

*** Members' Meeting – Thursday 27th January***

This month our members' meeting will take place on **Thursday 7th January** at **2pm** at **Minster Club**. Our speaker is:

Jim Shepherd

The Bob Hope Theatre, Eltham

Eltham Little Theatre (now The Bob Hope Theatre) was formed on 12th November 1943 to promote drama, music and allied arts in Eltham and its immediate vicinity.

In May 1946 Eltham Little Theatre was registered as a Company. The first production, "Hedda Gabler", was staged by an affiliated society, The Kerwin Players, in 1946. During the period from 1946 - 1950 there were some 600 individual members and 25 affiliated societies, and a production was staged every other weekend throughout the season.

The Theatre's management endeavoured to purchase the building. Despite constant fund-raising efforts by 1957 it became clear that the asking price was beyond reach. By 1979 funds were low, the Theatre membership was almost resigned to closure. The lease was not renewed, the premises were up for sale.....and then Bob Hope stepped in!!

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

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

Helen Allinson - Kentish Village Life in Victorian Times

MONTHLY MEMBERS MEETING

Chairman's Ramblings

Is that the faint melodic strains of "Auld lang syne" I can hear reverberating through these cold, damp winter days, or is my tinnitus playing up again I ask? On reflection, I do believe it's the latter, I fear, I would have loved to do a gentle sashay into 2022, with perhaps a few exaggerated movements and a sprinkling of "Strictly" thrown in – I'm sure that would have soothed any pummeled soul. But, alas it is not to be..... Crash, Bang, Wallop, the world and his wife have gone mad again!! Natural remedies have been my saviour yet again – walking in the great outdoors, fresh air, glorifying in open vistas, meeting up with friends and exploring new interests. Your local u3a can open up all these possibilities if you let it. It is a way out of the fog of winter blues and pandemic anxiety, of post midlife crisis and personal doldrums. We all have the equipment and the perfect vehicle for enjoying life. Our arms and legs can be the equipment for enjoying the great outdoors; be it gardening, walking, cycling or whatever else takes your fancy, together with our imagination which is the great campaigner for creating and improving our skills, knowledge and the continued experience of life.

We hope to provide you shortly with a positive framework of activities for 2022. So, don't let the doldrums get in the way, we hope to explain shortly how we wish to do this in the very near future. Please inform us by email if you have any great suggestions we can put into the mix.

PS: Best Christmas Present: A pair of chic, fur lined wellington boots. They have been great for jumping in puddles and becoming a "love mud" enthusiast.

Worst Christmas Present: A beautifully wrapped Christmas Parcel of Lateral flow tests....

Christmas Raffle

Here are the photos of our members who won prizes in our Free Christmas Raffle:



Val and Brian won the Christmas cake and bottle of fizz

Peter won the table decoration



Mavis won the box of chocolates and bottle of fizz

New member Margaret won a voucher for tea for two at Rumours Café



NEW Interest Groups

We have some more proposed new groups. If you are interested in these or any other group, please register your interest at the January meeting or email us: lsleofsheppeyu3a@gmail.com

If you have already registered your interest in any current or proposed groups, your details will be 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 lsleofsheppeyu3a@gmail.com

Play Reading Group

Is your passion the classics ie Jane Austen? Wendy hopes to form a new play reading group starting with the novels of Jane Austen. She is aiming to start the group in March and to meet monthly.

Chi-ballet

Wendy is a qualified teacher of Chi-ballet, a new, creative medium for exploring negative thoughts, feelings and anxieties through tapping into our energies, flicking away and unblocking unwanted thoughts using meditation, affirmation and the grace of basic ballet movement leading to and seeking Clarity in your own lives. Whether you can stand or sit, have no ballet training or understanding - it works. You can have the mind of a monk and the body of a ballerina. This group will take place twice a month and Wendy plans to start in April.

If you are interested in either of these groups, you can email Wendy at: wendy_reynolds@msn.com You can also speak to Wendy to find out more at the meeting next week, Thursday 27th January.

