

From the Chair.....

First of all, I'm delighted to say that Judith Oakley has taken over producing the newsletters – thank you Judith. We will now go back to sending them seasonally.

Our winter programme is well under way and we have two new groups: bridge, and an eco-group looking at what measures can be taken to reverse climate change – so important for our children and grandchildren.

We have had very good attendances at the events which we are now able to hold in person – we all seem to be happy to see each other again! No-one is able to predict what the future holds with the covid virus, so let's hope we can continue to meet. Meanwhile, learn, laugh and live!

George Chittenden recently gave us a fascinating talk on Deal street names, many of which seem to have been named after pubs. He will return next year to speak on other topics. George is the founder of the History Project which now has a new home, the History Hub, over the railway station – the entrance is on Platform 1. On Wednesday mornings there's a 'Mercury Moot' where you can browse the East Kent Mercury going back many years.

Enjoy all the lovely autumn colours and I look forward to seeing you at future events.

Best wishes to all, Jill



U3A Christmas lunch

This will be held at The Blue Pigeons, Worth on **Wednesday 8th December**. Invites for the Christmas lunch have already been sent out to members with menu and booking form. Forms need to be returned by 19th November, but please note that The Blue Pigeons can only seat 50 (which is usually enough for us), so bookings will be on a 'first come, first served' basis.

Christmas Outing

This will be a coach trip to Canterbury on **Friday 3rd December** with an *optional* Christmas walking tour around the city starting at 11am outside the cathedral. Return time 4pm. Booking details to follow.

U3A Trip to Hampton Court on Friday 17th September 2021

Report by Chris Evans

The coach journey was straight forward, and we were dropped off at a bus stop outside Hampton Court shortly after eleven. Our tour of the Palace was not scheduled until 2pm, so we had plenty of time to explore the gardens. The weather was perfect, sunny and warm. Most of us made a bee line for the Tiltyard Café for a fortifying coffee before setting off.

After picnicking on one of the many benches I found myself in the Kitchen Garden looking at the largest marrow I had ever seen in a recreated 17th Century hotbed. Green parakeets flitted about in the trees nearby.



There was a fierce willow sculpture of a dragon created by Katherine Miles, an artist based in Devon.

On the other side of the Palace, in the Privy Gardens, I was amazed to see people putting plastic flowers into the greenery of small potted trees. It was like something out of Alice in Wonderland. I expected the Red Queen to appear at any moment. We later learned there was to be a film shoot the

following week and this was part of the preparations.



Near to the Palace, on the edge of the magnificent Fountain Garden there was an ornate coach almost engulfed in luxuriant vegetation. Closer examination revealed it to be a "Baroque coach specially designed by Daniel Marot for William III".

As 2pm approached, we gathered at the West Gate to meet Sarah Slater, our guide. We started off visiting the Palace kitchens, one of the first additions Henry VIII made to the Palace.

Sarah was a brilliant guide. She was full of quirky bits of information about the Palace and the people who lived there. In many ways Hampton Court was a showcase of Henry's wealth and power. Leading off the Great Hall was another room the more privileged could access, and then beyond this was a corridor in which the doorways you looked through down the corridor, were each a little lower than the one before, increasing the sense of distance. It was here the difficulty of getting an audience with King became apparent. The corridor passed through a series of

bedrooms, several being used for meeting people with varying degrees of closeness to the King.

At the end of the corridor was actually a bedroom for sleeping in, and the King's office. Off to the side was King's Toilet with velvet lined seat. In contrast, the hoi polloi had a 28 seater "house of easement" down by the river. A little further on, we were led into the corridor where the ghost of Catherine Howard is supposed to roam.



Off the corridor was a room overlooking the Chapel Royal with a reproduction of Henry's crown. The original crown was melted down at the Tower of London in 1649 on the orders of Oliver Cromwell, following the abolition of the monarchy.

As we left the building we passed through Clock Court where the Astronomical Clock is incorporated in the tower over the gate.

