

u3a
in Kennet



Yearbook 2021



This handbook contains full information about u3a in Kennet

Redacted copy without telephone numbers

Information current at 22nd January 2021

For latest information, go to www.u3ainkennet.org.uk

Charity No 1028680 Established 1992

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Cover Photos:

Walking and Cycling in March 2020 by John Martin

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Chairman's welcome

Welcome to the 2021 edition of the **u3a in Kennet Yearbook**. It is designed to be an easy reference source for important information about **u3a in Kennet** for both new and established members.



2020 was not an easy year for any of us. The lockdown in response to the Covid-19 pandemic at the end of March affected all of our activities.

We all had to adapt and **u3a** was no exception. We learned how to use Zoom and WhyPay to carry on with many of our activities. Of course holding a meeting or discussion on Zoom is less personal than a face-to-face meeting. But, for some, it avoids travel and for others watching a presentation on your own screen can be better than watching it projected in a hall. As the year went on, some of our outdoor activity groups were able to restart in limited ways having carried out risk assessments. The ups and downs of the coronavirus pandemic have caused many to struggle with their feelings of loss. The variety of **u3a** activities provides opportunities for people to come together, to explore new ideas and interests and build friendships. This is almost more important at a time like this than in normal times.

I am very conscious that many of our members don't use Zoom: they don't like it, or they are a bit afraid of it or they're not sure they could make it work. I would encourage everyone who can, to try it. There are many people to help you.

Looking forward, we can all hope that a rapid deployment of the various vaccines will get us closer to a more normal life during 2021. There is a lot happening already. Keep up to date on our website, our monthly Newsletter and our quarterly magazine—as well as the national Third Age Matters magazine.

David Hammond

What is u3a?

Formed to support people to make the most of life when full time working is over, **u3a**¹ is a UK-wide movement which brings people together to explore new ideas, interests and activities in a friendly and informal environment.

u3a is a self-help organisation which provides educational, creative and leisure opportunities through a series of interest groups. Members draw on their knowledge and experience to learn from each other.

Formed nearly 40 years ago, there are now over 1,000 **u3as** across the UK with thousands of interest groups between them and more than 400,000 members nationally. The national body, the Third Age Trust—looks after all the **u3as** in the UK and provides educational and administrative support and advice.

u3a in Kennet was formed in 1992 with Derek Robbins and Bill Hawes as its inspirers. Derek became the first chairman and since then he has been followed by 12 others. Interest groups have grown from 3 to over 60 and we currently have around 550 members.

Group Leaders are volunteers who organise and support their groups. They don't have to be experts and most rely on their group members to support them and contribute to their group in many different ways.

Any member with enthusiasm and basic organisational skills can start a group at any time if there is sufficient support. Meeting venues can be fixed or shared around members' homes.

Footnote 1: *Formerly known as the University of the Third Age*

Principles of the u3a movement

The **u3a** movement is non-religious and non-political and has three main principles:

The Third Age Principle

- Membership of a u3a is open to all in their third age, which is defined not by a particular age but by a period in life in which full-time employment has ceased.
- Members promote the values of lifelong learning and the positive attributes of belonging to a **u3a**.
- Members should do all they can to ensure that people wanting to join a **u3a** can do so.

The Self-help Learning Principle

- Members form interest groups covering as wide a range of topics and activities as they desire; by the members, for the members.
- No qualifications are sought or offered. Learning is for its own sake, with enjoyment being the prime motive, not qualification or awards.
- There is no distinction between the learners and the teachers; they are all **u3a** members.

The Mutual Aid Principle

- Each **u3a** is a mutual aid organisation, operationally independent but a member of The Third Age Trust, which requires adherence to the guiding principles of the **u3a** movement.
- No payments are made to members for services rendered to any **u3a**.
- Each **u3a** is self-funded with membership subscriptions and costs kept as low as possible.
- Outside financial assistance should only be sought if it does not imperil the integrity of the **u3a** movement.

You can find out more about the **u3a** including its Vision and Mission at the national website: www.u3a.org.uk

Membership of u3a in Kennet

Membership of u3a in Kennet entitles you to join as many of our interest groups as you can manage. Members are invited to attend the monthly **Coffee Exchange** in Marlborough (or on Zoom) where we welcome people interested in joining u3a.

Our **Kennet u3a Talks** are held four or five times a year giving everyone the opportunity to meet and discuss any issues as well as listen to interesting and entertaining guest speakers. Our meetings will continue on Zoom for the time being.

We also have reciprocal agreements that allows members to join one group in Pewsey Vale u3a and/or one group in Devizes u3a as part of their membership of u3a in Kennet.

Information and resources for u3a members

Monthly Newsletter

The Newsletter is sent out monthly by email. It contains up-to-date news on upcoming events. We have set up an “email buddy” system where identified members print a copy of the Newsletter and take it to a nearby member without email.

The u3a in Kennet Magazine

The magazine is produced four times a year. It contains details of group activities, news from the Executive Committee, details of forthcoming events and up-to-date reference material. Members are encouraged to contribute articles and pictures.

Yearbook

The Yearbook is published each year after the Annual General Meeting and sent to all members by post. It contains the key information about our u3a including telephone numbers of Group Leaders and Executive Committee members. This information should be kept confidential. The most up-to-date information on our groups can be found on our website.

u3a in Kennet Website www.u3ainkennet.org.uk

The site is our “shop window” to the world. It allows prospective members to apply for membership. It also gives access to up-to-date group information as well as much other information for our members

u3a National Website www.u3a.org.uk

The national website has general information about u3a. It also has a “members area” where you can get access to information on resources, subject advice and other support. To access this area you need to “create an account” which costs nothing and is very straightforward. You can also request to receive the regular emailed Newsletter from the u3a National Office.

Third Age Matters (TAM)

This printed national magazine contains news of u3a groups up and down the country, upcoming events, general advice and encouragement. It is funded centrally through advertising and sent to all u3a members. Postage costs are met by the local u3a, so if you don't want it, please let the Membership Secretary know.

Social Media

u3a in Kennet has a private Facebook group:

www.facebook.com/groups/u3ainkennet

and a public page: www.facebook.com/u3ainkennet

Register for the private group and share information about our activities and interests. The public page, along with our website, is our “window to the world”.

The national organisation has its own private group:

www.facebook.com/groups/U3AKeepingInTouch

where members across the UK can share news and information.

