thinks that they may be this year's young as the adults usually go around singly.

They seem to feed mostly on ants on open grassy areas, so our friend's large lawn suits them.

Marion and Richard Marriott

WEB SITE'S NEW LOOK

The web site has had a complete overhaul and now has a fresh new look.

Chris Penny and the photography group provided the new picture header.

There are wider pages with a cleaner layout.

The menu is always in view on PCs and laptops. Viewers on mobile devices have to use the "hamburger" [☰], but it's always on the screen.

The new look has the same information in the same pages and it's on the same place on the www - antonu3a.org. Go and look at the new home page.

Comments or suggestions for amendment/improvement are invited.

Robert Smith

History

Over the spring and summer the Group has continued its very enjoyable and interesting mornings exploring a wide variety of topics.

The dramatic events of history make ideal subjects for films. We all remembered seeing a young Michael Caine in Zulu and knew about the successful defence



of the mission station and hospital at Rorke's Drift by a tiny British garrison against thousands of Zulu warriors. But that was a film. Derek Armitage took us back to 1879 to set Rorke's Drift in context, to explain what really happened and to highlight the key role played in the defence by

James Langley Dalton of the Army's Commissariat & Transport Department. Some of the illustrations Derek used in his talk were taken during his own visit to the site in present day KwaZulu-Natal.



A life that perhaps should be made into a film is that of the little known Ada Lovelace (1815-52), a remarkable lady who in her difficult and eventful life was a mathematician, writer and an early pioneer of the computer age. She was the only legitimate child of the poet Lord Byron, although he played no part in her life, and she was the subject of

Mary Taylor's talk to the Group.

Ada's mother ensured that she received a good education, which included mathematics and science, and by her teenage years her exceptional abilities were becoming evident. She met many of the scientists of the day and developed an ongoing working relationship with mathematician Charles Babbage who was working on his 'computers', firstly the Difference Engine and then the Analytical Engine. In 1843 she translated an Italian article on the Analytical Engine and supplemented it with her own extensive and detailed notes which contain what many consider to be the very first computer program. Charles Babbage described her as an "Enchantress who has thrown her magical spell around the most abstract of Sciences and has grasped it with a force which few masculine intellects (in our own country at least) could have exerted over it". Her work shows that she also had a vision for the future of computers as a tool for society beyond just their calculating ability. She died of cancer in 1852 at the age of 36.

From the whole life of a little known person we moved to a little known event in the life of a very well-known person described for us by Genny Cowling. The person was Theodore Roosevelt, 26th President of the USA, and the event was his joint leadership of an expedition in 1913-14 to explore the 400-mile long "River of Doubt" in a remote area of the Amazon basin.



The sweeping victory achieved by Democrat Woodrow Wilson in the 1912 US presidential elections was a humiliating defeat for Roosevelt and he was looking for a physical challenge. At the Brazilian Government's suggestion, he and his son Kermit went with the famous Brazilian explorer Cândido Rondon on an exploration of River of Doubt. Rondon had discovered the river's headwaters in 1909 and

the Roosevelt-Rondon Scientific Expedition would determine where and by which course the river flowed into the Amazon.

After an arduous trek to reach the headwaters, they began their descent of the river in dugout canoes. They lost boats and supplies to the frequent turbulent rapids, enduring starvation and being forced to live off the jungle. They were attacked by Indians and all suffered injuries, painful insect bites and disease. Three men died and Roosevelt himself came so near to death, from a leg injury and a soaring fever, that he told the expedition to continue without him but they did not.

Some doubted Roosevelt's account of the expedition - Through the Brazilian Wilderness - which he published on his return but subsequent expeditions confirmed his discoveries and the expedition provided information for the mapping of Brazil's interior and wildlife specimens for further study. The Brazilian government renamed the river the Roosevelt River but Roosevelt never fully regained his health and suffered from recurring malaria until his death in 1919.

During the 1920s and 1930s, Brazil's Rio de Janeiro was considered one of the most fashionable cities in the world. As one of the most desirable destinations for wealthy businessmen and tourists, it was a prime route for the first transatlantic aircraft services in the world operated from 1930 by the airship Graf Zeppelin.



