



FROM MICHAEL'S DESK

The frost is, as they say, on the pumpkin. Thanksgiving is just around the corner and we go through the charade of turning back the clocks this weekend, trying to make the available hours of daylight seem to last longer. At this time of year I am always reminded of the man lying in bed with a blanket that is too short - he can either pull it up and keep his shoulders warm, but leave his feet exposed, or cover his feet and leave his neck out in the cold. There is no way around it - the blanket is just too short!

It is, of course, also Halloween this weekend and I was very surprised to receive a notice from the local town hall of our village here in France announcing that this Saturday was the official evening for Trick or Treating ("des bonbons on un sort," as they say here). To my knowledge this is the first time that it has been made official in the village - French purists must be turning in their graves at this adoption of a very American holiday. I can't wait to see what kind of costumes the children show up in!

Wishing you all the best for the approaching holiday season and, if you are stuck for that perfect gift for the very special person in your life, remember, nothing says "I love you" better than a trip to Europe!

We look forward to welcoming you over here next year!

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THE WILTSHIRE DOWNS

UP ON THE DOWNS

I spent my childhood among the chalk hills of Sussex - the South Downs. Going on long family walks around Arundel Park, I remember thinking at the time - why are they called "Downs" when they so obviously go up? In later years, I have come to realize that, like so many things, it is just a matter of perspective - one man's down is another man's up!

For the ancient Britons, the people who lived here before the Romans, before the Celts, they would definitely have been "downs." These were the stone-age people who constructed Stonehenge and these chalk ridges were an essential part of their daily life. They lived on top of them and travelled on top of them - for them everything around them was down.

The south of England is laced with a network of these chalk ridges (see the map inset) and they provided the "highway" system of the time. The surrounding valleys were dense with forests, undergrowth and marshlands, but the top of the chalk was dry and clear - trees find it hard to take root in the thin soil covering. It was also on the tops of the hills that they built their "hill-forts." There are many of these ancient earthworks perched on hill tops along the ridges. They would select a suitable hill, build an earth wall and ditch surrounding the top (probably with a wooden stockade fence on top of the earth wall), providing protection for both the people and their domestic animals.

It is undoubtedly no coincidence that Stonehenge is located on Salisbury Plain, where 5 of these chalk ridges meet (the North Downs, the South Downs, the Chiltern Hills, the Marlborough Downs and the Wiltshire Downs). It was the builders of Stonehenge that used these chalk highways to travel to the festivals that were held at the monument. Tribes would travel from all over the country to gather for important rituals and celebrations,



The Chalk is still used these days by hikers following the ancient tracks. There is something very special about being "Up on the Downs." There is a sense of freedom, of being able to let your mind and spirit wander freely, with sheep grazing peacefully under a wide open blue summer sky and the skylarks diving between the cotton wool clouds.

*Bogged down in the valley with the jokers and clowns
Instead of roaming freely up the downs. Anon.*

Michael

TURNING POINTS - WITTENBERG

An occasional series, in which we pinpoint people or events that have changed the course of history. Bearing in mind that nothing happens in isolation - momentous events are always the product of things that came before and, as Sir Isaac Newton modestly pointed out, all great inventors, artists and thinkers owe a debt to those who paved the way for them - "we are all standing on the shoulders of giants."

On October 31, 1517, legend has it that the priest and scholar Martin Luther approached the door of the Castle Church in Wittenberg, Germany, and nailed a piece of paper to it containing Ninety-five theses - revolutionary opinions that would begin the Protestant Reformation.

Or maybe he didn't! Modern scholarship has cast doubt on the accuracy of the traditional account. Joan Accella, writing in the *New Yorker* states: "Not only were there no eyewitnesses; Luther himself, ordinarily an enthusiastic self-dramatizer, was vague on what had happened. He remembered drawing up a list of Ninety-five theses around the date in question, but, as for what he did with it, all he was sure of was that he sent it to the local archbishop."

In the final analysis, it matters little how the document was transmitted - although there is a certain dramatic flair to the "nailed to the door" story - the fact that it was written and disseminated was enough to set in motion a chain of events that changed the world. In 1521, Luther was excommunicated for his refusal to back down on his Ninety-five proposals for reform, and was subject to the Edict of Worms, issued by the Holy Roman Emperor, Charles V. This declared Luther an outlaw and a heretic and gave anyone the right to execute him without consequence.

