

*** Monthly Meeting – Thursday 23rd October***

Please join us at our next **Monthly Members’ meeting**.

It will start at **2pm** on **Thursday 23rd October** at **THE SHEPPEY HALL, QUEENBOROUGH**

Doodlebugs & Rockets: Battle of the Flying Bombs – Bob Ogley

Kent historian and former newspaper editor Bob Ogley visited us in June last year, when he entertained us with a talk about the Great Storm of 1987. Bob returns to us for his second visit, where his subject will be Doodle Bugs & Rockets.

About 2,400 Doodlebugs (V1 flying bombs) fell on Kent between June 1944 and March 1945, causing significant damage and casualties. Our county was often hit because many of the V1s were shot down or fell short before reaching London, their intended target.



The V1 was the world’s first cruise missile. Its pulsejet engine, which had a distinctive buzzing sound, would cut out shortly before impact – and then it was time to take cover!

The V2, the world’s first guided missile, travelled at supersonic speeds and there would be no audible warning of its approach. At the time, no technology existed to intercept them. Some landed in Kent, but the majority hit London. The final V2 to be fired came down in Orpington on 27th March 1945, causing a large crater and injuring 23 people.

The V1 and V2s were so-named from the original German term for “Vengeance Weapons.”

Save the date for next month: Thursday 27th November

COMING UP...

David’s Slice of Life	Page 2	This month, David looks at a recent “surprising new story” about the Richard Montgomery
Interest Groups & Activities	Page	Information about our groups
u3a Excursions	3/4	Last chance to join our excursion – time to pay the final balance
Community Events	Page 5	Find out more about our Kent Network
National u3a	Page	There’s a wide range of national online talks, included in your membership for FREE!
Online Learning Events	6/7	
u3a National Programmes		
u3a Radio Podcast		October’s edition of the radio podcast is out.
u3aFriends Extra		Join the “u3a Friends” to access discounts on products and services. Sign up for the newsletter to for all the up-to-date national u3a information.
u3a Friends Newsletter		
Kent u3a Network		
A Little Light entertainment	Page 7	A little humour & some interesting facts about Space.
Information & Contact details	Page 8	Let us know if you want to join our members only Facebook Group and/or u3a General WhatsApp Group?

David's Slice of Life

Imagine this scenario: We are on the brink of conflict with Russia and in the Kremlin, Mr Putin and his military chiefs are discussing where their first strike should be: New York, Washington, Berlin or perhaps London. Or maybe the Isle of Sheppey.

Don't laugh, I'm being serious. Well, maybe not that serious.

For as long as I have been in the media business – and that's a long time – stories about our very own "Doomsday Ship," the sunken explosive-laden wreck of the Richard Montgomery, have appeared at regular intervals every year, like the first cuckoo of spring or the first swallow of summer. If I had £1 for every "shock" story I've read about the Richard Montgomery I'd be a millionaire.

For journalists, the Richard Montgomery is a gift which keeps on giving. There's always a gullible publication or news channel somewhere which can be conned into believing that the tale of our "ticking timebomb" is a shocking new revelation. I thought I had read every permutation of yarns about the Richard Montgomery – until this week. For while, I thought April 1st had come early.

Surreal as it may seem, our bomb ship was the subject for a debate on a late-night Russian TV show, on which various ways of making the West "pay" for helping Ukraine were discussed. One suggestion was an attack on a key oil hub in the Netherlands, while another was aimed specifically at Britain.



Putin ally Dr Andre Sidorov came up with what he thought was an even better idea – send Russian covert forces to blow up the Richard Montgomery in the Thames Estuary. He predicted that the resulting explosion of around 1,400 tons of bombs would flood all nearby ports and villages, adding helpfully: "We can start with this today." I wondered how many viewers of this blatant propaganda discussion were instantly scrolling through their mobile phones to find out where the Isle of Sheppey was.

Of course, it was all hot air for domestic consumption as either of two suggestions floated on the Russian TV show would mark the start of World War Three.

At one stage I was certain it was indeed all a hoax, because the idea of the Isle of Sheppey being discussed on a Russian TV show seemed, well, just unbelievable. But apparently not. The story was first published on news website, The Daily Express US and has since been picked up by a few other news outlets in the UK. Even so, a story which on a bad day would have made the front-page lead in The Sun or the Daily Mail, got zero coverage in all of our national newspapers. Maybe this was a "story" so flimsy that even they found it hard to swallow.

