

**u3a**  
in Kennet



# Yearbook 2022

*This handbook contains full information about u3a in Kennet*

***Redacted copy without telephone numbers***

*Information current at 10<sup>th</sup> December 2021*

*For latest information, go to [www.u3ainkennet.org.uk](http://www.u3ainkennet.org.uk)*

*Charity No 1028680 Established 1992*



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*This Yearbook is edited by David Hammond*

*and published by u3a in Kennet Registered Charity 1028680*

*Printed and Distributed by Abacus Data and Mailing Ltd*

*Unit 9C, Britannia Estates, Legrave Road, Luton, Bedfordshire LU3 1RJ*

## Chairman's welcome



Welcome to the 2022 edition of the **u3a in Kennet Yearbook**. This booklet is designed to be an easy reference source for important information about **u3a in Kennet** for both new and established members. It includes an introduction to u3a and its principles, details of the Executive Committee, other sources of information, diary dates for the coming year and full details of our Interest Groups. These details are as up-to-date as we can manage—but there will be changes—so always check the latest information on our website at **[u3ainkennet.org.uk](http://u3ainkennet.org.uk)** and in our monthly Newsletter.

Following the successful Special Interest Day on Climate Change and Sustainable Futures held in September 2021, we are exploring the possibility of a similar event in 2022. Look out for announcements!

2022 is the 30th Anniversary of **u3a in Kennet** and the 40th Anniversary of **u3a** in the UK. The national organisation will mark their anniversary with a number of events and activities including another national **u3a Day** to be held on Wednesday 21st September.

Whether you are a long-standing member, or have recently joined **u3a in Kennet**, do take the time to read this booklet and make the most of what we have to offer. Above all—get involved and help to ensure that **u3a** remains vibrant and healthy and enables more people to learn, develop and enjoy life. We need more people to come forward and run new groups, help run our events and join the Executive Committee. Get in touch with me and find out more.

*David Hammond*

Chairman, u3a in Kennet  
**[chairman@u3ainkennet.org.uk](mailto:chairman@u3ainkennet.org.uk)**

## What is u3a?

Formed to support people to make the most of life when full time working is over, **u3a**<sup>1</sup> 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 nearly 60 and we currently have nearly 600 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.

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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](http://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** sessions in Marlborough (or on Zoom) where we also 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. The Talks are normally held at the Kennet Valley Hall (though sometimes at the Wesley Hall) and also on Zoom.

We also have reciprocal agreements that allow 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 Part One of the Newsletter and take it to a nearby member without email.

### 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](http://www.u3ainkennet.org.uk)

The site is our “shop window”. It allows prospective members to apply for membership and gives access to up-to-date group and other information for all our members

## u3a National Website

[www.u3a.org.uk](http://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](http://www.facebook.com/groups/u3ainkennet)

and a public page: [www.facebook.com/u3ainkennet](http://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:

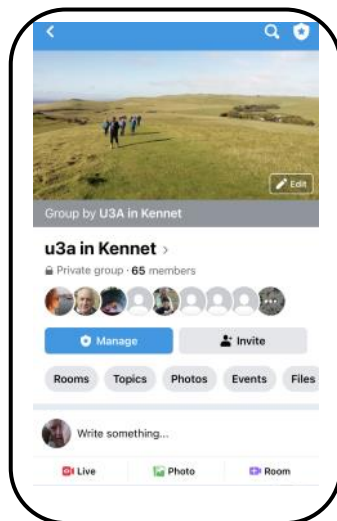
[www.facebook.com/groups/U3AKeepingInTouch](http://www.facebook.com/groups/U3AKeepingInTouch)

where members across the UK can share news and information.

The national organisation also has a public Facebook page:

[www.facebook.com/u3auk](http://www.facebook.com/u3auk)

and a Twitter page: [twitter.com/u3a\\_UK](https://twitter.com/u3a_UK)



## Events for all members

### Coffee Exchange

This is our primary monthly meeting which developed from our earlier Coffee Club. It is held in central Marlborough and on Zoom 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 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 10.30–12.00** (10.45 on Zoom)  
**Wesley Hall, Oxford Street, Marlborough and on Zoom**

### 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.

**2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of the month 2.15–4.15**  
**(February, April, July, and October)**  
**Kennet Valley Hall, Lockeridge, SN8 4EL and on Zoom**  
*Note: The Kennet u3a February Talk will be at the Wesley Hall*

### 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 each other better and make a real contribution to the smooth running of u3a.

**Contact: [usefuls@u3ainkennet.org.uk](mailto:usefuls@u3ainkennet.org.uk)**



## Coffee Exchange at the Wesley Hall



25<sup>th</sup> November 2021



28<sup>th</sup> October 2021

The national u3a Day will be celebrated on Wednesday 21st September 2022.

Up and down the country u3as will be celebrating in their own way. Indeed the whole week has been set aside for u3a celebrations of the 40th Anniversary of u3a in the UK.

U3a in Kennet will also be celebrating its 30th Anniversary.