Protected by Prince Frederick, he began his 10 year task of translating the New Testament into German, which he undertook in Wartburg Castle (pictured here). In 1529 Charles V revoked a provision of the Edict of Worms that had allowed individual state rulers to decide whether to enforce it or not. Many of them protested this and became known as the "Protestants." The rest, as they say, is history.

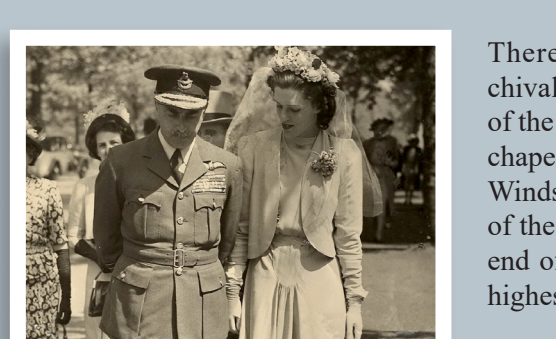
If you would like to know more about this fascinating story, please consider joining us on a brand new tour for 2023, that has been developed in conjunction with our resident Berlin tour guide, Matthias Kort - ON THE TRAIL OF MARTIN LUTHER, SEPTEMBER 14 - 23.



FAVOURITE HOTELS

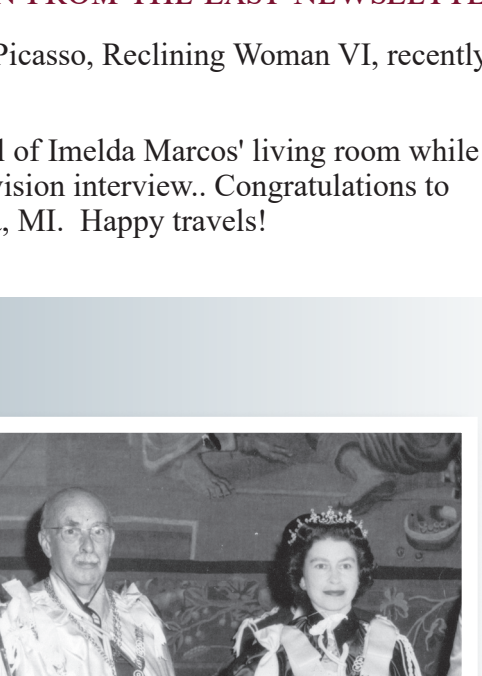
THE REMBRANDT, LONDON

This wonderful, 4-star hotel in Knightsbridge has become our go-to choice for a London stay. The location is perfect - across the road from the Victoria & Albert Museum and just down the street from Harrod's. The rooms are modern, comfortable and well-furnished and the service is impeccable. In 2023, you will find that just about any Discover Europe tour that visits London will be staying at the Rembrandt.



A NEW PUZZLE

Q: A ROYAL PUZZLE. Queen Elizabeth II was Britain's longest-reigning monarch. In fact 3 of the top 6 longest reigning sovereigns of England have all been women! Elizabeth I at 70 years, Victoria at 63 and Elizabeth I at 44. **SO OUR QUESTION TO YOU IS THIS:** Who was England's longest-reigning King?



To answer, go to Discover Europe's Facebook page, like the page and leave an answer. The winner, drawn at random, will receive a voucher for \$200 off any trip listed in this newsletter!

... AND A SOLUTION FROM THE LAST NEWSLETTER

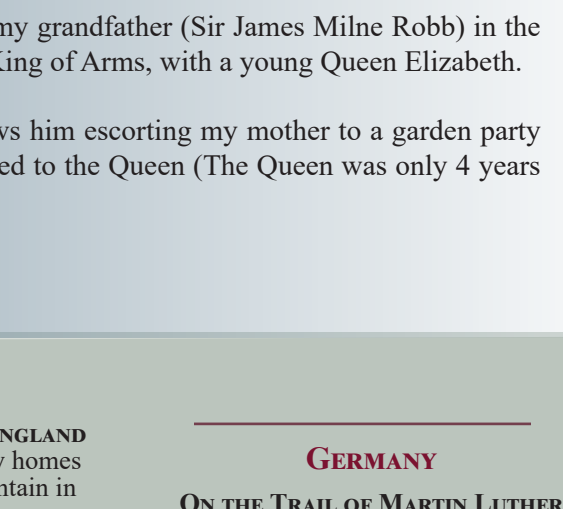
Q: Where was the "lost" Picasso, Reclining Woman VI, recently rediscovered?

