



NOTICE OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

**on 26th October 2022 at 2.15 pm at Kennet Valley Hall,
Lockeridge, Wiltshire SN8 4EL**

NOTICE is hereby given that the THIRTIETH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of the UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE IN KENNET (WILTSHIRE) CHARITY NO. 1028680 will be held on WEDNESDAY 26th OCTOBER 2022 at 2.15 pm at the Kennet Valley Hall Lockeridge and on Zoom and telephone access (*access instructions will be issued before the meeting*) for the transaction of the following business:

AGENDA:

1. Chairman's Welcome and apologies for absence
2. Approve the Minutes of the AGM, October 2021
3. Matters arising from the previous Meeting
4. Chairman's Report
5. Trustees' Report
6. Treasurer's Report and Accounts
7. Appointment of Examiner of Accounts for 2022/23
8. Election of Officers (Chairman and Vice Chairman) and up to 8 Committee Members to the Executive Committee:

If you wish to nominate a candidate for election, please use the attached Nomination Form which requires the agreement of the candidate and two nominees (who cannot be current members of the Executive Committee)

If you are unable to attend the AGM by any means and wish to vote in the Election, you may nominate the Chairman as your Proxy voter. This means that you delegate all the voting decisions to the Chair. Please complete the attached Proxy voting Form to make your nomination.

Minutes of the 29th AGM held on 20th October 2021 at 2.15pm

- 1. Chairman's welcome & apologies for absence**
2. The Chairman welcomed everyone (33 present and 45 on Zoom) and declared the meeting quorate. The new hybrid meeting system had been trialled at Coffee Exchanges and found to be effective. Voting would be by a show of hands, and by postal ballots for those unable to be present.

Apologies for absence had been received from 53 Members and voting papers had been received from 11 Members. The list of names is included with a copy of the AGM minutes with the full reports on our website at: <https://u3ainkennet.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/U3A-in-Kennet-AGM-minutes-20-10-2021.pdf>

2&3. Minutes of the AGM held on 21st October 2020 and the SGM held on 25th March 2021

The Minutes of the AGM and the SGM were approved by postal votes and a show of hands and there were no matters arising.

4. Chairman's Report

The Chairman's Report was published with the Draft Minutes on the u3a in Kennet website. The Chair referred in particular to the 12% loss of membership over the past year, due to a drop in recruitment and the inevitable limitations of the Covid situation. However, there are signs that we are again attracting interest. He gave particular thanks to the Group leaders for their continuing hard work in the face of difficult circumstances, and to the Committee.

5. Trustees' Report

The Trustees' Report was published with the Draft Minutes on the u3a in Kennet website. Acceptance was proposed by Chris Gamblin and seconded by AnnMarie Newbigin. The membership gave their approval by postal votes and a show of hands.

6. Treasurer's Report and Accounts

The Treasurer's Report was published with the Draft Minutes on the u3a in Kennet website. It was noted that subscriptions were down by 17%, partly because those who joined between February and July were given free membership for 2020-21 due to the reduction in face-to-face meetings. However, expenditure had been significantly reduced.

Acceptance was proposed by Allan Skipper and seconded by David Lacey. The membership gave their approval by postal votes and a show of hands.

7. Appointment of Examiner of Accounts for 2021/22

A motion was proposed by Mike Morison to appoint David Hargrave as Examiner of Accounts for 2021/2. This was seconded by Christine Skipper and the membership gave their approval by postal votes and a show of hands.

Resolution: To replace the u3a in Kennet Constitution (March 2021) with the new National Model Constitution with the amendment approved by the u3a Trust (Background notes attached the Draft Minutes on the u3a in Kennet website)

After the adoption by u3a in Kennet in March 2021 of a revised Constitution, a new National Model Constitution which supersedes it was recommended to u3as for adoption by the u3a Trust. The resolution was proposed by Dan Mace and seconded by Cate Mitchell. The membership gave their approval by postal votes and a show of hands.

