

CANDID

November 2022

Festival Edition

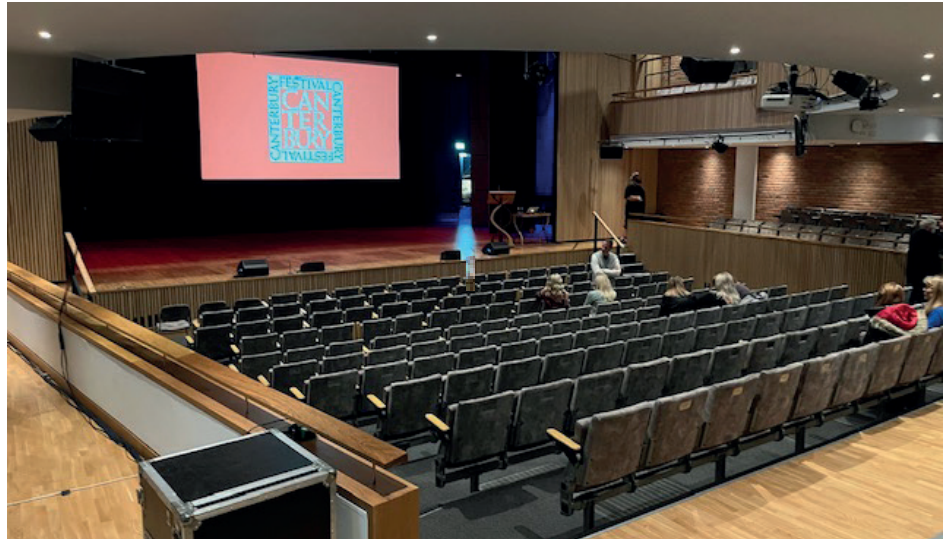
Are we Normal?

By Hollie Spires

Dr Sarah Chaney developed a fascinating talk discussing the taboo subject on normality and the history of whether we as humans are in fact 'normal', at the Canterbury Festival.

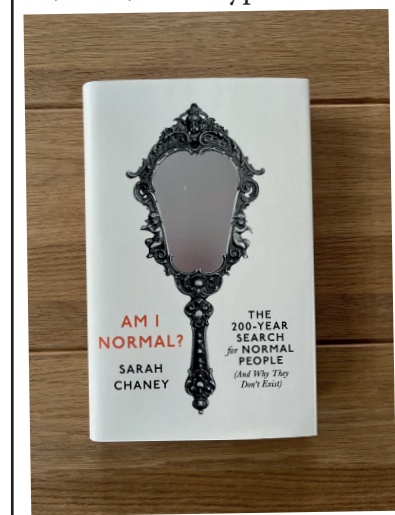
The search for normality was initially explored through writing and research, as Sarah Chaney is a part time researcher on the "living with feeling" project in the centre for the history of the emotions, also discussing her new book ('Am I normal, the 200-year-old for normal people and why they don't exist').

Throughout the talk different sections of normality were discussed and the history behind them, the idea of children being normal, gender class and stereotypes all contributed to the exploration and discussion of whether we as humans were normal. As an audience member I specifically was fascinated by the idea that in the 20th century children were labelled as abnormal because of disabilities that they had, leading to further issues in the future because of this harmful stereotype. This idea also contributed to the social issue we still have nowadays ('Do I have a normal body?'), Chaney expressed that the word normal could mean correct and this why people today feel pressure to have a stereotypical 'normal' body, when in fact this exist.



To me as a student Journalist I wanted to find out what initially interested Sarah Chaney in the topic of normality, "I guess it's something that I've thought about for a long time, without really knowing that's what I was thinking about if that makes sense, so like as a child and a teenager and throughout most of my twenties, I worried about not being normal and not fitting in but didn't really know what exactly I was thinking about, whenever anything, something didn't go very well or then I'd think well maybe if I was more like other people then it'd be better, but then what was I actually thinking about, it took quite a long time before I thought what is this normal, then when I started looking into the topic and discovered that actually even the word was only within the last 200 years was it really applied to people at all and so that became quite fascinating to me."

During the forty-five-minute talk which consisted of a slide show, a few brain teasers and interesting facts, there was also a live Q and A from the audience members. During the talk Sarah reflected on the idea that being 'normal' was different for everyone and personal for everyone. This was particularly shown during the Q and A as each question which was being asked, was personal and about a specific topic i.e. gender, class, stereotypes.



