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|---|----------------------------|---------------|
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| Barbara Dixon; Annie Lowing; Jean Roberts; Mary Taylor | | |

Chairman's Corner

Hello all. This is my first official Newsletter submission as your new chairman. I've already said it at meetings but once again, I'd like to thank you for electing me to this office.

Well, we've had a scorcher of a summer so far but unfortunately, that wonderful weather didn't stretch to our summer picnic! It was better than the poor weather which resulted in last year's picnic having to be held inside the village hall at Appleshaw but a total of 56 members attended this year and I believe everyone had a good time. There are many more quiz questions I can dig out!

Anton U3A's membership figures continue around the 150 mark and the monthly meetings regularly attract over 50 attendees. Our speakers continue to fascinate with very interesting talks on many diverse subjects, thanks go to all the speakers and of course Ron for booking them.

We currently have a full complement of committee members but we need a reserve list as some need to "retire" at the next AGM, the treasurer's position becomes vacant for instance. If you have previous experience of running a small (or large) account, we would like to hear from you.

A big 'thank you' from me to the Questers committee for the interesting programmes they continue to arrange. Likewise, all the other group leaders for their hard work in keeping the groups functioning with varied programmes. Information about their activities plus all other U3A information can be found on the web page (www.antonu3a.org) and my thanks go to Robert Smith who does a sterling job keeping this up to date.

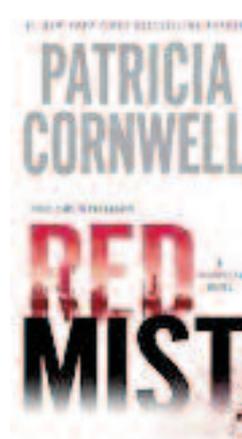
Trish Andrews continues to produce this newsletter and my thanks go to her. Also to Clive Ward who has taken over as secretary from Leslie, his missus, nothing like keeping it in the family! Tessa needs a mention for putting together a consolidated list of members, not an easy task at all. And to Stephanie for being my sanity checker.

Finally, I must thank everyone who helps make our meetings so successful, you know who you are. And please remember, we are all volunteers, we always need someone to volunteer to make the monthly tea and coffee for instance. If I don't get volunteers, then we don't have tea or coffee. Simples!

Pete Duncan

Reading Group

June — *Red Mist* by Patricia Cornwell

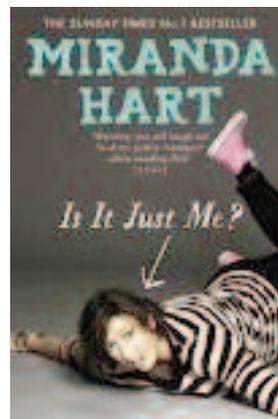


Determined to find out what happened to her former deputy chief, Jack Fielding, murdered six months earlier, Kay Scarpetta travels to the Georgia Prison for Women, where an inmate has information not only on Fielding, but also on a string of grisly killings. The murder of an Atlanta family years ago, a young woman on death row, and the inexplicable deaths of homeless people as far away as California seem unrelated. But Scarpetta

discovers connections that compel her to conclude that what she thought ended with Fielding's death and an attempt on her own life is only the beginning of something far more destructive: a terrifying terrain of conspiracy and potential terrorism on an international scale. And she is the only one who can stop it.

Same old, same old, if you like others in the Scarpetta series, you'll probably like this one, although those with experience say it's not as well written and is disappointing. Too much of a good thing maybe?

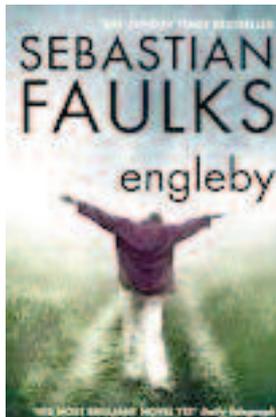
July — *Is it Just Me?* By Miranda Hart



Oh dear, this was unanimously declared as utter rubbish by the whole group, even those who quite like her. It was not as expected, an autobiography, but just a monologue of supposedly amusing and silly things that have happened to her.