Fortunately, I think we can all sleep easily in our beds safe in the knowledge that covert Russian special forces are unlikely to emerge from Sheerness-on-Sea railway station dressed as holidaymakers with suspiciously large backpacks.

There's only one thing I can guarantee about the Richard Montgomery – even after 81 years you haven't heard the last of it!

INTEREST GROUPS & ACTIVITIES

Each interest group has its own communications list so, if you are interested in joining any of our interest groups, please sign up at one of our meetings or email us at: isleofsheppeyu3a@gmail.com

Find out more about our groups on our website: [Isle of Sheppey u3a Interest Groups information](#)

U3A EXCURSIONS

LONDON LIGHTS WITH FISH & CHIPS
Wednesday 3rd December

There are still a few places left on this excursion - £45

This is exclusive to members of the Isle of Sheppey u3a and will pick up at Abbey Hotel and Sheerness East Working Men’s Club only. We will leave the island at approximately 1pm and expect to get back at approximately 10pm.



Final payment for those who have paid the deposit is £35 and is required to be paid at the meeting next week.

CRAFTY IDEAS



Many thanks to Jayne Whiting, one of our Crafty Ideas members, who has created this wall hanging. It was originally an idea from the Crafty Ideas group, however, due to various circumstances and lack of progress, Jayne completed the project using various stitch techniques and the ideas generated by the group. You will see that it contains various places and articles of interest from around the Island. The wall hanging is approximately 4ft x 3ft.



SUNDAY CARVERY LUNCH @ The Masonic

Twenty-seven members and friends gathered at the Masonic Club in Sheerness for a lovely Sunday Lunch and social get together on 12th October. The carvery meal was followed by dessert, cheese and biscuits, tea/coffee and mints. At a cost of £22 per person everyone enjoyed the meal and thought it was excellent value for money.

We have a Sunday Lunch group so those registered will receive information of the next lunch dates. If you would like to be added to the communications list just let us know.

SAVE THE DATE

Our next Sunday Lunch will be Sunday 30th November, this will be our u3a Christmas Lunch and will be £27.



SOCIAL HISTORY GROUP - October Newsletter provided by David Goodin

**Social History Group
Entertainment Through History**

Since time immemorial, parents have, in exasperation, told their offspring to find something to amuse themselves. And so mankind has looked for ways to entertain himself when life's pressures are less demanding. Our earliest ancestors painted pictures on cave walls or went out to hunt a mammoth. Whichever course of action they took to get out of the grown-up's hair, it was the first steps towards finding entertainment.

The Isle of Sheppey u3a Social History Group members gathered, this month, to research and discuss the whole history of entertainment, in all its many facets, since those prehistoric times; from the sublime to the ridiculous, and from the naivety of children's street football to the macabre of watching public executions in their various grisly forms.

As mankind developed, so did his need for entertainment. His competitive desire for gain and self-emulation was gradually harnessed, away from war, to what was generally to become known, in its many variations, as 'sport'. For those of a less physical and competitive nature, music and drama satisfied their desire for self-expression and enjoyment. Technology has long been used to meet the needs of the 'entertainment industry'. Cinema, radio, television and now the mobile phone has dominated this last century. Whilst active pastimes provide numerous entertainment outlets, the over-riding trend in this era of mass and instant communication is away from physical and personal communication to sedentary and mass communication, with all of the implications that accompany it. The members of the Social History Group were left with much to ponder for the future of entertainment and its participants.

Future Social History Group Topics

21st Nov. 25 : Oliver Cromwell - his effect on 17th Century society and beyond.

16th Jan. 26 : What did the Romans do for us? - How they changed the world.

20th Feb. 26 : Jewellery throughout the ages - its significance and meaning.

20th Mar.26 : Farming through the ages - how it has changed to meet needs.

17th Apr. 26 : Travel through the ages - from Shanks' Pony to Space Travel.

No meeting in December, as it is too close to Christmas.

MONTHLY MEETING DATES 2025/26

Meetings are held on the fourth Thursday of each month (except in December) at 2pm until 4pm, at The Sheppey Hall in Queenborough. Refreshments are included Doors open 1.40pm.

