



Newsletter September 2022

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Janet Bentley; Anne Bray; Di Burrows; Lynda Stockings

Chairman's Corner

Well it certainly has been a rather warm summer! Not only have we had lots of sunshine, we held our u3a 40th anniversary picnic! I will start by saying on behalf of Anton u3a I would like to give a big thank you to Barbie who project managed the event and of course thank you to her hard working team of helpers. Needless to say the predicted high temperature did impact on how the picnic could be run and I will remember melting whilst wielding a broom at the end of the day. Barbie has enjoyed the challenge so much she is planning for next year - well done! Watch out for Barbie at the next meeting (14/09) as she will be selling raffle tickets to help fund the 2024 picnic please support us and buy some tickets (sorry, cards not accepted).

Following the AGM, our newly formed committee has had their inaugural meeting, I am pleased to say that we have a proactive team who are looking for ways to keep Anton u3a viable, lively, interesting and fun. This is a tough challenge, we may make mistakes but mistakes are part of the learning process and ultimately we want to support the group leaders and our members. Having considered this the committee have decided in future to issue the Newsletter in February and August. This should give us all plenty of time to assemble our articles to pass on to Trish. Now I have mentioned Trish I would like to say another big thank you for her continued hard work as editor in chief.

Those of you who attend our monthly meetings will often hear me ask for help so I thought I would extend my pleas in the newsletter. Wilson has continued to provide us with some interesting speakers and has now started booking into next year however there are times when he isn't available and is now looking for a deputy to assist him, if there is anyone who would like more details about what is involved please contact Wilson. Secondly I have mentioned many times about a deputy minibus driver. Robert has kindly driven the minibus for some time and we do need another driver as cover. Training will be provided, if you are interested please contact Robert. And finally please think about volunteering to make the teas at our monthly meetings. Meetings wouldn't be the same without them!

As for the future the radio reminded me that it will be Christmas in four months time! Fortunately for us Norma is already making plans for the Christmas lunch,

thank you Norma. If you haven't been to our monthly meetings for a while please come and join us, it's an opportunity to meet other people, listen to a speaker and enjoy yourselves.

Carole Leonard

Notes from the Programme Team

Since the last newsletter we have had 3 varied and interesting talks. Unfortunately I missed Jeremy Prescott's talk on Vietnam but heard that it was very good. He does a wide range of talks so there is plenty of scope to have him back again. The Year My Wheelie Bin Went Out More Than I Did was a very amusing talk given by Rev Jill Bentall. The last talk before summer recess was the third and final part of Sandra Simmond's trilogy titled Life After Iran. Sandra is a very enthusiastic speaker and revealed details of her life that were quite harrowing at times to listen to but she is a born survivor!

September's talk is The Mystery of Agatha Christie to be given by Lynda Warren which I think will be a popular one. Martin LLOYD will be giving the October talk, Passports, Assassins, Traitors and Spies. This talk has been booked for a very long time partly due to Covid and partly due to the popularity of the speaker. I have heard that he does a very good talk.

Maggie Cunniffe will give the November talk about Keeping Your Animals Healthy and Susan Howe will complete the year with a talk titled Knowing Two British Eccentrics. This will be a humorous light hearted talk to round off the year.

I am currently booking for 2023 with January, February and April filled to date so now would be a good time to make a request if you have one for a particular speaker or subject.

Wilson Carson

Web Notes

May I offer some advice regarding the submission of material for publication on the website.

The publication of whole WORD documents cannot be published on the website because not all viewers can read WORD documents on mobile devices. They must be converted to PDF format, which are more easily viewable on all devices. When whole WORD files are converted to PDF format, the original WORD document is not retained.

These PDF files cannot be amended, once published. Consequently, if amendments to the published material are requested, the originator should send a new WORD file that has the amendments included. This can be converted to PDF and the old, published material can be replaced with a new PDF file.

Submission of unedited photographs (often several megabytes in size) are too large to publish because they slow down the loading of a webpage. If possible, the originator should reduce the resolution to about 200 kilobytes. This does not affect the clarity of the pictures when published.

Robert Smith

Questors

Seaside outing

The first trip for this quarter was on 30th June when a full mini bus with 16 Questors, driven by Robert Kemp and led by Chris Coffin travelled to Swanage. It was lovely after a 2 year gap to have a seaside outing again.