It reads like a script, and not a very funny one at that. Can so many really daft things really happen to one person? We felt she should concentrate on an acting career (Call the Midwife) and forget about this nonsense. Have another go, Miranda, at writing an autobiography, you might be quite interesting (or perhaps not, which is why you've produced this drivel).

August — Engleby by Sebastian Faulks



This is the story of Mike Engleby, a working-class boy who wins a place at an esteemed English university. But with the disappearance of Jennifer, the undergraduate Engleby admires from afar, the story turns into a mystery of gripping power.

Mike Engleby says things that others dare not even think. When the novel opens in the 1970s, he is a university student, having survived a 'traditional' public school. A man devoid of scruple or self-pity, Engleby provides a disarmingly frank account of English education. Yet beneath the disturbing surface of his observations lies an unfolding mystery. One of his contemporaries unaccountably disappears, and as we follow Engleby's career, which brings us up to the present day, the reader must ask: is Engleby capable of telling the whole truth?

Good stuff, a bit creepy, and full of interesting insights into the 1970s and 80s. Inside the mind of a psychopath, or is it all just imagination? Wordy in places, but worth a read.

Diane Richards

Walking Group

August — Blackmore Down

Twelve members of the Walking Group enjoyed a four-and-a-half mile stroll across Blackmore Down and through Collingbourne Woods. Although the day was fairly hot there was a pleasant breeze on the Down and the Woods, which are more famous for their spring bluebells, were nicely shaded. The route skirted the



Photo by Pete Duncan

remains of Ludgershall Castle, which was a royal hunting lodge in the thirteenth century, and later crossed Church Ride, the last surviving equestrian hunting trail from that time. After re-crossing Blackmore Down to the east, the group were joined by three non-walking members for a fine lunch at the Queens Head in Ludgershall courtesy of landlady Jane.

Pete Duncan

Photo Club

Since my last article for the news letter quite a lot has been going on in the group. Our numbers have increased by three, Chris, Rosemary and Richard. We are now a full dozen making our present venue full to the very limit. Over the last six months new ideas and

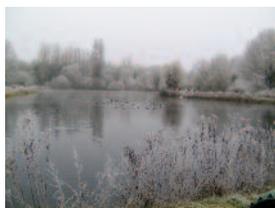


The Photo Group at a meeting

competition rules have been discussed and fully embraced almost unanimously resulting in much more constructive conversations about members print submissions and as a consequence there is I think more energy in the group. For our July meeting our subject was motion and the winner was Chris A. plus two commended, Chris P and Brenda.



August was creatures (not humans) winner Pam. Commended Chris A.



September our meeting was brought forward two weeks because of holiday commitments so we didn't have much time to prepare our work. The subject was Water in all its forms ie: water, steam or ice). Rosemary took first place with a frosty landscape and Brenda commended with a waterfall.

For October and November, we are doing BROKEN and AUTUMN COLOURS.

For our last meeting of 2018 we are departing from our usual meeting format by not having our normal competition but all producing one print to be individually discussed by the group to promote ideas and honing our skills as photographers followed by mince pies and coffee.

Chris Penney

History

In recent months the Group has enjoyed three excellent illustrated talks on very different topics.

Vera Lynn is known to us all but in the talk Jean Roberts gave us about her life we learnt so much more about this remarkable lady who celebrated her 101st birthday last March. She was born in London's East End into a family that was deeply involved with the life of local working men's clubs. That was where she first sang in public aged just 7 and where, by the time she left school, she was able to become a professional singer. Aged 15 she was talent spotted by band leader



Howard Baker and during the 1930s her success grew as she sang, recorded and broadcast on radio with the leading dance bands of the day. By the time she was 21, she had sold over a million records, bought a house in Barking for her parents and car for herself.

In 1940 during the Blitz she regularly broadcasted to troops overseas from the BBC's underground studios in central London. In 1941 she started her hugely popular BBC radio programme *Sincerely Yours* singing requests from servicemen overseas and passing on personal messages from their wives. In 1944 she joined ENSA and volunteered to go where almost nobody had gone before - to entertain troops fighting against the Japanese in terrible conditions on the Burma Front.