So put the date in your diary and look out for further announcements.

# u3a Day 21<sup>st</sup> September 2022

Here is a reminder of u3a Day in Marlborough on 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2021.



## Executive Committee (Trustees)

---

|  |                       |  |
|--|-----------------------|--|
| Chairman                                     | <b>David Hammond</b>  | 01672 513280<br><a href="mailto:chairman@u3ainkennet.org.uk">chairman@u3ainkennet.org.uk</a> |
| Vice Chairman                                | <b>Jill Turner</b>    | <a href="mailto:vicechair@u3ainkennet.org.uk">vicechair@u3ainkennet.org.uk</a>               |
| Charities<br>Commission<br>and<br>Compliance |                       | <a href="mailto:charities@u3ainkennet.org.uk">charities@u3ainkennet.org.uk</a>               |
| Hon Secretary                                | <b>Annette Weaver</b> | <a href="mailto:secretary@u3ainkennet.org.uk">secretary@u3ainkennet.org.uk</a>               |
| Hon Treasurer                                | <b>Kieran Roughan</b> | <a href="mailto:treasurer@u3ainkennet.org.uk">treasurer@u3ainkennet.org.uk</a>               |
| Membership<br>Secretary                      | <b>Mike Morison</b>   | <a href="mailto:membershipsec@u3ainkennet.org.uk">membershipsec@u3ainkennet.org.uk</a>       |
| Groups<br>Coordinator                        | <b>Jeff Hide</b>      | <a href="mailto:groups@u3ainkennet.org.uk">groups@u3ainkennet.org.uk</a>                     |
| Social Events<br>Coordinator                 | <b>Jan Lillywhite</b> | <a href="mailto:socialevents@u3ainkennet.org.uk">socialevents@u3ainkennet.org.uk</a>         |
| Publicity and<br>News Editor                 | <b>John Martin</b>    | <a href="mailto:newsletter@u3ainkennet.org.uk">newsletter@u3ainkennet.org.uk</a>             |
| Speaker<br>Secretary                         | <b>David Lacey</b>    | <a href="mailto:speakersec@u3ainkennet.org.uk">speakersec@u3ainkennet.org.uk</a>             |
| Website<br>Manager                           | <b>Tom Horwitz</b>    | <a href="mailto:website@u3ainkennet.org.uk">website@u3ainkennet.org.uk</a>                   |

Any ordinary member may attend meetings of the Executive Committee. 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



Jeff Hide



Tom Horwitz



David Lacey

## Diary Dates for 2022

### Annual General Meeting

Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> October 2.15pm Kennet Valley Hall / Zoom

### The Kennet U3A Talks

Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> February 2.15pm Wesley Hall / Zoom

Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> April 2.15pm Kennet Valley Hall / Zoom

Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> July 2.15pm Kennet Valley Hall / Zoom

Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> October 2.15pm Kennet Valley Hall / Zoom  
(following the AGM)

### Coffee Exchange

10.30am Wesley Hall, Oxford Street,  
Marlborough / Zoom (from 10.45am)

Last Thursday of every month except October and December

Open to all. Zoom invitations from the Chairman

### New Members' Lunches

Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> April (by invitation only)

Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> May (by invitation only)

### National u3a Day

Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> September

### Executive Committee

10.00am Zoom

Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> February

Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> April

Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> June

Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> September

Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> November

### Yearbook

Published annually in December

### Newsletter

Published monthly

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

# 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.

As restrictions eased, many of our activities returned to the traditional “face-to-face” format. However, some members have been reluctant to enter indoor settings with other people while Covid-19 is still prevalent. Others have found it more convenient to engage in activities online from home.

With the emergence of “online” only groups and a continuing need to engage as widely as possible, we are increasingly seeing both face-to-face and virtual activities continuing in parallel.

Our main events—the Kennet u3a Talks and our Coffee Exchange are now “hybrid” events with people meeting together and also joining the sessions online using Zoom. This approach will continue as long as there is a demand for it.

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.us) 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](https://u3a.org.uk/advice/technology-help/how-to-guidance)

## Interest groups

Our groups are the foundation of u3a. Every member can join as many groups as they can manage. Group Leaders are volunteers who run their groups in many different ways. Some split the leadership role between two or more individuals. Most rely on group members to contribute to the activities of the group: to lead a walk, to give a presentation, to host a meeting, to arrange a visit.

We have a number of groups which have stopped meeting over the last few months as a result of no-one being available to lead the groups including Embroidery, Patchwork and Quilting, and two French Groups. If you would be willing to help run one of these groups, please get in touch with Jeff Hide our Groups Coordinator on [groups@u3ainkennet.org.uk](mailto:groups@u3ainkennet.org.uk)

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.

**These details are as up-to-date as we can manage—but there will be changes—so always check the latest information on our website at [u3ainkennet.org.uk](http://u3ainkennet.org.uk) and in our monthly Newsletter.**

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



**Tuesday****American History**

Quaker Meeting House

3rd of month 14.00 – 16.00

The American History Group has now been running for more than 2 years and we are now in the 20th century discussing the First World War. New members are welcome and can join in at any point. Past presentations are available on the website if anyone is interested in previous work. The group is led by two Americans who have a special interest in looking at the details of US History and sharing information for discussion purposes with the group members, who are mainly British though not entirely!