The national organisation also has a public Facebook page:

www.facebook.com/u3auk

and a Twitter page: twitter.com/u3a_UK

Events for all members

Coffee Exchange

This is our primary monthly meeting which has developed from the successful Coffee Club. It is held on Zoom or in central Marlborough and is a great opportunity to meet other u3a members, hear the latest news, listen to a local speaker and chat over a coffee. This is also our main opportunity to meet potential new members. Members can also let the Executive Committee know what's on their minds.

Last Thursday of the month 10.45–12.00

Zoom or Wesley Hall, Oxford Street, Marlborough

The Kennet u3a Talks

This series of talks allows all our members to come together and learn from an interesting speaker and enjoy a cup of tea or coffee and cake. We will also use these events to keep everyone up to date with news. These will run on Zoom until meetings are allowed.

2nd Wednesday of the month 2.15–4.15

(February, April, June, July and October)

Zoom or Kennet Valley Hall, Lockeridge, SN8 4EL

Really Usefuls

The Really Usefuls are a group of volunteers who take responsibility for doing a number of practical things to support u3a in Kennet. The group requires a wide range of skills for different tasks. Come and join with other members to get to know other members better and make a real contribution to the smooth running of u3a.

Contact: usefuls@u3ainkennet.org.uk

u3a Day

2nd June 2021

The very first national u3a Day – celebrating the learning, activity and fun that happens every day in u3as across the country – will take place on **Wednesday 2nd June 2021**.

Each u3a has been invited to mark the day by showcasing what they do – from displays, parades or performances – the day will show all the learning, activities and fun that make the

movement so amazing. Details of activities for u3a in Kennet are being worked out—but they will include a presence on Marlborough High Street and the Town Hall.

If you have ideas on what we should be doing or would like to get involved in the planning, please contact Jeff Hide (groups@u3ainkennet.org.uk)

National u3a Coordinator, Sue Stokes, said, *"We are so excited that from now on, every year, there will be a day dedicated to learning, staying active and having fun in your Third Age – that's people who are retired, semi-retired or no longer bringing up a family".*

"We hope this day will help to challenge negative perceptions of older adults and will bring together all Third Agers in the community to learn about the contribution u3a makes to the quality of life for retired people".



u3a

Executive Committee (Trustees)

Chairman	David Hammond	01672 513280 chairman@u3ainkennet.org.uk
Vice Chairman	Jill Turner	07900 223345 vicechair@u3ainkennet.org.uk
Charities Commission and Compliance		charities@u3ainkennet.org.uk
Hon Secretary	Annette Weaver	07814 688913 secretary@u3ainkennet.org.uk
Hon Treasurer	Kiaran Roughan	01672 861506 treasurer@u3ainkennet.org.uk
Membership Secretary	Mike Morison	01249 891093 membershipsec@u3ainkennet.org.uk
Groups Coordinator	Jeff Hide	01672 511774 groups@u3ainkennet.org.uk
Social Events Coordinator	Jan Lillywhite	01672 513764 socialevents@u3ainkennet.org.uk
Publicity and News Editor	John Martin	01793 740921 publicity@u3ainkennet.org.uk
Speaker Secretary	Chris Webb	01672 516000 speakersec@u3ainkennet.org.uk
Website Manager	Tom Horwitz	01793 853032 website@u3ainkennet.org.uk
Committee Member	Tricia Howarth	07939 365433 magazine@u3ainkennet.org.uk

Any ordinary member may attend meetings of the Executive Committee or any sub committees. If anyone would like to attend any meeting, please contact the Hon Secretary before the meeting.

Recognise your Committee



David Hammond



Jill Turner



Annette Weaver



Kieran Roughan



Mike Morison



Jan Lillywhite



John Martin



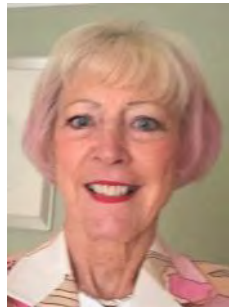
Chris Webb



Tom Horwitz



Jeff Hide



Tricia Howarth

Diary Dates for 2021

Annual General Meeting

Wednesday 20th October 2.15pm Kennet Valley Hall or Zoom

The Kennet U3A Talks

2.15pm Kennet Valley Hall or Zoom

Wednesday 10th February

Wednesday 14th April

Wednesday 9th June

Wednesday 20th October (following the AGM)

Coffee Exchange

10.45am Wesley Hall, Oxford Street,
Marlborough or Zoom

Last Thursday of every month

Open to all. Zoom invitations from the Chairman

Special Interest Day

9.30am—4.00pm

Monday 20th September Marlborough College

Executive Committee

10.00am Zoom or Friends Meeting
House

Thursday 4th February

Thursday 1st April

Thursday 3rd June

Thursday 2nd September

Thursday 4th November

Yearbook

Published annually in December

Newsletter

Published monthly

Magazine

Published as announced

Note: If your group has an event open to all, please let the Executive Committee know and it will be published on the website, in the U3A in Kennet Magazine and in the ebulletin circulated by email.

Climate Change and Sustainable Futures



Rescheduled from May 2020 to
Monday 20th September 2021

Marlborough College

9.30am—4.00pm

£20 per head for u3a members

Existing bookings carried over

Event currently fully booked :

look out for further announcements

*Event open to: Regional u3a members
and Staff and Students of the College*

For more details please email sid2021@u3ainkennet.org.uk

1. Climate Change—is it really real?

Penny Tranter Meteorological Office

2. Fusion Power? Within our grasp?

Robin Stafford Allen

formerly Culham Centre for Fusion Energy

3. The Circular Carbon Economy

Peter Edwards FRS Oxford University

4. Societal Perceptions of Climate Change and Support for Low Carbon Lifestyles

u3a at Home

When Covid-19 first restricted our ability to meet together, we developed the idea of **u3a at Home**. The idea was to see how much of what we have done traditionally could be replicated from home.

Across the country **u3a** members were finding creative ways to stay engaged, active and connected with each other.

The Chief Executive of the u3a Movement, Sam Mauger said: *“We have a movement of incredible people. Our members have shown their support, empathy, willingness to share ideas and experiences, and more importantly, to carry on learning, laughing and living”.*

After some experimenting, our members in Kennet are embracing technology to keep their learning and activities going. Meetings, activity groups and much more are going on-line and virtual. Zoom and WhyPay are being used by many of our groups. We have established a presence on Facebook and groups are also using email and YouTube to share information and presentations.

