

* Monthly Meeting – Thursday 25th June*

Please join us at our next **Monthly Members’ meeting**.
It will start at **2pm** on **Thursday 25th June** at **THE SHEPPEY HALL, QUEENBOROUGH**

Concorde: Betrayal of the Speed Bird – Guy Bartlett

Maidstone-based aviation historian, Guy Bartlett, returns to continue the story of Concorde from his first visit, last April, “Concorde - Supersonic Cover-Up?”

Guy’s jargon-free presentation was captivating and threw new light on the disastrous crash of Air France Flight 4590 as it took off from Charles de Gaulle Airport, Paris, on 25th July 2000, bound for New York. All 109 passengers and crew died, along with four people on the ground, after the aircraft struck debris on the runway and burst into flames as it was taking off. Guy presented us with compelling evidence that the debris on the runway was just part of the disaster story. He contends that a whole raft of other factors was involved, from human error and faulty maintenance to technical misjudgements and complacency before Flight 4590 had even reached the runway. They all came together on 25th July 2000, to create a tragedy.



On this visit, Guy will be telling us more about the aftermath of the disaster, the first and only accident in Concorde’s 27-year history.

The photograph shows the fatal moment Air France Flight 4590 hit an object on the runway, a thin metal strip, and burst into flames. Inset: aviation expert Guy, suitably pictured in an aircraft cockpit.

Save the date for next month: Thursday 23rd July 2026

The Life and Death of Amy Johnson – Jane Delaney

COMING UP...

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David's Slice of Life

Our Slice of Life comes each month, courtesy of our member David Jones

It wasn't long after I arrived at Medway Maritime Hospital that I felt like I was an extra in Carry On Nurse. Only Hattie Jaques was missing.

I was due at the hospital for an 8.30am "procedure." I won't enlarge upon what kind of procedure but suffice to say it was the kind that has a tendency to make one's eyes water.



"Take a seat, Mr Jones", said the nurse. "First, I want to take your blood pressure." No worries. Except that the blood pressure machine refused to work. They had to find a replacement.

Then, into a small operating theatre where my "procedure" was to be carried out. I was strapped into an extremely uncomfortable chair in an extremely ungainly position (stop moaning, said my wife when I got home. You should try giving birth).

Comparisons with a mediaeval torture chamber flashed through my mind and I felt it wouldn't be long before I was ready to confess to anything.

A gleaming new ultrasound machine with some scary-looking bits of equipment attached was placed next to me. No worries, except that this, too, wouldn't work. Apparently, it had been used by another department overnight and someone forgot to plug it in to charge up.

A nurse went off in search of a replacement. Twenty minutes later I am still strapped in and my back is beginning to ache. The nurse returns with a replacement. No worries, except that this, too, refused to work. From the nurses' hushed voices, I gathered that some of the equipment on it belonged to another machine and the parts were incompatible.

The culprit, it seems, was a man called Dave (not me!) but Dave was nowhere to be found.



The phrase "You couldn't make this up" flashed through my mind. I was expecting Sid James and Kenneth Williams to arrive at any moment. Forty minutes have now passed, my back is now killing me, and I am still strapped into the same chair.

I wasn't the only one in the room getting agitated. The doctor was starting to look stressed. "I think you've brought a jinx with you, Mr Jones," she said with a smile. And yet another nurse went off in search of yet another machine. Surely, there can't be many more ultrasound machines left in Medway Hospital, I thought. Twenty minutes later, she returned with a third machine. By now, the small room was packed with ultrasound machines and I had spent, according to the nurses, a near-record hour strapped in the chair before anything actually happened.

"If this machine doesn't work, I will have to cancel all today's appointments," said the doc, this time without a smile. I can't go through this again, I thought.

Thankfully, ultrasound machine No.3 finally stuttered into life, and this time with all the right bits attached.

"You don't look 79," said the doc, as she began my procedure. What's your secret?" "Plenty of white wine," I replied. Another smile.

At least I stuck it out, but I was amused to be told that it was not uncommon for grown men to freak out and dash from the room at the sight of the 12-inch needle about to be inserted into their nether regions.

I have to admit, I can see their point of view.

Yes, it was all a bit stressful, but the nurses and the doctor were the very epitome of professionalism and courtesy and we had a few smiles to ease the tension.

