



u3a learn,
laugh,
live

Wadhurst & District

NEWS

September 2023

Wadhurst u3a

Registered Charity No: 1160124

| | |
|---|------------------------------|
| Chairman (chair@wadhurstu3a.org.uk) | <i>Philip Cheung</i> |
| Vice-Chair (vicechair@wadhurstu3a.org.uk) | <i>John O'Dwyer</i> |
| Secretary (secretary@wadhurstu3a.org.uk) | <i>Marianne Whittingdale</i> |
| Treasurer (treasurer@wadhurstu3a.org.uk) | <i>Sheila King</i> |
| Membership Secretary (membership@wadhurstu3a.org.uk) | <i>Sheila Jemmett</i> |
| Groups Co-ordinator (groups@wadhurstu3a.org.uk) | <i>TBA</i> |
| Speaker Co-ordinator (speakers@wadhurstu3a.org.uk) | <i>Mike King</i> |
| Publicity (publicity@wadhurstu3a.org.uk) | <i>John O'Dwyer</i> |
| Webmaster (webmaster@wadhurstu3a.org.uk) | <i>Jane Austin</i> |
| Database Administrator (databaseadmin@wadhurstu3a.org.uk) | <i>Sheila Jemmett</i> |
| Without Portfolio | <i>Norrie Hazell</i> |

*To contact a member of the Committee, please use the dedicated number
01580 200647 or the email addresses listed above.*

TO JOIN Wadhurst & District u3a

Download a membership application form and a Gift Aid form
from the 'About Us' page on: www.wadhurstu3a.org.uk

You can either

print, complete the forms and return them with a cheque for the
annual fee of £25 to our membership secretary by post,

or

fill in the forms electronically, email them to our membership
secretary, and pay the annual fee of £25 online to Wadhurst &
District u3a.

Further details are given on the application form.
Ring Sheila Jemmett at **01580 200647** if you have any questions.

ONLINE PAYMENTS TO Wadhurst & District u3a

Lloyds Bank, sort code: 30-98-77, account number: 48499968,
In name of: *Wadhurst u3a*

NEWS Magazine Editor: Philip Cheung

COPY DEADLINE for the December 2023 issue: 20th November 2023.

Please email copy to the editor at: newsmag@wadhurstu3a.org.uk

FROM OUR CHAIRMAN

Dear Member,

We are celebrating our 10th birthday in a few days' time. While the celebrations may appear to you as a moveable feast, my memories of the first days of our u3a below should show that Wadhurst u3a does have a definite date of birth. I hope you enjoy the read.

With best wishes,
Philip Cheung



RSVP by 31st August to Sheila Jemmett
sheila.jemmett@gmail.com or 01580 200647

THE EARLY DAYS OF WADHURST U3A

Selected Memories - Philip Cheung

The calendar on my iPad contains an entry “Wadhurst U3A Inaugural Meeting” on 28th August 2013. That afternoon, I became the 100th person to join the u3a. There were many more.

The inauguration required much preparation. Some months earlier, I had picked up a leaflet inviting all those who were interested in creating a new u3a for Wadhurst to attend a meeting on 8th May. I remember that Lynn Rajan, who was one of the first to come up with the idea, spoke at the meeting. A number of volunteers signed up that day to form a steering committee. It included, among others: Jane Larcombe, Lynn Rajan, Allan Newton, Jean Turner, Hilary Page, Claire Donegan, Jacqui Harman, Val Smith and Shelagh Hardy. By 5th June, the legal entity of Wadhurst U3A had come into being, although I think the u3a's date of birth must be that of the inaugural meeting.

Not being a 'committee' type, I did not volunteer for the steering committee but joined instead a group to consider what interest groups Wadhurst U3A could offer its members. I apologise in advance for not mentioning every interest group by name in what follows. This is because there were 26 of them at the inauguration, or soon after. We were hatched fully fledged.

I was keen to see a science group and to play bridge. That was my idea of 'work and play' in retirement. There being a great demand for bridge, we ended up with two groups. The one that met in the morning to play duplicate bridge was led by Lesley Thompson. The other, led by Helen McIndoe, met to play Chicago in the evening, in a pub. There were as well two book groups, two walking groups, which covered walks of 3-5 miles and up to 9 miles, and two history groups, for local and general history. I became convenor of a science & technology group. Its first members were Roy and Jane Bayliss (teachers of maths and biology), Alan Box (optician),, Shelagh Hardy (who knew the Latin names of almost every flowering plant), Allan Newton (optical designer) and Charles Coyne (non-scientist).