To join a Zoom video conference, you need a computer with a camera and microphone and a broadband internet connection.

- Any iPad or Android Tablet
- Most laptops (Windows or Apple)
- Smartphone (Apple or Android)
- Any desktop computer with a webcam (Windows or Mac)

Just go to [Zoom.com](https://zoom.com) and sign up. It's free, but you need to supply an email address and some other information. There is an app you can download if you want to use your phone or tablet. To join a call you will need to enter the number of the call and a password or just click a link emailed by the organiser.

There is detailed advice at:

u3a.org.uk/advice/technology-help/how-to-guidance

Interest groups

Since the start of the Covid-19 pandemic in March 2020, our groups have been adapting to the changing regulations and health advice.

Many have been able to restart activities using Zoom or the WhyPay telephone conference service. One has been using an on-line forum to post presentations and discussions. New groups have started and some have expanded the number of meetings they have. Some outdoor activity groups have been able to restart in a limited way within the regulations and subject to a risk assessment. Other groups have suspended their operation.

As vaccinations take place, we can look forward to a time when our traditional face-to-face meetings are possible again. In the meantime, most of our groups are open and operating.

The following directory gives a description of each of our groups and contact details for the Group Leader(s). If you are interested in joining a group, please get in touch with the Group Leader. The most up-to-date information can be found on our website at u3ainkennet.org.uk.

If you are interested in forming a new group, please get in touch with our Groups Coordinator at groups@u3ainkennet.org.uk.

u3a in Kennet Resources

To support groups we have: digital projector, projection screen, laptop, display boards and guillotine. Also available is a list of available meeting venues in Marlborough. Just contact the Groups Coordinator..

We will also be supporting the national **u3a Day** currently planned for Wednesday 2nd June 2021 when **u3a**s up and down the country will be running events to increase public awareness of **u3a** and what it has to offer.

Tuesday

American History

Zoom

Quaker Meeting House

3rd of month 14.00 – 16.00

American History is focused primarily on the United States and the key developments, events, individuals and international relationships along a chronological time frame. All members are expected to participate by preparing a brief presentation or by reading on the agreed topic for discussion. Whether you know a lot or nothing, you will share in gaining a new understanding of the United States and North America. Currently using Zoom; will resume at the Quaker Meeting House when able.

email: amhist@u3ainkennet.org.uk

Contact: AnnMarie Newbiggin

Friday

Art & Art History

Zoom

Quaker Meeting House

2nd of month 10.30 – 12.00

We follow topics chosen by individual members rather than study a specific period or art movement. This approach provides an interesting and varied programme while making it easier for new members to join. Some members are new to the subject whilst others have a longstanding interest. We are currently using Zoom and plan to resume at the Quaker Meeting House as soon as practical. In addition to our normal Zoom meet ups, we have also started a second parallel session which gives members a second chance to see some of our archive material. In normal times we occasionally organise visits to galleries and museums.

email: art.history@u3ainkennet.org.uk

Contact: Ken Baker Pam Baker

Thursday

The Art Group

Zoom

The Scout Hall

3rd of month 14.00 – 16.00

We meet on the third Thursday of the month using Zoom. As well as catching up, we have a session where a member gives a short history of one of their favourite artists with examples of their work. This provides an interesting insight into not only the more famous artists but also to some that are less well known. When we are together, we have art demonstrations, workshops and still life. Members are free to "do their own thing" and with enthusiasm, passion and practice and preparedness to "have a go" the results can be so rewarding. Currently meeting using Zoom; will resume in the Scout Hall when we are able

email: art@u3ainkennet.org.uk

Contact: Margaret Mason

Wednesday

Backgammon

Marlborough

1st & 3rd of month 19.00 – 21.00

Backgammon is a friendly and social game that requires skill, luck and tenacity. An easy game to learn, but has some real complexity to it! Games take about 10 minutes, and then you're on to the next one. Our group is comprised of one or two experienced players but mainly novices. We play for fun and for the challenge. If you've always played, enjoy a battle of minds, or are new to backgammon and want to learn how to play, then why not give it a go? Currently on hold but will resume at the Green Dragon Pub when permitted.

email: bgammon@u3ainkennet.org.uk

Contact: Tom Horwitz

Thursday

Birdwatching

Varies

3rd of month (time varies)

The group visits various sites within Wiltshire and adjacent counties where we hear and see a wide variety of bird species. Outings are generally half day with more distant being a full day. The meets leader, Steve Edwards astounds the group with his knowledge of birds, wild flowers and fauna while the formal leader, Brian Davies, attends to the administration. The group is currently inactive and will resume when able.

email: birds@u3ainkennet.org.uk

Contact: Brian Davies

Wednesday

Book Circle

Zoom

Pewsey

4th of month 10.30 – 12.30

We are a group which reads a wide selection of books, from 'Hemingway's To Have and Have Not' to Jessie Burton's 'The Confession' via Graham Swift's 'Mothering Sunday'. Any member can offer suggestions – fiction or non-fiction – for inclusion in our reading list. Volunteers introduce the month's chosen read and we enjoy lively discussions of the merits – or otherwise – of the work. Currently using Zoom, but will resume meeting in person when able.

email: book.circle@u3ainkennet.org.uk

Contact: Sarah Foxall

Tuesday

Book Group – Short Stories

Zoom

West Overton

1st of month 14.00 – 16.00 (11.00 Zoom)

We discuss Short Stories using primarily "That Glimpse of Truth – 100 of the Finest (International) Short Stories Ever Written" – David Miller – Editor. Every month we discuss three stories picked by different members from this book or another source. Each person presents details about the author and reviews the story, which is then discussed. Currently using Zoom at 11am rather than the regular time due to the request of members. We will return to 2pm meeting in West Overton or others' homes when able.

email: book.short@u3ainkennet.org.uk

Contact: AnnMarie Newbigin

Thursday

Book Group

Zoom

Marlborough

4th of month 14.30 – 16.30

The group meet once a month to discuss a book that they have all read. The books to be read are chosen by the members. Over the last year we have read a variety of novels – some recently published and others that were several years old. All led to lively discussions which gave the group members added insights to the books' contents. Currently meeting on Zoom; will resume in Marlborough when available.