2025

27th November

11th December - Christmas Meeting

2026

22nd January

26th February

26th March

23rd April

28th May

25th June

COMMUNITY EVENTS

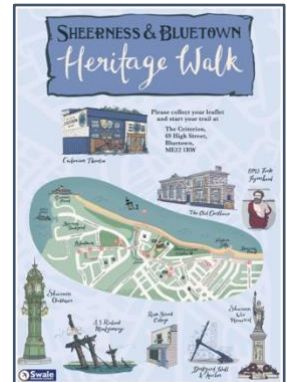
Christmas Craft Fair with Live Music
Saturday 1st November
Island Works Dockyard Church



Sheerness Heritage Trail
 Launch Date: 17th October
 Start Point: The Criterion Theatre, Bluetown

Discover the rich history of our town

Sheerness Town Council have a week's worth of events planned to celebrate the launch of the Sheerness Heritage Trail. Explore historic landmarks, fascinating stories and hidden gems that make Sheerness unique. Pick up your leaflet from The Criterion and bring your friends and family for a walk through history.



From the Edge - A day exploring community climate action and regenerative artistic practices
27th November – IslandWorks, Sheerness Dockyard Church

Looking at *Intertidal Allotment*, the long-term project with Andrew Merritt, alongside *Three Rivers' Beneath the Pavement, the Marshes* and Grand Union's *The Growing Project*, we will explore how artists, activists, and communities are using regenerative art practices in contested, liminal, and peripheral sites to reimagine the care of our environment. [Booking Required](#)



Introduction to Resilience

Are you prepared for emergencies in Swale?

Sign up for your free Introduction to Resilience online training session

Learn how you and your community can become better prepared for emergencies

Bespoke training for all Swale residents

A great opportunity to discuss your community needs

Part of a new training series by Communities Prepared and Kent and Medway Resilience Forum

Book our FREE online training

Monday 27th October 18.00 - 19.30pm

Book here: [QR Code]

Tuesday 28th October 17.00 - 18.30pm

Book here: [QR Code]

Thursday 27th November 17.30 - 19.00pm

Book here: [QR Code]

All Swale residents are invited to take part in free training sessions as part of a new initiative to help strengthen local community preparedness.

The online sessions are taking place on:

- 27 October 6pm to 7pm [Book your place here](#)
- 28 October 5pm to 6.30pm [Book your place here](#)
- 27 November 5.30 to 7pm [Book your place here](#)

This is part of a series of free online bespoke training sessions that are being delivered in Swale by [Communities Prepared](#) and [Kent and Medway Resilience Forum](#) as part of a new project to help communities become better prepared for emergencies such as flooding, severe weather and power outages.

If you have any questions or would like more information on the project and how you can get involved, please get in touch by email:

kfrcommunityresilience@kent.fireuk.org or communitiesprepared@groundwork.org.uk

CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE NEWSLETTER

Thank you again to all those who have provided contributions this month.

Please let us know if you have any other contributions, including from Interest Groups or for local community events. Send them to isleofsheppeyu3a@gmail.com. Deadline for inclusion in October newsletter is **Friday 21st November**.

NATIONAL u3a

Have you looked on the National u3a website? There's so much u3a members across the country are getting involved with

ONLINE LEARNING EVENTS

There are numerous and wide-ranging learning events and short courses (usually free online using zoom),
Coming up soon October/November/December: [u3a online events](#)

- The UK and the US Constitutions – Part 1
- Artificial Intelligence News: October – AI in popular fiction
- Secrets of the Human Brain: Talk Nine
- The Geology of Britain in the Palaeozoic, the Era of Early Life
- The Historic Towns Trust – London on the Eve of the Great Fire Preview
- Flight Inspirations Aviation Meeting: November
- The Talking Drums of Africa
- The UK and the US Constitutions – Part 2
- Exploring World Faiths: Interfaith Week – More in Common
- Catherine the Great
- Making Your Smartphone easier to use – Android
- What Next? From Retired to Redefined
- Adapting to Climate Change
- Take Ten Songs 1: How Pop Songs Work
- Tiny Algae with Big Impact: The Response of Micro-Algae to River Pollution
- AI News November – Your Personal AI Assistant has Arrived
- Staying Safe Online – A u3a Presentation with Q&A
- Secrets of the Human Brain: Talk Ten
- The Geology of Britain in the Mesozoic, The Era of Middle Life
- Take Ten Songs 2: How Pop Songs Work
- Safes and Safebreaking
- Flight Inspirations Aviation Meeting: December
- Cryptic Crosswords for Beginners: six session course
- Meditation & Mindfulness continuation sessions
- Laughter Yoga with Merrie Maggie - November
- Laughter Yoga with Judith - November
- u3a Yoga Network: Subject Surgery

