

## Medway U3A Outings 2018

We have taken note of the suggestions made for this year's trips and hope you will enjoy the selection we have made. The start times are Rainham 8 am, Gillingham 8.15 am, Rochester 8.30 am and Strood 8.45 am. Full payment must be made when booking.

### Monday 23rd April - Standen House and Garden (East Grinstead): £26 (National Trust members £15)



Inside the house you'll see Standen's great collection of Arts & Crafts furniture and decorative art, alongside a day in the life of Standen in the 1920s when the Beale family lived here.

Covering 12 acres of hillside, the gardens are made up of outdoor 'rooms' which were used for leisure, growing fresh produce and showing an exotic plant collection developed by Mrs Beale. Standen's tulip festival is at the time of our trip, when 10,000 tulips should be blooming.

\*\*\*\*\*

### Wednesday 20th June - Tilbury Fort and Southend: £14



**Tilbury Fort** on the Thames estuary has protected London's seaward approach from the 16th century through to the Second World War. Henry VIII built the first fort here, and Queen Elizabeth I famously rallied her army nearby to face the threat of the Armada. The present fort is much the best example of its type in England, ... We'll spend 90 minutes here and then on to Southend.



**Southend** has the longest pleasure pier in the world, standing for over a century it extends 1.34 miles into the Thames Estuary. You can either get some exercise or take a train. The return train trip costs £2.50 and you can also visit their museum for £1.50. Obviously there are lots of places to eat and a thriving shopping centre nearby

**Tuesday 21st August - Chartwell (Westerham): £29 (National Trust members £16)**



Chartwell was the much-loved Churchill family home from 1922 and the place from which Sir Winston drew inspiration until the end of his life. The rooms remain much as

they were when he lived here, with pictures, books and personal mementoes evoking the career and wide-ranging interests of a great statesman, writer, painter and family man. The hillside gardens reflect Sir Winston's love of the landscape and nature. They include the lakes he created, the kitchen garden and the Marycot, a playhouse designed for his youngest daughter Mary. We will be having tea and biscuits on arrival.

We have been told that people with mobility issues may find access to parts of the house and garden difficult but a mobility bus does enable access to several parts.

\*\*\*\*\*

**Thursday 4 October - London - Ghosts, Gallows and Gangsters: £33**



City and Village Tours have in the past proved popular with our members, and on this outing we will meet their Blue Badge Guide in Whitehall for morning coffee and biscuits (included). We slip into St James's Park to begin a morning on foot continuing into Parliament Square where we break to buy lunch – there's the good value café in the Westminster Central Hall plus free time to look inside the highest court in the land – the Supreme Court.

In the afternoon by coach we head through the Old Square Mile via Sweeney Todd's Fleet Street to the East End of the Kray Twins. One murderer has left an indelible mark on our national conscience – Jack the Ripper. We are told the story in the context of the East End's social history. We are told the personal stories of the victims in the Victorian slums. We'll stop to buy tea in Spitalfields before heading home at 4.15pm.

**BOOKING FORM at back of Newsletter**