email: books.mar@u3ainkennet.org.uk

Contact: Alison Hammond

Friday

Bowls (Lawn)

Marlborough Bowls Club

(April – September) 14.00 – 16.00

There is a requirement for people to wear flat shoes on the green. New players can borrow bowls to get them started and the green fee is £2.00. If players wish to join the bowls club the first year subscription is £25.00 and the green fee is returned. Currently not active, but will resume at the Marlborough Bowls Club, when able.

email: short.mat@u3ainkennet.org.uk

Contact: John Lafford

Friday

Bowls (Short Mat)

Leisure Centre

(October – April) 13.45 – 15.45

The venue is Marlborough Leisure Centre costing £2 per person per session (dependent on numbers attending). Players of all abilities are welcomed. Equipment is provided and instruction given. The Group is very supportive and an entertaining afternoon is assured. Refreshments are available at the Centre. The group operates from October to April, in term time only, and runs from 1:45 to 3:45pm. We are unable to meet at present and will resume when possible.

email: short.mat@u3aikkennet.org.uk

Contact: John Lafford

Friday

Bridge 1

Marlborough

1st & 3rd of month 14.00 – 16.30

This Group has resumed with a few different members and a new leader. It looks as if it will be a happy Group accommodating members who want to learn and other members who will be available to help. Currently not active, but will resume when able.

email: bridge@u3aikkennet.org.uk

Contact: Jeff Hide (Temporary)

Friday

Bridge 2

Axford & Marlborough

2nd & 4th of month 16.00 – 18.30

This is friendly, Chicago style bridge with emphasis on social rather than competitive bridge. We normally have two or three tables. Less experienced players are welcome.

email: bridge2@u3aikkennet.org.uk

Contact: Anne De Saxe

Varies

Classic Cars

Varies

Flexible, various

We are a group of classic car enthusiasts and owners who like to use their cars (of whatever make) to enjoy: country drives and pub lunches, visits to car factories and restoration companies, classic car events, visits to country houses, any other car related events organised by our members or their partners. To join you do need to own a classic car. Any make, any year. We're very flexible as to what is a classic. Currently inactive but will resume when able.

email: [class.cars@u3ainkennet.org.uk](mailto:classic.cars@u3ainkennet.org.uk)

Contact: Ashley de Safrin

Monday

Controversial Discussion 1

Zoom

Ogbourne St George

2nd of month 10.30 - 12.30

We discuss a wide range of subjects. both important and challenging. Many of these will have controversial elements. Our discussions are stimulating, friendly and often amusing. We do not expect to reach agreement. Members of the Group are expected to offer ideas for subjects, and to lead discussions on them in a rough rota. Miles or his nominee acts as Moderator at meetings. Group numbers are limited in order to facilitate good quality discussions. Currently using Zoom, but will resume meeting in Ogbourne St George when able.

email: cont.disc.1@u3ainkennet.org.uk

Contact: Miles Howarth

Thursday

Controversial Current Affairs

Zoom

Axford

Last Thursday of the month from 14:00 to 16:00

We are people with strong opinions who take an interest in what's going on in the world and are not afraid of being politically incorrect. We enjoy lively discussion limiting participation to a maximum of twelve people so that everyone has a chance to speak. Unlike other Controversial Discussion groups, we do not generally discuss philosophical questions (Is religion good?, for example) preferring to tackle issues of the day – very often political – both at home and abroad. Currently meetings are on Zoom but will resume in person when possible.

email: cont.disc.2@u3ainkennet.org.uk

Contact: Nick Swan

Thursday

Controversial Discussion 3

Zoom

Members Homes

2nd of month 10.30 – 12.30

Topics are suggested by members and the discussion is led by members in turn. Discussion can be lively and humorous, is usually evidence or experience based, but is never confrontational. Minds are sometimes changed – a bit. Currently using Zoom, but will resume meeting in members homes when able.

email: *cont.disc.3@u3ainkennet.org.uk*

Contact: *Dan Mace*

Wednesday

Controversial Discussion 4

Zoom

Members Homes

1st of the month from 14:30 to 16:30

Topics are chosen in advance by group members and introduced by them. Depending on the topic, some research may be helpful. Currently using Zoom, but will resume meeting in members homes when able.

email: *cont.disc.4@u3ainkennet.org.uk*

Contact: *Jean Gray*

Thursday

Current Affairs

WhyPay

Conference Call

2nd & 4th of month 10.00 – 11.00

This group considers current affairs from a variety of perspectives: economic, social, political and medical. Topics are chosen on monthly basis in accordance with prevailing events and have included the COVID 19 pandemic, the US election and Chinese territorial expansion. New members are always welcome and contributions encouraged. No particular knowledge is required other than an interest in current affairs. Currently meeting via a conference call, but will resume meeting in person when able.

email: *current@u3ainkennet.org.uk*

Contact: *Michael Hart Jill Turner*

Monday

Cycling

Zoom

Varies

1st & 3rd of month 10.00

The cycling group is a chance to socialise, while cycling through Wiltshire and neighbouring counties. The route is usually a 20 to 25 mile loop including a prearranged break. Occasional whole day rides cover up to 40 miles. A very friendly mixed group with currently 27 members. On the road we cycle in small groups and always cycle at a pace that is comfortable for everyone. Currently meeting having completed a risk assessment and following Covid-19 precautions; occasional Zoom meeting when we can't meet up.

email: cycling@u3ainkennet.org.uk

Contact: Toby Crampton

Varies

Day Trips

Varies

Three or four trips per year

We aim to offer three or four day trips each year to places of interest within approximately two hours travelling distance from Marlborough. We have no preset ideas, but aim to take full advantage of the abundance of places of interest in our region, spanning the arts, gardens, historic properties/sites, towns, cathedrals, exhibitions and combinations of these to provide interesting and enjoyable days out without the hassle of driving. Currently inactive but will resume when able.

email: daytrip@u3ainkennet.org.uk

Contact: Jeff Bamforth Sally Bruce Laura Fowler Miranda Gilmour

Friday

Digital Photography

Zoom

Marlborough

1st of the month 10.00 - 12.00

We are a friendly and enthusiastic group using a variety of photographic equipment from full-frame to mobile phones. Topics are set each month and results viewed and discussed at subsequent meetings. When we can, photo shoots and exhibition visits are organised. We aim to get more from our photos by helping each other, watching teaching videos and general discussion. Presently meeting on Zoom but will resume when able.