But I am still determined to find out who Dave is and why he didn't plug in that machine, I bet he didn't forget his mobile phone.

COMMITTEE NEWS

Following on from our AGM last month – we have two new members voted onto the committee. Lynda Oldfield was co-opted onto the committee during the last year and has eased herself in, agreeing to take on the role of Group Co-ordinator this year. Steven Charnock also agreed to join the committee and has taken on the role of Recruitment Co-ordinator. Val Spoor, who has been a committee member since inception, has agreed to take on the role of Vice Chair. The committee supports each other; all members are given help and work together to spread the workload and exchange ideas. Our joint excursion co-ordinators, Julie Alderman and Sue Best, also attend our committee meetings to keep us up to date with their plans.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Heather Thomas-Pugh	<i>Chair</i>	Celia Perrett	<i>Publicity</i>
Val Spoor	<i>Vice Chair</i>	Lynda Oldfield	<i>Group Co-ordinator</i>
Pam Fauchon	<i>Treasurer</i>	Steven Charnock	<i>Recruitment Co-ordinator</i>
Sally Charnock	<i>Membership Secretary</i>	Ken Pugh	<i>Member</i>
Lynda Jones	<i>Speaker Secretary</i>	Brian Spoor	<i>Member</i>

MONTHLY MEETING DATES

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

23rd July	24th September	26th November
27th August	22nd October	10th December - Christmas Meeting

INTEREST GROUPS & ACTIVITIES

Find out more about our groups on our website:

[Isle of Sheppey u3a Interest Groups information](#)

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

GROUP CO-ORDINATOR

Introducing our new Group Co-ordinator

I'm Lynda Oldfield and am now the group coordinator for Isle of Sheppey U3a. This is a completely new role for me but I will try my best to do a good job.

A little bit about me. I originate from Yorkshire (but try not to hold that against me). I lived in South-West France for twenty years until I returned to England to live with my partner Barry, who is a Swampy born and bred.



We joined the u3a to make new friends and are both enjoying our involvement with you all.

As a newby in this role, as group coordinator, I hope to do anything I can to assist the existing groups and also help and encourage anyone who would like to start up a new group. Perhaps although you don't have a group in mind you may have an idea for a 'one off' event, if so please let me know and, together with the committee, we will try to make it happen.

Hope to see you at the monthly meeting.

EXCURSIONS – COMING UP

Kentish Lady, with Fish and Chips - Tuesday 21st July

Due to the excellent response for this trip, it is fully booked and so we have been able to reduce the price by £5 per person. We will send out an email to those attending with full details for pick-up times closer to the time.

London with a Rembrandt Hotel Carvery Lunch and River Cruise

Date: Sunday 27th September

Cost: £82.00

Reference: Rembrandt

Pickup Points: Abbey Hotel & Sheerness East Working Men's Club

Coach to Greenwich, river cruise from Greenwich to Westminster Pier. Proceed to Rembrandt Hotel for a carvery lunch. Then free time to visit the V&A, Science or Natural History Museums, or some shopping at Harrods.

The cost of this excursion is currently £82.00, but this may reduce dependant on numbers. One of our committee members recently attended this event and has highly recommended it.

We will be collecting a £10.00, non-refundable deposit, for this excursion, at the members meeting, on Thursday 25th June, or you can pay by bank transfer. Final payment will be due by the July meeting.

Hever Castle Christmas Lunch

Date: Wednesday 2nd December

Cost: £65.00

Reference: Hever

Coach to Hever Castle, a two-course lunch (dinner and dessert, this cannot be altered), admission to castle and a themed holiday trail. This is a very popular event and has previously been attended by one of the committee members who has high praise for the event and value for money.

Due to the popularity of this event, we will be taking deposits soon to secure our places. Please add your name to the booking list to confirm you are interested in this excursion.

PAYMENT DETAILS

Please make **Cheques** payable to: **Isle of Sheppey u3a**

Bank Transfer: You can pay by bank transfer at any time, please enter the reference as instructed so we can apply your payment correctly.

Account Name: Isle of Sheppey u3a **Account Number:** 33003361 **Sort Code:** 20-54-25

Reference: (As instructed so that we can identify the purpose of the payment)

SUNDAY CARVERY LUNCH @ The Masonic

We have a Sunday Lunch group set up, so those registered will receive information of the next lunch date by email closer to the date. 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 19th July**

MEMBERS ON THEIR OWN SUNDAY LUNCH GROUP - Sharon

Sharon Bishop has started a MOTO (Members on Their Own) Sunday Lunch group.

