

From the Chair

Welcome to the Summer Newsletter. Life now feels much more normal for our u3a and we have had good attendances at both talks and coffee mornings. East Kent Climate Action Group gave us an informative, but rather depressing, talk about how pervasive plastic is in many products and what happens to the waste. We learnt a lot about The Maid of Kent from Melanie Barton-Gibson who is a knowledgeable and fluent speaker on many subjects. One of our members, Jenny Wall, who is a guide at Richborough Castle took us on a fascinating tour of the site. Jenny's knowledge and enthusiasm were a delight to hear and see. Thank you Jenny. It's always a great pleasure to listen to our members so if anyone else would like to share their interests we'd be very pleased to hear from you.

Anne Matthews has decided to step down from the committee at the AGM, so we are looking for a member to take over organising the talks and coffee mornings. Anne has done a terrific job and arranged speakers etc up until February so whoever takes over will have a good start. The appeal in the last newsletter was successful as we're delighted to say that Catherine Hoddell has volunteered to take over the membership role. She has already joined the committee and I'm sure she will be a valuable member. So please could someone follow her example and offer to arrange talks etc. You will meet some interesting people and get plenty of support from all the committee.

At the end of May we had a stall at Deal's Saturday market. There was no rain but it definitely became windy and objects were borrowed from a neighbouring stall to weigh down our leaflets. We had many willing volunteers to talk to visitors and provide tables etc. so a big thank you to everyone who helped. Five people have now joined us as a result and a warm welcome to them. The high point was the first outing of our 40th anniversary quilt which was created by a number of members, led by Anne. The result is very impressive, featuring many different skills and ideas and will be a lovely legacy for our u3a. Many thanks to you all.

All the committee wish you all a happy summer whatever you're doing and we look forward to catching up with many of you soon.

All the best,

Jill

White Cliffs Country u3a Quilt

To celebrate the 40th anniversary of the u3a, a national competition was launched to make squares for a quilt on the theme of positive ageing. The winning 40 blocks were put together to create one big quilt which was recently unveiled at the Whitworth Gallery in Manchester. You can see a photo of the quilt here <https://www.u3a.org.uk/latest-news/the-big-u3a-quilt-reveal>

However, committee member Anne Matthews had an idea..... that our branch make its own quilt! So, Anne and a few other members got together and began to make squares using a variety of techniques including fabric painting, cross stitch, embroidery and applique. Anne then had the huge task of joining all the squares together and quilting them. It was a lot of hard work and I'm sure there were times when she must have regretted her great idea! The quilt was completed in the nick of time, ready to display on our promotional stall in Deal Saturday Market on 21st May.

Hopefully, our quilt will soon be on display in Deal Library for a short period of time. We will let you know when.



Quilt creators: Anne Matthews, Joyce Turner, Rita Kingsbury, Jenny Noake

Joy Visagie, Christine Hall, Judith Oakley, Mary Venables, Youhie Bawden, Angie Buser, Les and Sue Barrow.

Bananas and other things!



Mike Berners-Lee, a professor and researcher at Lancaster University, recently gave a fascinating and informative talk organised by the u3a, on the climate emergency. Many of us have grandchildren and the future for them looks pretty grim unless humanity makes great changes. Interestingly, the speaker is somewhat more hopeful than he was a few years ago, but there is still so much to do. If you are interested, his talk can be found on the u3a YouTube channel in the next couple of weeks. He speaks very well and is clearly extremely knowledgeable – you won't be bored! He has also written several books which I would urge people to read, especially 'How bad are bananas' (updated version), which looks at the carbon footprint of many products and actions. Also, 'There is no planet B' (updated version), which goes into detail about how we operate now and what can be done to alleviate all the connected and negative outcomes of our current way of life. Our children's and grandchildren's lives depend on us having the collective will to make changes now!

Elizabeth Barton of Aldington – the Maid of Kent – a talk by Melanie Gibson-Barton BSc (Hons) on 1st June at The Astor, Deal.

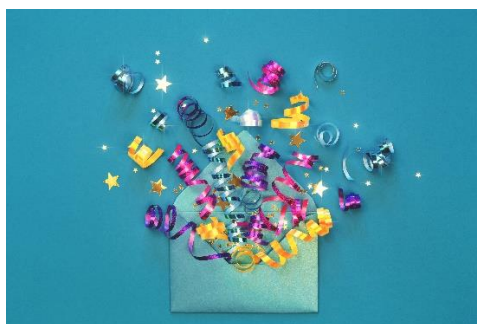
Melanie's talk explored the story of the servant girl born in Aldington in 1506 in the reign of the first Tudor King, Henry VII. During the reign of his son, Henry VIII and his wife Katherine of Aragon the young woman's visions and prophecies caught the attention of the Archbishop of Canterbury who provided a dowry for her to become a nun at a convent in Canterbury. Melanie's illustrated talk highlighted the many local Kent connections which caused Elizabeth Barton's number of supporters to grow as she sought to support the Catholic church at a time when Protestant views were gaining strength.