The gardening group led by Ken Turner and the historic building visits group led by Elizabeth Taylor were easily the most popular groups in those days, and ever since. Both groups had over 50 members and organised several visits each year to gardens and other places of interest. A few years later, the gardeners ventured as far as Holland (2018) and Normandy (2019).

NEWS magazine first appeared in June 2014 after a proposal of the then chairman Jane Larcombe. Jessica Brown was its editor. Jacqui Harman designed the magazine's distinctive cover that captures so well the motivations behind the u3a movement. Jane did not want a news bulletin, but a magazine where members could contribute all kinds of articles, poems, art and photographs, with humour and seriousness alike. I think we have maintained this vision right up to this day.

The u3a became a registered charity in 2015 thanks to Paul Brown's work. This allowed us to claim for Gift Aid on the subscriptions from tax-payers, strengthening the financial foundation on which we could grow. Alan Newton designed our database. We organised

social events that were well supported and enjoyed by our members. We grew steadily until the COVID-19 lockdown.

Reflections

I mentioned many individuals by name in the above narrative as a way to thank them for their contributions to the u3a. It helps me to remember those who are not in the best of health today, and to lament those who are unfortunately no longer with us.

The recent epidemic, the surge in the cost of living, the breakdowns in some of our social services, and the war in Ukraine have weighed on our minds. I think Wadhurst & District u3a can and should be part of the solution that will lift us out of the gloom. The energy and positive thinking of our first years should be our inspiration to get up and go.

SELECTED GROUP NEWS

Wadhurst & District u3a has 26 Interest Groups to offer. Here are news items from some of them. Do not hesitate to contact the convenor if you are interested in an interest group. Contact information can be found on the centrefold. You can also email the convenor using the 'Blue Bird' on the relevant group page in Wadhurst & District u3a's website:

www.wadhurstu3a.org.uk

Erratum: In the June issue it was erroneously stated that “*Hall and Fields put on a Barn Dance*” on the eve of the Coronation. It was in fact Wadhurst's Parish Church of St Peter and St Paul who organised the event. Our apologies.

ART AT TICEHURST

Kris Armstrong

We meet once a month in Ticehurst village hall and Tim Burnham is our tutor. The majority of us paint with watercolours. For fun homework is set and the work displayed the following month.



BOOK GROUP TWO

Janet Pelham

Book Group 2 has come to rest at Carillon Cottage which is more convenient for those of us with mobility problems and quieter for any with hearing loss. We are very grateful to Wadhurst Manor and The White Hart for providing facilities in the past.

The accompanying photograph is of a regular and very proactive member who has just celebrated her 90th birthday. She always provides concise and insightful summaries of books we have read which usually lead to further discussion.



We have recently read two murder mysteries which is unusual in our eclectic mix of member-chosen titles. Although of the same genre, the two books 'Death in the East' and 'The Widow' are very different. The former moves from Dickensian London to an Indian Colonial Club (with attendant racial tensions), the latter being set

solely in a small English village with rapid growth of evil village gossip.

Our next three titles are 'Remains of the Day' by Kazuo Ishiguru, 'Burning Bright' by Tracey Chevalier and 'Ordinary People' by Diana Evans.

The group is currently full of long standing members with a 3 person waiting list.

MAH JONG

Norrie Hazell

Despite absences due to holidays Mah Jong has continued all through summer. Since April, we have been playing twice monthly at members' homes. We thank our hosts for the pleasant surroundings and the refreshing cups of tea that make for a relaxing afternoon.



Taking advantage of the open air on a sunny afternoon.

We have two or three tables of players, including members of Crowborough u3a. If you are interested in playing, please contact Norrie Hazell using the information in the centrefold.

FRIENDLY COMPUTERS

Philip Cheung

Computers, smart phones and tablets are the modern means to: keep in touch, get information, be entertained, buy train tickets, pay bills, shop, make appointments...etc, etc. The list is endless. Mastery of these devices will bring enormous convenience. The aim of this group is to help members to get started and/or to increase their proficiency in using these devices.

We offer help, free of charge, in the the following areas :

1. getting started (what device to buy, how to get wi-fi installed ...etc),
2. using email, messaging, video conferencing, the internet... etc, and,
3. learn more advanced uses such as word processing, spreadsheets, designing a birthday card... etc.