The first lunch is taking place on Sunday 28th June at the Red Lion in Bluetown.

Lunches will take place approximately monthly across various venues. The group is open to single members, both men and women, to give them an opportunity to spend a pleasant few hours together and enjoy a companionable Sunday Lunch. Car sharing can be arranged, if required.

Communication is by WhatsApp and Sharon will use it to organise each lunch and give members the opportunity to reply if you wish to attend that month.

If you wish to be a member of this group, please let us know so Sharon can add you to the WhatsApp group.

A Schoolgirl's War – Mary Smith

Do you remember in July last year our speaker, Mary Smith gave us a very interesting talk about the wartime tunnels they had discovered at the Maidstone Grammar School for Girls?

This was the school that Sally, our membership secretary, attended and in fact had visited the tunnels when they were first discovered and opened during the 125th anniversary of the school in 2013. Since then there has been lots more work to open up the tunnels and also to create an immersive experience to imagine what it might have been like to attend the school during the war and also to raise funds to support the ongoing development of the school.

The tunnels are going to be opened to the general public in August, so if you are interested you can book onto one of the dates advertised. It looks like this is going to be popular so it's advisable to book as soon as you can.

Mary Smith was the head teacher from 2006-2014 and was instrumental in getting the tunnels open originally. She is also the authour of the book "A Schoolgirl's War", which is based on the illustrations in the book created by art teacher Miss Keen during World War II.

Maidstone Grammar School for Girls

Wartime Tunnel Tours *with Mary Smith*

The MGGS Wartime Tunnels provide a unique and historically significant insight into school life in England during WW2. They are remarkably well-preserved and were used as air-raid shelters and classrooms by the pupils of the school as the war unfolded overhead.

This August, we are offering special edition tours, guided by **Mary Smith**, author of 'A Schoolgirl's War' - perfect for history lovers and curious minds!

** These tours are designed for adults, but children under 16 are welcome if accompanied and supervised at all times by an adult.*

During this 2-hour immersive experience you will:

- Take part in a classroom-style talk in the Visitor Centre
- Discover captivating stories
- See fascinating paintings of wartime school life created by an art teacher throughout the war
- Explore the **historic wartime tunnels**
- Have the opportunity to purchase books and merchandise
- Enjoy tea & coffee




Bookings Now Open!

- Dates are filling fast — book now
- Ticket price at £10 pp
- Individual & group bookings (up to 40) welcome
- Parking available onsite
- Near Maidstone Town Centre & Barracks Station
- Steps into tunnels are narrow and steep, may not suit all visitors
- For bookings visit: <https://mggs.ply.uk/TunnelToursAllEvents>

Available Dates:

Mon 24 Aug. 2026: 10:30AM & 2:00PM

Tue 25 Aug. 2026: 2:00PM

Wed 26 Aug 2026: 2:00PM

Thu 27 Aug 2026: ~~10:30AM~~ & 2:00PM

Fri 28 Aug 2026: 2:00PM

For any other enquiries, please email dto@mggs.org

SOCIAL HISTORY GROUP – David

Viking and Norse Influence in the British Isles

This month's discussion topic asked the Social History Group members to consider Norse influences throughout the British Isles. Images immediately come to mind of hirsute he-men, armed to the teeth, leaping out of sleek warships in their eagerness for a bit of rape and pillage. To the monks of Lindisfarne, this would have been a truthful recollection. But it was not the only Anglo-Saxon experience of their North Sea neighbours. Later Norsemen and Danes brought their wives with them, which would have severely restricted their sexual promiscuity, while others made themselves attractive to the local girls and had a more subtle and permanent influence on their host's way of life.

We generally refer to our Scandinavian visitors of the 9th to 11th centuries as 'Vikings', but this was a Scandinavian term that basically meant 'going on an expedition'. The rape and pillage was an optional extra activity considered as part of the package deal for manning the longships. Regardless, the title of **Viking** continues to be the accepted name which, over time, has developed an air of romance and an ancestry of which to be proud.

