

* Monthly Meeting – Thursday 15th December*

Please join us at our next members' meeting. It will take place at **2pm** on **Thursday 15th December** at **Minster Club**

Christmas High Tea & Entertainment

Christmas Social Get Together Featuring Isle of Sheppey Singers

Time to put on your Christmas jumpers, hats and party outfits! Some of the Sheppey Singers will be popping by to get us in the Christmas mood with a little skit and Christmas a sing-along.

Join us for an afternoon high tea and a sociable afternoon with your fellow members. The annual FREE raffle for all members will be drawn at the event. There will be several prizes, the top prize will be a Christmas Hamper.



MONTHLY MEMBERS MEETING

Non-members are welcome – Come and see how we “learn, laugh and live”

Save the date for next month: Thursday 26th January

Victoria Golding – Wildflowers on Sheppey

Chairman's Ramblings

Christmas Past, Christmas Present and Christmas Future (Isle of Sheppey u3a Style)

Christmas Past: What a great year we have had! In our inimitable u3a style we have bounced back from our enforced lockdowns, rule of six, statutory face masks, cleansing stations, two metre rule etc. etc. Covid, of course, has not been without its casualties and our sympathies are always with those that have felt the full extent of this brutal virus. For those members who have joined more recently, you may not be aware that the Isle of Sheppey u3a had only been up-and-running four months prior to the first lockdown; so I am immensely proud that we have survived both as a local u3a and as a national organisation so congratulations to all those members that managed to stay young at heart, (but maybe slightly older in other places)!

Christmas Present: Let me take you on a short journey through the year. It seems unbelievable that only a little less than twelve months ago we opened our January 2022 members meeting with Jim Shepherd speaking on the Eltham Little Theatre. After several failed fundraising events to purchase the theatre, in 1957 it resigned itself to closure until Bob Hope stepped in. Bob lived in Eltham as a boy, heard of its demise, and the rest is history so now this wonderful theatre is full of vigor and verve. This led to a full coach of us enjoying a romp with Gilbert and Sullivan's Pirates of Penzance! Our first sense of freedom from the dreaded lockdowns!! Many excellent trips and events have taken place since then, and we hope to increase these as our membership increases and some support volunteers come forward. Here is a snapshot of what we did this year:

- ◆ The hugely entertaining Princess Olga Romanoff (a descendant of Tsar Nicholas II of Russia) gave us a guided tour of Provender House near Faversham
- ◆ Our appeal for toiletries to aid and help the people of Ukraine in March was generously supported by many of you. Thank you. All the products were safely transported by our local Charitable partner the Rotary Club Minster-on-Sea
- ◆ 17 Bags of litter were collected from the Glen in March as part of the Keep Britain Tidy Campaign
- ◆ A rogue barge dumped a vast amount of refuse in the estuary during the early part of the summer, so we teamed up with Swale Borough Council in completing an impressive Beach Clean
- ◆ The most recent Tree planting in Rushenden was a huge success
- ◆ Santa Saunter and Lantern Parade in Sheerness last week, raised a total of £800 for Charity. Our excellent contribution of 12 Santa's was kindly noted by the Rotary

- ◆ Lynda and Bernie arranged a guided tour by Will Palin to the Sheerness Dockyard Church. The Church, badly damaged by fire in 2001, has been renovated and is nearing the completion of its transformation into an exhibition centre, a young enterprise hub, restaurant and events hub.

Our Newsletter: The sticking plaster that holds it all together is Sally Charnock and her IT wizardry. Without Sally and her perseverance in dragging many of us into 21st century technology, we would be living in a world of fog and mist! Bringing light to an already mystifying word surrounded by alien terms such as Zoom/PodCasts/Face Book Groups/WhatsApp, and the list goes on! I do believe science fiction has a lot to answer for!

Speakers: Our speakers have been excellent and so much credit has to be given to Lynda Jones, our Speaker Secretary who has done a super job in finding quality speakers for our monthly entertainment.

Interest Groups: The groups are flourishing and going from strength to strength thanks to increasing numbers and the enthusiastic group facilitators. Thank you.

Christmas Future: The success of the Isle of Sheppey u3a is dependent on you the members. It is run by the members for the members, so please let us know if you can start a group or would like help in starting a group or just volunteer with a one-off event – we are always here to help.

We have been fortunate in gaining grants to provide a more diverse “offer” so we have added several workshops and demonstrations in the New Year to whet the appetite for a little bit of craft and culture, so join in where you can.

The Wine Appreciation Group have booked a cruise trip to the Moselle in Germany next year visiting some historical towns and vineyards. I’m sure the trip will be as good as the wonderful time that was had this year on the Douro in Portugal.

So many members have mentioned how much they have enjoyed getting out in the great outdoors and doing something for the environment. It would be absolutely amazing to have some more environmental day events or schemes for this coming year - so let us know if there is something we can become involved with.

Finally, forging friendships has been such a pleasure this year. Some of us, hungry for adventure, have taken to investing in Senior Rail Cards and escaped to London now and again (in between the rail strikes of course).

Finally, FINALLY a big thank you to all the unsung heroes on the Committee who do a fabulous job keeping the administrative and social wheels turning.