**Email:** [amhist@u3ainkennet.org.uk](mailto:amhist@u3ainkennet.org.uk)

**Contact:** AnnMarie Newbiggin

**Friday****Art & Art History****Zoom**

Quaker Meeting House

2nd of month 10.30 – 12.30

The topics are chosen by individual members. We do not follow a fixed curriculum or study a specific period or school. This approach has enabled the group to explore some unusual topics and artists. Discussions are prepared and led either by individuals or a small team. No experience necessary! Some members are new to the subject while others have a long-standing interest. We all learn from each other. Occasional visits to galleries and museums are also on the agenda.

**Email:** [art.history@u3ainkennet.org.uk](mailto:art.history@u3ainkennet.org.uk)

**Contact:** Ken Baker Pam Baker

**Thursday****The Art Group**

The Scout Hall

3rd of month 14.00 – 16.00

Our members have varying abilities ranging from beginners to those with a very good level of artistic expertise. Our monthly sessions consist of Demonstrations, Workshops and Still Life. Sometimes an outside Artist will do a Workshop that might be of interest to the group. Members learn from each other. Occasionally, a group member may have a specific new skill to share with the group. Help and advice is always available when needed. All that is required for an artist to see improvement in their work is plenty of practice, enthusiasm and be prepared to 'have a go.' Quite a few members like nothing more than doing their own piece of work, away from distractions! Artefacts are always on display to give inspiration if required.

**Email:** [art@u3ainkennet.org.uk](mailto:art@u3ainkennet.org.uk)

**Contact:** Margaret Mason



**Wednesday****Backgammon**

Marlborough

1st &amp; 3rd of month 19.00 – 21.00

Backgammon is a friendly and social game that requires skill, luck and tenacity. It's one of the world's truly great board games – a testament to its enduring fascination. This group is comprised of one or two experienced players but mainly novices. We play for fun and for the challenge at the Green Dragon Pub in Marlborough.

**Email:** [bgammon@u3aikkennet.org.uk](mailto:bgammon@u3aikkennet.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 the 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

**Email:** [birds@u3aikkennet.org.uk](mailto:birds@u3aikkennet.org.uk)

**Contact:** Brian Davies

**Wednesday****Book Circle**

Marlborough

4th of month 10.30 – 12.30

No longer constrained by Zoom we now meet in Marlborough and read and discuss a wide range of books. During 2021 we read books as diverse as V S Naipaul's "A Bend in the River" and Maggie O'Farrell's acclaimed "Hamnet". With "Gone Girl" (Gillian Flynn) and "The Silence of the Girls" (Pat Barker) to look forward to, we anticipate a varied reading list for 2022 and lively discussions.

**Email:** [book.circle@u3aikkennet.org.uk](mailto:book.circle@u3aikkennet.org.uk)

**Contact:** Sarah Foxall

**Tuesday****Book Club – Short Stories**

West Overton

1st of month 14.00 – 16.00

This group discusses short stories generally using one book of a variety of short stories. After more than two years using "That Glimpse of Truth, we are now agreeing on a new easy source of short stories and welcome new members and new ideas. Our meetings are informal, enjoyable and relaxed in the leader's or a member's home. We consider the author's overall body of work and the specific short story learning about writing techniques and why short stories are so special.

**Email:** [book.short@u3ainkennet.org.uk](mailto:book.short@u3ainkennet.org.uk)

**Contact:** AnnMarie Newbigin

**Thursday****Book Group**

Marlborough

Thursday 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.

**Email:** [books.marl@u3ainkennet.org.uk](mailto:books.marl@u3ainkennet.org.uk)

**Contact:** Alison Hammond

**Friday****Bowls (Short Mat)**

Leisure Centre Marlborough

(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.

**Email:** [short.mat@u3ainkennet.org.uk](mailto:short.mat@u3ainkennet.org.uk)

**Contact:** John Lafford

**Sat / Mon****Bridge (Online)****Zoom**

Zoom

Saturdays and Mondays

We play on-line bridge using BridgeBase and Zoom which gives interesting hands and the ability to communicate via Zoom. All ability levels are welcome and a crib sheet is available to assist with bidding. You do not have to worry if you don't have a partner to play. One will be provided.

**Email:** [bridge3@u3ainkennet.org.uk](mailto:bridge3@u3ainkennet.org.uk)

**Contact:** Cate Mitchell

**To be decided****Bridge 1**

To be advised

A new group will be established early in 2022. Meetings will be held in a local hall. This will replace the previous Bridge and Bridge 2 Groups.

**Email:** [bridge1@u3ainkennet.org.uk](mailto:bridge1@u3ainkennet.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.