From the 9th century onwards, those Vikings who were formerly content to be smash-and-grab raiders, began to settle permanently and control land previously held by Anglo-Saxons. This land, won in battle, and known as the '**Danelaw**', was the new homeland of the Scandinavian settlers, and occupied the land north of a boundary approximately drawn diagonally from the Thames to Chester. This was an arrangement arrived at in 884 when neither the Anglo Saxons nor the Scandinavians could achieve outright victory in their protracted power struggle. Eventually, after more than a century, King Alfred and his descendants finally conquered Danelaw and England was united. Nevertheless, the areas settled by Scandinavians retained their distinctive character.

While Norse power waned, Norse influence remained

- The Vikings' extremely pragmatic and down-to-earth language reshaped the Old English language, giving us pronouns like 'they', 'them' and 'their';
- Over 1,500 English towns and villages have names of Norse origin;
- The suffix - 'by' (as in Derby and Whitby) marks former Viking settlements;
- Many of England's current county boundaries reflect Viking territorial divisions;
- The notion of representative government and words like 'law' and 'witness' are Norse in origin;
- Viking commercial expertise helped transform England's economy;
- The Vikings brought with them improved shipbuilding techniques, new ploughing methods and advanced metalworking skills;
- Norse influence helped expand England's horizons within the European sphere;
- Both Saxons and Vikings having a Germanic-based language assisted cultural assimilation and a more natural blending between the two nations;
- When the French decided that they wanted England for themselves in 1066, they were met by a fully integrated race of Anglo-Saxons and Anglo Scandinavians - not that it made any difference to the final result. A new hybrid and easier version of the English language had been born. The French Normans dominated the land and its people, but its language was a different matter. They soon learnt what generations of teachers of French were to discover, that the flexible and easy-going simplicity of the English language will leave French and all other languages languishing on the back shelves of any library or study.

On consideration, perhaps a little more Viking influence is required in today's England.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

FESTIVAL of SHEPPEY – The month of JUNE



Celebrating Kent's holiday Isle

The first Festival of Sheppey is coming to a close.

There have been many events organised taking place and still to come.

Have you been to any of the events? If so perhaps you could write a review for us to share with our members and with the organisers.

SHEPPEY MATTERS - RETRAIN THE PAIN

Retrain the pain
Come & Join our free monthly group on Friday 26th June at 10am - 12 noon
Masonic Hall - 1 St Georges Ave Sheerness ME12 1QX

This month we will be focusing on Understanding Osteoarthritis & Joint Pain

Separating the myths from what current evidence tells us about osteoarthritis and joint health

Understand what 'wear and tear' really means and discover simple, practical strategies to help you move more easily and stay active

BETTER TOGETHER - LET'S CHANGE THE NARRATIVE AROUND PAIN!

Are you living in pain from a health condition or injury? Then why not come along to the Retrain the Pain meetings on the last Friday of each month

Date: Friday 26th June at 10am – 12 noon

Location: Masonic Club, 1-3 St Georges Avenue, Sheerness ME12 1QX

No need to book, you are welcome to turn up

For more information call or text:

Indre on 07541 995740

or e-mail: juliec@sheppeymatters.org.uk

RETRAIN THE PAIN
Are you living in pain from a health condition, or injury?

Are you looking for holistic and educational support to help improve your mental and physical health? We are a friendly social group with a purpose! For 2026, we have some great activities and sessions planned for you - including how Neuroscience can improve your mental and physical health impacted by pain, vibration therapy - sound bath and movement, meditation, Qi gong (adapted Tai Chi) and much more...

Dates for your diary - Friday
30th Jan, 27th Feb, 27th March, 24th April, 29th May, 26th June, 31st July, 25th Sept, 30th Oct, & the 18th Dec

10:30-12noon at the Masonic Hall, Sheerness ME12 1QX

Better together - let's change the narrative around pain!

for more information call or text Indre on 07541 995740 or Email juliec@sheppeymatters.org.uk

joy

SHEPPEY LITTLE THEATRE – Entertaining Sheppey for more than 50 years

The theatre is run by the Sheppey Entertainment Association which is a registered charity.