Wine Group Facilitator Ken Pugh gives us advice on “How to cook a Turkey”

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| Step 1 | Buy a turkey | Step 10 | Glass yourself another pour of wine |
| Step 2 | Have a glass of wine | Step 11 | Bake the wine for 4 hours |
| Step 3 | Stuff turkey | Step 13 | Floor the turkey up off the pick |
| Step 4 | Have a glass of wine | Step 14 | Turk the carvey |
| Step 5 | Put turkey in oven | Step 15 | Get yourself another wottle of brine |
| Step 6 | Relax, have another few glasses of wine | Step 16 | Tet the sable and purr yer’self another glass of turkey |
| Step 7 | Turk the bastey | | |
| Step 8 | Wine of glass another get | Step 16 | Say grace, throw-up, and pass out - hic! |
| Step 9 | Ponder the meat thermometer | | |

INTEREST GROUPS & ACTIVITIES

PANTOMIME – ALADDIN

We still have a few seats left for this performance. The minibus will have local pickups and drop offs for convenience: isleofsheppeyu3a@gmail.com

Date & Time: Saturday 21st January 2023 at 4pm
Location: Oasthouse Theatre, Stratford Lane, Rainham, Gillingham ME8 8AG
Cost of tickets: £10.50
Cost of Minibus: £7

NATIONAL TREE WEEK - TREE PLANTING



Isle of Sheppey u3a members were among those planting 250 trees at Rushenden last month.



CHARITY SANTA SAUNTER – SHEERNESS

Several Isle of Sheppey u3a members joined the Charity Santa Saunter in Sheerness, organised by the Rotary club. From the photos taken by David Jones, it would appear that



our Isle of Sheppey u3a Santas had a whale of a time, especially knocking back the Mulled Wine at the end of the “saunter” served by none other than our committee member and Wine Appreciation Group Leader, Ken Pugh, over £800 was raised for charity.



David captions his photos: What's the collective noun for a group of Santas? A beard of Santas, an assemblage of Santas, or even a sleigh of Santas? Take your pick. This group of Santa's were in Sheerness on Saturday afternoon to



take part in the fund-raising Santa Saunter down the High Street as part of the Christmas lights switch-on. Oddly enough, members of Isle of Sheppey U3A Wine Appreciation group seemed to be in the majority, perhaps drawn by the thought of mulled wine at the end!!!



UPDATE: Grant funded workshops available to all our members - ALL FREE

All our grant funded events and learning opportunities are being supported by our successful local grant applications to Minster Parish Council and Swale Borough Council for improving cultural and leisure opportunities for seniors.

ART FOR FUN – Friday 27th January 2023 – Minster Club

UPDATE: Following on from the information in October’s newsletter, we have a final few places available for this workshop. We can now confirm that this will take place on Friday 27th January at 2pm to 4pm at Minster Working Men’s Club.

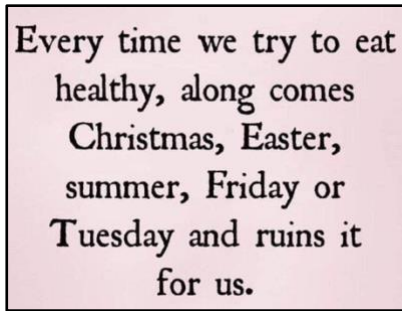
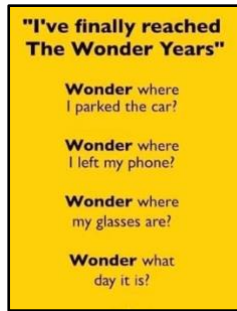
FLOWER ARRANGING DEMONSTRATION - Tuesday 14th February 2023 – Minster Club

UPDATE: As mentioned in our October newsletter, we will be holding a free Flower Arranging demonstration, presented by professional florist Phillippa Doucy which is now being held on Tuesday 14th February at 2pm- 4pm. We still have places available and it will be held at Minster Working Men’s Club.

Please let us know if you are interested in any of the advertised events/activities:

Email us on isleofsheppeyu3a@gmail.com

KEEP SMILING



NATIONAL u3a - <https://www.u3a.org.uk/>



Have you listened to the monthly **u3a Radio podcasts** on YouTube? Click here for the full list of radio podcasts since they started in September 2020: https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLsB2t41TNozHSJ4fvod_yjxrUJDzqbDD

Have you signed up for the NATIONAL u3a NEWSLETTER? Get the most up to date news from National Office and find out about learning events as they are added. <https://www.u3a.org.uk/contact>

Membership Subscription

Membership is currently £20 per year and includes entry to the monthly meetings with refreshments and a national magazine 'Third Age Matters' delivered to your home, five times a year.

Our next renewal date will be 1st April 2023. Members joining from 1st November will pay a reduced fee of £5.

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

Monthly Meeting Dates 2022/32

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 January	27 th April	27 th July	26 th October
23 rd February	25 th May	24 th August	23 rd November
23 rd March	22 nd June	28 th September	14 th December

Information and Contact Details

You can contact us here:

Isleofsheppeyu3a@gmail.com

Find our website here:

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

Our Facebook Page is:

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

Our members only Facebook Group is:

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

Email us to join our WhatsApp Group:

Isleofsheppeyu3a@gmail.com

Interact with u3a members around the country on the
u3a: Keeping in Touch Facebook group:

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

u3a YouTube Channel

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

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