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Barbara Dixon; Annie Lowing; Jean Roberts; Mary Taylor		

Chairman's Corner

"Have you forgotten me?" said the email I received on Sunday, 1st September from Tricia. I took that to mean that I had failed in my task of submitting my article for this edition of the newsletter on the due date (yesterday!) So, here it is.

What have we done? Recently, we had a very successful summer picnic attended by some 51 members and their guests. Due to the inclement weather, we decided to hold the picnic in the hall which was met with quite a few favourable comments received by myself and committee members. The good food was plentiful and easily accessible and more to the point, we weren't bothered by these pesky wasps!

So, Ron Bryan has passed on his duties of booking the monthly speakers, a job he did very well. Wilson Carson has taken over these tasks from Ron, we wish him well!

During the past few days, my laptop has been sick, hence this short offering from me this time. I promise to do better next time!"

Peter Duncan

For the attention of Group Leaders

Please remember that if you have to cancel an event or visit or meeting, ask Robert Smith as soon as possible to delete it from the monthly calendar. There are one or two events which have recently been cancelled which are still on the calendar.

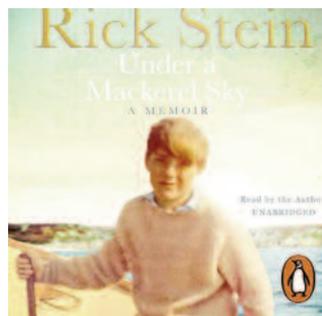
French

We continue to meet fortnightly. Subjects for discussion lately have been 'Train Journeys' and 'Driving'. Both related to amusing incidents either here or abroad. We also had a very pleasant get together to celebrate the 14th July French style.'

Gilly Roberts

Reading Group

June – *Under a Mackerel Sky* by Rick Stein



Rick Stein's childhood in 1950s rural Oxfordshire and North Cornwall was idyllic. His parents were charming and gregarious, their five children much-loved and given freedom typical of the time. As he grew older, the holidays were filled with loud and

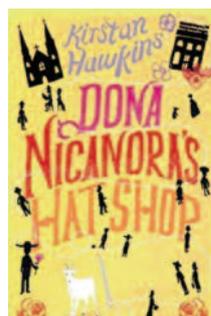
lively parties in his parents' Cornish barn. But ever-present was the unpredictable mood of his bipolar father, with Rick frequently the focus of his anger and sadness.

When Rick was 18 his father killed himself. Emotionally adrift, Rick left for Australia, carrying a suitcase stamped with his father's initials. Manual labour in the outback followed by adventures in America and Mexico toughened up the naive public schoolboy, but at heart he was still lost and unsure what to do with his life.

Eventually, Cornwall called him home. From the entrepreneurial days of his mobile disco, the Purple Tiger, to his first, unlikely nightclub where much of the time was spent breaking up drink-fuelled fights, Rick charts his personal journey.

An interesting read – the book contains details of his earlier life, which are not obvious from his cookery shows. Who knew that he went to public school and Oxford University?

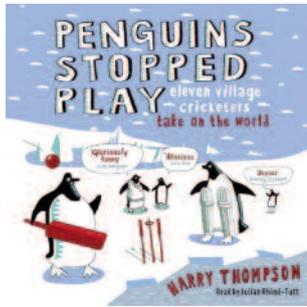
July – *Dona Nicanora's Hat Shop* by Kirstan Hawkins



Dona Nicanora is a woman led by her dreams. She imagines adventures far beyond her small, swampy South American village, and ideally quite far away from her relentless family and neighbours. It's quite simple: what she needs is the love of a good man, and a shop full of her own beautifully handcrafted hats. But Nicanora's life is never quite straightforward. And from the day an entirely silent stranger arrives in Villa de la Virgen, strange happenings occur, and Dona Nicanora's world is turned on its head.

We find ourselves in an out of the way town where everyone knows everyone else's business; people are in love with the right people but don't know it; the statue of the virgin is locked up in the church, and the mayor is the entire town council. Likened to the work of Alexander McCall Smith (Ladies Detective Agency), this lacked the charm and fluidity of his narrative. And not as readable either of his work, or *The Little World of Don Camillo* by Giovannino Guareschi (would thoroughly recommend).