They rely on income from their shows and donations to continue to operate and the theatre is run by volunteers from the community for the benefit of the community. Here are some of the upcoming events. For more information: <https://www.sheppeylittletheatre.co.uk/events-2/>

SHEPPEY LITTLE THEATRE
METRICK ROAD SHEERNESS

Kiss the Teacher

4 PIECE
ROCK TRIBUTE BAND
AWARD WINNERS BRITISH ISLES OF THE YEAR 2007

Sheppy Glass
Fri 9th Aug 2026
7.30pm £20

Contact Us: info@sheppeylittletheatre.co.uk

SHEPPEY LITTLE THEATRE
METRICK ROAD SHEERNESS

Shadowing HANK

"PHENOMENAL!"
★★★★

"It's been enthralling!"
- The Sound Society Charity

"A remarkably proficient guitarist... He not only sounds like Hank Marvin, but could almost be him onstage!"
- John A. Ross magazine

"The best Hank Marvin lookalike lead guitarist!"
- Record Collector magazine

Sheppy Glass
Sat 12th Sept 2026
7.30pm £15

Contact Us: info@sheppeylittletheatre.co.uk

SHEPPEY LITTLE THEATRE
METRICK ROAD SHEERNESS

COUNTRY MEETS ROCK

SALLY RIVERS
MURPHY HILL

Sheppy Glass
Fri 9th Oct 2026
7.30pm £18.00

Contact Us: info@sheppeylittletheatre.co.uk

SHEPPEY LITTLE THEATRE
METRICK ROAD SHEERNESS

DAME DOLLY'S
SPOOKTAGULAR PIRATE SHOW

Written & Performed by Joe Meloy

PRIZES FOR THE BEST HANDBEGS & COSTUME!

TERRY TEW

Sheppy Glass
Fri 30th Oct 2026
2pm £10

Contact Us: info@sheppeylittletheatre.co.uk

NATIONAL u3a

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

u3a FESTIVAL 2026 - University of York – 1st - 3rd July

All in-person tickets are now sold out

This summer, over 1,000 members of the u3a community will be getting together at the u3a Festival 2026. Taking place at the *University of York* between 1-3 July, this is a celebration of fun, learning and the community that makes the u3a so special.

Members can take part in the *u3a Festival Fringe* – a selection of online events curated to complement the in-person event.

Find out how to take part here: <https://www.u3a.org.uk/what-we-do/events/festival-2026>

THE u3a FESTIVAL FRINGE

Events from 25 June – 10 July

Take part in the fun of *u3a Festival 26* from home with *u3a Festival Fringe*. This series of online events will take place in the lead up to and following on from, the Festival in York on 1-3 July. The programme includes a mixture of talks and interactive activities, giving all u3a members a chance to be part of our celebration of learning and fun.

You can find the Fringe Festival events highlighted in blue below.

ONLINE LEARNING EVENTS

There are numerous and wide-ranging learning events and short courses (usually free online using zoom). **Coming up soon June/July/August:** [u3a online events](#)

- Secrets of the human brain: A tour of the brain
- **Wessex versus the Vikings**
- Islands of the Venetian Lagoon
- **The role of wind energy in the UK's electricity system**
- **The technology built into modern cars and trucks**
- **Mrs Charles Dickens tells her story**
- **Watercolours with Tony**
- Flight Inspirations Aviation Group: July
- Future Lives: Nature within - How connecting with nature supports our health and wellbeing
- **The history of shoes**
- **Fusion tai qi gong**
- **Artemisa – vision or vengeance**
- AI News: Generative AI in academia and at home – practical lessons from inside the research community
- **The role of women in ancient Egypt**
- Exploring World Faiths: July
- A few small nips: Frida Kahlo and the art of pain
- A virtual tour of the Watts Gallery and Artists' Village
- Everything you need to know to get published
- The History Man virtual walk, Scoundrel (Dick Turpin)
- The climate crisis and the National Emergency Briefing
- AI news: July
- Secrets of the human brain: vision
- Staying Safe Online – A u3a Presentation with Q&A
- Flight inspirations aviation meeting: August with Flt Colin Bell, WWII Mosquito Pilot
- Mindfulness & Meditation continuation sessions
- Bollywood Laughter Yoga Dance
- Laughter Yoga with Merrie Maggie
- Laughter Yoga with Judith

NATIONAL LEARN & SHARE ACTIVITIES

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: [Learn & Share Activities](#)

**Essay Competition 2026 – Deadline for submission 12 noon Friday 31st July (Max 1,000 words)
“The Most Incredible Journey”**

Enter Your Photography & Art

- The “Still Got It” Photography Project
- Paint or Draw – New theme each month
- u3a Eye – Themed Photography Project