**Email:** [class.cars@u3ainkennet.org.uk](mailto:class.cars@u3ainkennet.org.uk)

**Contact:** Ashley de Safrin

**Thursday****Controversial Current Affairs**

Axford

Last of month 14.00 – 16.00

We are a group with strong opinions who take an interest in what's going on in the world. We're not afraid to be politically incorrect and say what we think and enjoy a lively discussion on any topic of the day. We limit ourselves to twelve people so that everyone has a chance to speak and to avoid the interaction becoming a presentation from one person. Unlike other Controversial Discussion groups, we do not generally discuss philosophical questions. Once a year we have a lunch at Christmas – if we're all still talking, that is!

**Email:** [cont.disc.2@u3ainkennet.org.uk](mailto:cont.disc.2@u3ainkennet.org.uk)

**Contact:** Nick Swan

**Monday****Controversial Discussion 1****Zoom**

Ogbourne St George

2nd of month 10.30 – 12.30

We discuss a wide range of subjects which are 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 come forward with 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.

**Email:** [cont.disc.1@u3ainkennet.org.uk](mailto:cont.disc.1@u3ainkennet.org.uk)

**Contact:** Miles Howarth

**Thursday****Controversial Discussion 3**

Members' Homes

2nd of month 10.30 – 12.30

We meet most months in or around Marlborough often in members' homes for two hours (10.30 am–12.30pm). 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.

**Email:** [cont.disc.3@u3ainkennet.org.uk](mailto:cont.disc.3@u3ainkennet.org.uk)

**Contact:** Dan Mace

**Wednesday**

**Controversial Discussion 4**

**Zoom**

Members' Homes

1st of month 14.00 - 16.00

We meet in members' homes. We discuss a wide range of subjects chosen & introduced by group members. Depending on the topic, some research may be helpful. We usually have fun, while respecting everyone's view. Sometimes we agree, but not always!

**Email:** [cont.disc.4@u3ainkennet.org.uk](mailto: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 U.S. election and Chinese territorial expansion. New members are always welcome and contributions are encouraged. No particular knowledge is required other than an interest in current affairs.

**Email:** [current@u3ainkennet.org.uk](mailto:current@u3ainkennet.org.uk)

**Contact:** Michael Hart Jill Turner

**Monday**

**Cycling**

Varies

1st & 3rd of month 10.00

Fed up with cleaning muddy boots and scrambling over stiles? Want some exercise in the open air in the beautiful local countryside? Haven't cycled for years but still remember how you enjoyed it? Then why not join us? We usually cycle around 20 - 25 miles at a leisurely pace mostly on quiet lanes and cycle paths, and we always stop for coffee and cake at some point on the route. We also have occasional whole day rides when we stop for lunch and cover up to 40 miles. We are a very friendly mixed group with currently 27 members on the books.

**Email:** [cycling@u3ainkennet.org.uk](mailto: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. By joining this group you are under no obligation to join trips, but it does ensure you are first to hear about them.

**Email:** [daytrip@u3aikkennet.org.uk](mailto:daytrip@u3aikkennet.org.uk)

**Contact:** Jeff Bamforth Sally Bruce Laura Fowler Miranda Gilmour

## Friday

### Digital Photography

Mildenhall Village Hall

1st of the month 10.00–12.00

We are a friendly group owning a variety of camera types. We either go on a photo shoot or set ourselves a topic and individually take photos. At the monthly meetings we view the results, some of us put these photos onto our site on Flickr which can be viewed using a link from the u3a in Kennet website. We aim to get more from our cameras by helping each other, watching teaching videos and general discussion

**Email:** [digi.phot@u3aikkennet.org.uk](mailto:digi.phot@u3aikkennet.org.uk)

**Contact:** Brian Wood

## Tuesday

### Dog Walking

Varies

2nd & 4th of month 10.30 - 12.30

The walks take place in many different areas with members of the group volunteering to lead. Steep hills and farming stock are avoided! Details of the meeting place and a short precis of the walk are communicated to members by e-mail. It is hoped that those intending to walk notify the walk leader in advance.

**Email:** [dog.walks@u3aikkennet.org.uk](mailto:dog.walks@u3aikkennet.org.uk)

**Contact:** Barbara Davis

**Wednesday****Exploring English**

Members' Homes

Wednesday 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.

**Email:** [exp.english@u3ainkennet.org.uk](mailto:exp.english@u3ainkennet.org.uk)

**Contact:** Juliet Keel

**Tuesday****Flora & Fauna**

Varies

2nd of month 14.15 – 16.15

The group meets monthly February – November at various sites suggested by members. The aim is to learn about the local flora and fauna, with group members identifying and recording our observations. Members share knowledge and expertise as well as photos, between meetings. Lists can be found on our webpage.

**Email:** [flora.fauna@u3ainkennet.org.uk](mailto:flora.fauna@u3ainkennet.org.uk)

**Contact:** Betty Dobson

**Thursday****French Lang & Current Affairs****Zoom**

Marlborough

2nd &amp; 4th of the month 14.15 – 16.15

This is a lively and engaging conversation group intended for participants 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](mailto:french.lang@u3ainkennet.org.uk)

**Contact:** Anne Norman

**Monday****German (Advanced)****WhyPay**

Conference Call

2nd of month 14.15 - 16.00

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! The group has a few places available.