Having held meetings with a roomful of people, then in smaller, and smaller groups over the past year, I have come to the conclusion that it is best to go right down to one-to-one meetings, in order that we can give our full attention to whoever comes to us, without making others kick their heels with impatience or resignation.

In July and August I worked with a few members on a one-to-one basis and it has worked well. Sheila Jemmett and I have therefore decided that for the next few months we shall take bookings for individual meetings, from anyone who needs help. I shall be responsible for Apple devices (iMacs, MacBooks, iPads and iPhones) while Sheila will take on PC's, tablets and smart phones of other makes. We can be contacted by phone on 01580 200647 (Sheila) and 01892 784279 (Philip).

If you want a meeting, give one of us a ring so we can decide if you have contacted the right person for your problem and whether we can help. We can come to you, or you can come to either of us, bearing in mind that we need to come to your house to sort out problems connected with, say, your wi-fi or desktop computer. We fit in meetings whenever we have a free morning or afternoon. There is no fixed time.

We are there to help. No problem is too small. Do call us, if only for a chat to explore options.

GARDENERS' TRIP TO NORFOLK

Lynda and Keith Emberson.

We just want to thank Sheila Jemmett for all her hard work in organising our 5-day trip to Norfolk.

Couldn't fault it. It was lovely to sit back and have it all organised for us. All the gardens were different. Not sure if I had a favourite but I think the Peter BealeRose Garden and Bressingham were hard to beat.

Keith, myself and Sheila joined the coach at Ticehurst having collected the rest of the members, all 19 of them, at Wadhurst.



The closest we have to a group photo. In the background is Norwich School, Horatio Nelson's alma mater.

(photo by Jan Whiteley)

On our way we visited RHS Hyde Hall in Essex. Although we have visited several times in the past there is always something new. The weather threatened a shower but it didn't come to anything.

We reached Norwich Holiday Inn at exactly 5.00pm as predicted. We were given our room keys and dinner was served at 7.00pm. The food was excellent and a choice was given each evening for the next day's meal. Breakfast was provided each morning and this too was excellent. Cooked with plenty of choice, or fruit, cereal, yoghurt etc.

Our trip to Bressingham Gardens the following day was very impressive. It was founded by Alan Bloom (very appropriate) and extended between 2000-2005 when Adrian's Wood was created, and later the Summer and Winter Gardens. It also has a Steam Railway together within its 17 acres.



At the Peter Beale Rose Garden

The afternoon was spent visiting the Peter Beale Rose Garden in Attleborough where we had afternoon tea. The perfume from all of the roses was breathtaking and the colours even more so!

On 5th July we visited Helmingham Hall Gardens and Fullers Mill Gardens in Bury St. Edmunds – West Stow. The previous evening it had rained heavily and parts had been flooded but it did not dampen our enthusiasm.

Wadhurst u3a Interest Groups

| Interest Group | Convenor | Day of Month | Time | Venue |
|--|---------------------------|--|--------------|----------------------------|
| Art at Ticehurst | Peter Sewell | last Friday | 14.00 | <i>check with convenor</i> |
| Art at Wadhurst | Sheila King | 2nd Tuesday | 10.00 | Orchard Room |
| Art Appreciation | Margot Yeo | <i>check with convenor</i> | | |
| Book Group One | Margaret Jones | <i>check with convenor</i> | | |
| Book Group Two | Janet Pelham | <i>check with convenor</i> | | |
| Bridge | Geoff Daddy | Thursdays | 10.00 | Sparrows Green Pavillion |
| Croquet | Jane Austin | see website | 14.30-16.30 | Wadhurst Cricket Pavilion |
| French Conversation | Paul Brown | 2nd Monday | 14.00 | <i>check with convenor</i> |
| Friendly Computers | Philip Cheung | <i>check with convenor</i> | | |
| Gardening | Sheila Jemmett | 3rd Tuesday | 10.00 | Commem Hall |
| Historic Buildings | TBA | <i>See website for latest news</i> | | |
| Knit & Natter | Kate Metcalfe | 1st Tuesday | 14.30 | <i>check with convenor</i> |
| Life Writing | Jessica Brown | alternate Tue | 10.00 | <i>check with convenor</i> |
| Mahjong | Norwill Hazell | 2nd & 4th Thu | 14.00 | <i>check with convenor</i> |
| Kindfulness | Sue Swift | 4th Friday | 10.30 | <i>check with convenor</i> |
| Modern Architecture | Jane Austin | every 6-8 weeks | | <i>check with convenor</i> |
| Play Reading | Philip Cheung | <i>check with convenor</i> | | |
| Science & Technology | Philip Cheung | 1st Tuesday | 14.00 | <i>check with convenor</i> |
| Scrabble | Juliet Conrad | <i>Temporarily suspended– awaiting new members</i> | | |
| Sunday Single Lunches | Mary Brewer & Iris Glover | <i>check with convenors</i> | | |
| Table Tennis | Philippa Standley | Tuesdays | 12.30 | Uplands Sports Centre |
| Ten Pin Bowling | Lynda Emberson | <i>check with convenor</i> | | |
| Theatre Visits | Lynda Emberson | <i>check with convenor</i> | | |
| Walking | Sarah Parry | 2nd Thursday | 10.00 | <i>check with convenor</i> |
| Wine Appreciation | David Austin | 4th Wednesday | 17.00 | Carillon Cottage |
| Yoga | Sara Irwin | Mondays | 9.30 / 11.00 | Zoom |
| Uplands Sport Centre - <i>contact Jane Austin for activities offered</i> | | | | |