A: It appeared on the wall of Imelda Marcos' living room while her son was giving a television interview.. Congratulations to Kathy G. of Lake Isabella, MI. Happy travels!

MORE ROYAL MEMORIES

by Michael Induni

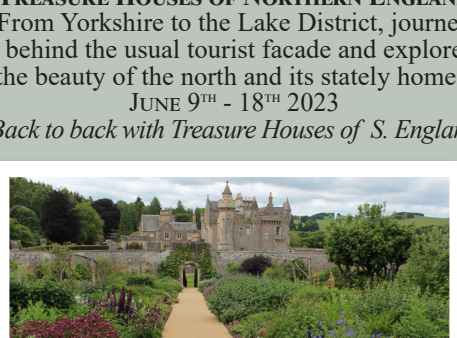
I never personally met Queen Elizabeth II - but both my mother and my grandfather did. My grandfather was an Air Chief Marshal in the Royal Air Force and was the head of Fighter Command, just after the end of the Second World War. When he retired from active duty, in recognition of his service to his country, he was appointed as the Bath King at Arms, the head of the Knights of the Order of the Bath.



There are two such orders of chivalry in England - the Knights of the Order of the Garter (whose chapel is in St George's Chapel at Windsor Castle) and the Knights of the Order of the Bath (whose chapel is the Henry VII chapel at the extreme east end of Westminster Abbey) and membership of one of these orders is one of the highest honours to which an English man (or these days woman) can aspire.



The full ceremonial regalia of the Bath King of Arms, with a young Queen Elizabeth.



The bottom picture on the left, shows him escorting my mother to a garden party at Buckingham Palace to be presented to the Queen (The Queen was only 4 years older than my mother!)

2023 TOURS

AUSTRIA - MIT SCHLAG?
Old-world elegance with the Vienna State Opera, the Spanish Riding School, the Boy's Choir, day trips, and, of course - dessert!
APRIL 28th - MAY 6th 2023

ENGLAND
IN SEARCH OF THE CORN WALL
Tour leader Gavin Miller takes guests on an excursion through Cornwall, reliving the many happy childhood experiences he had vacationing there with his family.
APRIL 28th - MAY 7th 2023
Back to back with Wales & the Welsh Borders

YORKSHIRE & THE LAKES DISTRICT
Soak up the historical charm of rural England on this brand new one-stop tour in the wonderful city of Salisbury.
MAY 6th - 14th 2023

THE BEST OF ENGLISH GARDENS
Our annual homage to the Chelsea Flower Show and a selection of the most notable gardens of southern England.
MAY 16th - 25th 2023

THE COTSWOLD HILLS
Experience the quintessential English countryside of the Cotswolds with day trips to Oxford, Stratford-upon-Avon, Bath, and many more.
MAY 25th - JUNE 3rd 2023

TREASURE HOUSES OF NORTHERN ENGLAND
In the shadow of Mount Vesuvius, explore behind the usual tourist facade and explore the beauty of the north and its stately homes.
JUNE 9th - 18th 2023
Back to back with Treasure Houses of S. England

ABBOTSFORD
Under the Tuscan Sun
Stare in the hilltop spa town of Montecatini Terme and explore Tuscany in the Spring. Excursions include: Florence, the Cinque Terre, Siena, Luca and more.
MAY 19th - 27th 2023

SORRENTO & THE AMALFI COAST
March 16th - 24th 2023
Coast from our base in Sorrento.
JUNE 23rd - JULY 1st 2023

THE ITALIAN KITCHEN
From pasta making to exploring a Parmesan cheese factory, journey from farm to table in the Piedmont and Emilia Romagna regions.
SEPTEMBER 28th - OCTOBER 7th 2023

THE FOOD & WINE OF SICILY TWS
Known as the Crossroads of the Mediterranean, Sicily has seen many civilizations come and go - and they have all left their mark. Optional Malta extension.
OCTOBER 20th - 28th 2023

NETHERLANDS
FOOD & FINE ART IN FLANDERS
Gardens, Galleries & Gastronomy! From chocolate tasting in Belgium to admiring the tulips in full bloom in Holland, to the museums packed with masterpieces of the Dutch School, this tour will awaken the horticulturalist and gourmet in all of us.
APRIL 17th - 15th 2023