August – Penguins Stopped Play by Harry Thompson



Harry Thompson started a village cricket team back in his school days, and all they did was lose. Miserably. Intentionally, and otherwise. Two decades of crushing defeats were never enough to crush their love for the game and he and his band of boys (middle aged men)

finally decided to do something no one had done before - play cricket matches on every continent, yes, including Antarctica. Part travelogue, part memoir, if you're not sure if you'll enjoy this book, consider the following extract from the opening chapter:

A leopard seal, perhaps the most fearsome predator of the Southern Ocean, hauled itself up on an ice floe to take a gander. Ignore the "seal" bit — think "leopard"... imagine the head of Ridley Scott's *Alien* atop the body of Mike Gatting after a particularly hefty tea.

If you snorted at the Mike Gatting reference, this book is probably for you.

This is a lovely book, it's not heavy, and is humorous enough to make you smile at least. The references to BA are particularly amusing and so true! However, without wanting to spoil it, there is no happy ending.

Diane Richards

Poetry Group

The Poetry Group meet every month, considering and reciting either self-selected poems by an agreed nominated poet or alternatively poems selected on an agreed thematic basis. Members often say that they derive more pleasure from our Group than from the others to which they may belong. Someone who always attended when his health allowed was the late David Gamble who was a considerable scholar, past President of the Tennyson Society on the IoW and great friend of us all. We will miss him very much. His favourite poem was *Dover Beach* by Matthew Arnold, we ask you to read it in memory of him.

Ron Bryan

Dover Beach

By **MATTHEW ARNOLD**

The sea is calm tonight.
The tide is full, the moon lies fair
Upon the straits; on the French coast the light
Gleams and is gone; the cliffs of England stand,
Glimmering and vast, out in the tranquil bay.

Come to the window, sweet is the night-air!
Only, from the long line of spray
Where the sea meets the moon-blanch'd land,
Listen! you hear the grating roar
Of pebbles which the waves draw back, and fling,
At their return, up the high strand,
Begin, and cease, and then again begin,
With tremulous cadence slow, and bring
The eternal note of sadness in.

Sophocles long ago
Heard it on the Ægean, and it brought
Into his mind the turbid ebb and flow
Of human misery; we
Find also in the sound a thought,
Hearing it by this distant northern sea.

The Sea of Faith
Was once, too, at the full, and round earth's shore
Lay like the folds of a bright girdle furled.
But now I only hear
Its melancholy, long, withdrawing roar,
Retreating, to the breath
Of the night-wind, down the vast edges drear
And naked shingles of the world.

Ah, love, let us be true
To one another! for the world, which seems
To lie before us like a land of dreams,
So various, so beautiful, so new,
Hath really neither joy, nor love, nor light,
Nor certitude, nor peace, nor help for pain;
And we are here as on a darkling plain
Swept with confused alarms of struggle and flight,
Where ignorant armies clash by night.



The monthly programme from the beginning of the year has read:

January, West Country Poets;

February, West Country Poets, Part 11;

March, Hampshire Poets: Brenda selected Barbara Bennett, Ron chose Edward Thomas, John majored on Thomas Fletcher and Isobell Rodgers, Chris had Jane Austen, whilst Glennis dealt with John Keats. David introduced Maud via Joyce Grenfell, which was then played on Glennis's iPad tablet. Erica took over with Thomas Hardy, followed by Simon dealing with Ann Finch, and then Caroline with Greasley and more Tennyson. Erica rounded off the morning with humour and "The Colonel's Soliloquy" by Thomas Hardy. No surprises then about our next topic.

April, Thomas Hardy John gave us the informative biography and explained in detail "The Voice". Members of the group all had their particular favourites; Glennis enjoyed "Shut out that Moon" but Erica, Brenda, Ron and Caroline all displayed impressive knowledge of this poet and his works.

May, Fire This time a theme, which led to a very varied choice, Ron had "Tiger" by William Blake, and Chris selected "Refusal to mourn the death by fire of a child in London" by Dylan Thomas which prompted the selection for the next month

June, Dylan Thomas Polari got an outing from Glennis and Chris read "The hand that signed the paper."

David spent a long time going through "Why East Wind Chills" as for once he had done substantial research.