**Email:** [german.adv@u3ainkennet.org.uk](mailto:german.adv@u3ainkennet.org.uk)

**Contact:** Michael Hart

**Thursday****German Beginners****Zoom**

Conference Call

Fortnightly 17.00

This is a new group for people who would like the challenge of learning to speak German. Between lessons, individual daily work on eg Duolingo is strongly advised to develop and reinforce language skills. .

**Email:** [german.beg@u3ainkennet.org.uk](mailto:german.beg@u3ainkennet.org.uk)

**Contact:** Karen Smith

**Wednesday****German Conversation****Zoom**

Members' Homes

1st of month 10.30 - 12.00

This group is for people with some knowledge of German who would like to talk German more easily, without being too concerned about the technicalities of the grammar. A sense of humour is an advantage. We meet weekly on Zoom and at a member's house once a month.

**Email:** [german.talk@u3ainkennet.org.uk](mailto:german.talk@u3ainkennet.org.uk)

**Contact:** Bill Buxton



**Tuesday****History (Local)**

Members' Homes

1st of month 14.30 – 16.30

We are interested in learning more about the fascinating and extensive history of Marlborough and its local area. All are welcome whether you have little knowledge of the history of this area or know a great deal and would like to pass your knowledge onto others. The group's programme comprises a mixture of talks and visits to places of historic interest. A truly diverse range of topics are covered from pre-history to the present day. There is always something new to discover.

**Email:** [loc.hist@u3ainkennet.org.uk](mailto: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 aspects of English history including politics and society including the constitution, the legal system and social policy. From September 2021 we are focussing on British Prime Ministers from Clement Atlee to Boris Johnson. Previous topics have included 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.

**Email:** [history1@u3ainkennet.org.uk](mailto: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 is looking at key themes in European history. It has explored Wars and Peace Treaties 1500–2000, European empires and civilisations including the Greeks, Romans, Byzantines and the Ottomans and is moving on to consider political and cultural aspects of other major European powers such as Spain and why some nation states fail.

**Email:** [history2@u3ainkennet.org.uk](mailto:history2@u3ainkennet.org.uk)

**Contact:** Michael Hart Jill Turner

**Wednesday****Human Science****Zoom**

Friends Meeting House

3rd of month 10.00 – 12.00

The aim of this group is to learn about and discuss major aspects of human physiology, psychology and health. The group is currently organised by Graham Barnes with an emphasis on neuroscience. Basic mechanisms underlying aspects of everyday living, such as sensory processing and the control of actions, are discussed, along with a flavour of the problems that occur when things go wrong.

**Email:** [humansci@u3aikkennet.org.uk](mailto:humansci@u3aikkennet.org.uk)**Contact:** *Graham Barnes***Tuesday****Italian Conversation****Zoom**

Marlborough

Alternate Tuesdays 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.

**Email:** [italian1@u3aikkennet.org.uk](mailto:italian1@u3aikkennet.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 just come and 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 – all this plus tea and biscuits! We hope in the future to add the possibility of outings to jazz venues, concerts & festivals to our core activities.

**Email:** [jazz@u3aikkennet.org.uk](mailto:jazz@u3aikkennet.org.uk)**Contact:** *Roy Oakshott*

## Wednesday

### Mahjong 1

Burbage

Weekly 14.00 - 16.30

Mahjong is a Chinese game originally, now played all over the world. It is similar to many card games but played with pretty tiles. It is very easy to learn and extremely enjoyable. We are a small friendly group who meet to play. Few of us had heard of the game before joining! Beginners welcome, or anyone who played "years ago" and wishes to re-learn. Come along and try just to see if you like it !

**Email:** [mahjong1@u3ainkennet.org.uk](mailto: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. Please contact Roland Fisher to discuss the possibility of joining the group.

**Email:** [mahjong3@u3ainkennet.org.uk](mailto:mahjong3@u3ainkennet.org.uk)

**Contact:** Roland Fisher

## Tuesday

### Music Maestros

Members' Homes

2nd of month 14.15 - 16.15

The group will meet once a month at the leader's home to listen and discuss the music of selected composers presented to them as previously agreed and supported by tea/coffee and biscuits.

**Email:** [groups@u3ainkennet.org.uk](mailto:groups@u3ainkennet.org.uk)

**Contact:** Jeff Hide

**Wednesday****Pétanque**

Great Bedwyn

Alternate Wednesdays 10.30 – 13.00

Pétanque, also called Boules, is an outdoor game where players toss boules (metal balls the size of an orange) as close as possible to a little wooden sphere (the jack). Play can be between individuals or teams. The game is played on a terrain or 'piste' that has a hard but rough surface. For more detailed information refer to <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Petanque> on the internet. It is easy to play and will benefit hand/eye co-ordination, general fitness and most importantly in our case, social contact. There is no charge involved but participants are expected to provide their own boules.