The weather was pleasant with no rain for the duration of the trip and everyone enjoyed their day. Robert stopped en route at Corfe where 11 people got off the bus and subsequently made their own way onward to the coast by train or bus to Swanage.



Lunch was enjoyed on the seafront and everyone agreed on the journey home that the outing had been a great success.

Soon after this trip Chris suffered his stroke, at the time of writing we understand that he is making progress and we hope to welcome him back to the Questors committee before too long and we all wish him well.

Brooklands Museum of Transport

On Thursday 28 July 2022, a group of 13 Questors undertook a visit to the Brooklands Museum near Weybridge by minibus which was ably driven by Robert Kemp. **“Brooklands was the cradle of British innovation and endeavour in the worlds of motorsport and aviation. Today Brooklands Museum celebrates the passion, bravery and inventiveness of the men and women who designed, built, raced and flew machines like those in our Collection, on this historic site, throughout the twentieth century.”**

After a warm welcome by two of the reception staff and being helped with check in, members viewed an introductory video about the history and content of the museum. Next on the agenda was a short period for refreshments after the 1¼ hour journey which was most welcome.



Napier-Railton Special lap record holder 1935 (143.44 mph)

We then met up with our volunteer guide, Michael Sands who would lead us on a 1-hour tour of the primary exhibits of the museum. Michael proved to be an outstanding guide who presented us with so much

more information than we would otherwise have gleaned on our own. He was also wonderfully entertaining and amusing in his presentation style.

Michael and the Questors so enjoyed the tour and had so many questions and answers during the tour that it lasted for just over 1½ hours. A very enjoyable and informative experience.

Most of the Questors then had a light lunch at the Sunbeam Café on site. The food was good and plentiful and all the staff were friendly and helpful.



Brough Superior 1953 motorcycle and sidecar insured for £150,000

After lunch Questors were free to revisit any of the exhibits, halls or hangers that had caught their attention during the tour or to explore the few other parts of the museum that had not been visited.

It was an amazing experience to see actual motor cars, motorcycles and aircraft directly associated with Brooklands which had played a major role in the evolution of motoring and aviation in Britain over the last century and a quarter. Examples being the 24 litre, 12 cylinder, W engine Napier-Railton Special which holds the Brooklands track record of over 143 mph set in 1935, the Vickers Vimy which won the Daily Mail nonstop trans-Atlantic flight competition in 15 hours 57 minutes in 1919, the Harrier jump-jet which was used by the winner of the Daily Mail London Post Office Tower to Empire State building in New York record in 5 hours 57 minutes just 50 years later in 1969.

All who were on the outing, felt it had been a most enjoyable day which had been very worthwhile.

Cecil Rose

In August we visited Dorset



There were 14 in the group including our trusty driver, Robert Kemp. The weather looked set for the day at a pleasant temperature. We arrived at the church in the village

of Moreton just before 11:00 giving us time for a comfort break prior to the church visit. A quick group photograph was organised with the church in the background prior to meeting our host and guide Carol Gibbens.

St Nicholas Church

The church is set in the Moreton Estate which has been in the Frampton family since the 14th Century and even today apart from six of the residences all the houses are still owned by the estate.

The person responsible for the current church was William Charles Frampton who rebuilt the church in 1776 and was Rector for 57 years. It is a good example of early Gothic revival and was built on the earlier mediaeval foundations.

The church has 2 claims to fame as the burial place of Lawrence of Arabia and is almost certainly the only church in the world where all of its thirteen (13) windows are clear engraved and etched glass.

On 21st May 1935 T.E. Lawrence's ("Lawrence of Arabia") funeral service was conducted there and he was buried in the nearby churchyard. He was a cousin to the Frampton family and a frequent visitor to their home. He lived for a number of years nearby in a small property once owned by the family called Clouds Hill. It is now owned by the National Trust and can be visited. The funeral was attended by many elder statesmen and politicians. On the 8th October 1940 a German bomb damaged a significant part of the church. For the next 10 years the church services were held at Moreton House or in the Estate Hall until the church was rebuilt. The church was rededicated in 1950 after restoration and the replacement new windows were of semi-opaque green glass which many of the parishioners did not like. With a War Damage Grant, suggested by a visitor, Laurence Whistler, a talented glass engraver, was commissioned to provide five (5) Apse windows with a striking design that included biblical symbols, Christmas lanterns, vines,



The Autumn window from inside the church

medallions, candles, landscapes, stars, lightning, local scenes and much more. The windows were installed in 1955 and etched by Whistler. Later, in 1974 and 1975, two more windows were commissioned privately. Further additions were the Trinity Chapel Window in 1982, the Galaxy Window 1984 and the Lightning Window in the Vestry.