email: digi.phot@u3ainkennet.org.uk

Contact: Brian Wood

Wednesday

Discovering Neuroscience

Marlborough

4th of month 10.00 – 12.00

This short one-year course was interrupted by Covid-19. The course was for those who would like to learn about the fundamentals of how the brain and nervous system operate, covering topics such as vision, control of movement and cognition. It was intended for members who had no prior knowledge of the subject and it focused on how to use educational sources available on the internet. It is hoped to complete the course for those already enrolled once meetings are possible.

email: humansci@u3ainkennet.org.uk

Contact: *Graham Barnes*

Tuesday

Dog Walking

Varies

2nd & 4th of month 10.30 – 12.30

This sociable group have their walks in many different areas around Marlborough. It is not essential that members volunteer to lead but we do find that people enjoy showing others new walks that they have discovered. And it is of course an excellent way of getting to know the area and for your dog to socialise with others. Steep hills and farming stock are avoided! Details of the meeting place and a short précis of the walk are communicated to members by email. Those intending to walk should notify the walk leader in advance. The group will be meeting as usual once Covid restrictions are lifted. In the meanwhile a Zoom meeting is being organised to replace the walk so that members can still be in touch with each other as a group.

email: dog.walks@u3ainkennet.org.uk

Contact: *Barbara Davis*

Friday

Embroidery

Marlborough

Fortnightly 10.00 – 12.00

This is a well established friendly group that has been running for over 20 years. We are currently sewing tapestry cushions, etc. but always open to new ideas. New Members always welcome. I have seen some of the work and its pretty impressive. If you are skilled you will be in good company. But if you are a beginner, don't let that put you off, as there is an abundance of friendly advice and encouragement. Currently not active, but will resume when able.

email: embroidery@u3ainkennet.org.uk

Contact: *Rosemary Hawes*

Wednesday

Exploring English

Zoom

Marlborough

2nd of month 10.30 – 12.00

We research and discuss a huge variety of topics, from rhyming slang to Proto-Indo-European roots. We look at reference works, old words, new words, the reform of spelling, the jargon of the film industry and banking, building and gardening. We have devilish quizzes on odd themes. And when we run out of existing phrases, we invent our own. In short we enjoy every aspect we can imagine of this quirky language of ours. Currently only active by email, hoping to launch Zoom meetings and will resume meetings in person when possible.

email: *exp.english@u3ainkennet.org.uk*

Contact: *Juliet Keel*

Tuesday

Flora & Fauna

Varies

2nd of month 14.15 – 16.15

The group meets once a month between March and October at various sites. The aim is to learn about the local flora and fauna. We try to identify wild flowers, trees, fungi, insects (including butterflies) and birds. The group is currently meeting, having completed a risk assessment, and following prescribed precautions required by Covid-19. During the Coronavirus 'lockdown', the group is sharing pictures taken while individual group members are out and about.

email: *flora.fauna@u3ainkennet.org.uk*

Contact: *Betty Dobson*

Monday

French (Basic)

Marlborough

1st & 3rd of month 10.30 – 12.00

This is a beginners group with the aim of progressing capability to the point of being able to join a more advanced group at a later stage. We are unable to meet due to Covid restrictions but will resume in Marlborough when able.

email: *french@u3ainkennet.org.uk*

Contact: *Jeff Hide (Temporary)*

Monday

French Conversation

Marlborough

4th of month 10.30 – 12.00

This group is intended for students with a basic familiarity with the French Language. Every 2nd Thursday of the month the group studies an edition of modern short stories in French using the New Penguin Parallel Text, Every 4th Thursday we focus on conversation using French magazines, newspapers or the internet articles whilst addressing grammar and ways to gain confidence in spoken French. Currently using Zoom, but will resume meeting at in person in Marlborough when able.

email: french.talk@u3ainkennet.org.uk

Contact: Jeff Hide (Temporary)

Thursday

French Language

Zoom

Marlborough

2nd & 4th of the month 14.15 – 16.15

This is a lively and engaging conversation group intended for students with a firm familiarity with the French language. The group is focussed on gaining confidence in discussing and expressing opinions on a wide range of current affairs affecting all aspects of life in France. The content is diverse and dynamic, drawing on articles from recent French magazines/newspapers combined with related videos and music and taking advantage of the latest free language development tools available on the internet.

email: french.lang@u3ainkennet.org.uk

Contact: Anne Norman Paul Tierney

Monday

German (Advanced)

WhyPay

Marlborough

2nd of month 10.00 – 11.00

We read and discuss articles on a wide variety of political, social and cultural subjects from the leading German weekly "Der Spiegel". High level journalism; A-Level comprehension skills an advantage! Currently using WhyPay? (a conference call system), but will resume meeting in person in Marlborough when able.

email: german.adv@u3ainkennet.org.uk

Contact: Ilse Nikolsky

Wednesday

German Conversation

Zoom

Members Homes

2nd of month 10.30 – 12.00

This group is for people with some knowledge of German who would like to speak German more easily. The group is currently working through “German Conversational Dialogues” which has proved very helpful. Currently using Zoom but will resume meeting in person in members homes when able.

email: german.talk@u3ainkennet.org.uk

Contact: Bill Buxton

Wednesday

History (Local)

Members Homes

Wednesday 1st of month 14.30 – 16.30

Members take turns to research an area of local history of particular interest to them and then present their findings to the group. In addition visits are made to places of interest and members are kept abreast of other local history talks of possible interest. Membership is limited to 12 people in view of the venues. The group is currently inactive but will resume when able.

email: loc.hist@u3ainkennet.org.uk

Contact: Geoff Hill

Tuesday

History 1 (English)

WhyPay

Conference Call

3rd of month 10.00 – 11.00

The group has been studying English history, the legal system and social policy. From September 2020 the focus is on protest and dissent from the 17th century onwards including the Civil War and the Levellers and the 19th Century with Chartism and the Captain Swing Riots. No particular knowledge is required other than an interest in the historic context of aspects of life in England. Currently meeting via a conference call, but will resume meeting in person when able.

email: history1@u3ainkennet.org.uk

Contact: Michael Hart Jill Turner

Friday

History 2 (European)