The clock was installed in 1540 and still functions today. It is 15 feet in diameter with three separate copper dials revolving at different speeds and displays the hour, month, and day. It also displays the 12 signs of the zodiac, and the phases of the Moon, The clock was used to calculate the tides, as the preferred means of transport to and from the Palace was by barge. From this information the journey time could be calculated. Departing around high water would speed instead of hinder. Also the state of the tide when reaching London Bridge was also critical.

After the tour we had time to visit the shop and perhaps get a last cup of tea, before gathering at the bus stop to await our coach home. The day was thoroughly enjoyed by all. Sarah was an excellent guide and we appreciated Ruth's organisation and shepherding on the day. We were also blessed by perfect weather.



Many thanks to Chris Evans for his excellent account of the day

Did you know.....?



Next year is the 40th anniversary of the u3a. Nationally, the u3a plans to plant 5000 trees in celebration and you can help to contribute to the future of our environment by buying a tree today. There is also a national quilt competition (closing date 15th November 2020). See the website for further details www.u3a.org.uk

However, here in the White Cliffs U3A we have decided to make squares to make our own anniversary quilt.

A number of members have joined in and we already have quite a few squares for the quilt. If anyone else would like to contribute, or would like more information, please contact Anne at: anne.matthews52@gmail.com or call her on 07914809016. The worked squares are 10" x 10" and can be embroidered, cross stitched, painted (on fabric), patchwork or quilted. Our theme is learn, laugh, live. We are hoping to get 40 squares if possible. Don't worry; we don't have the same deadline as the main competition!

From the U3A Ukulele Group

On Thursday 21st October our group was asked to play at the Golf Road Centre at one of their social evenings. We pulled together a list of popular songs and had a really fun evening. The audience joined in with our songs and we all enjoyed ourselves. We were even asked for an encore! We didn't expect any money for the evening, but the audience made donations and I'm happy to say that £39.66 was raised for our annual charity which this year is the Walmer RNLI. Thanks to all the players especially Audrey who helps me with the music.

If anyone would like to join us we hold our sessions on Tuesdays between 1.30-3.30 at the Golf Road Centre.

Anne Matthews



The History Project

As Jill mentioned in her welcome message [The History Project](#) now has their new hub at Deal railway station, but did you also know that they have a monthly history meeting at the Astor theatre in Deal? They are lighthearted and fun evenings with various talks on local history given by the History Project team and outside speakers. The next meeting is on Thursday 25th November at 7.30pm. Tickets are £5 and available from the Astor box office or can be purchased on line. Subsequent dates are 9th December 2021 and 27th January 2022.

Looking for.....

Any contributions for future Newsletters will be most welcome. For example; a report on a local event, an autobiographical article, photos, a quiz, poetry, quotes etc. Or tell us what your u3a special interest group is up to. In fact, anything you think will be of interest to other members.

Please email your queries or contributions to jaoakley11@gmail.com

Dates for you diary (full details in your u3a booklet or on the White Cliffs u3a website)

Weds 3 rd November 2pm (doors 1.30)	Astor Theatre Deal	<i>Paul Barwick 'The White Mouse'</i>
Weds 17 th November 11am (doors 10.30)	St George's Hall Deal	<i>Coffee Morning Anna Sayburn Lane - author</i>
Weds 1 st December 2pm (doors 1.30)	Astor Theatre Deal	<i>Richard King 'Around the world on a bus'</i>
Weds 15 th December 11am (doors 10.30)	Astor Theatre Deal	<i>Christmas coffee morning</i>
2022		
Weds 5 th January 2pm (doors 1.30)	St George's Hall Deal	<i>Mary Smith 'A schoolgirls' war'</i>
Weds 19 th January 11am (doors 10.30)	Astor Theatre Deal	<i>Coffee Morning Bill and Mary Venables A journey through photography</i>

The next Newsletter (Winter edition) will be out in January 2022.