**Email:** [petanque@u3ainkennet.org.uk](mailto:petanque@u3ainkennet.org.uk)**Contact:** Des Clarke**Thursday****Philosophical Discussion****Zoom**

Zoom

4th of month 18.00 – 19.30

Drawing upon the big ideas of great thinkers, ancient and modern, we take on the big questions about the nature of life and existence, in search of answers to the problems confronting our world today. So, not lacking ambition, we enjoy lively debate, sharing our personal views on topics. This is definitely not an academic group and no heavy homework is necessary to join in, though Wikipedia is very helpful!

**Email:** [philosophy@u3ainkennet.org.uk](mailto:philosophy@u3ainkennet.org.uk)**Contact:** Angie Powney**Friday****Poetry Appreciation**

Various locations

1st of month 10.00 – 12.00

A small friendly group welcoming new members who enjoy reading, sharing and discussing poetry. We touch upon a wide range of eras and genres depending upon the various choices made by members. Some enjoy taking the lead in selecting the poems and poets and leading discussions 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.

**Email:** [poetry@u3ainkennet.org.uk](mailto:poetry@u3ainkennet.org.uk)**Contact:** Mary Caudell

**Thursday****Quiz****Zoom**

Zoom

1st of month 14.30–16.30

We meet once (sometimes 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](mailto:quizzing@u3ainkennet.org.uk)

**Contact:** Mike Morison Tom Horwitz

**Really Usefuls**

As required

The Really Useful Group has been set up to help and support u3a members who have difficulty getting to group meetings, monthly meetings and other activities. The volunteers aim to provide their services to help them to participate 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 small list of volunteers. Please contact us if you would like to be involved.

**Email:** [usefuls@u3ainkennet.org.uk](mailto:usefuls@u3ainkennet.org.uk)

**Contact:** Jan Lillywhite

**Wednesday****Science Tech Eng & Maths****Zoom**

Zoom

2nd of month 14.00 – 16.00

Absolutely no previous knowledge of, or qualifications in, science, technology, engineering or mathematics is needed to join our group, just an interest in the way the world and the universe works. We have monthly self-prepared presentations on a wide variety of subjects, sometimes given by outside speakers. We also have visits to places like observatories, museums, laboratories and factories. More details at [www.u3ainkennet.org.uk/science-engineering-and-technology-group/](http://www.u3ainkennet.org.uk/science-engineering-and-technology-group/).

**Email:** [stem@u3ainkennet.org.uk](mailto:stem@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.

**Email:** [scrabble@u3ainkennet.org.uk](mailto:scrabble@u3ainkennet.org.uk)

**Contact:** Ashley de Safrin

**Monday****Spanish 1**

Friends Meeting House

1st &amp; 3rd of month 10.30 – 12.30

The morning is divided into two sessions: 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: Favourite Cities and the History of Fingal's Cave. We have also read part of Federico Garcia Lorca's Yerma which was something of a challenge! 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](mailto:espana.1@u3ainkennet.org.uk)

**Contact:** Sarah Foxall

**Tuesday****Spanish 2**

Eating place in Marlborough

1st &amp; 3rd of month 10.30 – 12.30

We now well established as a group of Spanish Improvers and is open to new members. 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, Read & Think Spanish or Spanish Short Stories are completed. The two-hour programme concludes with a session about Spanish verbs.

**Email:** [espana.2@u3ainkennet.org.uk](mailto:espana.2@u3ainkennet.org.uk)

**Contact:** Patrick Mason

**Tuesday****Spanish for Self Starters**

Members' Homes

2nd &amp; 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.

**Email:** [espana.ss@u3aikkennet.org.uk](mailto:espana.ss@u3aikkennet.org.uk)

**Contact:** Lorenza Johnston David Leighton

**Wednesday****Table Talk Luncheon**

Eating place in Marlborough

2nd of month 12.15 – 14.00 approx.

We are currently meeting for lunch at The Roebuck in London Road on the second Wednesday of each month. Cost is dependent on how much you eat and drink. We are a very informal group and our aim is to discuss any item of interest or concern and if we prove to be 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 without falling into general chatter. We are a friendly group and are an ideal group to join, especially if you are new to the area.

**Email:** [table.talk@u3aikkennet.org.uk](mailto:table.talk@u3aikkennet.org.uk)

**Contact:** Cate Mitchell

**Friday****Table Tennis (Advanced)**

Leisure Centre Marlborough

Weekly 11.00 – 12.00

The group aims to provide an opportunity to play more competitive table tennis. Depending on numbers we should have a mixture of singles and doubles games. There is a small charge to cover hire cost. Balls are provided, but members should bring their own bats. We do not meet during school holidays as the hall is taken up by children's clubs.

**Email:** [tabtenfri@u3aikkennet.org.uk](mailto:tabtenfri@u3aikkennet.org.uk)

**Contact:** David Radford

**Wednesday****Table Tennis 1**

Leisure Centre Marlborough

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.

