

A Message from the Chair

On behalf of the Committee I would like to wish you a very happy Easter. The light at the end of the tunnel is very close now. The longer days and beautiful spring flowers do much to cheer us. Thank you for your loyalty and membership (which is now over 1000). I feel confident now that I can, at last, say we will meet again!!

I am really happy to inform members that as from Wednesday, 23 June, the Office, in Orange Street, will be manned on Wednesdays and Thursdays from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. It will be so good to be able to meet people, so do pop in and see us. We have a team of volunteers who man the office. If you feel you would like to be involved please contact me at chair@u3acanterbury.org.uk or 01843 847 276. I would love to hear from you! Thank you.

Chris Plant



High Street Project

At the beginning of last year I showed an interest in this project on the National u3a website. My main objective was to photograph and record Canterbury High Street properties and follow up a year later with updates. Just before the original lockdown in March 2020 I made a record and uploaded it to the leaders of the National Project. This has become a huge project involving u3as across the country and I have attended a couple of meetings on Zoom regarding the progress. There is a piece on the National website and in the latest publication emailed recently. The National Office is in the process of putting an interactive database of all the u3a High Street projects on their website.

As we are coming out of lockdown, and it is a year down the line, I intend updating my records, but as there is so much more to be done I am looking to get a team together. The National Steering Group is interested in as many High Streets as possible in our area, looking at the changes that have happened over lockdown, particularly empty properties. Places such as pubs, hairdressers, fishmongers and other small retailers and their history are of interest as are larger retail stores such as Woolworths and Debenhams that have closed down over recent years. u3a Canterbury & District has a wealth of local residents among its members who may be interested in researching some of this or contributing with photographs and records of their own.

If you are interested and would like to join with a friend, we can form a working group. Just email me: cayleyc5@gmail.com in the first instance and we can make a plan, virtually at first!

Chris Cayley



Courses and Activities Programme

Your committee is very aware that, since our many activities on offer have had to be via Zoom or email, many members have not been able to participate for whatever reasons. Our Q2 programme, recently sent to all members who have email, fills the gap between the winter and summer programmes and we hope will be the last to offer Zoom courses only.

Our Summer Programme, which you will receive in early May, will have a mixture of Zoom and face-to-face groups in accordance with government and Third Age Trust guidelines and we very much hope that all of you will find something to enjoy and that we shall meet some of the members who have joined us since the lockdown for the first time and see 'old' friends again.

Ursula Steiger, Course Development Coordinator

Book Reviews

***The Memory Shop*, by Ella Griffin**

This is a joy for those of us who are missing dear Maeve Binchy.

Nora inherits a house full of treasures from her Dublin Grandma. Needing to raise money to provide a home for her mother, she decides to sell the pieces and opens up her 'Memory Shop'. The history of each gorgeous item and how it fits perfectly with its new owner and transforms their lives is pure delight.

At first you think 'Short Story' then, like Binchy, the characters and their lives start to blend into each other.

An absolute delight. 384 pp.

Jocelyn Thomson

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***News of the World*, by Paulette Jiles**

This is the story of itinerant captain Jefferson Kyle Kidd, age 71, who makes a living as a newsreader in Texas until he is persuaded to take a 10-year-old white girl to San Antonio to her aunt and uncle. She has been rescued from the Kiowa Indians, who kidnapped her and killed her family. The book traces the story of their journey together and their developing relationship. It has now been made into a film, and is a very worthy entrant for this commendation. 240 pp.

Jennifer Davis

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***The Places In Between*, by Rory Stewart (ex-MP and International Development Minister)**

Join Rory Stewart on his solo walk across North Central Afghanistan. Armed only with his knowledge of Persian and Moslem customs, plus his own quick-wittedness, he travels paths few Westerners have trod.

Showing great courage, perseverance, wisdom and humour, he opens a window on the living conditions and traditions of rural Afghani people, for whom he has a great respect and concern. Fascinating and very readable. 348 pp.

Sue St. John

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Photograph taken and submitted for our use by Derek Ray

Caption Competition

We are looking for the most humorous and appropriate conversation topic between these two horses. Be creative, imaginative and have some fun.

Send your entry, clearly marked with your name, to ursulae@btinternet.com or 28 Chestnut Drive, Sturry, Canterbury CT2 0NB or telephone 01227 711536 by **Monday 12 April**.

Your entries will then be copied and anonymised and sent to the three judges, Chris Plant, Jane Ichajapanich and Robin Terry. The winning three entries will be announced next month.

There will be a first, second and third prize.

We are hoping for an enthusiastic response so please don't disappoint us.

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Canterbury & District u3a 2021 Autumn Holiday

The Historic Houses and Heritage of Northamptonshire

5 days from £409, departing Thursday 23rd to Monday 27th September
in an executive coach and visiting:

- The Shuttleworth Collection and Swiss Gardens
- Saxon churches at Brixworth and Earls Barton
- Boughton House
- The Canal Museum at Stoke Bruerne
- Boat trip on Grand Union Canal
- Bletchley Park
- Kirby Hall (EH)
- Rockingham Castle
- Canons Ashby House (NT)
- Upton House (NT)

Staying at the 4* Marriott Hotel on the outskirts of Northampton on a half-board basis.
The hotel has a restaurant, bar, indoor swimming pool, gymnasium and a steam room.
All rooms are en suite and have TV, telephone and tea & coffee making facilities.

Extra costs: single room supplement £80; insurance £24; entrance fees to places visited.
National Trust and English Heritage properties are free to NT and EH members.

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*For more information and an application form, send SAE to:
Roger and Margaret Lansdell
6 Priory Gardens, Nunnery Fields, Canterbury, CT1 3HT*

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In Memoriam

Since we were unable to say a proper farewell to members who passed away in 2020
and so far in 2021 we thought we would remind you of their names
and remember them with gratitude for their contributions to u3a Canterbury & District.

Diane Atkin	Tony Harris	Peter Raymond	Gillian Thomas
Cheryl Blake	Alison Humphrey	John Redwood	Eileen Tresidder
Phyllis Broyd	Celia Jessup	Jennifer Rofe	Allen Trim
Mary Chandler	Jan Kane	Pauline Scola	Christina von Graevenitz
Muriel Clarke	Lawrence Lyle	Anne Seller	Anthony Weber
Robert Dunn	Evelyn Oxlade	Valerie Smith	Marian Youngman
Elizabeth Glinn			

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Please keep sending in your items of interest, from a couple of sentences up to 250 words
to Ursula Steiger ursulae@btinternet.com or Editor@u3aCanterbury.co.uk