In the 1980's after he had completed twelve (12) windows, Whistler offered to create and donate one last panel of Judas the 13th Apostle. The window depicted Judas hanging himself with the 30 pieces of silver falling from his hands and turning into flowers where they hit the ground. The parishioners were so appalled by the subject matter that they rejected the window which then was loaned to Dorset County Museum in



Forgiveness Window depicting Judas - taken from outside the church

Dorchester on the understanding that if ever the parish of Moreton changed their mind it should be returned. Whistler named it the "Forgiveness Window". In 2014, after a campaign by Jacqueline Birdseye, the then rector and 20 years after Whistler's death the panel was installed and the space was blocked on the inside by a wall monument, so the window is only visible from outside the church.

Further highlights in the church are its Font and wonderful Victorian Pugin designed floor tiles from the Minton factory. There is also a memorial tablet from 1762 to Mary Frampton, wife of James Frampton in the Trinity Chapel that is somewhat exaggerated in its description of her merits.



Walled Garden at Moreton
Left -flowers Right - pond

After a very interesting hour in the church, we all said our thanks to Carol, our guide and carrying our souvenir Christmas cards and histories of the church

we proceeded a few hundred yards to the Walled Garden and the Dovecote Restaurant for lunch. The Walled Garden is a five (5) acre landscaped formal garden with an onsite café and garden shop, and a children's play park with a range of small animals. The garden is leased from the Moreton Estate by Employ My Ability (Ltd) which is an organisation that helps students with learning disabilities and Special Educational Needs & Disabilities (SEND) to develop skills, expertise and confidence across hospitality, horticultural and retail facilities.

After our lunches the party split into two with a number staying at the gardens to enjoy them and further explore the village whilst the rest of our group proceeded to visit nearby Dorchester to either visit one of its many museums or have a general look around the town. After returning to Moreton to pick up the members who had stayed, we returned to Andover in good time after a very pleasant day in Dorset.

Kevin Barter

I would like to thank my dedicated committee all of whom have contributed to finding and arranging venues for the enjoyable and informative visits that took place this summer. In order for the Questers to continue to provide this service we do need more volunteers to join the committee. Do please step forward if you can: it is not onerous and very gratifying seeing Questers enjoying a good day out and knowing that you have had a part in it!

Please keep an eye on the Questers page of the website and calendar to see the upcoming plans for the remainder of this year.

Jane Leishman, Co-ordinator

Petanque

The Petanque group meet the first Friday of the month at 6pm at the pitch at the British Legion, Hurstbourne Tarrant in the summertime.

This year because we have had so much dry weather we have met several Fridays each month not just the first Friday of the month.

We welcomed Martin to the group, he has now joined the u3a.

New members and beginners are always welcome, no initial knowledge of the game is required.

Adrian & Ann Truss

Monthly Raffle

The reinstatement of the monthly raffle was raised at our last committee meeting. I volunteered to run the

raffle and Jan Bentley has offered to help. As most of you are aware the monthly raffle takings went a long way to paying for our summer picnic. We have had two years without a raffle due to COVID, so the coffers were dry.

The charge we made for the picnic tickets this year **did not cover the cost of the food**. Fortunately, because we were celebrating the 40th Anniversary of the u3a and Her Majesty the Queen's Platinum Jubilee, I organised stalls to raise funds.

A big thank you to all the volunteers who prepared our food and who helped on the day of the picnic, especially to those who ran the Tombola, raffle, guess the name of the bear and the sweets in the jar, because they were looking after the stalls and couldn't join in. These were all self funded by our members and I thank those members who donated to make our stalls successful, **THANK YOU**.

