

Newsletter

August 2022

Common News

August Coffee Exchange: The next session is on the 25th August, starting at 10:45am at Wesley Hall and on Zoom. The speaker will be Chloe Ayres talking about "Dressability". It is a friendly and welcoming independent charity which supports the clothing needs of individuals with disabilities and those with limited dexterity. This will be the last session at the Wesley Hall and looking ahead, the September session will be held at St Mary's Church Hall.



U3a Day and 30th Anniversary of u3a in Kennet: Plans for our celebration of u3a in Marlborough on 14th September 2022 are moving ahead. The purpose of holding this event is to increase awareness of u3a in the general public, demonstrate what we do and, in turn, help to recruit new members. Thank you to all those who have volunteered already to help with this. However, we still need more, in particular to man the exhibition and answer questions from members of the public. Let us know if you can be involved. We also need to ensure that word gets out. We will be printing some posters for the event (see attached) and need volunteers to get these posted on local noticeboards and anywhere else they will be seen.

We will be in the Town Hall in Marlborough between 10.00am and 3.00pm with an exhibition of our groups with display boards and posters. We will re-use many of the posters from last year with some new ones and some updated ones.

We will be celebrating our 30th Anniversary with a celebration cake which will be cut at around 10.30am. Come along and join the celebration! We need as many members as possible to come along and

u3a in Kennet

Planned Events – details in
main text

**25th August and 29th September
at 10:45am: Coffee Exchange:**

**1st September at 10am:
Executive Committee (on
Zoom)**

14th September: u3a Day

**19th September: Special Interest
Day**

**26th October: AGM and Kennet
Talk**

Here are the links to our web
page u3ainkennet.org.uk and
Facebook page
www.facebook.com/u3ainkennet

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

bring a neighbour or friend along. Personal contact is the best way to recruit – and this gives you an excuse to involve someone new in u3a.

Finally we will need a volunteer who is prepared to take photos of the event which we can use for subsequent publicity. If you can help with this or can support the day in any other way, please get in touch with Jeff Hide (groups@u3ainkennet.org.uk) as soon as possible.

As the national u3a Office says, *“This is an opportunity to celebrate our activities, our contribution to the local community, the innovative ways members had responded to the restrictions under lockdown and to share plans about the future delivery of our u3a programme. We believe this day can help to challenge negative perceptions of older adults and bring together everyone in the community to learn about the contribution u3a makes to the quality of life for older people.”*

Special Interest Day: Are you planning to come to our Special Interest Day on 19th September at Marlborough College on *“The Future of the Media”*? If you’ve not already done so, it’s time to book your place to. You can reserve your place by returning a completed Registration Form (which can be downloaded from our website at [booking-the-2022-special-interest-day](#)) with payment or by emailing your details to sid2022@u3ainkennet.org.uk. To help a poster for the event and a copy of the Registration form accompanies this Newsletter edition. We have received several requests asking if non-u3a members can attend this event. Clearly anyone can become a member. However, there may be some who don’t feel able to do this, so we are introducing a limited number of Friend Registrations. The charge will be £25 including lunch and £18 without lunch – still excellent value. A non-u3a member must be invited by a u3a member and must complete and return a Friend Registration form (available from [booking-the-2022-special-interest-day](#)) or provide the equivalent information by email. Only one “friend” per member.

Kennet u3a Talk: It was good to see an excellent turnout for the Kennet u3a July Talk to hear Sir Muir Gray on *“How to increase your brain ability and reduce the risk of dementia”*. A recording of the session is now available at [20th-july-2022-kennet-u3a-talk-presentation](#). You can read more about it in an article received from Jill Turner which is also sent along with this edition of the Newsletter.

July Coffee Exchange: John Osborne gave an excellent talk about many of the churches around and about Marlborough, starting in the Saxon period (before 1066) through to Perpendicular (mid 14th to early 16th centuries). If you missed the talk, you can see the recording at: [28th-july-coffee-exchange-presentation](#). Related to the talk, pictures of local churches taken by u3a member Ian Wyld can be seen at www.flickr.com/photos.



Membership Renewals: Thank you very much to all those who have already renewed their membership of the u3a in Kennet this year, especially if you included your membership number on your BACS payment which made life so much easier! We are well ahead of where we were this time last year which is a resounding vote of confidence in all that we do. For those who haven’t yet paid, and have not had a reminder earlier this month, and would like to have the renewal details, please contact the Membership Sec. asap at membershipsec@u3ainkennet.org.uk or give him a call on 01249 891093 and he will send them to you.