Puzzles & Games

- Logic Puzzles
- Maths Challenge
- Aileen’s Game
- The u3a Quiz Library

Writing Competitions

Essay Competition 2026 – Deadline 31st July

The Most Incredible Journey

Short Story 2025/26 – Read the winning stories and final shortlist on the theme “Lost and Found”

Connect with Members

- Missing Pieces
- Virtual Visits
- u3a Walkers’ Exchange
- Find a u3a Speaker

NATIONAL u3a – RADIO PODCAST

Have you listened to the latest monthly **u3a Radio podcasts** on YouTube? A new episode is uploaded each month. Click here for the latest edition as well as the full list of radio podcasts since they started: [u3a Radio Podcast Playlist](#)



u3a SOURCES BLOG

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](#)

SAVE MONEY WITH 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.

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 or Just for Fun articles. Send them to isleofsheppeyu3a@gmail.com. Deadline for inclusion in the **JULY** newsletter is **Friday 17th July**. Website Publish date Sunday 19th July

JUST FOR FUN

Which came first – The Snail or the Slug?

This month's "Just for Fun" article is inspired from a recent conversation I had with my 16-year-old Grandson, Robert. This topic was completely random; he decided to share this knowledge with me as we were driving into town. Our grandchildren soak up all sorts of random and interesting knowledge from YouTube in the same way we used to do with the Encyclopaedia Britannica and other non-fiction books.

The Evolution of Snails and Slugs

Slugs evolved from their shelled ancestors multiple times throughout history in a process known as "sluginisation". Instead of transforming directly, snail lineages adapted to their environments by progressively shrinking their external shells, passing through an intermediate "semi-slug" stage, until the shell became internal or disappeared entirely.

Over millions of years, selective pressure favoured shell reduction. Carrying a bulky shell requires significant energy and large amounts of calcium, which can be scarce in certain environments.

As an evolutionary step, these gastropods developed external shells that were too small to fully retract into. Eventually, the shell was either completely absorbed into the body (sitting internally under the mantle) or was discarded entirely.

So why lose the shell? While an external shell offers undeniable protection from predators and drying out, losing it provides a major advantage in manoeuvrability. Slugs can easily squeeze into tight crevices, burrow deep into the soil and access food sources that snails cannot reach. As slugs lost their heavy armour, they adapted to rely on their slimy mucus to survive. Their mucus allows them to retain body moisture, glide across rough terrain, and deter predators

SLUG FACTS

- ◆ Slugs have been present in the British Isles since the end of the last ice age
- ◆ Unlike snails that hibernate during winter, slugs are active whenever the temperature is above 5°C and under favourable conditions some slug species can live for up to 6 years
- ◆ A slug is essentially a snail without an external shell
- ◆ A slug is basically a muscular foot, and the name 'gastropod' literally means stomach foot. Gastropods (slugs and snails) form the second largest class in the animal kingdom, the largest being the insects
- ◆ Some slugs can stretch out to 20 times its normal length, enabling it to squeeze through the smallest of openings
- ◆ A slug's blood is a greenish colour
- ◆ Slugs are hermaphrodite, having both male and female reproductive organs, although they have the capability to reproduce by themselves a mate is preferred
- ◆ A slug lays 20-100 eggs several times a year, depending on the species and slug eggs can lay dormant in the soil for years and then hatch when conditions are right
- ◆ A slug's slime enables it to glide without difficulty over glass shards, or even the edge of a razor blade. The slime also contains fibres which prevents it from sliding down vertical surfaces
- ◆ A slug's slime absorbs water, which is why it's nearly impossible to wash it off your hands
- ◆ Slugs leave their own individual scent trail so they can find their way home
- ◆ A slug has approximately 27,000 teeth – that's more teeth than a shark and like sharks, slugs routinely lose and replace their teeth
- ◆ A slug smells with its tentacles and if it loses one of its sensory tentacles it grows another, usually within a few months

GASTROPOD JOKES.....

What do you do when two snails have a fight? Leave them to slug it out!

Why is the snail the strongest animal? Because he carries a house on his back!

What did the slug say to the other who had hit him and run off? I'll get you next slime!

What was the snail doing on the highway? About one mile a day!

What is the definition of a slug? A snail with a housing problem!

What did the slug say as he slipped down the wall? How slime flies!

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.