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Stephanie Cox; Annie Lowing; Mary Taylor; Erica Tinsley		

Chairman's Corner

I find myself having to submit this article due to the news of the passing of Ray Stockings, the husband of our Chairperson Lynda. I am sure that all Anton U3A members will be deeply saddened by this and would wish the committee to pass on our heartfelt thoughts to Lynda and family at this difficult time. Ray, RIP.

As was previously stated in the last Newsletter, the membership continues around the 140 mark and our previous idea about putting a ceiling on numbers has finally been put to bed. I think our average turn-out at the monthly meetings is in the region of 50, sometimes more and sometimes less but Burghclere Hall can cater for that. There are enough chairs, I should know - as I put most of them out! And on that subject, you don't have to be a committee member to help with the setting up and tidying up of the hall afterwards, all are welcome! Just ask a committee member what needs doing.

It has been decided that the Financial group had covered as much as the participants wanted so has now folded. None of us became millionaires - but keep watching this space!

Finally, I must echo Lynda's thanks to all those who help to make our meetings successful, you know who you are. As always, there is a continuing need for volunteers to help run Anton U3A, whether by joining either the main or Questers committees or just by taking on the mantle of monthly tea-and-coffee makers.

A reminder that all information relating to Anton U3A is to be found on the website at <http://www.antonu3a.org/>

Pete Duncan, Vice Chairman

French

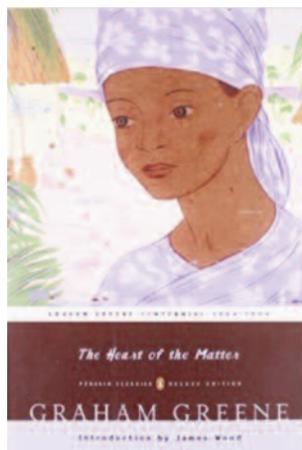
We continue to meet fortnightly and numbers vary from 6ish to a dozen, depending on holidays. We are very lucky to have been joined by a French lady who is great fun and very forgiving as we slaughter her language. She very kindly hosted a lunch to celebrate the 14th July.

Subjects we have covered lately have been 'Earliest Memories', 'Fêtes Nationales' and 'Songs of Childhood' which prompted some rather good singing.'

Gilly Roberts

Reading Group

May - *The Heart of the Matter* by *Graham Greene*



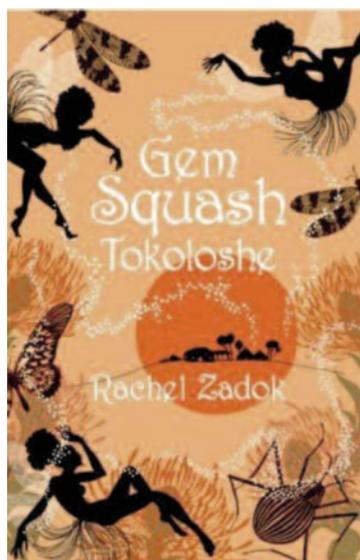
Scobie is a highly principled officer in a war-torn West African state. When he is passed over for promotion he is forced to borrow money to send his despairing wife away on a holiday.

In her absence he falls hopelessly in love with Helen, a young widow, and his life is transformed by the experience. With a duty to repay his debts and an

inability to distinguish between love, pity, and responsibility to others and to God, Scobie moves inexorably to his final damnation.

The terrifying description of a man's awe of the Church and the ability to portray human motive and to convey such a depth of suffering make *The Heart of the Matter* one of Graham Greene's most enduring, tragic novels.

July - *Gem Squash Tokoloshe* by *Rachel Zadok*

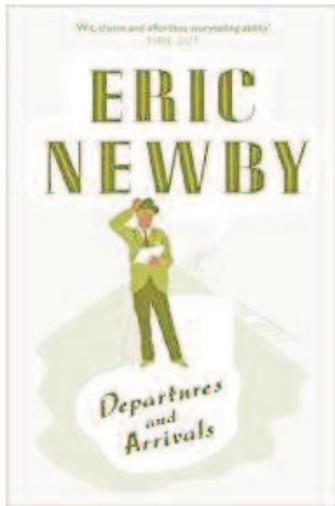


Faith leads an isolated existence on her family's drought stricken farm in the Northern Transvaal of South Africa. When the rain stopped, her father took to the road as a travelling salesman, returning only at weekends. Now Faith lives with her mother Bella and dog Boesman anticipating his visits - until one day he stops coming and Bella's health begins to go into rapid decline.