Performing with nerves

By Isaac Bridle

After two years of not performing, jazz musician Steve Waterman feels the pressure for the first time.

Steve talks about nerves and anxiety now that he is back playing again.

He never felt nervous going on stage in his life, until COVID hit.

COVID affected a lot of people including quintet musician Steve Waterman. Steve felt that his lungs were affected the most and for a trumpet player this is very problematic.

“Jazz is still thriving”

He felt that going from his own studio to then performing in front of a large audience was a big jump and it was hard getting used to it again.

At Canterbury, picture above, Steve performed music from the career of Miles Davis from his debut album ‘The New Sounds of Miles Davis’ to his ground-breaking ‘Kind of Blue’ to finally his last studio album ‘Doo-Bop’. He believes that jazz is still ‘thriving’ in today’s music. As a teacher of jazz as well, he has students wanting to come and study jazz.



Steve Waterman playing at St Gregory's centre for Music

At the age of 16, Steve realised that he could play the trumpet very well. His first gig was part of a band in Bournemouth for which he filled the role of the trumpet player.

He then for the next two summers became a regular and this made him realise what he wanted to do with his life.

When asked what his proudest achievement is, he replied by saying, “Going to the Havana Jazz Festival and got to perform the music I had written with a big band of the top musicians in Cuba.”



Steve Waterman playing music of Miles Davis

Card Ninja

By Reece Heather

• *Javier Jarquin is a stand-up comedian from New Zealand, well known for his Card Ninja act.*

How would you respond if someone asked you to put a playing card in a pumpkin?

Javier Jarquin, AKA the Card Ninja, has a signature trick that starts

with him asking a volunteer to try slicing a card's edge into a pumpkin. After demonstrating to the audience that the skin is rough and hasn't been tampered with, Javier embeds a card into the fruit by throwing it.

One volunteer, however, responded by taking the pumpkin, punching it, ripping out its insides, and placing the card delicately within the pulpy mess. He said, "There you go, card in pumpkin."

Javier asked the man his profession. He responded, "I'm a surgeon."

The Card Ninja is a master of card scaling, ie throwing playing cards with great force and accuracy. Javier can hit small targets, pop balloons, and unleash a rapid-fire card barrage with his standard,

unmodified Bicycle-branded decks.

The pumpkin anecdote, which Javier shared with his audience at his recent Canterbury Festival act, struck me not only because of how bizarre it is but because it encapsulates everything that Card Ninja is about. It's not just a talent showcase, it's funny, full of heart, and embraces the fact that things don't always go according to plan.

"I go into it with a bit of an underdog status rather than 'Behold what I'm going to do,'" Javier told me after his set.

As he repeated his pumpkin act that night – this time with no aggressive surgeons around – it took a few attempts for Javier to embed the card in the pumpkin. This is by design, as the card scaler stated that the worst thing you can do is nail the trick the first time and make it look easy – people cheer harder at the successful throw after tension builds first.

Aware of just how unusual his profession is, Javier told me how people typically react when he tells them his job.

"They react the same way if I'd told them I'm just out of rehab. They go, 'Oh, good for you! Is that a full-time job? People pay you for that?'"

Javier also recalled his humble beginnings, including how Gambit from the X-Men, who charges playing cards with kinetic

energy and uses them as throwing weapons, was one of his favourite superheroes growing up.

"I used to be a programmer and I was so bored, I would just sit and fidget with things and I learned how to do a flick with my business cards. That's the first time I started throwing cards."

His first foray into performing was, in his words, as "a pretty rubbish magician." Over time,

When he's not equipped with decks, he's brandishing a microphone as a stand-up comedian instead. While he says his persona for each profession is different, there is no doubt that comedy is integral to the Card Ninja show and Javier's previous experience in improv allows him to play off the audience effortlessly.

Javier is not afraid to step aside to let his participants take the spot-



• You – yes, you – should go see Card Ninja immediately!