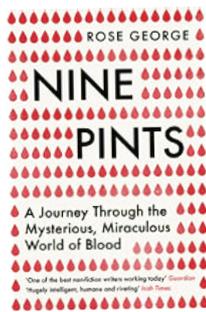
These side stalls helped raise sufficient money to cover all our expenditure, with £102 left which will go towards our raffle prizes this year and the picnic next year. Any monies made from the sale of the raffle tickets will be ringfenced for the 2023 picnic.

So please, please support the raffle as we may have to make a small charge for the picnic if we don't raise sufficient funds.

*Barbie Morrey-Stone
Vice Chair/Picnic Co-ordinator*

Reading Group

May 22.– *Nine Pints* by Rose George



Most humans contain between nine and twelve pints of blood. Here Rose George, who probably contains nine pints, tells nine different stories about the liquid that sustains us, discovering what it reveals about who we are. In Nepal, she meets girls challenging the taboos surrounding menstruation; in the Canadian prairies, she visits a controversial plasma clinic; in Wales she gets a tour of the UK's only leech farm to learn about the vital role the creatures still play in modern surgery; and in a London hospital she accompanies a medical team revolutionising the way we treat trauma.

Member Reviews:

Liz: I found some facts a bit heavy in places, but overall enjoyed reading it. I found the chapter on how other cultures deal with women and their periods quite interesting.

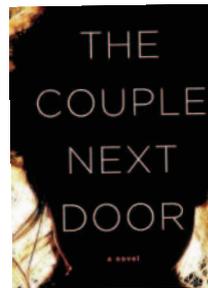
Anne: An interesting read, wouldn't have chosen it myself but I certainly learnt quite a few facts I hadn't known before. Well written and easy to read despite the scientific nature of some chapters.

Lynda: On reading the first few pages I did not find the subject particularly interesting, however, the in-

formation imparted from then on was riveting. The contents contained facts without being too heavy and were easy to absorb. There were chapters about diseases that are frequently reported in TV news items; of interest, at the moment, was one on transfusions and contaminated blood. I found the later chapters tedious as they concentrated on more personal situations.

Jean: A book with lots of interesting facts on the composition of blood and how its' use has changed over the years in terms of treating trauma / disease. In South Africa AIDs issues have not been handled well and in India's rural communities menstruation has seen girls and young women treated differently and separated from the rest of the community. Although the book had some interesting elements it seemed over lengthy.

June 22.– *The Couple Next Door* by Shari Lapena



Anne and Marco Conti seem to have it all—a loving relationship, a wonderful home, and their beautiful baby, Cora. But one night when they are at a dinner party next door, a terrible crime is committed. Suspicion immediately focuses on the parents. But the truth is a much more complicated story.

Member Reviews:

Anne: A good easy read, not my normal type of book but I thoroughly enjoyed it. Plot was simple but with some interesting twists (some unexpected) Recommended.

Liz: Not sure I would like to live next door to either. I did feel sorry for Anne at first but found they all had a secret, however didn't think it would end like it did.

Jean: An easy read which I enjoyed. It was well written and the twists in the story line were well thought out. The reader was left guessing who the real villain was until towards the end of the book so it kept you involved in the plot.

We had a discussion about the illness which the character Anne had which caused her to not remember what had happened and we wondered if this is something which is a known ailment /treatable or just fiction!

July 22. – *The Guest List* by Lucy Foley



On an island off the coast of Ireland, guests gather to celebrate two people joining their lives together as one. The groom: handsome and charming, a rising television star. The bride: smart and ambitious, a magazine publisher. It's a wedding for a magazine, or for a celebrity: the designer dress, the remote location, the luxe party favours, the boutique whiskey. The cell phone service may be spotty and the waves may be rough, but every detail has been expertly planned and will be expertly executed.

But perfection is for plans, and people are all too human. As the champagne is popped and the festivities begin, resentments and petty jealousies begin to mingle with the reminiscences and well wishes. The groomsmen begin the drinking game from their school days. The bridesmaid not-so-accidentally ruins her dress. The bride's oldest (male) friend gives an uncomfortably caring toast.

And then someone turns up dead. Who didn't wish the happy couple well? And perhaps more important, why?

Member Reviews:

Liz: A bit difficult to keep track of all the characters as there was so many. Very similar to her previous book.