July, Oscar Wilde

August, William Butler Yeats John kindly introduced this great Irish poet through the biography and then through his famous poem "Easter, 1916." Ron displayed perceptive knowledge of Yeats as did Caroline and Glennis.

September, Theme is to be Visual Arts Perhaps an explanation is needed on how the theme is arrived at?

David Thompson

Art

Our friendly bunch of artists continue to meet at Burghclere Hall every Tuesday afternoon 2.30-4.30pm. We all are encouraged to do our own work – sketching, pen and ink, pastels, water colour, acrylics, representational or abstract - by Renate West our teacher/leader who has an amazing capacity to help us move forward and discover new areas of our work. Last term we exhibited at the U3A AGM to much acclaim! We also took our sketch pads out into Veronica's beautiful garden in Monxton followed by tea, cakes and savouries. Approximately every month we focus on one type of medium and Renate shows us some techniques to add to our repertoire. She is keen we choose the focus ourselves and does everything she can to help in our development. No experience required to start. Just come along and see if you like what we are doing. For further details ring Annie Willens on 01264 324324

Annie Willens

Petanque



The Petanque group meets the first Friday of the month at 6.30 pm at the pitch at the British Legion, Hurstbourne Tarrant.

The July meeting was the first time this

year that we were not "rained off". The four teams had a great time, if you would like to join us please email us at aatruss@yahoo.co.uk. Beginners are very welcome.

In the winter months the group meets at The Blue Onion cafe at 10.30 am on the first Friday of the month.

Adrian & Ann Truss

AHA Group (Art, History and Architecture)

27th June – Farnham Guided Heritage Trail

This month's AHA trip started off badly due to bereavement; therefore sadly, I was unable to attend. Fortunately Ron Bryan was able to step in and was the Leader for the day. Thank you very much Ron for your support.

The weather was just perfect after having rain which felt like it had gone on for days. The group gathered together at Wickes car park and set off for Farnham, meeting up at the Maltings for coffee, where the official guide joined them.



A statue of a small boy stands in the gardens where the old swimming pool originally stood.

I am very sad to say that the guide was a disappointment; he apparently had an abundance of knowledge but was unable to present it. This was a shock to me as I had had several conversations with the guide and did not pick up on any signs. I can only apologise, but one good thing that the group all agreed on was that Farnham was a very interesting place to visit and would like to return at some stage.



The trail lasted for about 2 hrs and the group then split to do their own thing.



Rosemary Crumplin

Tudor Buildings – Shop Frontages and the Maltings



27th July – Ancient Technology Centre

In July a group of Members visited the Ancient Technology Centre at Cranborne, Dorset. A weekend visit was chosen as the Centre was holding open days, focusing on the Dark Ages.

Exhibits included several demonstrations of ancient crafts. Among them was an Alchemist using minerals, salts and plants to produce medicines, poultices and ointments. In addition, there was a Smith (Blacksmith) skilled in making swords using ancient techniques, plus a Bowyer making bows and between the two of them they had the skill of being a Fletcher / Flights. Several members tried to draw a long bow with a pulling force of 70 to 80 lbs. albeit unsuccessfully. All the participants



were dressed in costume of the appropriate period, they were enthusiastic and very knowledgeable on their

subject. The arena displays included an amusing yet informative display of the use of Viking weapons and forming a shield wall.

There was also a display of falconry.

There was an interesting collection of reconstructed buildings from the Stone, Bronze and Iron Ages as well as Roman, Saxon and Viking periods. We were also

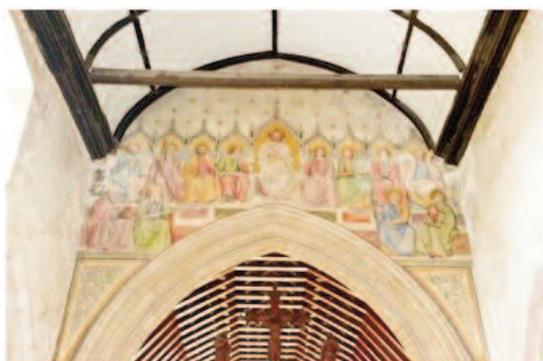


able to view these buildings including the interior. The large Iron Age Earthhouse was particularly impressive; the building being based on one that was discovered and excavated on the Isle of Man in the 1960's. A couple of brave members



sampled the food made to ancient recipes over an open fire inside the building, they seemed to have survived. Other buildings included a Viking Longhouse, a Saxon workshop and a Roman Smithy.