Erica Tinsley's talk about the Zeppelin airship took us from the ideas of its creator Count von Zeppelin, and the airline services it provided in Europe before 1914, to its role in WW1 when airships were responsible for the first ever air raids on Britain which killed 557 and injured another 1,358 people. When post-war restrictions

were lifted, the Zeppelin Company built the world's most successful airship the Graf Zeppelin which in 1928 crossed the Atlantic 25mph faster than the fastest ocean liner of the day, the Mauretania. The airship's years of glamour and success lasted until the fateful crash of the Hindenburg in 1937 but, since the 1990s, there has been a worldwide resurgence of interest in airships. Advances in technology have made them safer and more efficient, and many can see their potential for transporting very heavy loads and for communications in areas, perhaps remote or perhaps destroyed by war, where there are no airfields, roads or other infrastructure.

Erica Tinsley

AHA Group (Art, History and Architecture)

May - Watts Gallery



In May the group visited the Watts Gallery. The Gallery contains an extensive collection of Victorian paintings and sculpture. Amongst the collections is that of

Evelyn De Morgan whose works were influenced by the Pre-Raphaelite painters. Later some of the group went on to visit the Watt Chapel a Grade I listed Arts & Craft building which has an unusual painted interior.

June - Rockbourne Roman Villa and Breamore Countryside Museum



During the morning the group visited the Roman villa at Rockbourne. The villa occupies a large site, parts of which are exposed for

public viewing. The villa was first built in the 1st century and extended in the 3rd and 4th. We also visited the museum on the site which contained artefacts discovered on the site.

In the afternoon the group moved on to Breamore Countryside Museum. The museum contains full-size replicas of late 19th/early 20th shops, school, blacksmith's etc. Also a large collection of tractors and other farm machinery, a trip down memory lane for some!

July - Dinton Village Walk



Once again David Richards gave us a guided tour, this time of the village of Dinton near Salisbury. We strolled through the formal parkland (that once held a USAAF camp), with views of Philipps House, a

large classical house. Past the birthplace of the Earl of Clarendon (father of Mary II) Our walk continued

through the village of delightful cottages of several styles and ages and included a visit to the Grade 1 listed Gothic church. Finally, we had an interesting tour of David's garden. It was a hot day and we then retired to the local pub for welcome refreshments.

August - Avington Park



In August we visited Avington near Winchester, which is a stunning Georgian House set in beautiful parkland.

The existing house dates back to late 16th century although the site had been occupied continuously since Roman times. It was extensively altered in the 18th century. The house was visited by Charles II with Nell Gwynne and later George IV and Mrs Fitzherbert. In the last half of the 19th century the estate was owned by Sir John Shelley, brother of the poet. The house is noted for exquisite gilding and painted ceilings and walls and other wall decorations. The house is now privately owned and is Grade I Listed. Once again we picked a warm day and the pleasantly located tea rooms were much appreciated.

AHA Group

If you are interested in joining us and want to be put on the contact list, please forward your email address to - rtaylor57@talktalk.net . There is no membership fee or commitment.

Forthcoming events -

September - Portsmouth City Museum

October - Tyntesfield House

November - Local subject (work in progress)

Bob Taylor

Beginners Bridge

The beginners Bridge Group has been meeting successfully now for approximately 4 years. We have had several venues as we set up, for the last 3 years we have been meeting at The Lights which works extremely well. The conditions for using The Lights is that we each buy a drink and now we no longer have to pay to use a room, which is good.

We now meet weekly on a Thursday starting at 10.00 until 12 midday, we are a sociable group and welcome anyone who would like to learn to play bridge and meet new people.



If you feel you would like to come along and see if bridge is for you, please contact me, Barbie Morrey-

Stone tel 01264 335597 or mobile 07802803604.

Barbie Morrey-Stone

Upcoming Questers' events

- | | |
|--|------------------------|
| Marchwood Power Station and lunch | — Thursday 29 Sep. |
| Stowe House and Gardens | — Tuesday 18 October. |
| London by coach | — Thursday 8 December. |

Anton U3A Monthly Meetings

- | | | |
|----------------|-----------------|-------------------------------------|
| 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>The Abbots Mitre, Chilbolton</i> |
| 2017 | | |
| January 11th | Duncan Brown | <i>A Tale of Two Firemen</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)	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	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 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

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