NATIONAL PROGRAMMES

Enter your poetry and short stories in the competitions, submit your paintings/drawings and photographs to be featured in the online galleries. See what other members across the country have already submitted and see if you can spot anything from our Isle of Sheppey u3a members. Take part or just browse other members' submissions. Get involved by clicking here: [u3a National Programmes](#)

Enter Your Photography & Art

- The "Still Got It" Photography Project *
- Paint or Draw – New theme each month
- u3a Eye – Themed Photography Project
- Found in Nature – Photo Gallery of all things weird and wonderful in nature

Writing Competitions

Short Story 2025 – Competition closed

Essay Competition 2025 – Competition now closed

Read the winning entries on the u3a website

* *New projects*

Puzzles & Games

- Logic Puzzles
- Maths Challenge
- Aileen's Game
- Where Am I?
- The u3a Quiz Library

Connect with Members

- Virtual Visits *
- u3a Air Fryer Community
- u3a Walkers' Exchange
- Find a u3a Speaker

u3a SOURCES

Read the u3a blog dedicated to sharing, inspiring and learning. Interesting and thought-provoking articles from around the country, giving insights into other u3as doing what all u3as do best 'Learn, Laugh, Live'. Find the blog on the national website, click here: [u3a Sources](#)

NATIONAL u3a – RADIO PODCAST

Have you listened to the latest monthly **u3a Radio podcasts** on YouTube? On the 17th of each month a new episode is uploaded. Click here for the latest edition as well as the full list of radio podcasts since they started:

[u3a Radio Podcast Playlist](#)



u3a FRIENDS EXTRA

u3a friends is a community open to all our u3a members. As part of this community our members have access to a wide range of offers, discounts and additional services. Friends can make savings on well-known brands, shopping, travel, day out and much more. Find out more here: [u3a Friends Extra Presentation](#)

u3a FRIENDS - NEWSLETTER

Sign up to get the most up to date news from National Office and find out the latest news and learning events as they are added. You will also get a link to the FRIENDS EXTRA benefits website.

Click here to find out more about what there is on offer nationally [National u3a](#). New events added monthly so, have a look and see if there’s anything interesting that you’d like to join with in the next few weeks.

KENT u3a NETWORK

The Kent u3a Network comprises of the 32 u3as across the Kent region. Representatives from each u3a meet periodically to share ideas, events, speakers and training session, to discuss issues and to support each other. Our committee members attend and keep in touch with the Kent u3a Network which has been an invaluable help in setting up and maintaining our u3a over the past few years.

You can find more information on their website: [Kent u3a Network Website](#)

As a member of Isle of Sheppey u3a you can also join their private discussion Facebook group:

[Kent u3a Network Facebook Group](#)

A LITTLE LIGHT ENTERTAINMENT



SOME INTERESTING FACTS ABOUT SPACE

- ✚ Space is completely silent because there is no air or atmosphere for sound waves to travel through
- ✚ Two pieces of the same type of metal that are perfectly smooth will weld together permanently in the vacuum of space, a phenomenon known as cold welding
- ✚ The Milky Way galaxy is approximately 13.6 billion years old
- ✚ There are an estimated two trillion galaxies in the observable universe
- ✚ The average temperature of outer space is about 2.7 Kelvin (-270.45 Celsius)

Information & Contact Details

You can contact us here:

[Isleofsheppeyu3a@gmail.com](mailto:isleofsheppeyu3a@gmail.com)

Find our website here:

<https://isle-of-sheppey.u3asite.uk/>

Our Facebook Page is:

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

Our members only Facebook Group is:

[Members Only Facebook Group](#)

Email us to join our WhatsApp Group:

[Isleofsheppeyu3a@gmail.com](mailto:isleofsheppeyu3a@gmail.com)

Interact with u3a members around the country:

[u3a: Keeping in Touch Facebook Group](#)

[Kent u3a Network Website](#)

[Kent u3a Network Facebook Group](#)

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.