“ I GO INTO IT WITH A BIT OF AN UNDERDOG STATUS ”

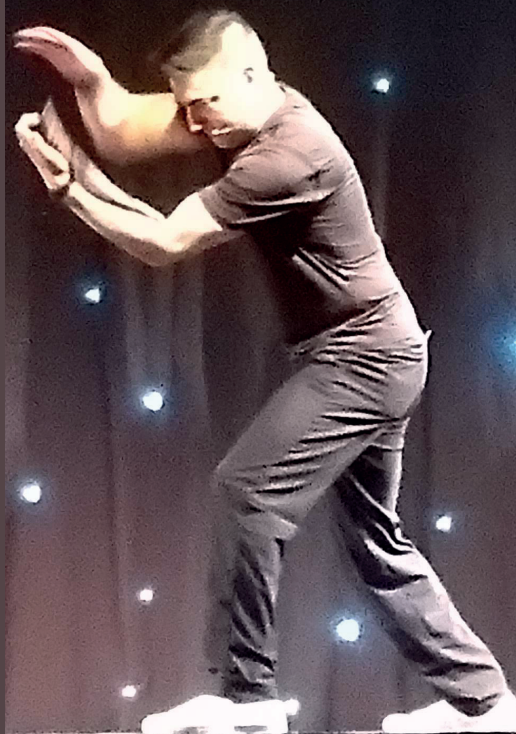
however, he discovered that he was much more interested in card throwing than magic tricks. One of the first types of throws Javier learned was the boomerang flick which, as the name suggests, sees the card return to its sender after launching. Javier finds it very satisfying – simple yet effective.

"I don't see a lot of people doing the boomerang, but when I do, they're quite small. I like to get a big distance on it – a lot of people don't use the technique I use."

This was evident during the show, in which Javier made impressively huge arcs with his cards and never failed to catch them again with ease.

Fancy throwing is just one part of Javier's house of cards, however,

light, making every show unique. He places so much trust in his audience that he even lets them direct segments of the show by letting a participant choose



• Javier slides a full deck of cards down his forearm in one of his most difficult tricks.

"soundtrack." One volunteer was instructed to plug his phone into a speaker and pick a song to complement certain tricks. His first choice was, fittingly, Carl Douglas' "Kung Fu Fighting," which endlessly amused everyone including Javier.

Knowing ahead of time that this particular event drew in an adults-only crowd allowed Javier to tap into some more risqué material, but he told me that it's also a hit with younger people and families. It's easy to see why the show has such broad appeal when you see the Card Ninja in action, somehow turning a niche skill into something for everyone. Whoever you are, whatever you do, play your cards right and don't miss it.

Sexpionage

Female Spies with Nigel West

by Jane Poretzis

I arranged to meet with Nigel in the clandestine setting of a loft-above the auditorium, where he was set to speak about female spies at the Canterbury Festival, on special ops and counterintelligence.

Easily spotted, he was sat back in a darkened alcove filling the space with his presence, in quiet conversation with someone obscured by the shadows.

Getting into the Cold War mood, I quietly placed a large glass decanter of water on a stark folding table, with a pair of wine flutes, that I had grabbed from the bar downstairs.

He spotted me, still deep in conversation, and rose to meet me. Fascinating and eloquent, he joined me at the table, and I opened the conversation with the Trump-Russia Dossier: *Sex, Spies, and Videotape*, written by *The Times*, and the *kompromat* footage of Trump with Russian prostitutes. Something Nigel dismissed as sheer fabrication, by Chris Steele from MI5. Someone he had known for 10-12 years.

He had been hired to undertake a counterintelligence analysis of the Steele Dossier, remarking: "The British media were enchanted by Chris," especially as he was an ex-SIS agent prepared to discuss, 'unattributable, classified operations.'

This was a warm-up, as really I wanted to know if he had worked for the CIA, and MI5, as his books are on the required reading list at Langley for new recruits, including his A-Z dictionary: *A Historical Dictionary of Sexpionage*. He assured me that he had worked for the *Centre of Excellence* at the CIA, which was a recruiting agency to bring women and ethnic minorities into the intelligence community while they are still at university, which touched a nerve.

To interest undergraduates in intelligence work, whether the "FBI, NSA or CIA, and it was my job to go round to the universities," he explained, to show how rewarding

"Becoming a double agent or handling a triple agent, is a high wire act, it's very exciting,"

working in the intelligence community is.

I pressed on with sexpionage and honey traps, and asked if agents were trained in it, or was it just *Russia*?

