

* Members' Meeting – Thursday 26th May*

Please join us at our next members' meeting at **2pm** on **Thursday 26th May** at **Minster Club**.
Our speaker is:

Andy Theobald

English Baby Boomers – 1945 - 1955

What was it like to grow up in the post war years? With relative poverty, due to austerity created by the national debt from defending the nation, how did we cope? Well, we did and there was much to be joyful about! This talk is an account of the 40's and 50's childhood observations based partly on research but also from personal experience.

Andy will also be bringing along some mementos from the period.

Non-members are welcome at a small charge of £3 and includes refreshments

* Save the date for next month: Thursday 23rd June*

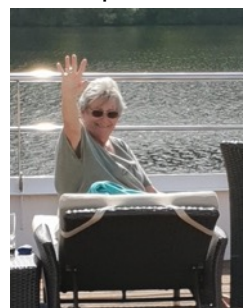
Melanie Gibson-Barton will be giving us a talk on the **History of Teddy Bears** – she asks that you dig out your bear and bring them along, no matter how old ragged or decrepit for a Teddy Bear get together! ***DON'T FORGET TO BRING YOUR TEDDY BEAR***



Chairman's Ramblings

Patience is a Virtue!

Is it me or am I losing patience? Does this come under the “later in life” category, where the marketing fraternity are now too embarrassed (or politically correct) to say Senior Citizen or pensioner. If that is the case, then I think I am definitely there! When I retired some years ago, I had a T shirt printed that symbolised those first days of liberty and freedom from what was a challenging job at times “RETIRED LIVING THE DREAM”. Those rose-tinted shades of the future propelled me into a world of whisking myself off to far flung countries with strange sounding names, lazy days being pampered upon sun-soaked beaches, having 40 winks whenever I wanted and wandering off in the caravan (named Calamity Jane – in honour of that other carefree American frontierswoman, sharpshooter and raconteur, Martha Jane Canary) and generally doing exactly what I wanted to do. No more “To Do Lists” and chasing impossible deadlines.



I must say that the T shirt in question got washed only once, is now in some darkened drawer together with the moth balls, cycling proficiency badge and numerous other items of a bygone age. Now my days seem to be spent untangling life's open sores, you know those problems that our modern world has purposely put there so that we don't enjoy ourselves too much i.e. (I'm sorry, but computers feature a lot in this) on-line banking, booking holidays, unravelling insurance policies, booking flights, hospital appointments, doctor's appointments – and the list goes on!



It's enough to make a grown man weep!! How I yearn for a frank and open discussion with someone on the end of the line instead of having to wait “for the next available person who can help with your enquiry”. If I'd wanted to be a steeplechaser, I would have changed my career years ago.

Well, I've got this off my chest. Once I've unravelled all of the above, perhaps I can think again of finding my T shirt and add “RETIRED LIVING THE DREAM - SOMETIMES”.

INTERESTS GROUPS & ACTIVITIES



THE QUEEN'S PLATINUM JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS

We would like to invite all members to join us at the upcoming Platinum Jubilee Celebration Picnic organised by Sheerness Town Council. You will see on the poster that there will be plenty going on, so pack a picnic and bring along a blanket or chair to join in the celebrations together.

We have also arranged to provide a stall at the picnic so we can show everyone what the Isle of Sheppey u3a is all about.

The picnic will take place on Sunday 5th June 2022 at Beachfield's Park in Sheerness (the big field by the sandpit).

PROVENDER HOUSE VISIT

Around twenty members visited Provender House, at Norton, last month. We were given an exclusive tour of the house by owner Princess Olga Andreevna Romanoff, who was a fascinating and engaging host. We were also provided with tea and homemade cakes.

Many thanks to Pam who organised this trip and to Heather for coordinating the car-sharing. It was a great afternoon visit, made even better by being in our u3 group.



LADIES THAT LUNCH

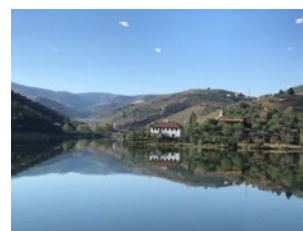
Many thanks to Sharon for starting the Ladies That Lunch Group recently. We have had two lunches out, the first in April at the 'The Harps' and the second in May at 'The Gunpowder Mill' at Faversham. The group communicate between meetings via a WhatsApp group and the ladies arrange to car-share.



WINE APPRECIATION GROUP CRUISE



Fourteen members of the Wine Appreciation Group have recently taken a River Cruise on the River Douro in Portugal. There was a packed itinerary with visits to many wineries and plenty of wine tasting. The River Douro is exceptionally scenic and has several locks on the journey, one being the deepest lock in Europe at a depth of 35 metres – absolutely fascinating feat of engineering. Many thanks go to Ken who organised the trip.



MONTHLY MEMBER'S MEETING DATES 2022

Meetings are held on the fourth Thursday of each month at 2pm until 4pm at Minster Club, (except in August & December). Free refreshments are provided.

