

# Newsletter

## July 2022

### Common News

**Kennet u3a Talk:** We are delighted that Sir Muir Gray, CBE will present our Kennet Talk on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> July 2022. He is the Director of the Optimal Ageing Programme for Living Longer Better and a senior and well respected national figure in public health [wikipedia.org/wiki/Muir\\_Gray](https://wikipedia.org/wiki/Muir_Gray). Sir Muir has recognised the contribution of the u3a movement to sharing knowledge and will be joining us this year to talk about *"How to increase your brain ability and reduce the risk of dementia"*. He, himself, will probably be on Zoom because he will be out of the country, but it would be good for us to gather together, as usual, in the Kennet Hall. Those who cannot manage this can take part on Zoom.



In advance of the Talk he has invited up to 30 volunteers from u3a in Kennet to assist him by commenting on his new educational materials (the Optimal Ageing Programme) which is being developed to share the learning about keeping well. In return for your assistance he is offering a free copy of one of his books; (either 'Sod 70!' or 'Increase your Brainability and Reduce your Risk of Dementia'). A few places are still available and if you are interested to participate please email Jill Turner on [vicechair@u3ainkennet.org.uk](mailto:vicechair@u3ainkennet.org.uk) as soon as possible indicating which book you would prefer along with your home address

**July Coffee Exchange:** The next session is on the 28<sup>th</sup> July, starting at 10:45am at the Wesley Hall and on Zoom. The talk will be given by John Osborne, entitled, "Historic Buildings? Do Not Miss This Local Church". Many of you will know John from the Marlborough Summer School.

# u3a in Kennet

Planned Events – details in  
main text

20<sup>th</sup> July: Kennet u3a Talk  
At Kennet Hall  
and on-line using Zoom

28<sup>th</sup> July at 10:45am:  
Coffee Exchange:  
At Wesley Hall  
and on-line using Zoom

14<sup>th</sup> September: u3a Day

19<sup>th</sup> September:  
Special Interest Day

26<sup>th</sup> October: AGM

Here are the links to our web  
page [u3ainkennet.org.uk](https://u3ainkennet.org.uk) and  
Facebook page  
[www.facebook.com/u3ainkennet](https://www.facebook.com/u3ainkennet)

Please "control and click" on links  
to visit suggested webpages

**Special Interest Day:** It can now be confirmed that we will be holding another u3a Special Interest Day this September and are now accepting bookings. It is expected that interest will be high, so please don't delay booking your place. We will open bookings for u3a participants from the rest of the Bath and Wiltshire Network in a week or so. The theme of the day will be "The Future of the Media" and follows the success of the 2021 event on Climate Change and Sustainable Futures. The 2022 event has again been organised by u3a in Kennet jointly with Marlborough College on behalf of the u3a Bath and Wiltshire Network. It will be an all-day event on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> September 2022 at Marlborough College, Bath Road, Marlborough, Wiltshire, SN8 1PA.

The topic influences all age groups and we will be supported by experts in various fields of the media. We will explore how our media is developing and how it might look in 2040. Recognising that the media has changed significantly over the last 20 years, we will consider topics including:

- How might the media landscape change over the next 20 years?
- What is the future of the press, journalism, broadcasting and social media?
- What are the key issues driving change and what will change mean for us and society?

You will have received by email already an outline description of the event and a Registration Form to be completed and returned along with the fee if you wish to attend. We are offering an "early bird" discount for bookings made before 10<sup>th</sup> August 2022. Attendance is for u3a members only – so if you have friends that would like to attend please encourage them to join u3a. Marlborough College is providing generous support and this has made it possible to keep the costs as low as possible. u3a in Kennet is grateful for positive engagement from Marlborough College and we plan for active student involvement on the day. If you have any queries please contact [sid2022@u3ainkennet.org.uk](mailto:sid2022@u3ainkennet.org.uk)

**U3a Day and 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of u3a in Kennet:** As part of the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary u3a Day this year will be Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> September. By chance it sits nicely too with the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of u3a in UK. There will be more about this next month.

