

* Members' Meeting – Thursday 28th July*

Please join us at our next members' meeting. It will take place at **2pm** on **Thursday 28th July** at **Minster Club**. Our speaker is:



Susan Shaw

The Road to Chelsea

The Road to Chelsea is an entertaining and illustrated talk that draws from Susan's experience in preparing and exhibiting at the Royal Horticultural Annual Flower Show held each spring in Chelsea.

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

Save the date for next month: Thursday 25th August

Picnic in the Park - Queenborough

MONTHLY MEMBERS MEETING

Chairman's Ramblings

Having a whimsical sense of humour can be a distinct advantage when the world seems to have gone mad and mundane habits help to keep a perspective on life's complexities! Our British innate sense of fair play, tolerance, apologising automatically and making a cup of tea in response to a crisis has, however, been sorely tested of late - especially the making of a cup of tea, (thanks to the dry taps)!

During a short break in the middle to July, sipping my Aperol Spritz, in the cool of the caravan awning, over-looking the beautiful countryside of the Elham Valley, Mr Pugh threw into my cocktail of contentment - "Did you know Boris has resigned?" Well, I can tell you that the orange slice nearly ended up in the Paella – heaven forbid! So, with my usual quick thinking in times of emergencies I asked – "Can anyone apply for the job?" Alas, with my other half's customary deafening silence related to new projects, I was forced to text an old work friend who has a similar quirky way of looking at life and the world order:

(Me): I'm thinking of throwing my hat into the ring for the job that's up for grabs.

(Friend): If you get in, can I call the next COBRA meeting when the weather gets hot?

(Me): We're off tomorrow to the Battle of Britain Memorial and the Women's Land Army Museum. You never know when I might need some hints and tips.

(Friend): Good idea! Can I stand on your soap box as back-up?

(Me): Sounds like a great idea. What a team! I'm already excited! I'll take some notes on the back of a fag packet, if I can find one. Must be one in the museum.



Well, it wasn't much longer before Mr Pugh informed me that, yet another crisis had developed at home (he can always be relied on to offer bad news!) – A major incident had occurred resulting in no water for the Island. A real calamity, what a disaster – my nerve was to be tested! Should we go home or stick it out here? - We had water on tap via our aqua roll and toilet and shower facilities - at home there was possibly anarchy and chaos! The time had come to make some difficult decisions. After another Aperol Spritz and the daughter-in-law suggesting we stay where we were, so as not to add to the confusion and the demand for the much-needed bottles of water, the decision was made – we would stay where we were. Perhaps, on reflection, I'm not right for the job!

INTEREST GROUPS & ACTIVITIES

Check out the list of our Interest Groups here:

<https://u3asites.org.uk/files/i/isle-of-sheppey/docs/interestgroupsinfosheet-july2022.pdf>

INTEREST GROUP DISPLAYS

Check out our photo displays of some of our interest group meetings and some of the projects completed by our members. These photos are displayed on our communications board at each meeting. There is also a booklet "Wildlife Gardening" created from all the articles written by Helen. Photos and articles written by our members can also be found on our website: <https://u3asites.org.uk/isle-of-sheppey/home>

Creative Interest groups are for anyone who is interested no matter whether you are a complete beginner or someone with more experience and skill, everyone can learn from each other and it's a great excuse for a sociable get together.

If you are interested in joining any interest group, please sign up at one of our meetings or email us on isleofsheppeyu3a@gmail.com If you have signed up for a group but not yet been contacted please let us know.

PICNIC IN THE PARK – Queenborough - Thursday 25th August at 2pm

This year our Summer – PICNIC IN THE PARK – will again be held at Queenborough in the Queenborough Park - ME11 5AA (also known as The Elephant Park) . This is a lovely small, enclosed park close to the harbour at the end of the High Street opposite the Old House at Home pub there is also has a toilet block.

Come and join us for a fun filled sociable afternoon with your fellow members. We hope to have a variety of entertainment together with stalls displaying some of our activities that members have been involved in over the past year. Don't forget to bring along your picnic and a picnic chair. Everyone is welcome so please bring along any friends or family members who would like to see how they could also "learn, laugh and live".



Picnic in the Park – Queenborough 2021

LOCAL NEWS AND EVENTS

We have some great local resources and events – we would encourage our members to support so we will try to advertise some of these in our monthly newsletter. If you are aware of any local events coming up soon, please let us know – the newsletter is usually compiled the week prior to our meeting so let us know in good time to be included.