**Email:** [tabtenwed@u3ainkennet.org.uk](mailto:tabtenwed@u3ainkennet.org.uk)

**Contact:** 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.

**Email:** [tabtenth@u3ainkennet.org.uk](mailto:tabtenth@u3ainkennet.org.uk)

**Contact:** Simon Caudell

**Varies****Theatre**

Coach to various theatres

Varies, 2 or more per year

We aim to see four productions a year – a very varied selection which we hope will suit our members. After months without live theatre October saw us at the Salisbury Playhouse for The Lemon Table. We always book a matinee which allows us time to look around the town and have lunch before a performance. Trips for 2022 are currently being planned. Join our membership list to get the news first about proposed visits.

**Email:** [theatre@u3ainkennet.org.uk](mailto:theatre@u3ainkennet.org.uk)

**Contact:** Sarah Foxall Jenny Oakshott



## Varies

### 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 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 email Anne to be added to the mailing list.

**Email:** [travel@u3ainkennet.org.uk](mailto:travel@u3ainkennet.org.uk)

**Contact:** Anne Carroll

## Monday

### Walking 1 (Monday)

Varies

Weekly 10.30

As a group, we aim to provide a congenial weekly walk of 4 to 5 miles for about 2 hours. Group members take turns leading the walks. Afterwards, walkers may choose to lunch at a nearby venue. A programme of walks is distributed to group members by email and published on our webpage. Dogs are not permitted on our walks.

**Email:** [mon.walk@u3ainkennet.org.uk](mailto:mon.walk@u3ainkennet.org.uk)

**Contact:** Betty Dobson Dawn Twelftree

## Thursday

### Walking 2 (Thursday)

Varies

Weekly 10.00

Programmes of walks of around six or seven miles are organised in advance and published on the website as well as distributed to members. Our walks are proposed by volunteers willing to lead a walk and a programme with descriptions of the routes and details of meeting points is sent to members by e-mail by the Group Leader, usually with a few days to two weeks notice (as well as posted on the website). Proper walking footwear is essential and clothing appropriate for the weather should be worn and/or carried, as well as any medication possibly needed. Dogs are not permitted.. Plans may change at the last minute.

**Email:** [thu.walk@u3ainkennet.org.uk](mailto:thu.walk@u3ainkennet.org.uk)

**Contact:** Gerald Long

**Tuesday****Walking 3 (Strollers)**

Varies

1st &amp; 3rd of month 11.00

Walks are planned to last about one and a half hours (two and a half miles – maximum of three miles). See the u3a website for the current programme. Group members are expected to plan and lead the walks in a rough rota. Dogs are not permitted. Usually the Walk Leader arranges lunch at a pub at the end of the walk for those who wish. Most Group members receive a detailed programme by email. Those wanting the programme by post are expected to pay the postage. Members are entitled to participate in other Walking Groups.

**Email:** [strollers@u3ainkennet.org.uk](mailto:strollers@u3ainkennet.org.uk)

**Contact:** Marion Oatley

**Tuesday****Walking 4 (Striders)**

Varies

2nd &amp; 4th of month 10.00

The Striders group is what it says. The object of each walk is to cover around 10 – 12 miles through interesting and beautiful countryside at a sensible distance-walking pace. The aim is to enjoy the walking, the distance, the situation and the conversation. If there is no conversation, we're going too fast! Walkers are expected to take drinks, packed lunches, and be suitably equipped re waterproofs, spare sweaters and any anticipated medications. The current programme can be viewed on the web site, alternatively anyone wanting a programme please contact the Group Leader. Dogs are not permitted on our walks.

**Email:** [striders@u3ainkennet.org.uk](mailto:striders@u3ainkennet.org.uk)

**Contact:** John Williams

**Thursday****Wine Appreciation**

Marlborough

4th of month 19.30 – 21.30

If you enjoy a glass of wine and would like to extend your experience of tastes and your knowledge of types why not consider joining WAG? We meet once a month (except August and December) at the Rugby Club in Frees Avenue to sample and discuss around 6 wines. We compare grape varieties, countries and price ranges. Members present wines to illustrate their experience and share their knowledge. From time to time we have guest speakers from the wine trade. There is no subscription but there is a charge to cover the costs of each enjoyable and entertaining evening.