She made the journey of more than 5,000 miles in the slow, spartan aircraft of wartime, giving concerts for the troops at stops en route, and then travelled up-country from Chittagong to give shows at a series of hard pressed military airstrips along India's border with Burma. Without roads, these were the focal points for moving, supplying and supporting troops and for evacuating the sick and wounded. In sweltering heat and humidity, she sang on stages of all kinds to audiences of all sizes and at each stop she visited the hospital, sat on every bed and chatted to every patient. She made a real connection with the troops who felt so isolated and it was a life-changing experience for her.

Not long after she returned to England, Vera and her husband the clarinetist Harry Lewis were bombed out of their London home. They bought a property in Sussex prior to the birth of their daughter and hoped to start a new life as smallholders but that venture was not a success and in 1947 Vera resumed her career. Successful shows, a succession of hit recordings and appearances in New York meant that by 1952 Vera was a star on both sides of the Atlantic.

She continued a busy professional life through the 1960s and 70s but also made an ever increasing commitment to children with cerebral palsy that continues to this day. Through her work for the Stars Foundation for Cerebral Palsy and later The Dame Vera Lynn Children's Charity, many millions of pounds have been raised to support the work of Scope and to help young children with other motor learning conditions. Her charity work has also supported breast cancer research for over 40 years as well as many other causes.

Vera was made a Dame in 1975 and in 2016 was made a Companion of Honour to the Queen. Now 101 she lives in the cottage at Ditchling in Sussex that she and Harry bought 60 years ago. She continues her interests, paints and enjoys her garden, and is very modest about her success in life.

Glennis Dale's subject was the French sculptor Louis-François Roubiliac (1702-62) who was one of the most important sculptors working in 18th-century England. He was born in Lyons and Glennis explained that little is

known with certainty about how he learned the art of sculpture or the influences on him before he came to London in 1730. He settled and married into the Huguenot community that had become established in London following Louis XVI's revocation of the Edict of Nantes.



He first gained recognition with his full-length statue of Handel, commissioned by the owner of the Vauxhall Gardens and erected there in 1738 (now in the V&A). He was able to open his own studio in St Martin's Lane and received a steady flow of commissions for portrait busts and monuments for country churches. Then in

1745 he received the first of his commissions for Westminster Abbey – a monument to commemorate John Campbell, 2nd Duke of Argyll which many regard as the finest 18th century monument in the Abbey. Of his other works in the Abbey, probably the best known is the dramatic tomb of Lady Elizabeth Nightingale (1761). Done in the style of Bernini, whose work Roubiliac saw when he visited Rome in 1752, the tomb depicts Lady Elizabeth being attacked by Death, represented by skeleton emerging from the vault, while her husband vainly tries to protect her.

Glennis explained the various stages a sculptor's work went through from the original terracotta model to the building of the final monument. She compared Roubiliac's style with that of John Michael Rysbrack, his only rival for preeminence in England at that time. All of Roubiliac's work showed superb craftsmanship and creativity and she agreed with those who regard him as the best sculptor ever to work in England.

Derek Armitage was for many years Curator of The Museum of Army Flying which has in its care the collection of WW2 gliders used by the Glider Pilot Regiment. His talk was about Operation Freshman in 1942 which was the first British airborne operation ever to be carried out using gliders and its target was the Norsk Hydro plant in Norway, 60 miles west of Oslo.



Quite early in WW2 it was known that the Germans were working towards the production of an atomic bomb. Heavy Water was an essential component and the Nazi invasion of Norway had given them production facilities at the Norsk Hydro plant. It was decided to attack the plant in order to slow down German research but it was a difficult target in an isolated, deep valley 80 miles from the coast with the plant itself on a rock shelf above a 1,000ft precipitous drop to the river below.

The final plan was to land two groups of skilled Royal Engineers by glider five hours marching distance away from the plant. They would be taken on to their objective by Norwegian guides and, once the plant had been destroyed, they would make their escape across the mountains to Sweden. The troops set off in two Horsa gliders towed by two Halifax bombers on the evening 19th November 1942. Only one aircraft returned. Derek explained how the fate of the others involved was discovered after the war.

