

* Members' Meeting – Thursday 24th February*

This month our members' meeting will take place on **Thursday 24th February** at 2pm at **Minster Club**. Our speaker is:

Helen Allinson

Kentish Life in Victorian Times

Helen is a local author who loves local history research. She has written many books about Sittingbourne and the surrounding areas. Her talk will bring to life what it was like to live in a Kentish village during Victorian times.

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

* Save the date for next month: Thursday 24th March*

Christopher Bull – Pocahontas – The Non-Disney Version

MONTHLY MEMBERS MEETING

Chairman's Ramblings

Is Spring just around the corner or am I just imagining it? Is that a crocus I can see peeking out of the turf in the Abbey Grounds or a fragment of silver coated chocolate wrapping paper discarded by a careless teenager? Yes, I honestly do believe it is emerging, just a little bit earlier than usual! History, of course, tells us not to "count our chickens", as there is probably still some very unpredictable weather around the corner to negotiate.

The change in the seasons is often dictated by adverse weather conditions; hunkering down in the warmth of our homes often seems the better option than challenging the elements outside. But, with our sights firmly set on conquering that threshold of uncertainty and the nagging doubts, being nudged outside the rut of the familiar, life can be a joy again. There is so much to look forward to now that we are emerging from imposed restrictions and your u3a is clearly ready to be bold and invite you all to discover and enjoy the future celebrations this year of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee and the national u3a's 40th Anniversary.

Over the next few months, we will be peppering events and excursions commemorating and marking our new-found liberty and we have already started with a full coach to "Calendar Girls" the musical, at the Bob Hope Theatre. If you have an idea, an activity or an event and would like to share it with other like-minded people, we are here to help you make it happen. Let's make this year a year to collect positive memories. Don't forget the u3a is run by the members for the members, so please get involved in any way you can. Contacting us is so easy, the Committee and myself are always here to help, so talk to us at our meeting or look for the contact details within this Newsletter.



Lovely weather at a recent organised Monday walk in the Loose Valley

NEW**Interest Groups & Activities**

We have some more proposed activities. If you are interested in these or any other group, please register your interest at the meeting or email us: isleofsheppeyu3a@gmail.com

If you have already registered your interest in any current or proposed groups, your details will have been passed onto the group facilitators who will contact you in due course. If you have any queries about a group you have already registered for, please email us on isleofsheppeyu3a@gmail.com

Ladies Lunch Group

Sharon will be starting a Ladies Lunch Group next month, if you would like to know more, please contact us to register your interest.

Trips

We do not have a dedicated 'Trips' organiser, but we know many members like to get together to go on outings. At the moment, we are limited to outings where a member volunteers to coordinate it. The committee can provide advice and guidance on travel options and will advertise the outings, we will also provide a financial service with regards to collection of monies and payment of invoices. If you have an idea about a trip and are willing to co-ordinate just let us know.

Our first outing is to the Bob Hope Theatre in Eltham in March and has been coordinated by Wendy. This trip was organised as a result of last month's speaker and his talk about how Bob Hope rescued the theatre. This trip has been very popular and is now fully booked.

Provender House

Pam, our Treasurer, has suggested a trip to Provender House near Faversham. Provender House is the home of Princess Olga Romanoff, the daughter of Prince Andrew Romanoff, the eldest nephew of the Tsar Nicholas II of Russia. When Prince Andrew's widow died in 2000, the house was almost derelict, but a programme of careful restoration has revealed a wealth of historical and architectural detail which makes Provender House a fascinating record of English life over seven centuries

The cost of entry to the house with a guided tour is £20 or £16 for concessions. An afternoon tea can be added at a cost of £7.50. A coach or minibus will be an additional cost.

INTEREST GROUPS & ACTIVITIES

Secretary

We are looking for a member, who would be able help out with general small tasks and to take minutes at our committee meetings, to support our committee. You do not need to have experience and support will be given so, if you could help us, please let us know. We would like to thank both Wendy and Celia who have been helping out over the last few months as we acknowledge that they also been busy with their other tasks.

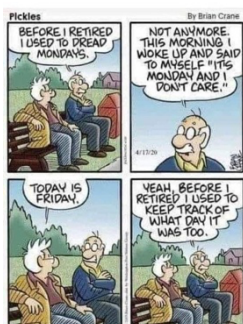
COMMITTEE NEWS

LOCAL NEWS AND EVENTS**Kent Wildlife Trust****Wild About Open Gardens**

Helen, one of our members who regularly provides us with articles and information about the Kent Wildlife Trust is taking part in the Wild About Open Gardens run by the Kent Wildlife Trust. If you are interested in visiting her garden this summer, you will find the details on how to book your ticket on the poster.



KEEP SMILING

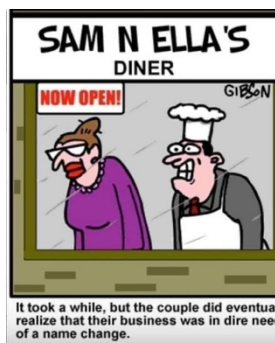


Thought I'd be trendy and try one of these 'alternative milks'

I don't know what a magnesia is, but it made my cornflakes taste horrible.



pianote



NATIONAL u3a

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.

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

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.