"Well, there is a sexual dimension in virtually every intelligence case," he said, agreeing that it is still a large part of international intelligence operations. I mentioned the Russian State School

Four, and schools for East German *Romeo's*, but he was evasive about going into too much detail on Western operations, in this regard.

Many spies fly below the radar, so I asked who his favourite female spy was?

"There was a woman codenamed *Treasure*, called Lily Sergueiev, and she is very interesting because she was Russian, living in France. Her real name was Nathalie. The Germans called her *Tramp*, which gives you an indication of her morals."

A triple agent he went on to explain how she was recruited by a German officer, and then immediately headed to MI5 in London, and was instantly recruited. Upset with the British, she then went back to Lisbon to report that MI5 had recruited her.

"She did this as she had a little dog. Because of the rabies quarantine rules in Gibraltar, the dog had to remain," said Nigel, "and she was absolutely infuriated by this, and angry with the British when the dog was run over and killed." Further elaborating: "She was most certainly a Russian spy as well, so *Treasure* was a very interesting, volatile individual, with good contacts in English society and a cousin at Cambridge." Mentioning that she fell in love with an American army officer in

Paris, wrote a book, and died of Tuberculosis, with no one believing her adventures.

“Becoming a double agent or handling a triple agent, is a high wire act, it’s very exciting,” said Nigel, “it’s a very heavy drug for an agent.” Stating that well-placed sources would have their information placed on the desk of the President or Prime Minister within an hour of submission. I asked him when he first became fascinated with the world of intelligence, espionage, and secret service agents.

“I think my first experience was aged 15. I was educated in a *Benedictine* Monastery, and one of the monks had been an intelligence officer, who had been captured in 1940, in Calais, subsequently escaping from a POW camp, and joining SIS.

“He told us his adventures walking across Europe.”

At 18 he became a researcher for the author Richard Deakin, while still at university—exasperated after reading *The Venlo Incident*, which would name officers as X or Y.

On summer vacation, from university, he went to Malta to stay with friends.

“I met another intelligence officer called Ronald Seth, at a dinner party, who wrote an autobiography called: *A Spy Has No Friends*. I was enchanted by his stories in Silesia, he was found by allies walking around Paris in a Luftwaffe uniform.”

Known for tracking down missing spies and mistresses, Nigel famously found *Garbo* after 12 years, when he was presumed to be dead in Africa, and *Bronx* the daughter of a Peruvian diplomat, selling ‘frocks’ in the South of France.

Elvira de la Fuentes, with her access to London’s high society, was known as Bronx due to the cocktail she loved drinking at the Hyde Park Hotel. One of her tasks was to find out about the D-Day landings.

A German spy, she was a lesbian that had many *affairs* and was a mean bridge player.

“She played first-rate bridge with

Lady Mountbatten,” said Nigel, further stating that she wrote very long letters on gossip and political ‘tittle-tattle.’

Nigel is a great raconteur, and his talk downstairs had *espionage* fans, hanging on to his every word, as he walked them through a list of spies and fascinating detail from Aphra Behn, Madam Blanc, to Marta Peterson a CIA typist in Moscow, that hid radio equipment in her bra.

Two of Nigel’s most famous books are *The Crown Jewels* and *Triplex: Secrets from the Cambridge Spies*, written from the KGB’s archives in Moscow, co-authored with Oleg Tsarev.

His latest books are a two-part history of the German intelligence Service, 1933 - 1945: *Hitler’s Nest of Vipers*, and *Hitler’s Trojan Horse*, out 30th November 2022.

“With plenty of female espionage agents.”

Case History

Nigel West is a military historian & author, specializing in intelligence & security; voted: ‘The Experts’ *Expert* by a panel of spy writers, by the *Observer* in November 1989.

The Sunday Times said: ‘His information is often so precise that many people believe he is the unofficial historian of the secret services. His books are peppered with deliberate clues to potential front-page stories.’

A speaker at intelligence seminars, he has given lectures at both the KGB headquarters in Dzerzhinsky Square, Moscow, and at the CIA headquarters in Langley, Virginia.

He has also worked for the Centre of Counterintelligence & Security Studies, in Washington D.C., for 12 years. (www.cicentre.com).



Nigel West

Forget- Me -Not

by Lucy Elizabeth Jones

A dementia diagnosis is not the end of a life but instead a new way of living. At the East Kent Forget-Me-Nots event one message was made very clear, people with the disease can do anything.