**u3a in Kennet**  **MARLBOROUGH COLLEGE**

u3a members are invited to a one-day event at Marlborough College  
**19<sup>th</sup> September 2022 9.30am – 4.00pm Lunch included**

## The Future of the MEDIA

How might the media landscape change over the next 20 years?  
What is the future of the press, journalism, broadcasting and social media?  
Is truth dead? Are power and opinion king?

u3a members and students will participate in a thought-provoking event, supported by expert speakers and panellists, to consider and learn about questions that could affect us all including:

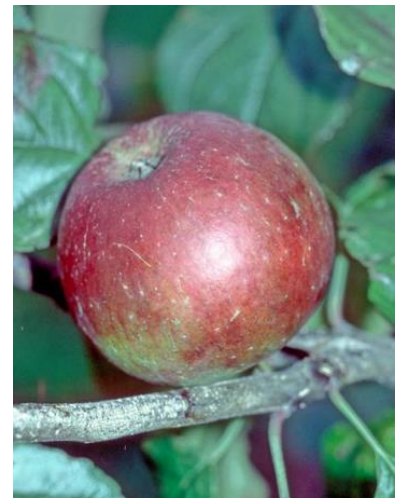
- To what extent might **social media platforms** support us or manipulate our opinions?
- To what extent will **media owners** or the **public** exert power?
- What sort of roles might **journalists** have in future?
- How will **freedom of speech** be balanced against harm to others?
- To what extent does the **internet** influence mental health?

Tickets: **£15** (including lunch) or **£8** (without lunch)  
Book by 10<sup>th</sup> August to get a **£3** discount.  
**£12** (including lunch) or **£5** (without lunch)

Contact [sid2022@u3ainkennet.org.uk](mailto:sid2022@u3ainkennet.org.uk) for more information and to book tickets

*Hamlet's father was murdered by pouring poison in his ear. His uncle, Claudius, then maintained his rule by pouring poison in the ears of the populace.  
Are we having poison poured in our ears and eyes?*

**Commemorative Tree Planting Update:** Linked to the above u3a in Kennet will plant a tree in 2022 to commemorate our 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary. The optimal time to plant trees is the autumn and plans are underway now with expert advice from the Marlborough Community Orchard. The tree will be planted in Jubilee Field, Manton behind the 'Oddfellows' public house where the Orchard has permission to plant another tree. We have chosen an old Wiltshire variety of apple tree known as 'Chorister Boy' which was developed initially in Salisbury and the purchase will be funded from our successful Special Interest Day on Climate Change in 2021. Planning for a short ceremony event associated with the tree planting will follow when the date has been confirmed. We of course already have a tree in the Marlborough Diamond Jubilee Plantation.



## Group News

**Aviation Group:** The Group's last meeting was held at the Friends' Meeting House, Marlborough at 1pm on Wednesday, 13th July. They met first at the Parade Cinema next door at 12 noon for a drink and a bite to eat. Peter Morgan gave the presentation about the Schneider Trophy. Peter is a former Fellow of the Institution of Mechanical Engineers and Rolls Royce graduate apprentice. He is a lifelong aviation enthusiast.



In 1912, and just 9 years after the Wright brothers first 100 yard hop in a powered aircraft, Jacques Schneider – a wealthy French industrialist – announced a competition for seaplanes. His dream was to encourage development of reliable commercial aircraft using the world's seas as airports. He put up a cash prize and a magnificent art-deco style trophy that had to be won three times before it could be claimed in perpetuity. The first event in 1913 was a largely innocent yet glamorous affair around the bay in Monte Carlo, but after it was reinstated following the Great War, the Schneider Trophy would emerge as the most intensely serious air race of all time. Attracting huge public attention, the competition became a showcase of speed, with government backed teams chasing national prestige at any cost. The events became spectacular displays by the fastest men on earth, in the most futuristic and exciting machines ever conceived. At the final 1931 event, run on a course laid out in the Solent, it

was estimated a crowd of over one million watched Britain claim victory. But the winning 400mph+ Supermarine racer would give Britain a much greater and priceless legacy in future years. Its brilliant designer Reginald Mitchell would go on to design the Spitfire – an aircraft that still draws our eyes to the sky today – our senses lured skywards by the unmistakable roar of its Schneider inspired Rolls Royce Merlin.