PORTUGAL
THE MAGIC OF MADEIRA
Escape the winter and experience the exotic island destination referred to as the "Island of Eternal Spring." A week-long stay in the magnificent Reid's Palace Hotel.
MARCH 16th - 24th 2023
Back to back with Portuguese Panorama

A PORTUGUESE PANORAMA
Take a panoramic tour of Portugal from Lisbon to Porto, and see the best that this small country has to offer.
MARCH 23rd - APRIL 1st 2023

SCOTLAND
SKYE & THE HIGHLANDS
The breathtaking landscapes and the dramatic legends will surely have you leaving your heart in the highlands.
JUNE 1st - 11th 2023

TREASURE HOUSES OF SOUTHERN ENGLAND
See the full glory of Britain's stately homes and the myriad works of art they contain in the south of the country.
JUNE 17th - 26th 2023

YORKSHIRE & THE LAKE DISTRICT
An in-depth look at regional culture and the countryside of these two fascinating areas of Northern England.
JUNE 23rd - JULY 5th 2023

THE PASSIONATE GARDENER
Join garden blogger and enthusiast, Michael Gordon, on a summertime adventure. Includes visits to some of England's famous, and not so well-known, gardens while they are in full bloom. Plus a day at the Hampton Court Flower Festival.
JULY 3rd - 12th 2023

DISCOVERING EAST ANGLIA
Experience life in a country house hotel with popular guide Gavin Miller and explore the region in which he grew up.
JULY 14th - 22nd 2023

QUEEN ELIZABETH II
Celebrate the life and legacy of Queen Elizabeth II on the first anniversary of her passing. Hosted by Alexandra Messervy.
SEPTEMBER 4th - 14th 2023

A DICKENSIAN FEAST
Dickens' London & the rolling countryside of Kent. Visit the world-famous Rochester Dickens Festival and meet his great-great-granddaughter.
NOVEMBER 29th - DECEMBER 7th 2023

FRANCE
ARTISTS OF THE FRENCH RIVIERA
Escape to the French Riviera with stays in Hyères and Nice and a visit to the Menton Lemon Festival.
FEBRUARY 16th - 25th 2023

FOOD & WINE OF BORDEAUX
From our base near St. Emilion, this one-stop tour focuses on the delicious food & exquisite wines of this region.
MAY 26th - JUNE 3rd 2023

THE CHATEAU DE CAMON
An extended stay at the magnificent Abbaye-Chateau de Camon, with day trips exploring the Languedoc region from Carcassonne to the high valleys of the Pyrennes.
SEPTEMBER 8th - 16th 2023

BURNS' COUNTRY
Join us for a winter getaway from the crowds to this little corner of the Scottish lowlands that is Robbie Burns' Country.
JUNE 17th - 26th 2023

JOURNEY TO THE NORTHERN ISLES
Explore the northern coast of Scotland in the Orkney's & Shetlands and explore the ancient sites and dramatic seascapes.
AUGUST 31st - SEPTEMBER 9th 2023

HIDDEN SCOTTISH BORDERS
A collaboration with our partners at *The Culture Concierge* and hosted by Alexandra Messervy, this tour takes you through the lowlands and into the Scottish borders.
APRIL 21st - 29th 2023

LORDS OF THE SEA KINGDOM TWS
Exploring the history and beauty of the Western Isles of Scotland. We begin in Glasgow and make our way up through the Inner Hebrides to Skye.
SEPTEMBER 2023 - DATES TO BE FINALISED

SPAIN
THE CANARY ISLANDS
Join us for a winter getaway and visit the two largest islands in this Spanish Archipelago - Gran Canaria & Tenerife.
FEB. 28th - MARCH 1st 2023

BARCELONA & MALLORCA
Join Gavin Miller on an exploration of the Catalan capital, Barcelona, and the island of Mallorca - that he now calls home!
APRIL 9th - 18th 2023

MADRID Y ANDALUCIA
Explore the beautiful landscapes of southern Spain and traditional communities unchanged by the bustle of modern-day urban life.
APRIL 21st - 29th 2023

THE PILGRIM'S WAY
Trace the route of St. James on the ancient pilgrimage way along the north coast of Spain from Bilbao to Santiago.
MAY 30th - JUNE 8th 2023

THANKSGIVING IN MALLORCA
Enjoy Thanksgiving dinner Mallorca style on an extended stay in Soller, with day trips to Deia, Palma, and Valldemossa.
NOVEMBER 17th - 25th 2023