Some members decided to include a walk around the old village of Cranborne, which dates back to 1086 appearing in the Domesday Book. Cranborne Manor dates from 16th century and its garden was laid out by the 17th century gardener "John Tradescant", now



including an impressive garden centre. The Church of Saints Mary and Bartholomew is Norman and sits on the site of a Saxon Monastery. There were a number of interesting old houses and it is recorded that William the Conqueror, King John, Henry VIII regularly visited to enjoy the hunting on the Chase.

The AHA Group will be visiting Hollycombe Steam Collection, Liphook on the 31st August 2019. During September we plan to visit the Winchester district Open Heritage Venues – this is being worked on and details will follow once confirmed.

Robert Taylor & Rosemary Crumplin

30th August – Hollycombe Steam in the Country, near Liphook, Hampshire



The unusually small group who were able to join in this visit were treated to a rare and fascinating sight of some 50-60 large scale models of steam traction engines. All have been faithfully reproduced from actual monster machines now long gone. In addition, there were the usual collection of fairground and working farm/estate machines plus the two narrow gauge railways.



Whilst they have many machines awaiting full restoration, all of the

above were in full working order and fully steamed up. Hollycombe is said to be the largest traditional



fairground in Britain, and the main steam powered fairground attractions, which included big wheel, golden gallopers, roundabouts, chair-o-planes, swings, etc. Also on show were a bioscope, haunted house and much more, which were typical of those before WW2 and perhaps during our childhoods. They

certainly brought back many pleasant memories!

However, the additional attraction of the many different types of models, all exquisitely built, included ships in just about every form imaginable. There were remote tanks which staged a reproduction of a well known battle shortly after the D-Day landings, and a huge variety of steam engine applications. This was certainly not just a day for steam enthusiasts, because there was something to suit all tastes. Conclusively the opinion was **definitely a day to be remembered** and a timely reminder of just how important steam was to the Industrial Revolution.

After a gentle day strolling around the attractions, some of us stopped off for an early dinner giving us another opportunity to reminisce before arriving home.

Ron Bryan & Rosemary Crumplin

History

John Greetham spent **65 years working as a meteorologist** and that was the subject of his talk to the Group in June. After a short history of how meteorology developed from ancient times, he explained how forecasts were prepared in the early 1950s when he joined the Met Office. Over the ensuing years, the processes involved and the resulting accuracy of forecasts produced by the Met Office were greatly helped by advances in science and computing. Weather charts were plotted by hand and covered weather at the surface along with upper air charts to 40,000 feet. Weather observations were made each hour on the hour. By 2019 the computer not only collects the data in minutes but forecasts the weather for days ahead. The accuracy of, compared with the 50's is unbelievable. The advent of satellites advanced the accuracy of forecasts. The computer speeded up the data acquisition from hours to literally minutes.

John subsequently became a forensic meteorologist. He explained why that work was needed. Solicitors, barristers and the police needed to know what the likely weather conditions were at the time and place of an incident. Reports were prepared in many criminal cases from murder to burglary and in civil cases construction delays to road traffic accidents. In the questions that followed John's talk, there was a good deal of interest in the weather forecast for D-Day.



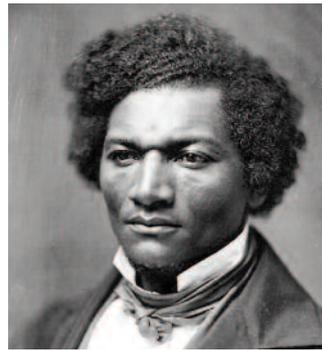
In July Derek Armitage spoke about the **Berlin Airlift** which ended 70 years ago in the summer of 1949. At the end of WW2, Germany was divided into Soviet,

American, British and French zones of occupation and Berlin was similarly divided even though it was deep within the Soviet zone. The Western Allies began to introduce changes in their zones to help the rehabilitation of the economy but the Soviets viewed these as a threat especially in Berlin. They decided to make the Western Allies' position in the city untenable. On 24 June 1948 they began a blockade closing all roads, railways and canals from Western-Occupied Germany into Western-Occupied Berlin.