8. Election of Officers and Committee Members to the Executive Committee

The Chair thanked Chris Webb, who has stood down as Speaker Secretary. The following Candidates were elected by postal votes and a show of hands:

Candidate	Proposed by Seconded by Committee position		
John Martin	Peter Ridal	Brian Davies	Newsletter Editor
David Lacey	Robert Todd	Marion Oatley	Speaker Secretary

9. AOB

There being no further business the Meeting was closed and was followed by a very interesting talk by Professor Andy Kempe on *Greenham Common on the 40th Anniversary of the Women's Peace Camp*.

Chairman's Report

At the end of my term as Chairman, I can look back on three very eventful years.

The Covid-19 pandemic started shortly after I became Chairman and resulted in the cancellation of one of our New Members' lunches and the deferral of our first Special Interest Day on *Climate Change and Sustainable Futures*. Lockdowns prevented our face-to-face meetings happening.

However, thanks to fantastic efforts by our committee and Group Leaders and many members, we are now back operating even more effectively than before. We have learned to use on-line tools such as Zoom and discovered that they can be helpful all the time, rather than just when required. We have hybrid meetings, which can be recorded, and some groups have continued meeting on-line even

though face-to-face meetings are now possible. We are recruiting new members and starting new groups.

I would like to thank my fellow committee members for all their contributions to our success.

- **Jill Turner** for supporting me and making sure we do everything we have to as a charity
- **Annette Weaver** for organising our Executive Committee meetings and much else
- **Kiaran Roughan** for coming to terms with our surprisingly complex accounts and keeping everyone in line with a quiet efficiency
- **Mike Morison** for maintaining our membership records, making sure we have the lists to claim Gift Aid back from the government and also for supporting our Group Leaders to use and benefit from our Membership Management System, Beacon
- **John Martin** for keeping all our members informed about what's happening with the monthly Newsletter
- **Jeff Hide** for organising our groups, supporting our Group Leaders, helping to start new groups and acting as our "quartermaster" for events and the logistics that go with them
- **Tom Horwitz** for maintaining our website and also learning about Zoom and enabling our hybrid meetings to take place
- **David Lacey**, who joined the committee last year, for setting up a comprehensive set of speakers for our Kennet u3a Talks and our Coffee Exchange meetings
- And finally to **Jan Lillywhite** who is standing down this year, for making sure that we never miss our refreshments at our regular meetings and also taking on the organisation of our very successful New Members' lunches.

We have become more resilient and able to cope with change. We have just deferred our **u3a Day** celebration of our 30th Anniversary and the movement's 40th anniversary and our **Special Interest Day** on *The Future of the Media* following the death of HM Queen Elizabeth II. I am confident that the rescheduled u3a Day in November and the Special Interest Day next spring will be resounding successes.

As I said in my report last year, I would like to encourage all members – especially those who have only recently retired – to think about joining the committee. There are lots of interesting roles and being a Trustee of u3a in Kennet in a way to share valuable experiences and help to build for the future. I would also encourage everyone to think about helping to lead the groups you are already in, or starting a new group. It can be great fun.

David Hammond
Chairman u3a in Kennet

Trustees' Report

UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE IN KENNET (WILTSHIRE) KNOWN AS "U3A IN KENNET"
(REGISTERED CHARITY NO. 1028680)

REPORT FOR YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2022

The u3a movement aims to provide 'public benefit' and the charitable purpose of u3a in Kennet is:

'The advancement of education and, in particular the education of older people and those who are retired from full time work by all means, including associated activities conducive to learning and personal development, in Marlborough and its surrounding locality'

thereby reflecting the Third Age Principles of membership, self-help learning and mutual aid.

1. 2021-22: continuation of the Covid-19 pandemic

The Covid-19 pandemic lockdowns and restrictions during 2020-21 continued to challenge the u3a movement which is predicated on groups of people meeting to learn and share knowledge and

experience.

Despite continuation of the pandemic restrictions, the u3a in Kennet Executive Committee and Group Leaders maintained an active presence. Innovative approaches for communication and dialogue to support public benefit through ongoing education and contact between members were developed whilst ensuring adherence to national government and u3a Trust requirements and guidance.