WALES
WALES & THE WELSH BORDERS
Ancient market towns, mountain peaks, coastal villages, and romantic ruins characterize this journey into the heart of ancient Wales, led by native Welsh tour guide Adrian Metcalfe.
APRIL 20th - 29th 2023

MULTI-COUNTRY TOURS
MEDITERRANEAN SHORES (FRANCE & SPAIN)
From Barcelona to Nice - azure waters, white sand beaches, mountain villages and boundless sunshine - truly irresistible.
APRIL 3rd - 12th 2023
Back to back with Barcelona & Mallorca

GERMANY
ON THE TRAIL OF MARTIN LUTHER
Exploring the birth of the Protestant Reformation and ending with a stay in the city of Berlin
SEPTEMBER 14th - 23rd 2023

GREECE
A GREEK EASTER
Celebrate the most important holiday in Greece with the locals in a small fishing village. Visits to Delphi and Athens as well.
APRIL 14th - 23rd 2023

THE GLORY OF GREECE
Visit world-famous treasures and learn how ancient Greece has shaped modern times. Optional 4-day Greek island cruise extension.
OCTOBER 21st - 30th 2023

ICELAND TWS
GETAWAY TO ICELAND
Experience the stunning natural beauty of Iceland on a long weekend getaway to Reykjavik. Northern Lights anyone?
FEB. 8th - 12th & FEB. 16th - 20th 2023

THE LAND OF FIRE & ICE
Experience Reykjavik and the Icelandic countryside and explore the geological forces that created this unique island.
APRIL 13th - 18th 2023

IRELAND
ST. PATRICK'S DAY IN IRELAND
From Dublin to Killarney, experience the full breadth of Irish hospitality, during the ultimate Irish celebration - St. Patrick's Day!
MARCH 15th - 22nd 2023

ST. PATRICK'S DAY IN IRELAND
Wild Ireland
Explore the rugged western coast of Ireland and call the "Wild Atlantic Way" on this adventure from Galway to Donegal.
JUNE 8th - 17th 2023

THE ISLAND OF SAINTS AND SCHOLARS
From literary haunts to dramatic seascapes, explore the country that inspired Yeats, Beckett, Heaney and so many others.
SEPTEMBER 21st - 30th 2023

ITALY
THE ITALIAN LAKE DISTRICT
This region is dotted semi-tropical gardens, and palatial villas set against a backdrop of Alpine lakes and mountains.
APRIL 29th - MAY 7th 2023
Back to back with Into the Swiss Alps

INTO THE SWISS ALPS TWS (ITALY & SWITZERLAND)
Join Sandi Tynk on an adventure from the beauty of the Italian Lake District, through the beautiful Swiss Alps and on to Zurich.
MAY 13th - 22nd 2023
Back to back with The Chateau Lake District

ACROSS THE CHANNEL (ENGLAND & FRANCE)
From London, we cross the English Channel to the islands of Jersey and Guernsey, continue to the beaches of Normandy, and on to the elegance of Paris.
AUGUST 24th - SEPTEMBER 3rd 2023

CHRISTMAS MARKETS OF BAVARIA & AUSTRIA (AUSTRIA & GERMANY)
Enjoy the cultural delights of Austria, Salzburg and Munich during their festive season. Music, castles, scenery and plenty of time for Christmas shopping!
DECEMBER 7th - 16th 2023

TWS Indicates a tour operated in conjunction with our partner, Travels with Sandi.

Indicates a "Regional Discovery" tour. These tours focus on one particular region, usually staying in just one hotel, and exploring the surrounding countryside through a series of day trips.

CUSTOM TOURS

In addition to those listed here, Discover Europe also runs tours that are custom designed for a variety of organizations such as college alumni associations (Smith College, Tufts University, Vassar College, to name a few), garden clubs, church groups and many others. Although these "sponsored" tours are not listed here, they are often available to non-members upon request. Details can be found on our web site by clicking on the "Our Tours" menu.

Discover Europe can also organize private tours for groups of 2 to 20. Please contact us for details.