13th – 20th August

FESTIVAL of the SEA



Sheerness Town Team presents the “Festival of the Sea” during the week 13th to 20th August, culminating with the Sheerness carnival on the last Saturday. There will be lots going on around Sheerness during the week with a wide range of family events. Here are some of the events taking place, why not put these dates in your diary to remind you!



SHEPPEY LITTLE THEATRE

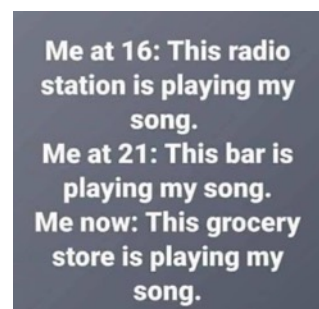
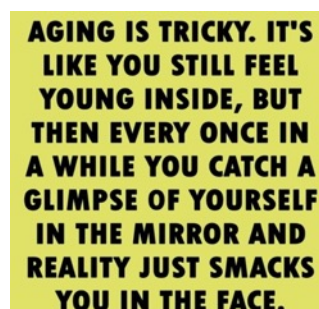
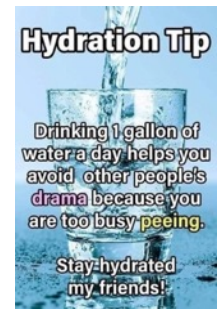
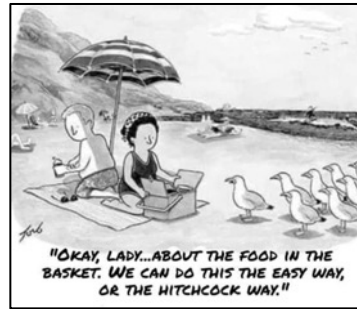
The theatre is run by a volunteer section of Sheppey Entertainment Association. It has regular shows and is the venue for rehearsals for several local groups. Here are some of the upcoming events.



MORE UPCOMING LOCAL EVENTS



KEEP SMILING



NATIONAL u3a



Have you listened to the monthly **u3a Radio podcasts** on YouTube?

Podcasts are uploaded on 17th of every month. Click here to listen to the July edition: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JA3auYBp64Q>

Click here for the full list of radio podcasts since they started in September 2020: https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLsB2t41TNozHSJ4fvod_yjxrUJDzqbDD

Find out what is offer on the National u3a 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. As a member of Isle of Sheppey u3a you can create an account to get full access. It is highly recommended to sign up for the **national newsletter** to get regular updates as new content is uploaded frequently.

National u3a Learning Programme

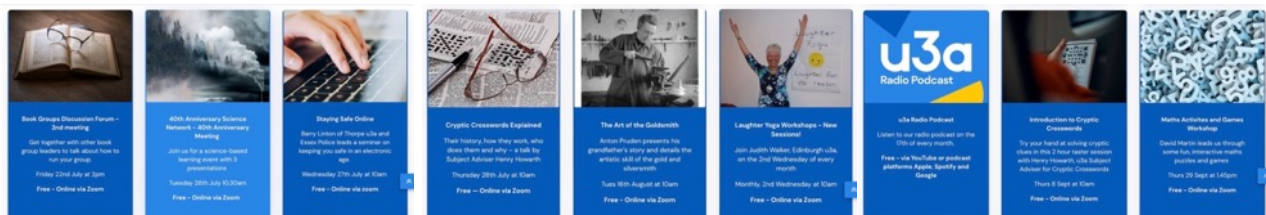
There is a wide range of learning programmes available on the national u3a website.

Click here to find out more: <https://www.u3a.org.uk/learning/national-programmes>

NATIONAL u3a Online Learning events

They also offer a number of workshops, webinars and interactive sessions delivered by members for members which are free to join.

Find out more here: <https://www.u3a.org.uk/events/educational-events>



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.

Membership Subscription

Our membership offers great value for money so, why not bring along a friend to the next meeting. We have plenty of Isle of Sheppey u3a leaflets available for you to pass onto friends, family and neighbours so why not pick some up at our monthly meeting. Membership is currently £20 per year November to October, join after 30th April the subscription is £10.

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

Monthly Meeting Dates 2022

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.

25th August – Picnic in the Park

27th October

15th December meeting

22nd September

24th November

Christmas Get Together at Minster Club (NB one week earlier than usual)

Information and Contact Details

You can contact us here:

isleofsheppeyu3a@gmail.com

Email us to join our WhatsApp Group:

isleofsheppeyu3a@gmail.com

Find our website here:

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

Interact with u3a members around the country on the

u3a: Keeping in Touch Facebook group:

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

Our Facebook Page is:

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

u3a YouTube Channel

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

Our members only Facebook Group is:

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

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