Anne: I thought it was better than the previous book we read by Lucy Foley, but the same formula of jumping characters and fairly unlikeable people made it a bit tedious. Having got over that it took a while to get into but turned out to be an entertaining read in the end.

Lynda: This book was fine for a holiday read. The main character was not a particularly likeable person- a cheat and a liar. From an early age he had been a manipulative bully. He was encouraged by a group of friends who admired and seemed to do his bidding even when they knew it was wrong, this continued into adult life. He was eventually killed by a victim who had been through trauma following his appalling behaviour; I am surprised it took so long to gain revenge.

The plot was interlinked but complicated. The grouping of characters was confusing and obviously followed a formula previously used by the author.

Mary: I thought this was very similar to the last Lucy Foley book we read. Again, she cleverly, I think, kept the actual murder, who the victim was and who 'dunnit', right to the last few chapters. The only thing that gets my goat is the back and forth with the individual character parts. I would find it much easier if she concentrated on the one character, told their full story and then moved on to the next so it would be easier to mark where that person was in the book if reference was needed to them later. Perhaps this is just me being lazy! Don't think I would read another of her books if written in the same fashion.

Diane Richards

Reading Group 2

The first book read in the reporting period does not need much in the way of explanation "**Watership Down**" by **Richard Adams**. It is usually considered a children's book but the member who chose this book explained that he read it around 1973 when he was 23 as it was the book to read at that time.

During our discussions it revealed that many of the current readers had in fact previously read the book but welcomed the chance to revisit the novel and to decide if they still felt the same when they last read it.

Perhaps it was not surprising that many of us had changed our views of the book. Having been situated near to where we live did enhance the enjoyment value however irritation was felt at the rather drawn out stories that interspersed the flow of the main body of text. In fact many of Book Club 2 members glossed over them as they felt it added little to the quality of the novel.

Overall the majority of readers appreciated the novel as a piece of history. In essence it could be described as a book about courage, friendship and adventure, they felt the character of the rabbits were well defined and had to finish the book to establish what happened to their hero of choice. I was a bit of a Bigwig fan myself! One of our members was a little dubious about reading the book as she had seen the film and felt it was quite brutal, fortunately she did finish and quite enjoyed it.

I could "rabbit" on (sorry for the pun) as there remains plenty of interest in this 50 year old novel but I will move on to our next book.

Our second book was "**The Haunting**" by **Alan Titchmarsh**. This was not a horror story but a nod to the fact that what happened years ago impacted on events that happened fairly recently. What was a little unusual was that this book was also set in our surrounding area and we agreed the difficulties in the travel involved were accurate.

Throughout the book two stories were being told flitting from the early 19th century to around 2010. Many of our members comment that they dislike these types of stories but in this case it did seem to work as we were waiting to see how the stories were interlocked. At times it became a page turner and all members finished the book. As usual I am not going to outline the story as more can be found out by reading it. Only one member was slightly critical of the story line but still finished it. Some members "confessed" they enjoyed it and one stayed up late to finish the book. Most of us felt we could read another Alan Titchmarsh but not immediately.

Our next book is "The Servant" by Maggie Richell-Davies which we will discuss in October.

Carole Leonard

Andover and Anton U3A Art



The art group had a great summer term, exhibiting at both Andover and Anton U3A AGMs and enjoying a trip to Houghton Lodge complete with artists materials for art al fresco. It was so successful we may well repeat the trip in the autumn. Renate West, our facilitator, is showing her work in Stockbridge Town Hall as part of the Hampshire Open arts from 20 August onwards and she also has forthcoming exhibitions in Brick Lane, London and Paris and Milan - it's fantastic that still she is able to guide us in our endeavours and with such joy and encouragement. We welcome new people to the group whether they have loads of experience or none and Renate will help them move forward in whatever they are interested. Come along and try it out one day — bring pencil and paper if you have no other materials and be inspired by what the rest of the group are doing! We start again on 6 September, every Tuesday except August and Bank holidays 2.30-4.30 at Burghclere Down Community Centre SP10 3RZ.

Annie Willens

AHA Group (Art, History and Architecture)

Gurkha Museum - Winchester



The AHA Group had planned a visit to the above venue for Friday 27th May, unfortunately due to the lack of interest this was sadly cancelled.