WINTER DESTINATIONS

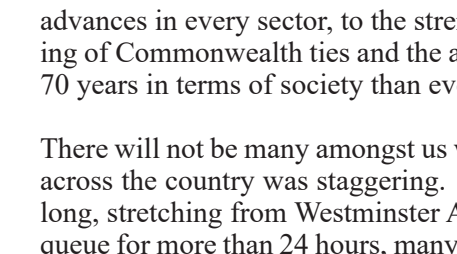
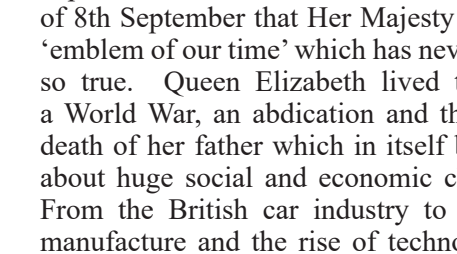
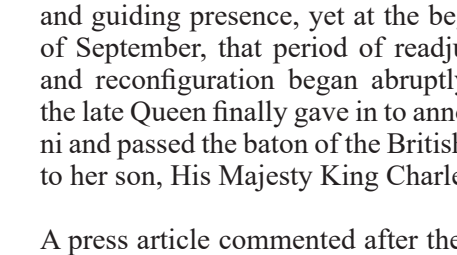
Need something to do in the off-season, or prefer to travel at a time when you'll be surrounded by more locals than tourists? If so you might want to consider traveling in the winter! We know that the weather isn't always the best at this time of year, but depending on where you live in the US, it may even be warmer - even in Iceland!

THE CANARY ISLANDS | FEBRUARY 22nd - MARCH 1st, 2023
On the same latitude as Orlando, FL, the Canaries have less rainfall and warmer average temperatures than Florida, which make them a great option for a winter getaway! Our tour divides its time between the two largest islands of the chain of seven - Gran Canaria and Tenerife. There will be free time to enjoy the weather, take tours into the heart of each island to marvel at the incredible volcanic scenery, and enjoy Canarian delicacies, such as the local wines and cheeses, and abundant fresh seafood.

THE MAGIC OF MADEIRA | MARCH 16th - 24th, 2023
Madeira has been described as the island of eternal spring and the island where summer goes to spend winter. Famous throughout the world for its natural beauty, this exotic Portuguese island is often called "the floating garden in the Atlantic." Join this tour for a fabulous stay at the 5-star Belmond Reid's Palace where luxury awaits you around every corner.

GETAWAY TO ICELAND | FEBRUARY 16th - 20th, 2023
Here's your chance to chase after the elusive Northern Lights at one of the best times of year to see them. It needs to be totally dark to get the best effect - and this is a country where the sun never fully sets in the summer! Dine on Icelandic specialties and explore the extraordinary natural landscape. There is truly no other place on earth quite like Iceland.

ARTISTS OF THE FRENCH RIVIERA | FEBRUARY 16th - 25th, 2023
The legendary allure of the French Riviera has beckoned visitors for centuries and artists have come from far and wide to revel in the light and natural beauty that this coastline offers. We'll make our first base in the city of Hyeres before continuing on to Nice, the jewel of the Riviera, where panoramic sightseeing will introduce the vastly different areas of the city. Highlights will certainly be our visits to the Picasso Museum and a day spent in the charming town of Menton, celebrating its annual Lemon Festival. A day trip from Hyeres takes us by boat to the Island of Porquerolles.



TRAVELS WITH SANDI

Sandi Tynk has been bringing groups on Discover Europe tours for 22 years now. It was for Sandi that we operated our first ever trip to Iceland in 2003.

Until recently Sandi was the director of the Barrington Community School for Adult Education, and as such, brought over 50 groups on Discover Europe tours to almost every country in Europe. To say that she is well-travelled would be an example of the classic British understatement.

A few years ago (right before Covid!), Sandi retired from the Community School, but could not give



Sandi with frequent companion, tour guide Fiona Bennett

up on the idea of travelling - so she started Travels with Sandi.

Now in partnership with Discover Europe, TWS brings people on our own brand tours, and Sandi has designed a tour (and she does that a lot) that she wants to do, we include it in our newsletter and throw it open to our general mailing list. In the coming year, you will find tours to Iceland, the Swiss Alps, the Islands of Scotland and Sicily all bearing the TWS hallmark.

Sandi with frequent companion, tour guide Fiona Bennett

IN MEMORIAM - HER MAJESTY QUEEN ELIZABETH II

by Alexandra Messervy

Just a few short months ago, Britain was joined by much of the world in celebrating the Platinum Jubilee of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, Britain's longest-reigning monarch. Whilst everyone understood her significant age, no one believed that one day we would be without her wise counsel and guiding presence, yet at the beginning of September, that period of readjustment and reconfiguration began abruptly when the late Queen finally gave in to anno domini and passed the baton of the British crown to her son, His Majesty King Charles III.