For the Western Allies, withdrawal from Berlin was unthinkable and the use of military force to break the blockade was too risky. Instead they decided to supply the people of West Berlin with food, coal and other essential supplies by air using open air corridors across the Soviet occupation zone. The RAF and the USAF were responsible for the task but pilots also came from Australia, New Zealand, South Africa and Canada.

Derek explained the enormity of this undertaking and the practical and logistical problems that were faced and overcome. At the height of the airlift, one allied plane was landing or taking off in West Berlin every 30 seconds. By May 1949 the Soviets recognised that the blockade was not having the effect they wanted and reopened the routes into West Berlin. In all, the airlift delivered more than 2.3 million tons of supplies to the

people of West Berlin. It is considered by many to have been an important factor in accelerating the creation of West Germany and in the founding of NATO.



Erica Tinsley's talk in August was about the political struggle to restrict slavery in America in the years before the Civil War and about Frederick Douglass the ex-slave, orator and writer who could be considered to be America's first Civil Rights campaigner.

When America gained independence, its northern states were already moving towards the abolition of slavery and wanted all new states to be free of slavery. The southern states did not and, as a result, the application of each new state to join the Union became a political battleground in Congress. To preserve the Union, deals were done. In 1854, the compromise reached over the admission of Kansas resulted in so much corruption and violence in the state that it became known as "Bleeding Kansas" and the conflict was a major precursor to the Civil War.

America had banned the import of slaves in 1808 so the internal trade in slaves became big business which added to the horrors of slavery. Some in the growing abolitionist movement actively supported the Underground Railroad, a network of secret routes and safe houses used by slaves to escape to the northern free states or to Canada and Mexico where slavery had been abolished.

In 1850, as part of another political compromise, came a new and draconian Fugitive Slave Law which was both unjust and corrupt in its operation. It coerced people in the north, despite the laws of their own states, into aiding slave hunters and thus supporting slave owners and those making money from the slave trade. It was devastating for free African Americans living in the north, many of whom were sent into slavery in the south because they were denied the opportunity to prove that they were free. This law together with the publication of Uncle Tom's Cabin by Harriet Beecher Stowe galvanised public opinion in the north and contributed to the run up to the Civil War.

This was the background to the life of Frederick Douglass who was born a slave c.1818. When still a child he was sent as a house slave to a couple living in Baltimore and there he secretly taught himself to read and write. When old enough for manual labour, he was returned to the plantation but aged 19 he escaped to the north with the help of Anna Murray, the free African American woman who became his wife.

His powerful oratory gained him a position with the American Anti-Slavery Society and then publication of his best-selling autobiography in 1845 pushed him to the forefront of the abolitionist movement. Erica spoke about the rest of his remarkable life spent writing and

speaking, travelling extensively in the US, in Britain and in Europe campaigning against not only against slavery and racial inequality but for equality for all. He changed

public opinion and was an inspiration to many. He died in 1895 and is commemorated all over the US.

Erica Tinsley

Anton U3A Monthly Meetings

September 11th	History of Army Chaplains Since 1796	<i>David Blake</i>
October 9th	Operation Bushel: British military Relief Operations in Ethiopia, 1984/5	<i>Derek Armitage</i>
November 13th	Life Behind The Veil (Part 2)	<i>Sandra Simmonds</i>
December 11th	Round the World in 40 years	<i>Ian Hamilton</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	Annie Willens (01264 324 324)	anniewillens@gmail.com
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)	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 2.30pm	Mary Taylor (01264 364 752)	
History	2nd Friday 10.15am	Erica Tinsley (01264 365 563)	erica.tinsley@btinternet.com
Mah Jong	1st & 3rd Wednesday 2pm	Leslie Ward (01264 332789)	cliveandleslie@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
Skittles	Last Wednesday of each month	Barbara Dixon (01264 710712)	barbara.dixon.37@gmail.com
Walkers	Third Tuesday 10.15am	Anne Scott (01264 323011)	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