WhyPay

Conference Call

3rd of month 10.00 – 11.00

The group looks at key themes in European history; has explored Wars and Peace Treaties 1500–2000, European empires and civilisations and is moving on to political and cultural aspects of other major European powers. No particular knowledge is required other than an interest in the historic context of European life. Currently meeting via a conference call, but will resume meeting in person when able.

email: *history2@u3ainkennet.org.uk*

Contact: *Michael Hart Jill Turner*

Wednesday

Human Science

Zoom

Quaker Meeting House

3rd of month 10.00 – 12.00

The aim of this group is to learn about and discuss major aspects of and advances in human physiology, psychology and health. The group is currently organised by Graham Barnes who has a background in neuroscience. The group meets monthly to listen to presentations on a wide range of topics, followed by discussion amongst the group members. At present, presentations are given by video and viewed at home, with subsequent discussion using Zoom

email: *humansci@u3ainkennet.org.uk*

Contact: *Graham Barnes*

Alternate

Italian Conversation

Zoom

Marlborough

10.30 – 12.00

This is a group of friends of Italy who meet to talk informally, but chiefly in Italian, on any topic, particularly those relating to modern life in Italy. No special level in the Italian language is required to enjoy the activities of this group. Currently using Zoom, but will resume meeting in person in Marlborough when able.

email: *italian1@u3ainkennet.org.uk*

Contact: *Bruce McCrae*

Friday

Jazz Appreciation

Zoom

Broad Hinton

1st of month 14.00 – 16.00

Members present an informal recital or illustrated talk or share their love of aspects of jazz – historic vintage performances, classic ‘golden era’ jazz, British jazz – trad or modern – Swing Era greats – Ellington, Goodman, Basie, Heath etc. – Bebop, West Coast, Cool, Progressive. There’s a huge, free CD and book library available. Hope to add outings to jazz venues, concerts & festivals to our core activities. Currently using Zoom, but will resume meeting in person when able.

email: jazz@u3ainkennet.org.uk

Contact: Roy Oakshott

Wednesday

Mahjong 1

Burbage

Weekly 14.00 – 16.30

Originally a Chinese game, Mahjong is now played all over the world. It is similar to many card games but played with pretty tiles. Easy to learn and extremely enjoyable. Come along and try just to see if you like it! I can recommend an app called Hong Kong style Mahjong, found in Google playstore; this is a proper game played on British rules.... very similar to the game we play. Usually meet in Burbage – currently not active, but will resume when able.

email: mahjong1@u3ainkennet.org.uk

Contact: Linda Sloan

Tuesday

Mahjong 3

Marlborough

Fortnightly 14.00 – 17.00

The Marlborough Mahjong group has limited availability for anyone interested in playing this compelling game – contact the Group Leader for more information. Currently not meeting but will resume as soon as we are able.

email: mahjong3@u3ainkennet.org.uk

Contact: Roland Fisher

Marlborough High Street

On-going project

A major national U3A research project has been launched aimed at learning how Covid-19 has changed the places where we shop, mainly the High Street. U3A in Kennet has registered for the project and the work commenced with a base-line survey of Marlborough High Street as it was in March 2020. This is now an on-going project. It has completed a risk assessment. Following prescribed precautions required by Covid-19, we will continue to update information following any changes on the High Street and immediate vicinity.

email: highstreet@u3ainkennet.org.uk
Contact: Yvonne Cunnane

Friday

Music Appreciation Zoom

Marlborough 3rd of month 14.15 – 16.15

During the year musical subjects are chosen and then presented to the group by some members. These are illustrated with recorded music. Presentations usually include both excerpts from the music chosen and information on the composer and the background to the compositions. Members find preparation fascinating and the presentation itself relaxed as the musical examples take much of the strain. We have experimented with Zoom but have not found a satisfactory method of music transmission. We yearn for normality.

email: music.app@u3ainkennet.org.uk
Contact: Richard Clapp

Tuesday

Patchwork & Quilting

Marlborough 2nd & 4th of month 10.00 – 12.00

This is a very happy group where members can learn the basics of patchwork e.g. rotary cutting and piecing. They can then progress at their own speed and end up with some very good results. Presently inactive due to Covid-19 restrictions but will meet again as soon as we are able.

email: pandq.tue@u3ainkennet.org.uk
Contact: Lexie Bray

tbc

Petanque/Boule

Marlborough

To be advised.

Petanque / Boule is an outdoor game played by two 2, 4 or 6 people or teams trying to throw boules (metallic spheres the size of an orange) as close as possible to a but (a cochonnet – a little wooden sphere the size of a plastic bottle cork). Everyone is welcome. It is a simple game and anyone can play it. Expertise comes by practice which also provides more enjoyment and fun. This group is presently being set up and details will be available on the web site soon. In the meantime, please contact the Leader for information.

email: petanque@u3ainkennet.org.uk

Contact: Jeff Hide (Temporary)

Thursday

Philosophy

Zoom

Every four weeks 18.00 to 19.30

A new group which lends itself to digital distancing and will be both mentally stimulating and sociable. Debates will be based upon a book entitled "The Philosophy Book – Big Ideas Simply Explained" which is an entertaining and informative canter through the wisdom of the great thinkers; widely available both on-line and in bookshops. "Truth Resides In The World Around Us" – Aristotle. Discuss! An invitation to join a lively philosophy "Happy Hour" group. Currently using Zoom and will meet when we are able.

email: philosophy@u3ainkennet.org.uk

Contact: Angie Powney

Friday

Poetry Appreciation

Members Homes

1st of the month

A small friendly group welcomes new members who enjoy reading, sharing and discussing poetry. We touch upon a wide range of eras and genres. Some enjoy taking the lead while other members prefer to listen and reflect in their own way. There is a wide range of knowledge of poetry to enjoy sharing within the group but those new to appreciating poetry are very welcome to join. Currently keeping the discussions going via email, but will resume meeting in members homes when able.

email: poetry@u3ainkennet.org.uk

Contact: Mary Caudell

Tuesday

Quiz

Zoom

Varies

1st & 3rd of month 14.30

We are a new and social group who meet twice a month for 5 rounds of questions on varied subjects; from Art to Words & Language. When we meet on Zoom, the teams of up to 4 members are changed each time to give us a chance to make new acquaintances. Once Covid restrictions are relaxed, we intend to meet up, on occasions, at local village halls or pubs. New members are always welcome.