To email convenor: On the u3a Wadhurst website (see below) select the Group concerned.

Click on the **Bluebird** icon (top right corner) to send an email.

To leave a message: ring **01580 200647**. State your name, tel number and the group(s) of interest.

*** Consult our website: **www.wadhurstu3a.org.uk** for up-to-date information. ***

The next day we made a trip to Norwich where a guide showed us some of the older parts of the city and told us something of its history. In our own time, we visited the Cathedral. In the afternoon we visited the Old Vicarage Garden, East Ruston which is only a mile from the sea.



In the walled garden of Helmingham Hall.

The following day, Friday 7th July, we were packed and ready for the journey home, but not before stopping off at Beth Chatto's Garden. Another beautiful garden with lots to see. We arrived back at Ticehurst at about 4.00pm.

Our grateful thanks to both Sheila and our driver who made our journey there and back most pleasurable.

A shady corner in

Beth Chatto's Garden

on a hot, sunny day.



KINDFULNESS

Sue Swift

Our Mindfulness group has been running since shortly after the U3A was launched in Wadhurst. Over time we have evolved into a bunch of people who support each other to be kind to ourselves as well as others.

We still share short meditations and readings, we find both stimulating and soothing, and because our emphasis is on self-compassion we have renamed our group Kindfulness.

We welcome new members.

CROQUET

Jane Austin

We played regularly all through summer, and for the first time ever, rain stopped play but it did not deter our happy u3a Wadhurst croqueteers! We have 14 regular players, and the competition for the end of season trophy is hotting up.



SUNDAY SINGLES LUNCHES

*Mary Brewer &
Iris Glover*

Lunches have now been arranged for:

Sunday 15th October

Sunday 19th November

Sunday 17th December (Christmas lunch)

at 12.30 at the Elephants Head, Hook Green TN3 8LJ. Prices for 2/3/4 courses will be given out later.

We would ask members, to please note the following requirements to enable a smooth running of the arrangements.

1. By the preceding WEDNESDAY [i.e. Oct 11th, Nov 15th, Dec 13th] please let us know of any ALLERGIES or GLUTEN FREE requirements. (See centrefold for our telephone numbers)
2. Your choice of Sunday Roast i.e. Beef, Lamb, Pork or Chicken. There is a full menu available if you do not choose a roast. This will enable the pub to set up individual tabs with your own number to which you add any drinks etc.
3. If possible can you make your own transport arrangements, either driving yourself or sharing with another member. If this is not possible, please let Iris or Mary know by the previous Wednesday.

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Philip Cheung

We have organised a visit to Down House, Charles Darwin's home, at the end of September. All members of Wadhurst u3a have been invited to join us and about 12 from outside the group have decided to do so.

In preparation for the visit, Oenone Warr will give a talk on the *Life and Work of Darwin*. Oenone and George Warr have kindly offered to host the talk at their house where visitors will be able to see the fossil collection of George's mother. The talk is now fully booked.

Our meeting in October will be devoted to modern developments on the Theory of Evolution. Other equally interesting topics in science and technology will occupy us in the months that follow. Contact me (see centrefold) if you are interested in joining us.

Heat

We sought
To be warm and pampered,
To live life in the pink.
We devoured Nature's bounty
And did not stop to think.