British use of assault gliders was prompted by the German use of troop carrying gliders to capture the Eben Emael fortress in Belgium. The Glider Pilot Regiment was not formally inaugurated until late February 1942 which may have been a factor in the choice of November 1942 for Freshman because the towing of gliders was an art in which the crews had not as yet had much practice. By then the weather was worsening and reducing the already slim chance for the troops to make their escape into Sweden.

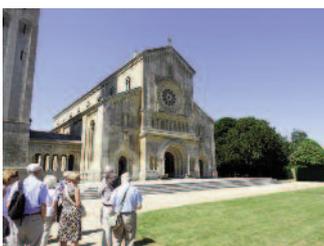
The Halifax bombers, then the only British aircraft capable of towing a glider for 400 miles and returning to base, took off in marginal weather conditions. On reaching the Norwegian coast, the ground was obscured by thick cloud and a radio transmitter deployed by partisans to guide the aircraft to the landing site failed. The aircrews could not find the landing zone and reluctantly turned for home. The tow rope on the first aircraft snapped in the freezing conditions and its glider crashed onto the mountainside killing eight of the men inside. The second aircraft and its glider crashed into mountains in low cloud killing the aircraft's crew and three of the glider complement. All twenty three survivors of the two crashes, wearing civilian clothes under their uniforms to aid their escape, were shot under the terms of Hitler's infamous 'Commando Order'.

In all, the unsuccessful Operation Freshman cost forty-one lives but gliders would be successfully used in many operations later in the war. The Norsk Hydro plant was subsequently sabotaged on 27 February 1943 by nine Norwegian commandos who gained access from the ravine below. That operation was popularly represented in a film full of historical inaccuracies, The Heroes of Telemark (1965) starring Kirk Douglas.

Erica Tinsley

AHA Group (Art, History and Architecture)

June — Wilton



Approximately 20 members of the very active AHA Group visited Wilton for a 'walk through history' on 29th June; guided by our old friend David James who is one of the most knowledgeable Blue Badge Guides in the area. It was a fascinating visit to the town which gave Wiltshire its name & which was founded centuries before England was a united country.

There is evidence of Roman, Saxon and Norman habitation, but the most extensive & important era for the town remains the Saxon period when, it benefited from Royal patronage, with an extensive Abbey re-built in stone by Edith wife of Edward the Confessor. The Benedictine Order prospered there from about AD830 through to the Dissolution in 1539. Much of the stone was then utilised by Earl William Herbert, one of Henry VIII's favourites, to build Wilton House.

Subsequently over the centuries, the Herbert family have benefited the town including the construction during the 1840's of the magnificent new parish church in the Romanesque style featuring a separate campanile.



The medieval stained glass is outstanding & the church alone worth a visit to Wilton. After some history about carpet manufacture, the demise of Wilton in favour of Salisbury following the construction of a new river bridge and much more; most of us descended upon Coffee Darling for a delicious light lunch.

Ron Bryan & Rosemary Crumplin

July — Roman Villa, Chedworth & Mechanical Music Museum, Northleach

Sadly, our day started with the news that Bob Taylor had been taken ill and would not be able to lead the group, but the day still went ahead with me picking up the reins. We are pleased to say that Bob is making a slow recovery and we all wish him well.

We had a good turn out for the day and a beautiful drive across the Wiltshire downs to Chedworth, near



Cirencester, where the Roman Villa is situated. Although the site was first discovered c1870, it has only been in recent years that they have come to realise that it is of significant importance. They have a purpose built building housing a fine display of mosaic flooring, showing living and bathing areas. The discoveries depend on funding and we were lucky enough to see a newly unearthed mosaic, which was going to be recovered with soil within 30 minutes of our arrival. The ultimate aim would be to create another purpose built building to enable them to have a

permanent display. An archaeologist explained to us that it is firmly believed that the villa has unique features and a mystery remains regarding its location as it is set between two major Roman roads.



The group then moved on to Northleach where we took a leisurely lunch in the garden of a local hotel. Once refreshed we moved on to the Mechanical Music Museum just down the road, what an interesting little gem this was! I believe that we were all pleasantly surprised at what was on display in two small rooms. We had a very enthusiastic; humourist young man, a musician himself for our guided tour. He described and demonstrated various mechanical music boxes, gramophones, and what can only be described as very early juke boxes. This was a real learning curve to early man-made mechanical music. The cases that held the mechanical works were beautifully crafted and of various woods dating from the mid-1800s.