In Henry's desperate need to secure his throne with a son and heir through a marriage to Ann Boleyn, Melanie showed that the prophecies of Holy Maid of Kent became more political, bringing her national and international attention. Her influence beyond Kent made her so dangerous to Henry VIII, Katherine of Aragon and Ann Boleyn that Elizabeth Barton had to be put to death. Melanie's talk enabled the audience to take the Holy Maid's journey by illustrating what can be seen today at the key sites that led to Elizabeth Barton's execution at just age 28 in 1534.

Melanie's talk also featured photographs of the work of Kent artist Lauren Stacey and her 2018 exhibition in Dover that focussed on Elizabeth Barton, the Holy Maid of Kent.

Melanie explained that the Elizabeth Barton talk was commissioned in 2017 by the Aldington Society and she also provided the talk to a USA audience: The USA Barton Society, that seeks to link with Bartons across the world, who described her talk as 'awesome!'. Melanie has been giving talks for several years to the National Trust, U3A, history groups, church groups, Women's Institutes, Soroptimists and retirement social groups such as Rotary, CSMA, ARAs and PROBUS – 'live' and in recent months via Zoom.us - and tells us she has the privilege of meeting new audiences to entertain and inform every day. Her range of currently seventeen talks can be viewed at www.toonstelling.com.

NEW Programme Autumn 2022 and Spring 2023



In the next few weeks our new Groups Programme will be published and sent out to you by post, so do look out for its arrival through your letterbox! We have some exciting new groups starting up.

An application form will be included for you to indicate which groups you would like to join for the Autumn term onwards. As I'm sure many of you are aware, some groups are very popular and places will fill fast. Places are offered on a 'first come first served' basis and if the Group Leader has agreed to a waiting list when a group becomes over subscribed, then you will be added to it and will be offered a place if one becomes available during the year. Also, if your name is currently on a waiting list you will get priority when/if the group is repeated. Each waiting list will be limited in number – depending on the size of the group.

IMPORTANT – please be aware that you need to reapply for any group/s that you currently belong to and wish to continue to be a part of. This is to ensure that those on the waiting list and other members have an equal opportunity to join. This is particularly relevant for the over-subscribed groups. For this reason, the database of group members will be cleared for every group on 31st August, ready to start the new term from 1st September 2022.

If you are currently on a waiting list for a group that is running again from Autumn 2022 please still apply in the usual way, but you will be given priority for a place.

A Group Leader cannot guarantee you a place. Applications to join a group **must** be on the relevant form and posted or emailed to the Groups Coordinator. Forms will be dated on receipt and processed in date/time order. If a fee applies, please don't send any money until your place is confirmed.



Here's to another year of fun,
learning and friendship

Upcoming Meetings (doors open half hour before start time)

20 th July 11am	Astor Theatre Deal	Coffee morning Helga Wood	Deal Maritime Museum Celebrating 50 years
3 rd August 2pm	Astor Theatre Deal	Talk Sharon Powell	The History of Deal Cinemas
17 th August 11am	Astor Theatre Deal	Coffee morning	Goodwin Sands Conservation
7 th September 2pm	Astor Theatre Deal	Talk Nicholas Reed	Turner and Constable
21 st September 11am	Astor Theatre Deal	AGM	Annual General Meeting of White Cliffs Country u3a
5 th October 2pm	Astor Theatre Deal	Talk Jennifer van Lens	About John Jarvis, a powder monkey who served on HMS Mars
19 th October 11am	Astor Theatre Deal	Coffee morning	Quiz by Jacqui Dodds and the Let's Read Poetry Group
2 nd November 2pm	Astor Theatre Deal	Talk Richard King	Around the world in a double decker bus – part 2
16 th November 11am	Astor Theatre Deal	Coffee morning	Several groups will be showcasing their interests
7 th December 2pm	Astor Theatre Deal	Talk Siobhan Clarke	The Christmas Carol
14 th December 11am	Astor Theatre Deal		Christmas Coffee Morning