Members have been asking for guided tours etc. and it was thought that this met the bill, with a 45-minute introduction into the Nepalese culture, dress, beliefs, landscape, and history of the country. This would have led to the connection with the Gurkha Regiment and the British Armed Forces. In addition, this was local and not a full day just over in Winchester.

We try to bring all aspects of interest into the AHA group and this museum visit was considered to have brought more than just a military interest.

If anyone has a particular interest / idea of a venue that may be considered of general interest to others, as previously said, "all suggestions are most welcome".

We do hope that you will continue to support the AHA subgroup – Anton u3a, and in particular the June function which is a walk/talk by David Richards around Stratford sub Castle and its connection to the old Rotten Borough of Old Sarum via the Pitt family.

Prepared by: Rosemary Crumplin-Clark

Visit to Gold Hill Museum, Abbey Ruins and to enjoy Shaftesbury Fringe Festival



Once again, the AHA Group found itself in the position of having to cancel the above scheduled visit on Friday 22nd July.

Sadly, it seemed as though everything was against us! The weather was extreme for us Brits and we could not take any risks with some members who have health issues, in addition, two of group tested positive for Covid.

But we will not be defeated! There is no group visit for August, which has been our annual practise. We will be back for our September visit to Devizes, a tour of the Museum followed by a guided tour of the town. As per our normal procedure, we will be sending out details of this event.

Prepared by: Rosemary Crumplin-Clark

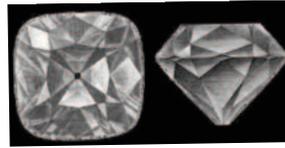
Stratford-sub-Castle, guided walk in the Footsteps of Jack 'Diamond' Pitt

On Friday 24th June we met our Blue Badge guide and old friend of the AHA Group, David Richards. He was in his usual good form for the planned visit to Stratford-sub-Castle.



We were there to learn about the roguish Pitt family and their connection with the old Rotten Borough of Old Sarum, which was only abolished by the Great Reform Act of 1832. He started by explaining the chequered

history of Jack 'Diamond' Pitt who, after 3 very profitable periods working in colonial India both against and for the British East India Company, managed to acquire a huge uncut diamond.



This very large diamond was sold to France to initially embellish Napoleon's sword hilt. It was subsequently removed and placed in his coronation

crown. The remains of the uncut diamond ended up in Russia as part of their crown jewels. At this time, Pitt turned his attention firstly to buying influence in the form of the Rotten Borough of Old Sarum and then to buying properties and farm land (a lot of it). Indeed, to this day, certain members of the Pitt Dynasty remain prominent landowners.



Diamond Pitt's original elegant home, which he had built remains a sizeable property in Stratford-sub-Castle as do a number of other old houses in the village. The village would remain (apart from post WW2

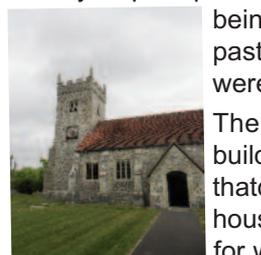
developments) largely recognisable to Pitt the Younger. The dynasty produced two prime ministers, both of whom relied upon the Rotten Borough system for their power and influence. During the walk around the



village, we saw the site of the old Parliament tree under which at election times the few eligible electors would gather to bargain their votes, which usually went to the highest bidder. However,

in the case of Old Sarum, Diamond Pitt had all the important votes in his grasp well in advance of any election.

Apparently, Pitt the Younger did not become Prime Minister in his twenties via talent alone. He knew how to fully exploit patronage to his personal advantage,



being schooled in his corrupt ways by past generations of his family, who were extremely adept at the art.

The old church was a delightful building, located close to glorious, thatched cottages and a few elegant houses which must have been built for wealthy families.

As usual, David was a complete master of his subject and was able to answer our many questions with humour and precise information. The tour lasted about two hours, by which time we were in need of some refreshments. Taking our leave from David, we journeyed to the next village Lower Woodford for lunch at the Wheatsheaf, thus concluding yet another very successful AHA outing.