This museum offered good refreshments, where afternoon tea was enjoyed before returning home in the glorious sunshine.

Rosemary Crumplin

August — Duke of Wellington Home - Strathfield Saye, Nr Basingstoke



The AHA Group visit during August was to the above historic house, which is relatively local but proves difficult to organise because it opens very few days each year. The original house was a red

brick construction and this has been extended and changed to suit then current fashions over the centuries. The present classical style sandstone exterior gives it a warm glow when the sun is shining. Stratfield Saye was bought by the first Duke of Wellington with money given by a grateful nation for his victory at Waterloo, and has been occupied by his descendants ever since. Only a small selection of rooms are opened to the public, however they give a wonderful sense of history, and particularly of the Great Duke's achievements with many pictures, sculptures, beautiful furniture and porcelain. We had an excellent guide, filled with a wealth of knowledge, and she shared her true passion for this delightful house with us.

Personally, I have mixed feelings about the Duke of Wellington's Estate. The house is crammed full of interest; and although the grounds provided amazing vistas from the principal rooms, we were disappointed that there were no formal gardens. However, we should not forget the Wellington Estate consists of 2,500 acres and is very much a working farm and forest.

In recent times, part of the stable block has been converted into an exhibition centre summarising the Iron Duke's life. We learned that he received his initial military training in France, was a great admirer of Napoleon, and hated the death and suffering caused by wars. The stables also housed the 1st Duke's huge



Funeral Carriage, which in 1861 was lodged in the Crypt of St Paul's where it remained until 1981, when it was moved to Stratfield Saye on permanent loan following restoration by the Royal Engineers at Chatham. We all like to believe that we have the knowhow to build things of great significance, but even for the Victorians, producing this 18 ton monster, which required 24 horses to draw it, must have been a great achievement. The magnificent, richly ornamental funeral carriage was made of bronze cast from melted down French cannons captured at Waterloo. It was designed and constructed by a number of designers and craftsmen over a period of two months and was built in four sections in only 18 days. No computers or heavy engineering equipment to make light work of this enormous task!

Rosemary Crumplin

Skittles



Our skittles group is going from strength to strength.

We now have 27 members and we are all improving, some more than others! Last month we had two competitors who scored 9 each, however the occasional zero still creeps

in.

The meals Margarit produces each session are excellent and her desserts are scrumptious. All in all a very good morning.

Barbara Dixon

Beginners' Bridge

The beginners bridge group is held each on Thursday at The Lights at 10.00 until 12.00. We are a very friendly and sociable group.

This year we all enjoyed a summer lunch and managed a few hands of bridge as well.

If you are interested please contact Barbie on 07802803604

Barbie Morrey-Stone

Bird and Natural History Group

Our next meeting will be on Thursday 27th September. Meet at 10:30 in the Rooksbury Lakes car park (off Barlow's lane). During the course of this meeting we will discuss the future of the Group.

Roger Beaumont

Anton U3A Monthly Meetings

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|----------------|-----------------------------|------------------------|
| September 12th | Life Behind the Veil | <i>Sandra Simmonds</i> |
| October 10th | History of the Weyhill Fair | <i>Anthony Raper</i> |
| November 14th | The Cockney Detective | <i>Steve Roberts</i> |
| December 12th | Is It Fun To Be Fooled? | <i>Simon Williams</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 351 137) | 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) | rtaylor57@talktalk.net |
| 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 |
| MOTO | 2nd Monday 2.15pm | Tricia Andrews (01264 332 921) | TriciaOnTheHill@btinternet.com |
| Petanque | 1st Friday 6pm 10.30am in Winter | Adrian & Ann Truss (01264 313 242) | aatruss@yahoo.co.uk |
| Photography | Third Monday 10am | Chris Penney | chrispenney42@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 | wincorms@gmail.com |

Contributions to the Newsletter to Tricia Andrews - TriciaOnTheHill@btinternet.com or 01264 332 921