The group marked their 10th anniversary during their first appearance at the Canterbury Festival with activities and performances held at St Peter's Methodist Church on the 22nd of October.

Pictured to the right - Bill and Dorris who attended the Forget- Me - Nots event.

Pictured below - The event gathered a large crowd with a range of music and activities on show.



Amongst the crowd was Dawn Horne who claimed that the organisation turned her life around after learning that she had dementia. For her the East Kent Forget-Me-Nots meant a new beginning. She was able to not only receive support but spread hope to others in need. Whilst Dawn shared that her diagnosis had definitely impacted her life, through conversation it was clear that her high spirits hadn't wavered.

Keith Oliver, a member of the East Kent Forget-Me-Nots and an alzhiemers ambassador, believes that the disease is often heavily misrepresented within the community. He stated that events run by the group help bring “public awareness to another level.”

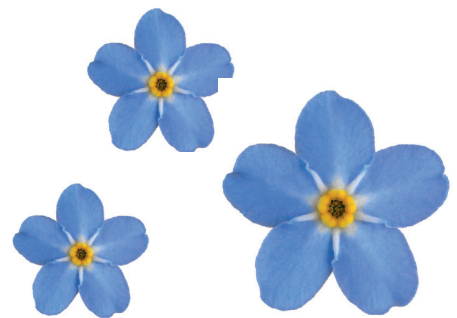
Also in attendance were three Kent University students who whilst on placement were given the opportunity to help organise the day. They believed that this event was “making history” and were proud to be a part of it.

During my visit I got speaking to Liz Jennings, a health care professional and writer who works closely with the Forget-Me-Nots group. We spoke about the importance of events like this one where she told me that it was inspiring to meet with people affected by dementia . It was clear from our conversation that the right attitude when dealing with the disease is one filled with compassion and humanity.

From left to right: Kent University students: Millie Godfrey, Ellie Warman, Lara Stembridge.



Liz summed up her thoughts of a diagnosis with the statement “yes it is tough, yes it is challenging but I know plenty of people who manage to get on with life.”



“The best treatment isn’t a pill, it’s connections.”



Pictured above: The useless pluckers band who played a series of old time favourites.



Back to the future with Blitzed Bitz

By Chloe Selvester

Unknown to the average tourist lies a deep dark secret beneath Canterbury's history abundant surface.

Tour guide Bob Collins stunned people on the Blitzed Bits walk that much of Canterbury's historic architecture is not that ancient.

A lot of buildings which look Tudor are not in fact that old and this is because the city was bombed extensively in the second world war.

The revelation was made during a one-and-a-half-hour tour staged for the Canterbury Festival in October.

The tour began at the Beaney Institute where Bob explained that over 800 buildings were destroyed in the Baedeker Blitz, including St George's Church.

Officials had no choice but to be cost effective and rebuild the 800 buildings destroyed as replicas of what they once were.

Originally a safe site for evacuees from bigger cities to live, Nazis bombed the city twice in World War Two.

Having voted to exist as a separate borough to Kent, the city was in financial and physical ruins.

It has since been declared a victim of its own success.

Bob told the group that the best example of a building that was heavily destroyed but rebuilt as a mock Tudor replica was the Deanery.

He explained: "It was actually Tudor to begin with as it was built in 1570. After it was targeted in 1940, it had a whole section of its front torn out as you can see in the black and white photograph.

"But looking at it today, it's all been put back very nicely as a Tudor facade - though it does have an extra room added lower down."

History may be set in stone, but Canterbury's future has never been more questionable.

Looking forward to the future, Bob discussed the prosperity of mock Tudor building in an ever evolving society.

He said that many tourist and even local people wouldn't be aware that the city's architecture is artificial.

Asked if the city would always choose to promote itself as historical, Bob explained: "Canterbury knows which side its bread is buttered.

"The past is what brings people here, although none of us have a crystal ball."

Bob was unsure if the city would ever demolish mock Tudor buildings in favour of modernised ones.

He said: "It's hard to know people's minds but everyone gains from a stable prosperous city.



*Left: The Deanery in 1940 after being targeted in the Blitz.
Right: The Deanery in 2022 rebuilt as an exact replica.*

“Whether people like history or not it’s profitable, everyone has something to gain. Good places go bad, bad places go bust.”

