

NEWPORT U3a NEWSLETTER - MAY 2025

May is the month of beauty when we appreciate the world around us.

VE DAY COMMEMORATIVE CONCERT

Many of you were among the 250 members and guests who attended our celebration for the 80th Anniversary of VE Day at the Dolman Theatre that was arranged by Jackie Kerr, Pat Fackrell, Julie Kennedy and Chris Day. Our Choir sang several poignant songs and led the communal singing of patriotic tunes. A two minute silence was observed for the extraordinary bravery and achievements of those who served during WWII which



featured guest Peter Thomas who played the Last Post and Reveille on the cornet. These were interspersed with a solo, several articles, stories, a piano solo and poems about war-time memories and related topics by our members Steve Bissex-Williams, Ann Kelly, Stephen Berry, Gwyneth Hawkes, Ian Lumley, Jan Howells, Gwyn Havard, Alan & Julie Fry, Pam Cocchiara and our oldest member Geoffrey Pritchard who was dressed as a Chelsea Pensioner.

Refreshments were served during the interval by our Cafe volunteers when we were able to study a display of photographs and memorabilia contributed by our members; all of which will be compiled into a booklet by our Local History Research Group giving an overview of Newport during and after the war.

ART GROUP'S EXHIBITION

Members of this group were proud to display their worthy samples recently. The choice was overwhelming and had to be limited to three pictures per person. The range of media and individual styles was diverse and the many members who attended to support the artists were very impressed with the standard of their work.



TRIP TO KENT

On our u3a's latest holiday we went to Kent and packed a lot into every day. We visited Hole Park Gardens which is owned by the Barham family. It is famous for its woodland walk that has a magnificent natural display of bluebells. It is also renowned for the walled garden and the vast collection of Rhododendrons and Wisteria. We rounded off the day at Royal Tunbridge Wells.

We spent the whole of the second day at the picturesque Hever Castle and Gardens, the childhood home of Anne Boleyn. We had to navigate a spiral staircase to visit the 2nd floor; everyone was determined to climb it to see an exhibition of costumes from the television series *Wolf Hall* - it was worth the effort as the display was beautiful. The 125 acres of



gardens were some of the best we have ever visited; with Italian and Tudor gardens, a lake and so much more; if we had the time we could have spent 2 days exploring.

Our final day, at Canterbury, started with a boat trip on the River Stour split into groups of 12. Each boat was manned by a very fit young person who rowed the boat and narrated information on the history of the area and the exquisite buildings. After exploring the city we visited the Cathedral, the heart of 1400 years of British history, which has inspiring architecture, intricate stained glass windows and the shrine of Thomas Becket who was murdered there in 1170.

Contact Angela at publicity.newportu3a@gmail.com if you have any news about your group to be included in a future Newsletter.