**Email:** [wag@u3ainkennet.org.uk](mailto:wag@u3ainkennet.org.uk)

**Contact:** Gordon Hutt

## Group Activities



Cycling Group 30<sup>th</sup> March 2021



Walking Group Picnic 6<sup>th</sup> September 2021



Vineyard Visit 16<sup>th</sup> September 2021

# Special Interest Day: 20<sup>th</sup> September 2021 Climate Change and Sustainable Futures



David Hammond

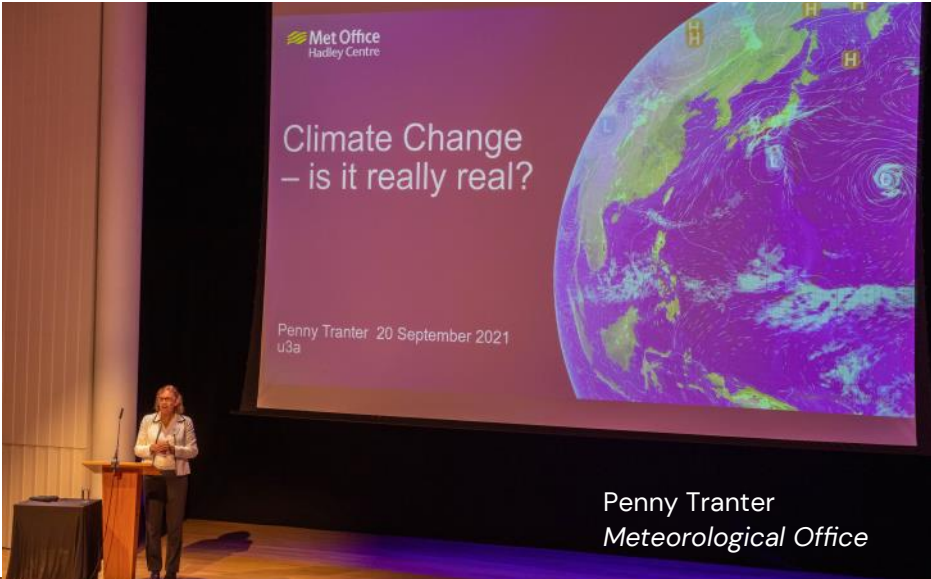
Penny Tranter

Jill Turner

Louise Moelwyn Hughes

Graham Barnes





Penny Tranter  
Meteorological Office



Chris Warrick  
UKAEA Culham



## **u3a in Kennet Resources**

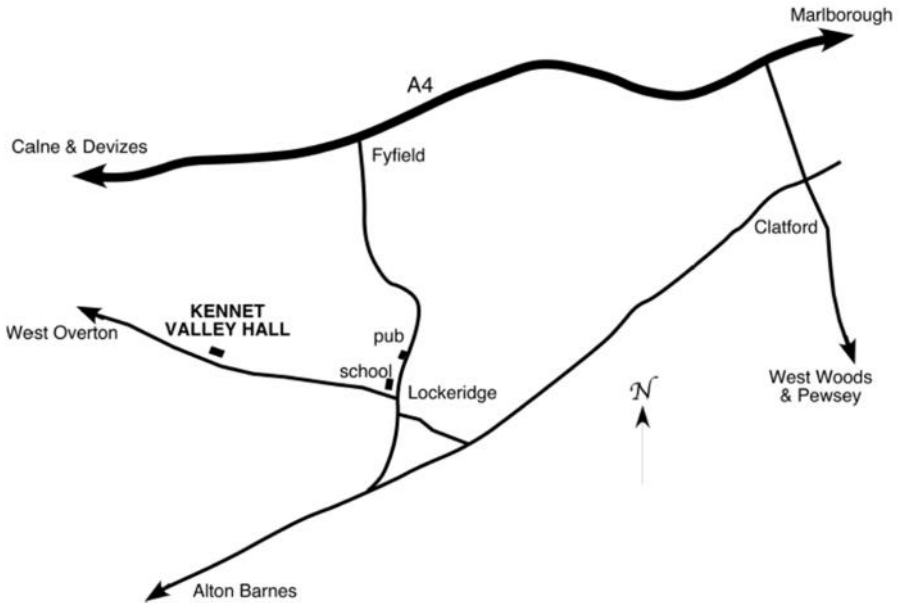
To support groups we have: digital projector, projection screen, laptop, display boards and guillotine. Also available is a list of available meeting venues in Marlborough. Just contact the Groups Coordinator.

## **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 20p 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!

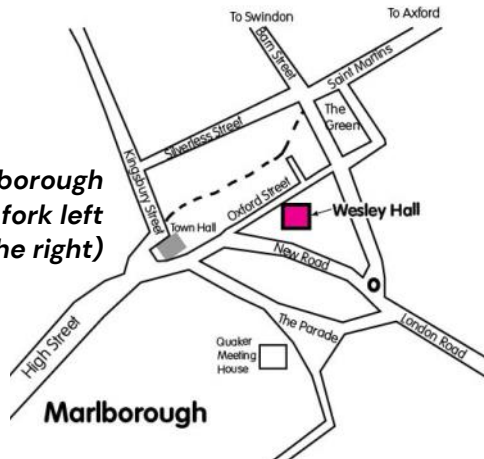
If you represent u3a in Kennet at a regional or national event then the standard business mileage rate applies. This, or public transport fares, will be reimbursed by the Treasurer. For more guidance on what expenses can be claimed, please contact the Treasurer on [treasurer@u3ainkennet.org.uk](mailto:treasurer@u3ainkennet.org.uk).

## 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)**





Printed and distributed by  
Abacus Data and Mailing Ltd  
Unit 9C, Britannia Estates,  
Leagrave Road, Luton, Bedfordshire LU3 1RJ

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