*Prepared by: Ron Bryan
AHA Organiser*

Beginners' Bridge

Beginner's bridge is a small sociable group who meet every Thursday at The Lights. We had a break during lockdown, but as soon as The Lights were open for business the group met again in September 2021. Everyone was happy to return to something like "a normal life" again.

We have three new members, and we have two places available as I decided we could expand a little. If you wish to join us to learn to play bridge please contact me, Barbie Morrey-Stone on 07802803604 to discuss.

We meet every Thursday morning at The Lights, starting at 09.45am and finishing at 12.45. The conditions for using The Lights is that we all buy a drink, hence we do not pay an hourly charge.

Barbie Morrey-Stone

Skittles

After four months the skittles group will open again on September 28. I hope to see you all tanned and invigorated by this amazing summer we have had.

We have lost a few members since covid showed it's ugly head so we are open to new members. Please be in touch with me if you would like to join our happy band. We meet at the Queens Head Luggershall at 11 o'clock every last Wednesday in the month and stay on for lunch. My phone number is 01264 710712.

Barbara Dixon

Photo Club

June meeting

The Group went on a farm visit on 21st June, arranged by Rosemary Crumplin, to Trimley Estate Farm hosted by the Estate Manager Mike Farrell.

Additional U3A members from the now defunct Birding and Natural History Group, the Lowings and the Kemps, also came along. The weather was idyllic and the light was excellent for photography.

The Estate is making concerted efforts to encourage wildlife by planting hedgerows, seeding areas with wild flowers, sunflowers, etc and water features to attract amphibians and dragon/damsel flies. It was very obvious that Mike Farrell was very enthusiastic about the whole project.



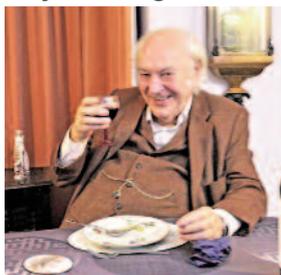
Retreating Hare - John Hawke

Unfortunately wildlife was elusive. An early sighting of a low-flying Red Kite, the re-treating rump of a Hare and the flushing of a Tawny Owl from its daytime roost in a shed were the

highlights but there were plenty of opportunities to capture wildflowers, insects and the agricultural landscape on a very big farm.

Most attendees finished off the evening with a splendid meal at the Hare and Hounds on Charlton Down.

July meeting.



English Gentleman - Pam Liberson

The Group met at 10:15 on 11th July with 6 present. The theme was 'Quintessentially English'. The resulting photographs were broad in range from a village cricket match via steam trains to old buildings. Best picture was by Pam Liberson of her friend Mick – a prime example of a country gentleman. Theresa

Twitchell's photographs were voted as Best Portfolio.

Theresa Twitchell spoke, initially, about portraits she had taken recently of her grandchildren emphasising the need to vary the angle, shoot from below (and above) and be aware of the serendipity of 'catching the moment' illustrated by a capture of a furtive/cheeky look from the grand-daughter taken from above at just the right angle. Subsequent discussion prompted her to show some more photographs with some descriptions of how the photographs were taken – concluding with her favourite photograph of a rose, lightly sprayed with water using a black board as a background. This made the rose 'pop'. It was interesting to view the varied preferences for the photographs that showed the differences in personal tastes!

August meeting



Puffin - John Hawke

The Group met at 10:15 on 8th August with the theme 'Eye-catching Photographs'. Of the five portfolios submitted, John Hawke's picture of a Puffin was voted Best Picture. The Best Folio candidates all received one

vote – John Hawke's suggestion to add all individual best photographs from the four folios to the Group's web site was unanimously agreed upon. Members talked about why they had chosen their photographs and it became clear that all photos evoked memories of past holidays and special events – there was certainly a very wide range of subjects.

Subsequent discussion centred on ways of storing photographs ranging from CDs to the Cloud. Also the current changes from Camera producers in the near future with the disappearance of some SLRs in preference to mirrorless cameras as well as some manufacturers (Panasonic and Canon) abandoning the pocket camera in the wake of increased sales of Smart Phones with improved camera capabilities.

September meeting.

The 16th September meeting will be another field trip, this time to Winchester - anyone interested in coming along please contact John Hawke for details – hawkejhhmail@gmx.co.uk.

John Hawke

Petanque

The Petanque group meet the first Friday of the month at 6pm at the pitch at the British Legion, Hurstbourne Tarrant in the summertime.