We switched on endless sunshine,
Basked in everlasting light,
Breathed in all the hot air,
Did not question wrong from right.

The rosy glow began to redden,
We felt smoke hang in the air.
We were swimming in hot water
And no life guards were there.

Gaia became uneasy,
She was restless and afraid,
She was overheating,
In the hothouse we had made.

We were revving up the engines,
Fouling up the seas,
Ignoring burning issues,
Cutting down the precious trees.

Gaia is growing angry,
Her fertility is under threat,
Hot flushes now inflame her
Her cycles are upset.

Heat is all around us,
Flames are licking at our feet,
Too soon we'll be in mourning,
For a world that was so sweet.

Val Smith

GREAT HURRICANE OF 1780

Valerie Baines

The Great Hurricane of 1780 was the deadliest Atlantic hurricane on record. An estimated 22,000 people died throughout the Lesser Antilles when the storm passed through the islands from October 10th to October 16th. Details of the hurricane's track and strength are unknown, as the official Atlantic hurricane database only goes back to 1851.

The hurricane struck Barbados likely as a category 5 hurricane, with at least one estimate of wind speed as high as 200 mph (greater than any in recorded Atlantic basin history) before moving past Martinique, Saint Lucia, and Sint Eustatius, and causing thousands of deaths on those islands. Coming in the midst of the American Revolution, the storm caused heavy losses to the British fleet contesting for the control of the area, largely weakening British control over the Atlantic. The hurricane later passed near Puerto Rico and over the Eastern portion of Hispaniola, causing heavy damage near the coastlines. It ultimately turned to the north east and was last observed on October 20th south east of Atlantic Canada.

The death toll from the great hurricane alone exceeds that of many entire decades of Atlantic hurricanes. Estimates are marginally higher than for Hurricane Mitch (1998), the second deadliest Atlantic storm, for which figures are likely more precise. The hurricane was part of the disastrous 1780 Atlantic hurricane season, with two other deadly storms occurring in October.

This hurricane was first encountered by boat in the eastern Caribbean Sea, but it may have developed in early October in the eastern Atlantic Ocean off the Cape Verde Islands. The system ultimately strengthened and expanded as it tracked slowly westward; affecting Barbados and later, on October 10th, the worst of the hurricane passed over the island, with at least one estimate of winds as high as 200 mph during landfall, which is higher than

any other 1-minute sustained wind speed in recorded Atlantic basin history. Early on October 11th the hurricane turned north-northwest about 56 miles east of Saint Lucia, and later that night it neared the island of Martinique. The cyclone gradually weakened as it passed to the south west of Dominica early on October 12th and subsequently struck the island of Guadeloupe.

After hitting Guadeloupe, the hurricane turned west-northwest, passing about 90 miles southwest of St Kitts. The hurricane steadily neared Puerto Rico as it paralleled the southern coastline, and on October 14th made its closest point of approach, to the southwest portion of the island. It subsequently turned to the northwest, going through the Mona Passage before making landfall near Samana. Late on October 15th, it reached the Atlantic Ocean and after passing about 160 miles east of Grand Turk islands; it is estimated to have swerved to the northeast. The hurricane passed 150 miles southeast of Bermuda on October 18th, and was last observed two days later about 295 miles southeast of Cape Race, Newfoundland, Canada.

On October 19th, strong winds and high tides were reported in the British province of East Florida. It is thought that it is possible that the hurricane passed much more closely to the province than previously thought. Another possibility considered was an extension to a hurricane in the western Caribbean Sea. Because of lack of data, the exact track of the Great Hurricane is unknown.

About 4,500 people died on Barbados. The hurricane began affecting the island with rain on Oct 9th, the ships in the bay broke their moorings by 4 o'clock. It produced "winds so deafening that people could not hear their own voices." The hurricane stripped the bark off trees and left none standing on Barbados.

The wind directions recorded suggest that the eye missed Barbados to the North. Northwesterly winds increased through the day on Oct 10th and peaked at midnight. Wind speed returned to normal by 8 o'clock the morning of October 11th.



Views of Roehampton showing trees and windmill damaged by the storm of October 1780 - by Edward Edwards ARA (1738-1806)



Strong winds affected Antigua and St Kitts, with many ships washed ashore in St Kitts. The hurricane later grounded 50 ships near Bermuda.

