

## Islington U3A Longer Walks Group

### Walk Report:

**Tuesday 28th September 2021.** Dover to Deal. Walk Leader Jan. Walk no. 330  
What a great start to our three days walking based in Deal. Brilliant!

The walkers met at St Pancras and travelled to Dover Priory where we met our leader, Jan.

The weather was good as we walked through Dover with the sun coming out. Above, where the lorries were parked ready to travel to France, we walked up the white cliffs and on to the ridge behind Dover Castle. The view was magnificent. The ocean, ships at sea, the white cliffs, a brisk wind all added to a super route that passed through National Trust land passing lighthouses and cafes. For lunch we stopped at the "Coastguard" a pub, in a terrific location right on the coast at St Margaret's Bay. The walk after lunch started back on the ridge before going down to sea level. The coastal walk was very interesting and enjoyable despite the weather that tried hard to rain. On arrival in Deal, everyone dispersed to their various accommodations to recuperate! Great day, great walk!

**Wednesday 29th September 2021.** Westenhanger to Sandling. Walk Leader Jan.  
Walk no. 330-2

We met at Deal Station and took the train to Westhanger, where we started our interesting walk along a route full of variety, but it would seem rarely used. We ducked and dived through bushes, under trees, saw loads of butterflies, through fields, up hills, through paddocks, along the edge of a golf course, through brambles, fought strong winds, along the Kent Downs, through woods, down steps, through puddles. over stiles and over more stiles! We diverted into the village of Lyminge where we had a very good lunch at the pub "Carriage and Horses". Our final stretch was through woods, down many steep stairs and finally along a path that led to Sandling Station. Great day, great walk and in great weather!

**Thursday 30th September 2021.** Sandwich to Deal. Walk Leader Jan. Walk no. 330-3

This morning we took the train one stop to Sandwich, which was the start of our interesting walk back to Deal. We got a brief glimpse of the quaint streets and houses of Sandwich before walking along the old city walls and into the countryside where signs of Autumn are beginning to emerge on the very old and grand trees. Next we were walking through the world famous Royal St. George's Golf Club, where The Open was held earlier in the summer. The greens and buildings of the Golf Club certainly have a distinct look of being of a very high standard. Then we were down to the coast and the very long, expansive and empty beach at Sandwich Bay, before crossing inland to the Bird Observatory Trust. We could see two lakes in the distance that were full of bird life and overhead there were various birds that the knowledgeable in our group could identify. It wasn't long before we had reached our lunch stop at the "Coach and Horses" in Hacklinge. After a very good traditional pub lunch we set off again along a path, that our leader, Jan, had cleared himself with shears the previous week! That's dedication! It was an interesting route that passed by an area of old Kent coal mines and through fields of market gardens with hundreds and hundreds of rows of vegetables. The lettuces under nets were intriguing, but still the rabbits had eaten many of the lettuces where the netting had lifted!

We spotted a windmill in the distance at Walmar, before reaching the Betteshanger Country Park, which covers the site of a former colliery spoil tip. This is a fascinating car-less park that is mainly dense woods but with walking, running, cycle and mountain bike tracks. We took a quick look at the view before the park closed and

we headed for our final leg into Deal where we collected our bags and headed quickly to the station for our return train to London.

A great 14 mile walk and the end of a superb three days. Thanks so much to Jan for the original idea, the logistics, his planning, his preparations, his hospitality and his all round generosity, the fruits of which were very much enjoyed by all.