2021-2022 Membership Subscriptions

Members who have renewed should have receive a confirmation email with your membership number and the contact details we hold for you. Please make sure your details are up to date and let us know if any changes are required.

Our monthly members' meetings are open for non-members to try out for a small fee of £3, and membership offers great value for money so, if you know anyone who would like to come along and find out more about what we have to offer why not bring them along to the next meeting. We have plenty of Isle of Sheppey u3a leaflets available for you to pass onto friends, family and neighbours so please let us know if you would like some, or pick some up at our monthly members' meetings

MONTHLY MEMBER'S MEETING DATES 2022

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

27 th January	28 th April	28 th July	27 th October - AGM
24 th February	26 th May	August meeting TBA	24 th November
24 th March	23 rd June	22 nd September	December meeting TBA

LOCAL NEWS AND EVENTS

**Kent Wildlife Trust
Wild About Open Gardens**

One of our members, Helen, regularly provides us with articles and information about the Kent Wildlife Trust. Helen has provided us a list of the 'Wild About Open Gardens 2022' for this yea including her own garden. If you are interested in visiting any of these, please pre-book your ticket either by email or telephone using the contact details on the poster:

Wild About Open Gardens 2022



<div style="border: 1px solid gray; padding: 5px; margin-bottom: 5px;"> Sunday 10 April Wateringbury Maidstone </div> <div style="border: 1px solid gray; padding: 5px; margin-bottom: 5px;"> Sunday 29 May Shorne Gravesend </div> <div style="border: 1px solid gray; padding: 5px; margin-bottom: 5px;"> Saturday 25 June Lydden Dover </div> <div style="border: 1px solid gray; padding: 5px;"> Sunday 7 August Doddington Faversham </div>	<div style="border: 1px solid gray; padding: 5px; margin-bottom: 5px;"> Sunday 8 May Gravesend </div> <div style="border: 1px solid gray; padding: 5px; margin-bottom: 5px;"> Sunday 19 June Minster Sheppey </div> <div style="border: 1px solid gray; padding: 5px; margin-bottom: 5px;"> Sunday 31 July Great chart Ashford </div> <div style="border: 1px solid gray; padding: 5px;"> Saturday 20 August Evening East Farleigh Maidstone </div>
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Pre-booked ticket holders only
<https://www.kentwildlifetrust.org.uk/wilder-gardens>
 Or call 01622 662012









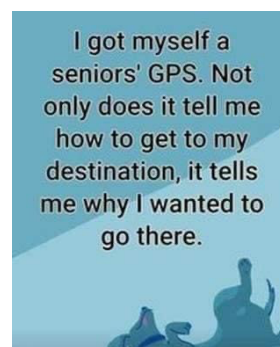
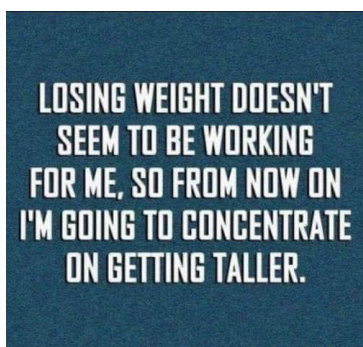
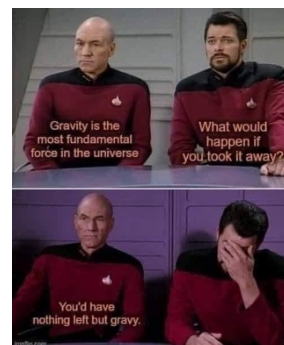
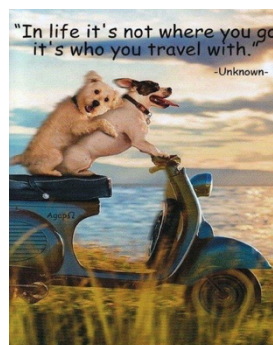
Tel: 01622 662012 | info@kentwildlife.org.uk | kentwildlifetrust.org.uk
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Protecting Wildlife for the Future

KEEP SMILING

When you're driving and all of a sudden you're hungry like a wolf.



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.

NATIONAL INFO

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.