26 th May	August meeting TBA	24 th November
23 rd June	22 nd September	December meeting TBA
28 th July	27 th October	

MEMBERSHIP

Our membership offers great value for money so, why not bring along a friend to the next meeting. We have plenty of Isle of Sheppey u3a leaflets available for you to pass onto friends, family and neighbours so why not pick some up at our monthly members' meetings.

Non-members are welcome for a small fee of £3 so they can see if they'd like to join.

LOCAL NEWS AND EVENTS

THE QUEEN'S PLATINUM JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS

There are lots of celebrations happening on Sheppey over the long bank holiday weekend Thursday 2nd to Sunday 5th June.

Please make sure to join us for our Queen's Jubilee Picnic on Sunday at Beachfields, so we can all celebrate in style.

***** Sunday 5th June 11am – 3pm**



SHEERNESS CLOCK TOWER

Our Sheerness iconic clock tower was dismantled and removed last September to enable essential repairs to the structure and internal mechanisms to be carried out by specialist clock repairers Smith of Derby. The Coronation Clock, a grade II listed structure was originally erected in 1902 to celebrate the coronation of King Edward VII. The clock tower has now been restored to its original colours of green and gold and includes the fabrication of the lanterns to match those originally installed, although with LED lighting. It's great to see the clock tower restored back to its former glory and returned to its home in Clock Tower Crescent.



SHEPPEY SEAWALL COMMUNITY PROJECT

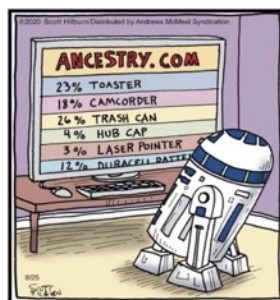
Have you seen the latest amazing transformation of the seawall? The community of Sheppey came together to create something magnificent, the amazing artist and the community that got involved truly made something that will become a part of Sheppey's history. Click here to find out more about the project: <https://youtu.be/1dJIWeeMoHk>



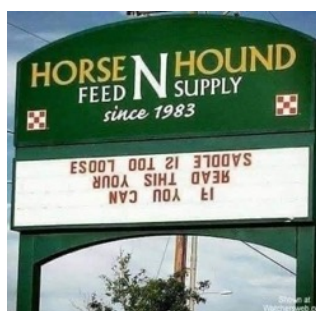
KEEP SMILING

"They say that the body is made of 90% water, so... I'm not overweight, I'm just water logged."

springchicken.co.uk



DOES ANYONE ELSE WISH THE MANUFACTURERS WOULD WRITE SHAMPOO AND CONDITIONER IN A BIGGER FONT SO WE CAN READ IN IT IN THE SHOWER WITHOUT OUR SPECS !!



NATIONAL u3a

Have you listened to the monthly **u3a Radio podcasts** on YouTube?

They are uploaded on 17th of every month.

Click here to listen to the April edition:

<https://youtu.be/7DwL8jlogT8>



Click here to listen to the May edition:

<https://youtu.be/--kxLj0ouBw>



Click here for the full list of radio podcasts since they started in September 2020: https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLsB2t41TNozHSJ4fvod_vijxrUJDzqbDD

As a member of Isle of Sheppey u3a you are also able to access what is available nationally. You can create an account on the National u3a website and it is highly recommended to sign up for the **national newsletter** as new content is uploaded frequently; click here for the website <https://www.u3a.org.uk/>. There are lots of different things you can read about and get involved with ranging from online events and tutorials to the National Learn Programme.

National u3a Spring Learning Programme

Learn something new with our spring learning programme The u3a spring learning programme has a wide range of initiatives that cater to all interests. From our new book group forum to Kirigami, logic puzzles or extreme crochet, to the natural world, poetry, maths or crafts, there is something for everyone to get involved with.

Click here to find out more: <https://www.u3a.org.uk/learning/national-programmes>

Have you signed up for the NATIONAL u3a NEWSLETTER? <https://www.u3a.org.uk/contact>

Click on the link then scroll to the bottom of the page and enter your details to subscribe.

Information and Contact Details

You can contact us here:

Isleofsheppeyu3a@gmail.com

Email us to join our WhatsApp Group:

Isleofsheppeyu3a@gmail.com

Find our website here:

<https://u3asites.org.uk/isle-of-sheppey/home>

Interact with u3a members around the country on the

u3a: Keeping in Touch Facebook group:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/U3AKeepingInTouch>

Our Facebook Page is:

<https://www.facebook.com/isleofsheppeyu3a>

u3a YouTube Channel

<https://www.youtube.com/user/TheU3a/videos>

Our members only Facebook Group is:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/384159678869515>

Diversity & Inclusion Statement

Isle of Sheppey u3a recognises that everyone is different and aims to create an environment that values and treats all members fairly. We are committed to promoting equality and diversity and to ensure that u3a membership is as accessible as possible to different groups within the community.