email: quizzing@u3ainkennet.org.uk

Contact: Mike Morison Tom Horwitz

Really Usefuls

As required

The Really Useful Group is not really a group, but a number of U3A members (over 25 in total) who are willing to help others. It was set up to support U3A members who have difficulty getting to group meetings, monthly meetings and other activities, and to lend a hand when needed. The volunteers aim to provide their services in the many events and activities which U3A has to offer. Please note that we need a few days notice in order to contact our list of volunteers. Presently inactive but will resume when we are able.

email: usefuls@u3ainkennet.org.uk

Contact: Jan Lillywhite

Wednesday

Science Tech Eng & Maths

On-Line

Quaker Meeting House

4th of month 14.00 – 16.00

The Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) group hold monthly meetings with presentations on a wide variety of subjects. The group also has a Discussion Forum which is open to anybody in the U3A community. The purpose of the Forum is to allow the viewing of past presentations and to discuss or make comments on those presentations or to raise any other points of discussion/ask questions. Currently meeting online and will meet up in person when we are able.

email: ste@u3ainkennet.org.uk

Contact: Nick Stedman

Thursday

Scrabble

Axford

1st of month 14.00 – 16.00

For keen or aspiring wordsmiths join our once monthly scrabble group. We are a friendly group and meet at the group leader's home. Currently not active, but will resume when able.

email: scrabble@u3ainkennet.org.uk

Contact: Ashley de Safrin

Monday

Spanish 1

Zoom

Quaker Meeting House

1st & 3rd of month 10.30 – 12.30

Currently meeting via Zoom on the 1st and 3rd Monday in the month, the group enjoys two 40 minute sessions each Monday. The first is led by individual members of the group who introduce a topic of general or personal interest for discussion. In recent months these have included: Women & Leadership, the Town of Marlborough, Minority Languages and the Geography of Spain. The second session takes the form of a recording in Spanish from the internet on a topical subject. This improves listening and comprehension skills and allows for further and wider discussion around the particular subject.

email: espana.1@u3ainkennet.org.uk

Contact: Sarah Foxall

Thursday

Spanish 2

Zoom

Quaker Meeting House

1st & 3rd of month 10.30 – 12.30

Spanish 2 is now well established as a group of Spanish improvers and it has reached its maximum capacity in terms of numbers. The format is that members discuss topical issues followed by extracts from their own diaries. After a break for refreshments, elements of the Pasos Course book or Read & Think Spanish are completed. The two-hour programme is concluded with a session about Spanish verbs. Currently using Zoom, but will resume meeting at the Quaker Meeting House when able.

email: espana.2@u3ainkennet.org.uk

Contact: Patrick Mason

Tuesday

Spanish for Self Starters

Zoom

Members Homes

2nd & 4th of month 14.00 – 16.00

This friendly group started meeting in February 2019. The focus is on mutual support of learners with input from David Leighton. All participants are beginners and the main emphasis is on communication. We broadly follow a coursebook and have started using CDs and a DVD to reinforce learning and listening to the spoken language. Currently using Zoom (unfortunately, David isn't on Zoom), but will resume meeting in members homes when able.

email: espana.ss@u3ainkennet.org.uk

Contact: Lorenza Johnston David Leighton

Wednesday

Table Talk Luncheon

Eating place in Marlborough

2nd of month 12.15 – 13.45

We are a very informal group and our aim is to discuss any item of interest or concern. If we have a large group, there could be several topics at the table at once. If we run out of topics we get out the "Table Talk" cards (hence the name) to keep the conversation flowing. Meet at 12:15, hopefully seated by 12:30. Cost is dependent on what you order. We're a social group, and not particularly computer oriented. Once Covid-19 is over, we'll get started again. We are keeping in touch with members via the phone.

email: table.talk@u3ainkennet.org.uk

Contact: Cate Mitchell

Friday

Table Tennis (Advanced)

Leisure Centre Marlborough

Weekly 11.00 – 12.00

This competitive group occupies up to three tables at Marlborough Leisure Centre and normally plays doubles to the old rules ("up to 21 and change at 5). There is normally a small charge made to cover the costs of the court hire. This is currently £1 (2020). Bats and balls could be provided, but we expect you will have your own. Note that we do not meet during school holidays as the hall is booked for children's clubs. Currently not active, but will resume when able.

email: tabtenfri@u3ainkennet.org.uk

Contact: Colin Carter

Wednesday

Table Tennis 1

Leisure Centre

Weekly 10.30 – 11.30

This friendly group occupies four tables at Marlborough Leisure Centre. All levels of ability welcome. It's been known that playing Table Tennis will improve your co-ordination and reaction, so do come along and enjoy it. There is normally a small charge made to cover the cost of the court hire. Bats and balls can be provided. Note that we do not meet during school holidays as the hall is booked for children's clubs. Currently not active, but will resume when able.

email: tabtenwed@u3aikkennet.org.uk

Contact: Hamzah Hamzah

Thursdays

Table Tennis 2

Leisure Centre Marlborough

Weekly 11.00 – 12.00

This friendly group hires two tables at Marlborough Leisure Centre. All levels of ability are welcome. As well as improving your co-ordination and reactions, table tennis is a lot of fun so do come along and try it. There is usually a small charge to cover the cost of the table hire. We do not meet during school holidays as the hall is taken up by children's clubs. Currently not active, but will resume when able.

email: tabtenth@u3aikkennet.org.uk

Contact: Simon Caudell

Theatre

Coach to various theatres

Varies, 2 or more per year

Live theatre can hardly be beaten! We aim to see four productions a year. In 2019 we went to Stratford to see the RSC as well as Newbury and Oxford; we have also visited Salisbury and Bath. In 2020, we planned a visit to Cheltenham; Harold Pinter's *The Birthday Party*. Due to Covid-19, the production was halted. A matinee allows us time to view the town and have lunch before a performance. Join our membership list to get the news first about proposed visits. Presently in abeyance but will restart when we are able.

email: theatre@u3aikkennet.org.uk

Contact: Sarah Foxall Jenny Oakshott

Travel

Within the UK

Varies, 1 – 2 per year

This group goes on short coach trips to different parts of Britain twice a year. The trip is usually for four or five days. The Group includes members from Kennet and Pewsey U3As. There are no meetings. Communication is via email and priority for places is given to those who have travelled previously, but spaces often come up. If you would like to know more, please contact the group leader below. Presently inactive but resume when we are able.