Volunteers needed for your committee: In October we need to elect a new Executive Committee. The Executive Committee supports and leads u3a in Kennet, managing its finances, ensuring it complies with the law and generally supporting its groups and members. Several current members will continue in post, but the terms of office for the Chairman, Vice Chairman and Social Secretary will come to an end this year. We also currently have several unfilled vacancies on the committee. We are particularly interested in hearing from members who have recently retired and who might be willing to consider joining the committee. The committee meets six times a year. If you enjoy organising social events or have skills in using social media, publicity or administration please get in touch. We are also interested in people who might be willing to “shadow” existing roles on the committee with a view to joining the committee later. So, if you have some relevant skills – or are just willing to help out – please let us know. If there is sufficient interest we may run a workshop when members who are interested can learn more about how the committee works and what is involved. Nominations for election to the Executive Committee need to be seconded by two members who are not currently on the committee and sent to the Secretary by 28th September 2022. Please contact David Hammond (chairman@u3ainkennet.org.uk) or Jill Turner (vicechair@u3ainkennet.org.uk) for more information.

Group News

New Groups: Interest groups come and go as required. In the past three years, in addition to Bridge, we have lost Build your own website, Card making, Computers, Cyber protection, Embroidery, Family History, Basic French, iPad beginners, Knitting & Crochet, Mac basics and users, Model making, Music appreciation, Patchwork & Quilting. We gained Life Sciences, Petanque, Quiz, and recently Mike Morison’s Aviation Group, going great guns after his talk at a Coffee Exchange. Then Cate Mitchell’s new Solo Cook Group, and the long-sought addition to our language groups. Ashley de Safrin’s French Conversation (Advanced) Group was formed after ideas which arose at a dining table during the last new members’ lunch at the Kennet Valley Hall. Dare I mention my own Music Maestros Group now in its fifth month. All is well.

Groups Gossip: It is wonderful that we have reached the August of 2022 and will have topped the 600 members mark with about 60 groups and 73 leaders. Why? Because we have wonderful members, wonderful group leaders and a wonderful executive committee. The latter is led by our wonderful chairman, David Hammond who we are losing at the end of his 3-year appointment in accordance with our Constitution. Likewise, following the rules, we have to lose our wonderful Jan Lillywhite, leader of our Really Usefuls Group which has provided refreshments at our coffee exchanges, talks at Kennet Valley Hall and at our celebrations in the Marlborough Town Hall. As indicated above it would be very helpful if a few of you wonderful members would take a turn in helping everyone by stepping up to help fill the shortages in the executive committee. We currently have ten and after the AGM on 6 October there will be only eight left – our Constitution requires 5–15 and we need at least 12. So, please help.

Music Maestros: When we started this group on 8 March 2022, we looked at early music. It takes place 2nd Tuesday afternoon each month. April was devoted to women Maestros, in May we looked at some specific musical instruments and in June we celebrated Her Majesty's long reign. July saw the creation of opera including a 'guest singer' and August tackled the rather heavy subject of musicology but then we considered two musical themes used by a number of composers other than the original. Our sessions include screen view and sound. So, six months into our novel group it is now time to look directly at Music Maestros over the accepted musical periods. There were an increasing number of composers as time went by and the world 'got smaller', communication got larger and people moved about more. To identify any individual as a Maestro as opposed to a popular one is not easy. One might say that there were only few of the greatest Maestros but that is a matter for individual opinion. What is clear is that the subject matter for this interest group is as large as life. There is room for a one or two more members if it interests you. Photo is of Henry Purcell 1659 - 1695



Bridge: A big thank you to Cate Mitchell who rescued Bridge from total disappearance when Covid struck by creating the Bridge (Online) Group which is still enjoyed by eleven members. Despite personal contacts with the members of the former Bridge 1 and Bridge 2 Groups, none wish to reform a face-to-face bridge group. So, this will disappear after the next AGM but I will keep a waiting list to restart one if enough enquiries are made.



Monday Walking Group: Here is a photo of some of the walkers braving the (nearly) hottest day ever around Marlborough, 18 July, deep in Savernake Forest. It was taken by Alison Joseph.

More News

Explore More of the North Wessex Downs: If you want to get outside in August but not really sure where to start take a look at some of the suggestions in 50 Things Not to Miss published by the North Wessex AOB. The better weather is the perfect opportunity to get up high and drink up some of the great views of the North Wessex Downs. Why not explore the [Pewsey Downs National Nature Reserve](#), [Liddington Hill](#) or [Fosbury Camp](#)? And if you've already visited Uffington White Horse perhaps now is the time to tick off some of the [Other Seven White](#)



[Horses](#). Click on blue links for more information.

New u3a in Kennet Members: We welcome the following new members, who have joined u3a in Kennet since the list was published in July.

Farida Sellal, Mary Clark, Gloria Crowther, Peter Crowther, Amanda Goatly, Susan Colson, Heather Moore, Catherine Hugill, Sylvia Smith, Kathryn Karstedt, Richard Bettinson, Maryann Bettinson, Elizabeth Nash.

u3a in Kennet Committee



David Hammond
Chairman



Jill Turner
*Vice Chair &
Charity Contact*



Annette Weaver
Hon Sec.



Kieran Roughan
Treasurer



Mike Morison
Membership



Jan Lillywhite
Social Events



John Martin
Newsletter



Jeff Hide
Groups



David Lacey
Speaker Sec.



Tom Horwitz
Website



Yvonne Cunnane
Publicity