This year because we have had so much dry weather we have met several Fridays each month not just the first Friday of the month.

We welcomed Martin to the group, he has now joined the u3a. New members and beginners are always welcome, no initial knowledge of the game is required.

Adrian & Ann Truss

Mahjong

Our mahjong group has had a very pleasant summer despite various members being away at different times. We have had regular games and a lovely social afternoon tea.

We have the lovely addition to our mahjong family of a

purpose built mahjong table! We now have the capability to have three mahjong tables on the go so anybody wanting to join our happy band is very welcome. Learners are welcome, we love to share our knowledge and humour!

So come and find out about pungs, kongs, chows, winds and dragons in a lovely friendly gathering with lots of fun and laughter.

Leslie Ward

Floral Art

The flower group has continued to meet monthly with varying degrees of success. Sometimes we have made difficulties for ourselves in choosing difficult subjects. They have been The Jubilee, July 4th (American Independence) and carnival. Here is a photo of our Carnival Queen.

We meet on the first Thursday of the month at 2 o'clock new members are welcome.

Lynda Stockings

Anton U3A Monthly Meetings

September 14th	The Mystery of Agatha Christie – Her life, books, and characters, including her disappearance.	<i>Lynda Warren</i>
October 12th	Passports, Assassins, Traitors and Spies – Thrill to a dramatic account of how the actions of a group of assassins brought about a change in the passport regulations; how the unmasking of a spy caused a modification in passport design and how, for one man, the passport itself turned into a killer.	<i>Martin Lloyd</i>
November 9th	Keeping Your Animals Healthy	<i>Maggie Cunniffe</i>
December 14th	Knowing Two British Eccentrics – Susan was PA to Sir John Betjeman. Her time with him and his celebrated teddy bear, Archie, has provided her with endless amusing anecdotes. And "Siegfried Farnon", the character played by Robert Hardy in the television series All Creatures Great and Small, was a dear friend. Susan will tell you about these two cherished eccentrics in a most entertaining way.	<i>Susan Howe</i>

GROUP CO-ORDINATORS

SUBJECT	DAY & TIME	CO-ORDINATOR	E-MAIL/PHONE
Art	Tuesdays 2.30-4.30pm	Trevor McCullough	art.u3aanton@gmail.com Tel. 07818010287
Art, History & Architecture	By arrangement	Rosemary Crumplin-Clark	re.crumplin@gmail.com 07570 962112
Bridge	Thursdays 10am-12noon	Barbie Morrey-Stone	beesbubbles4@gmail.com 01264 335 597
Floral Art	1st Thursday 2pm	Lynda Stocking	antonu3asec@gmail.com 07538596344
French Conversation	Wednesday 10am-12pm fortnightly	Gillian Roberts	antonu3asec@gmail.com 07538596344
Genealogy	Fourth Wednesday 2.30pm	Mary Taylor	mary-bobt@outlook.com 01264 364 752
History	2nd Friday 10.15am	Erica Tinsley	antonu3asec@gmail.com 07538596344
Mah Jong	1st & 3rd Wednesday 2pm	Leslie Ward	cliveandleslie@sky.com 01264 332 789
Petanque	1st Friday 6.30pm in Summer 10.30am in Winter	Adrian & Ann Truss	aatruss@yahoo.co.uk 01264 313 242
Photography	Second Monday 10am	John Hawke Rosemary Crumplin	hawkejhmail@gmx.co.uk re.crumplin@gmail.com
Poetry	Third Friday 10.30am	Glennis Dale	glennis.dale@yahoo.co.uk 01264 323356
Questers	By arrangement	Jane Leishman	antonu3asec@gmail.com 07538596344
Reading Group 1	1st Tuesday - 10am	Diane Richards	georgeandedward@sky.com 01264 392367
Reading Group 2	1st Wednesday alternate months April onwards at 10am	Carole Leonard	antonu3achair@btinternet.com 01264 324 271
Skittles	Last Wednesday of each month 11.00am	Barbara Dixon	barbara.dixon.37@gmail.com 01264 710712
Walkers	Third Tuesday 10.15am	Anne Scott	anne.scott@yahoo.co.uk 01264 323011
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