**Cycling Group:** On the 18th June 2012 three u3a members, namely Allan Skipper, Brian Davies and Ann Yates (seen at the front of the picture), met in Hilliers Car Park, Marlborough. This was the first meeting of the Cycle group. They rode through Manton and Lockeridge and down Knap Hill to Woodborough Garden Centre then returned the same way. On the 27th June 2022 twenty members of the group, from a membership of over 30, met to commemorate this 10 year anniversary and celebration event. They rode the same route and once again

had refreshments at Woodborough Garden Centre. Over the last ten years there has been on average two rides every month, across Wiltshire, Berkshire and Oxfordshire. The growth of the group has led to a new pattern of a short ride of up to 25 miles or a longer ride of 25 to 35 miles. The one common feature is almost always a coffee and cake break! They are now on with the second Group Leader and another change has been the growth in the use of electric bikes. What will happen in the next 10 years? Info to follow!

**Art and Art History Group:** It was the final meeting for Ken and Pam Baker at the July session serving as the Group Leaders. They have led the Group now for many years and are now standing down this month. Its planned that Yvonne Cunnane will take on the Group Leader role for the next 12 months. Thanks Ken and Pam for all the effort you put in, arranging the sessions and the presentations you both gave.



**Theatre Group:** There are still a few tickets remaining for the matinee performance of *The Two Popes* at the Everyman Theatre in Cheltenham on Thursday 6 October. Whilst October may seem some way in the future, the Theatre requires payment two months in advance. So if you are interested please get in touch for more information and a booking form. Travel is by coach and together with the theatre ticket the cost is £50 per person. Contact [theatre@u3ainkennet.org.uk](mailto:theatre@u3ainkennet.org.uk) or by telephone at 01793 731165 if interested.

**Recorder Ensemble Group:** It is proposed to start a recorder group in the u3a in Kennet, led by Harriet Oliver.

- She is an experienced teacher, conductor and performer. She has studied and worked with leading teachers and players from around the world.
- She regularly teaches a number of small ensembles and larger groups
- She runs weekly zoom sessions
- She is the chair of Guildford Society of Recorder Players and has recently conducted at the national Society of Recorder Players Festival

What can be included is:

- If you already play
- If you have played in the past and would like to play again
- If you have never played and would like to learn come along and enjoy making music together.

There are recorders available for loan (from descant to bass) if you would like to try before you buy one (or two). Harriet can advise on which type of recorder to purchase: descant or treble, tenor or bass, plastic or wood, new or second hand. All music is provided.

She is available on Monday mornings, Tuesday and Friday mornings and afternoons and can accommodate up to 8 players at her home for a session. For a larger group, a hall would be required. She can offer flexible sessions to accommodate players of differing levels, including Beginners, Easy Ensemble, Intermediate Ensemble and Advanced Ensemble. A session would be of 90 minutes. If you want to know more please contact the Jeff Hide, the Groups' Coordinator

## More News

**Marlborough College Concert Series:** The 2022/23 performances by world class musicians start at the College in September, through to March. Find out more at [marlboroughconcertseries.org](http://marlboroughconcertseries.org). Tickets are now on sale.



**New u3a in Kennet Members:** We welcome the following new members, who have joined u3a in Kennet since the list was published in June. There are now more than 600 members.

*Barbara Ryder, Richard Sadler, Elizabeth Greenwood*

## u3a in Kennet Committee



David Hammond



Jill Turner



Annette Weaver



Kieran Roughan



Mike Morison



Jan Lillywhite



John Martin



Jeff Hide



David Lacey



Tom Horwitz



Yvonne Cunnane

Chairman  
Charity Commission Contact & Vice Chair  
Hon Secretary  
Hon Treasurer  
Membership Secretary & Beacon Coordinator  
Social Events Coordinator  
Speaker Secretary  
Newsletter  
Website Editor  
Groups' Coordinator  
Publicity

David Hammond  
Jill Turner  
Annette Weaver  
Kieran Roughan  
Mike Morison  
Jan Lillywhite  
David Lacey  
John Martin  
Tom Horwitz  
Jeff Hide  
Yvonne Cunnane