He commended local universities, particularly Canterbury Christ Church and University of Kent, for drawing a large student population to the city.

Bob admitted, though, that part of him feels the younger generation will not care about Canterbury’s history.

He urged the younger generation to take advantage of the history on their doorstep.

Bob expressed that he hopes and believes Canterbury will always be a historical city.

He acknowledged, though, that in today’s society people always demand more modernised features to improve convenience for them, which unfortunately could be at the expense of history rich buildings like the Deanery.



Canterbury Festival tour guide Bob Collins, who is blue badge qualified, has ran the Blitz Bitz tour for four years.

Canterbury, the ghost of a Roman town

By Jessica Allen

Canterbury is well known as a city tied to infamous historic stories. From the murder of Thomas Beckett to the works of playwright Christopher Marlowe.

A lot less is known about the Roman origins of the city, the focus of a walking tour as part of the Canterbury festival.

The tour follows the ancient Roman roads of Canterbury, many of which follow alongside rivers found in Westgate Gardens.

The tour explores the archaeological findings in the area including a late Roman shrine found under Augustine house, Canterbury Christ Church university's library.

But why do people have such a deep interest in our history?

For archaeologist, Author and our tour guide Jake Weekes, his inspiration came from family: "it would just rely on people having an interest and my dad had an interest. He had a couple of books by a man called P.B. Glob they were books about the bog people"

He added: "That really what started firing my imagination. That you could look at someone's face and they were 2000 years old and had looked like they had just gone to sleep.

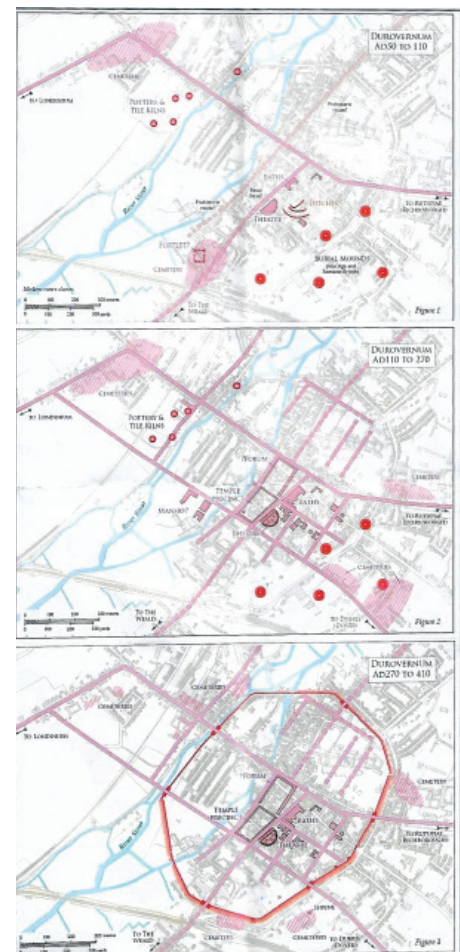
But if you investigated you found they had their necks slit or a halter around their neck or they'd been bashed on the head. All a bit mysterious."

For others, The idea that people are defined by the past and what we can learn about ourselves through the past is inspiring.

As a author of books such as 'the historic maps of canterbury', Jake Weekes often has to ask himself why people are interested in history.



One of the many rivers that once ran alongside the old roads.



Maps showing the old roman roads of Canterbury.

He explains to me that: “You can write about archaeology really technically and coldly and suck all the life out of it. People become alienated about what was exciting about it in the first place”. “There’s all sorts of reasons but I think people now want to know how people are like them and how they are different from them, not necessarily from a negative point of view, it’s called otherness people can embrace it or be afraid of it”.

There have been many technological advances in archeology in recent years that greatly improve what we can learn.

Jake is optimistic for the future: “Some of these new techniques, particularly 3D scanning are going to have to be deployed and I look forward to that and it would revolutionize the way we do things”.

“I would hope we would learn to have things built in to help us work together more. So different experts can bring their different expertise in the same room”



Foundations of the Roman city wall, available to view in Hampton by Hilton hotel.

Jake is adamant that people should not hesitate in getting involved in archeology.

He said: “In terms of getting involved don’t be afraid of looking up local societies, they’re all made up of people who wondered ‘how I could get involved?’” Sometimes people worry that they won’t know what they’re doing but they’ll always be someone to help you.