Jo-Ann Kennedy

<b>Walk Title</b>	Deal 3 day trip	<b>Walk No.</b>	330
<b>Area</b>	East Kent	<b>Type</b>	2 linear; 1 circular
<b>Date</b>	28-30 September, 2021		
<b>Distance</b>	About 10 miles each day.		
<b>Timing</b>	3 full day walks; starting at 10.00 on the Tuesday at St Pancras; back to London around 19.00 on the Thursday. Day walkers see below.		
<b>Meeting up &amp; travel</b>	<p>Tuesday: meet up at Dover Priory Station at 11.35 (Catch 10.12 from St Pancras, arr 11.32, buy a period return to Deal, or if you are not staying, a day return). Walk leader (Jan) will meet you at Dover Priory station. Your luggage will be picked up there by a local taxi company and taken to Deal where you will pick it up at the end of your walk. If you are NOT staying, you will catch a train back from Deal at the end of this first day walk.</p> <p>Wednesday: meet up at Deal station at 9.30 to buy day return ticket to Westenhanger and get 9.43, arriving 10.21. If joining from London, you will need to catch the 9.11, arriving 10.11. We will return from Sandling to Deal probably getting the 17.13, arriving 18.02. If returning to London that day, the train leaves at 17.18, arrives St Pancras 18.21. Each service is hourly.</p> <p>Thursday: meet up at Deal Station at 9.35 to catch the 9.51 to Sandwich, arrives 9.56. Walk finishes in Deal, where you will pick up your luggage and catch train back to London, prob 17.08 train which arrives St Pancras 18.43 (or 17.43 train, arr 19.21).</p>		
<b>Route</b>	<p>Tuesday: short walk through Dover town to seafront, then steady climb up to White Cliffs. Then spectacular 4+ mile walk along cliff tops to St Margaret's Bay (lunch), then climb back up onto cliffs as coast turns 90 degrees to face east, again brilliant views. Descend to Kingsdown, then rise fairly gently away from coast to Hawksdown, then past Walmer Castle, and to Deal and your hotel.</p> <p>Wednesday: Leave Westenhanger and soon head uphill to meet the North Downs. As we rise there are increasingly distant and impressive views back to the sea, with views as far as Folkestone in one direction and Dungeness in the other. We walk along the top of the Downs then descend on the other side of the hill to Etchinghill where we can get a pub lunch. Then back up onto the Downs and head to Sandling for the train to Deal – or London.</p> <p>Thursday: From Sandwich station, we walk round part of the town walls, then out into open country, once marshland, cross Royal St George's golf course (venue of the 2021 Open) to the sea at</p>		

	Sandwich Bay. After a short walk along the beach we head inland across open, initially very flat country, with lovely open vistas. Our route takes us through two or three picturesque villages and the heart of what was once the Kent coalfield, now evident principally in the country park which landscapes former slag heaps and other remnants very successfully, and ends in Deal, where luggage is waiting to be picked up for the return journey.
<b>Lunch</b>	Cafes or pubs with outside seating.
<b>Dropping out</b>	On Tuesday, possible to get a bus from St Margaret's Bay to either Deal or Dover. On Wednesday, possible to get a bus from Etchinghill to Sandling. On Thursday, no obvious drop out.
<b>Suitability</b>	Suitable for any reasonably fit regular walker. There are no particular difficulties. Terrain: Generally flat with some gentle up and down but a few middling climbs on cliff and downs parts. Comfortable waterproof walking shoes/ boots. Waterproof jacket. Check weather forecast for temperature and likelihood of rain. Wear, or carry, an extra layer.
<b>Facilities</b>	On Tuesday, toilets at NT 2 cafes on White Cliffs first nearly an hour in, second a further 45 minutes on, and then at lunch. On Wednesday and Thursday, at lunch pubs only.
<b>Walk source</b>	Leader's creation, first a variant of a very well-known White Cliffs walk.
<b>Map &amp; other references</b>	OS Explorer 138 and 150.
<b>Leader &amp; contact details</b>	<u>Walk Leader: Jan Filochowski</u> <u>Beforehand</u> phone: 07879698902 (leave message if necessary) e-mail: jan@filochowski.net <u>On the day</u> mobile: 07879698902
<b>Accommodation and meals</b>	You will need to book your own. There is plenty in the middle of Deal costing between about £65 and £130 B&B for a double. Try Bears Well, The Royal, Dunkerley's, the Waterfront, no1 B&B. Given uncertainty over numbers and unknowable Covid position, I will not be booking communal evening meals. However, there are many restaurants in town to choose from.