The hurricane reached England where thousands of chimney stacks were toppled in the south of the country. The storm left a three mile path of destruction through Roehampton to Hammersmith. Drawings made at the time a few days afterwards showed trees were uprooted and carried by the wind over twenty

feet away, and the

windmill at Barnes Common was blown over. Luckily Barnes was not affected and few lives were lost.

The latest severe storm to affect Britain was considered to be the one in 1987, which many people will still remember.

Arlicia Scremzog's Dilemma

David James Slater

She was in the dark. In fact it was completely black. She was standing up wearing a shift and slippers. How had she got here, she wondered? She sniffed the air. There was no smell. It was not warm or cold or unpleasant in any way so she reached out with her left hand and felt a wall but could not determine the material. Was it brick or wood? It was smooth and felt solid. When she reached sideways with her right hand she felt the same material. It was dry and could have been plastic she thought. Her feet were on a solid flat floor but she did not bend down to touch it because she felt the walls were her friends. Cautiously she stepped forward with her right foot but did not put any weight on it until she was sure that the surface was solid but why was it so dark? The utter blackness was beginning to frighten her a bit now.

She looked up but could not see anything. She reached up but could not touch anything. All she knew was she was in some kind of passage and the walls were her friends. Gingerly, she stepped forward but then hesitated as it occurred to her that the floor might give way or crumble in some way so she started to shuffle. Her breathing was heavy now and she knew she was starting to panic. She thought of turning back but somehow she couldn't turn her head. She wanted to look back but her heart was beating so fast now that that was all she could think about.

She shuffled forward a bit more keeping her hands on the walls. She began to wonder if she was blind or if she had been asleep and woken up in this strange situation. Where had she been? She could not remember. What day was it? How old was she? Had she been ill? Ah yes, she was starting to remember now. Yesterday had been a great day for making decisions so she shuffled forward a bit more but felt nothing.

The floor had gone and the walls had ended. The blackness enveloped her but she did not have any sensation of falling,

simply a feeling of being suspended. Was she still alive? She pinched herself as hard as she could but felt nothing. All she had was her brain. Could she shout? Could she call for help?

Sadly no. She was waiting to be called while decisions were being made by the spirits which rule.

MONTHLY MEETINGS

Meetings are held on the third Thursday of the month
2.30 pm, The Commemoration Hall, Wadhurst

| | |
|---|--|
| Sep 21 | WALKING WITH BUMBLEBEES <i>Peter Smith</i> |
| Beekeeper, amateur entomologist and writer, Peter talks about the pollinators of the UK and some of the problems they face. | |
| Oct 19 | LEWES AND BONFIRE NIGHT <i>Andy Thomas</i> |
| Born in Lewes, Andy gives an insightful glimpse into the town, full of mystery and tradition. | |
| Nov 16 | THE RED ARROWS <i>Guy Bartlett</i> |
| A look at RAF aerobatic teams including what makes this team the best in the world. | |
| Dec 14 | ❄️ ❄️ CHRISTMAS PARTY ❄️ ❄️ |

Monthly speaker meetings, with a cup of tea and biscuits, are free for members of Wadhurst & District u3a. Non-members are welcome, with an admission charge of £2.00.

DOVER CASTLE

(BACK COVER)

At the end of May, some thirty members of the u3a visited Dover Castle on a trip organised by the Historic Building Visits Group. It was enjoyed by everyone and we thank John O'Dwyer who organised it all. An account of the visit missed the deadline for the June issue of NEWS, but some photographs taken at Dover Castle are displayed on the back cover of this issue.

Captions:

Perched on a hilltop, Dover castle has a commanding view of the Channel and Dover harbour. The wall and deep fosse constituted a formidable defence against medieval attackers.

The originally five-storey and now four-storey Roman lighthouse was built in 43 AD. It claims to be the oldest building still standing in Britain. The keep of the castle is on the left, and the Church of St Mary on the right.

These replica helmets, sword and shield present a serious temptation to playful visitors, young and old. I did try to pick up the sword but it was securely glued to the table.

The Hall in the keep is decorated as the builder of the castle, Henry II, would have seen it. The white table cloths seem too modern to me but who am I to question English Heritage?

The Church of St. Mary in Castro is a Saxon church that has been heavily restored in Victorian times. It houses memorabilia of the regiments that have been garrisoned in the castle.

This map of the known world in medieval times has East (ORIENS) at the top. The photograph has been rotated 90 degrees clockwise for easier reading (with North at top). The white crescents on the right are the halos round the heads of angels.



DOVER CASTLE