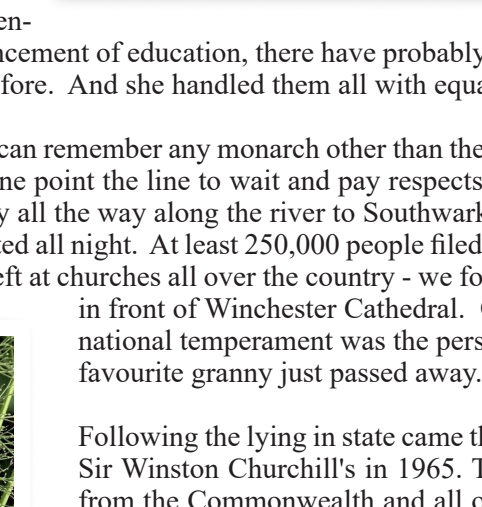
A press article that commented after the events of 8th September that Her Majesty was an 'embodiment of our time' which has never been so true. Queen Elizabeth lived through a World War, an abdication and the early death of her father which in itself brought about huge social and economic changes. From the British car industry to aircraft manufacture and the rise of technological advances in every sector, to the strengthening of Commonwealth ties and the advancement of education, there have probably been more significant changes in the last 70 years in terms of society than ever before. And she handled them all with equanimity and grace.

There will not be many amongst us who can remember any monarch other than the late Queen and the emotional outpouring across the country was staggering. At one point the line to wait and pay respects to the Queen lying in state was 10 miles long, stretching from Westminster Abbey all the way along the river to Southwark Park. At its longest, people stood in the queue for more than 24 hours, many waited all night. At least 250,000 people filed past the coffin in the 4 days that it was lying in state. Tributes and flowers were left at churches all over the country - we found the one of the left against the railings in front of Winchester Cathedral. One comment that really summed up the national temperament was the person who said "it's like the whole country's favourite granny just passed away."



Following the lying in state came the funeral - the first full state funeral since Sir Winston Churchill's in 1965. To the family, the gathered heads of state from the Commonwealth and all over the world, David Hoyle, the Dean of Westminster Abbey said "Here, where Queen Elizabeth was married and crowned, we gather from across the nation, from the Commonwealth, and from the nations of the world, to mourn our loss, to remember her long life of selfless service, and in sure confidence to commit her to the mercy of God our maker and redeemer." Never was a truer word spoken.

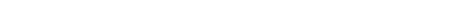
Alexandra Messervy was a member of the Royal Household of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II in the 1980s and 90s and helped to plan and orchestrate state banquets, official and private events and much more. She will bring her unique royal knowledge to bear accompanying our tour in September to pay homage to the life of the late monarch and to pay our respects on the first anniversary of her death. Queen Elizabeth II - An Emblem of Our Time, runs from September 4th - 14th, 2023.



Top photograph courtesy of Wikimedia Commons

CHALK HILLS AND - MEMORIES OF HER MAJESTY

122 Island St. Keene, NH 03431



LONG MAN OF WILMINGTON

THE WORLD CUP

"The World Cup of what?." [hear you ask!] Funny enough, the US is the only place on the planet where you would hear that question. For everyone else there is only one "World Cup" - football. I mean soccer. You see, over here, you can't even get the name right! Other sports have to be qualified: The World Cup of Rugby, the Cricket World Cup, etc., but for football it is just "The World Cup."

It takes place every 4 years (this year is the 22nd such event) and 211 different countries take part. That is pretty astounding when you consider that there are only 193 member states in the United Nations! Some of that discrepancy can be accounted for by things like the fact that the United Kingdom is represented at the UN as one member state, but in some international competitions, takes part as 4 different countries (England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland).

The competition also has the largest television audience of any event anywhere. FIFA, the organising body, said that the 2018 World Cup was watched by 3.57 billion people - that represents over half of the global population aged 4 and above.

Through qualifying matches over the last 3 years, the original 211 teams have been pared down to just 32, who will meet for the final phase of the competition in Qatar between November 20 and December 18 this year. This, in itself, is very unusual as the whole event traditionally happens in the summer. The reason for the change of timing is, of course, that