Fifteen years later Bella has died incarcerated in the Sterkfontein asylum for the criminally insane. Faith has not spoken to her mother for ten years and is on the brink of a breakdown of her own. Now, with her mother's death, she inherits the farm and must return to confront the dark mysteries of the past.

The group were divided in their opinions of this novel, but discussion did clarify the plot and story somewhat (not entirely, as the Fairy part of it was a little incomprehensible).

August - *Departures and Arrivals* by Eric Newby



Highly observant, with a keen sense of the incongruous, Newby is always entertaining in this recollection of highlights from an eventful life. He transports the reader around the world, from his earliest childhood adventures, to an elephant fair in India. This is a series of snapshots from various travels, from the Far East to Dorset. Lightweight

but interesting, it is a pleasant read.

Diane Richards

AHA

Photograph taken on a recent AHA Group visit to the Vyne



Mike Liberson

History

For our June meeting, Derek Armitage took us back to 18 June 1815 and the final battle which ended Napoleon's attempt to dominate Europe. To us and most of the world it is known as the Battle of Waterloo named after the town in Belgium, just north of the actual battlefield, where the victorious Duke of Wellington had his headquarters.

But it is also known as 'La Belle Alliance' after the name of a tavern very close to the centre of the battle which Prussian Field Marshal Blücher suggested would commemorate the multinational coalition that had defeated the French emperor. But La Belle Alliance had been Napoleon's headquarters during the battle and so it is perhaps not surprising that the idea did not find favour with Wellington. For the French the battle is

known it as the Battle of Mont St Jean because it actually took place south of the town of Waterloo along the Mont St Jean Ridge.

Derek took us through the main events of that day as they unfolded and explained that some aspects of the battle remain controversial and there are questions that have not been satisfactorily answered. For example, after Napoleon's defeat of the Prussian army two days before Waterloo he ordered Marshal Grouchy to pursue their retreat. But why did Grouchy continue in that pursuit when it was evident he was dealing with just a rearguard and that the main battle had started? Grouchy's decision deprived Napoleon of 33,000 French troops that could have otherwise taken part at Waterloo.

In July, our meeting departed from its usual format. Our morning started with a talk by Erica Tinsley on how the landscape influenced the origins of the town of Andover and how it continued to influence its growth and appearance to become the town we know today. We then set off on a guided walk around the town with Erica pointing out the landscape features that are still evident despite the enormous change that Andover has experienced over the last 50 years.

In August, Alan Dixon spoke about the dangerous waters around the Isles of Scilly and the very many ships that have been wrecked there. The five inhabited islands, plus 140 rocky islets and hundreds of jagged rocks, lie 28 miles off Land's End at the gateway to the busy shipping lanes of the English Channel, the Bristol Channel and the St George's Channel.

They are low-lying with generally shallow water between them and a high tidal range adds to the hazard they present. They are often shrouded in fog but may also be lashed by spectacular winter gales blowing in from the Atlantic so it is not surprising that they are surrounded by hundreds and hundreds of wrecks. In previous centuries, the wood and cargoes from wrecks supplemented the islanders subsistence living.

Alan spoke about a number of the major wrecks but particularly about the night in October 1707 when four ships of the Royal Navy were lost with a death toll estimated at over 1600 men. HMS Association, the flagship of Admiral Sir Cloudesley Shovell, was at the head of a squadron of 21 ships returning home after a successful campaign in the Mediterranean during the War of the Spanish Succession. The weather had been bad during the voyage and as they began their approach towards England the ships' officers misjudged their position. They thought they were safely heading into the English Channel and could run eastwards before strong favourable winds when, in fact, they were fast approaching the western rocks of the Scillies. HMS Association sank in minutes taking the admiral with her and HMS Eagle, HMS Romney and HMS Firebrand were also lost.

The Admiralty's investigation of the disaster identified poor observational practices by the ships' officers, the need for more accurate charts and the shortcomings of

dead reckoning to determine longitude. The latter problem was considered so important that a competition established by Act of Parliament offered rewards for a practical and accurate method of determining a ship's longitude while at sea. The marine

chronometer developed by John Harrison over 46 years of his life eventually provided the solution and his work is on display in Flamsteed House at the Royal Observatory, Greenwich.

Erica Tinsley

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		SUMMER PICNIC
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>
2018		
January 10th	Anthony Wood	<i>Sir Francis Younghusband</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 2.30-4.30pm	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)	cliveandleslie@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	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

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