“Look at local courses there are good magazines like current archaeology and council for British archaeology magazine, British archaeology is online as well, Council for British archaeology will point you in the right direction.”

As described by Jake Weekes, Canterbury is the ghost of a Roman town based on its Topography.

With many discoveries still to make, Canterbury is the perfect city for an enthusiast in History.



Westgate tower is all that remains as an outline to the old canterbury city wall, based upon the Roman Foundations.



The venue for both shows: Westgate Hall



Canterbury Comics

By Leon Reed

The Noise Next Door showcase their sharp wit and comedic timing with their two-show stint at this year's Canterbury Festival.

The 12-time sell-out Edinburgh Fringe veterans returned to their roots in Canterbury, where they met at the University of Kent, in order to deliver comedy for all audiences. Deemed on their website as "One of the most versatile acts in the business," their off-the-cuff comedy and quick thinking speak to their skill and knowledge of improv comedy.

Their first show, The Mysterious Mansion of Mystery, was a family show full of lively and clean comedy that could appeal to any audiences. However, the groups evening show - Hometown Heroes - was unmistakably curated for a mature audience.

While you might think that difficulties could arise from performing

a family and adult comedy show just hours apart, the group said that there are more issues when faced with cultural differences.

When interviewed, Sam Pacelli talked about how the transition between kids and adult shows is easy. He went on to say the difference is clearly defined but when performing for various parts of the country or Europe there are much subtler nuances that mean the group must gauge the audience's taste as they perform.

Throughout their shows, the group displayed how they can effortlessly adapt their style to fit with a particular audience while on stage. Robin Hatcher said: "It's really important that we don't guess what they're going to like before we start" he went on to explain: "it's important to read whatever audience you have in front of you and not go with an expectation."

The group thrives in their ability to tailor a show's atmosphere to an audience as they learn more about them while the show progresses. The freedom to do this comes from the dynamic nature of their comedy and not judging their audience gives them the ability to deliver a truly unique and curated comedy experience.

Audience member "Max" after being brought on stage during the first acting of the evening show.



ANNA SAYBURN LANE



By: Lisa Engelbrecht

Literature, London and long walks - that's what author Anna Sayburn Lane has in common with the main character of her crime novel series Helen Oddfellow.

The women who in the author's thrillers tries to question long-forgotten crimes. Anna Sayburn Lane is an award-winning Kent-based author of short stories, journalism and fiction.

At the Canterbury Festival she held a one hour walk where she spoke about Charles Marlowe, the history of Canterbury and how she writes about it in her Thrillers.

The walk started at St Georges Tower, which is the bombed church where Christopher Marlowe got baptised on 26.02.1564. The first stop on her tour was Canterbury Cathedral.

There she talked about the murder of Thomas Becket and the history of the pilgrims who visited Canterbury.

Afterwards the audience went to St. Alphege's Church, which served as a refuge for Protestants from France in 1685 to escape persecution for their religion.

Another stop was the Marlowe Theatre with the Marlowe statue. She talked about his literature, his plays, and his influence on Canterbury and its people.

She then went to East Gate, which was a prison during Marlowe's lifetime and where he spent at least a few nights.

She then went on to Eastbridge Hospital, where the Pilgrims spent their stay in Canterbury.

Another location Anna explained

to her listeners was Stoner Street, where Marlowe's aunt lived. She told of the rumors about Marlowe being a spy for the Catholic Church and his death.

Just like the start, the tour ended back at St. Georges Tower.

Writing is her passion. But since she is also a journalist which genre does Anna prefer? As far as that's concerned, the author doesn't want to commit herself at all.

Journalism simply suits her and she says it is a lot of fun. Precisely because she has been doing this for so long, writing articles gives her a certain comfort.

However, this is not comparable to the creativity she can let out when she writes her thriller novels.

Thrillers and true crime have always interested her and after completing the 60 mile walk from London's Southwark Cathedral to Canterbury, she realized that she definitely needed to write novels about crime.

As she herself comes from the Canterbury area, she finds the history of the city very interesting and likes to include it in her thrillers. This is possibly the reason why the main character of her novels tries to uncover the forgotten crimes of this city.

However, she didn't want to reveal anything about her new book yet. She is not sure which one will be the new release since she is working on some different books. So the suspense remains for the reader.

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