email: travel@u3ainkennet.org.uk

Contact: Anne Carroll

Monday

Walking 1 (Monday)

Zoom

Varies

Weekly 10.30

In normal times, we have a friendly, congenial weekly walk of 4 to 5 miles for about 2 hours leaving at 10:30 am. Group members take turns leading the walks. Afterwards, walkers can lunch at a nearby pub. A programme of walks is distributed to group members by email and are published on our webpage. Dogs are not permitted on walks. During the Covid-19 pandemic we have held a weekly Zoom call at 4.00pm every Monday to share experiences and chat. Walks are limited by current Covid-19 restrictions and where numbers are limited, places must be pre-booked.

email: mon.walk@u3ainkennet.org.uk

Contact: Betty Dobson Dawn Twelftree

Thursday

Walking 2 (Thursday)

Varies

Weekly 10.00

Pre Covid-19, experienced group members walked around 6–7 miles with no limits on walking numbers; advanced booking was not required; then stopped for lunch/ refreshments. We will return to these practices once the current pandemic is over. During Covid, our starting time is 10:00 am; advance bookings are required. Always require proper walking footwear and appropriate clothing plus any medication you may possibly need. Dogs are not permitted. We are presently active in line with Covid restrictions at the time.

email: thu.walk@u3ainkennet.org.uk

Contact: Gerald Long

Tuesday

Walking 3 (Strollers)

Varies

1st & 3rd of month all year. 11.00

We are a friendly group and aim to walk 2–3 miles over 1.5 hours, meeting at 11:00 am on the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of each month; advance bookings are now required. The walk leader arranges lunch at a pub at the end of the walk – this is currently suspended due to Covid-19 restrictions. Dogs are not permitted. Our routes and plans are circulated to group members via email. Currently active in line with Covid-19 restrictions at the time of any walks.

email: strollers@u3aikkennet.org.uk

Contact: Marion Oatley

Tuesday

Walking 4 (Striders)

Varies

2nd & 4th of month 10.00

The Striders group is what it says. We aim to cover 10 – 12 miles through interesting, beautiful countryside at a sensible walking pace. The aim is to enjoy the walking, the distance, the situation and the conversation. Members are expected to be competent walkers where 12 miles would not be too testing, and are expected to be suitably equipped. Dogs are not permitted. Routes and plans are circulated to group members via email, and on the website. Not presently active but will resume as soon as we are able.

email: striders@u3aikkennet.org.uk

Contact: John Williams

Thursday

Wine Appreciation

Marlborough

4th of month 19.30 – 21.30

If you enjoy a glass of wine, would like to extend your experience of tastes and your knowledge of types, why not join WAG? At our meetings, we sample and discuss around 6 wines, compare grape varieties/countries/price ranges. Members present wines to illustrate their experience and share their knowledge. Sometimes we have a guest speaker and, once a year, we arrange a visit to a vineyard/winery. Presently inactive (apart from occasional quizzes) but will restart when indoor meetings are permitted.

email: wag@u3aikkennet.org.uk

Contact: Gordon Hutt

A reminder of u3a before Covid-19



Coffee Exchange 30th January 2020



Monday Walking Group: 3rd February 2020



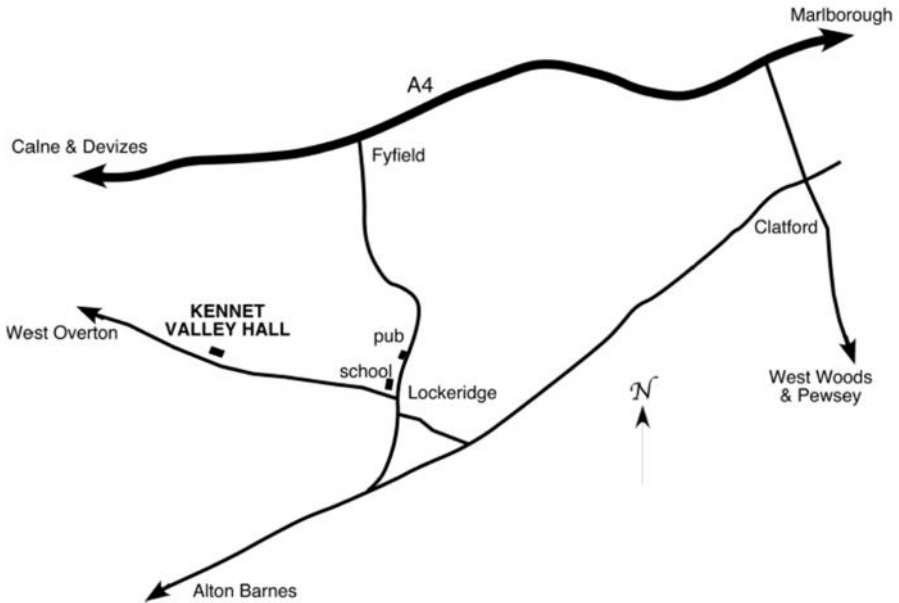
Kennet u3a Talk: 19th February 2020

Sharing travel costs

The Executive Committee has been asked on occasion for advice on sharing the costs of using private cars to attend u3a group meetings or visits. We have no formal rule on this but appreciate that people who provide the transport should not be expected to pay all the costs. Applying the national business rate (45p a mile) is unrealistic. The Executive Committee feels that having a central policy at all can lead to arguments. Our recommendation is that members who share transport should agree their own policy. A figure of 20 to 30p per mile shared between driver and passengers has been suggested to cover fuel and other costs. Some prefer a "tit for tat" arrangement and some drivers provide generously or freely. Whatever approach you adopt we do feel it should be discussed within your group so that no-one feels put upon in terms of subsidising other members. Please, don't assume the driver will pay!

If you represent u3a in Kennet at a regional or national event then the standard business mileage rate applies. This, or public transport fares, will be reimbursed by the Treasurer. For more guidance on what expenses can be claimed, please contact the Treasurer on treasurer@u3ainkennet.org.uk.

Directions to Kennet Valley Hall, Lockeridge, SN8 4EL



Directions to Wesley Hall Marlborough

**Wesley Hall, Oxford Street, Marlborough
(behind the Town Hall then fork left
onto Oxford Street. Door on the right)**





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