The use of the Zoom video conferencing facility had been developed during 2019 – 20 to facilitate continuation of activity for u3a in Kennet meetings and at individual group level. Further training and guidance were provided and the Zoom Pro licence was renewed to support the Kennet Talks and Coffee Exchange sessions. Use of the licence enabled up to 100 individuals to join each event, removed time limits and provided a dial-in facility for members who were unable or unwilling to participate online.

The system of 'email buddies' was maintained to ensure contact with the small percentage of members without access to the internet.

As circumstances and regulations changed the Executive Committee issued regular Covid updates to all members outlining the implications of the situation for u3a activities and promoting the ongoing activities.

2. u3a in Kennet – profile

3a) Membership

The membership of u3a in Kennet recovered during the year and by 31st July 2022 comprised:

- 606 Ordinary members, (568 on 31st July 2021)
- 2 Retired members

Total 608

Among the members who sadly died during the year were founder member Derek Robbins (membership number 001) and Rosemary Hawes (membership number 061)

3b) Groups – numbers / progress

The majority of the Interest Groups maintained cohesion throughout the Covid 19 pandemic adapting their meeting arrangements in line with the relevant guidance and legal impositions and by August 2022 only five groups had ceased to meet. Some such as the Walking Groups continued by following closely the prevailing rules. Others used Zoom or WHYPAY? conference call arrangements while some combined both approaches.

Inevitably continuation of the Covid 19 pandemic further accelerated some changes. Two Bridge groups were suspended when face-to-face meetings were prohibited prior to ceasing along with the 'Embroidery, Patchwork & Quilting' and basic French Groups. 'Looking at Other Countries' was renamed as 'Current Affairs'. The short course 'Discovering Neuroscience' was suspended due to the pandemic and was completed on zoom and the Human Science Group re-started after the Covid limitations and was renamed Life Science.

New groups emerged included Petanque, Quiz and an Aviation Group: the latter becoming even more popular after a presentation at the February 2022 Coffee Exchange. A new Group: the 'Solo Cook' Group met on two occasions and the long-sought addition to our language groups, a French Conversation (Advanced) Group was formed after ideas which arose during a discussion at the new members' lunch on 4th May 2022.

By the end of July 2022 the number of Groups had returned to 58:

- | | | |
|------------------------|--------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. American history | 21. Dog Walking | 41. Quiz |
| 2. Art and art history | 22. Exploring English | 42. Really Usefuls |
| 3. The Art Group | 23. Flora & Fauna | 43. Science Tech Eng & Maths |
| 4. Aviation | 24. French Conversation (Adv) | 44. Scrabble |
| 5. Backgammon | 25. French Lang & Curr Affairs | 45. Spanish 1 |
| 6. Bird watching | 26. German (Advanced) | 46. Spanish 2 |

7. Book circle	27. German Beginners	47. Spanish for Self Starters
8. Book Club – short stories	28. German Conversation	48. Table Talk Luncheon
9. Book Group	29. History (Local)	49. Table Tennis (Advanced)
10. Bowls (Short Mat) Oct–Apr	30. History 1 (English)	50. Table Tennis 1
11. Bridge (Online)	31. History 2 (European)	51. Table Tennis 2
12. Classic Cars	32. Italian Conversation	52. Theatre
13. Controversial Curr Affairs	33. Jazz Appreciation	53. Travel
14. Controversial Discussion	34. Life Sciences	54. Walking 1 (Monday)
15. Controversial Discussion 3	35. Mahjong 1	55. Walking 2 (Thursday)
16. Controversial Discussion 4	36. Mahjong 3	56. Walking 3 (Strollers)
17. Current Affairs	37. Music Maestros	57. Walking 4 (Striders)
18. Cycling	38. Pétanque	58. Wine Appreciation
19. Day Trips	39. Philosophical Discussion	
20. Digital Photography	40. Poetry Appreciation	

Occasionally, the loss of a group leader through house moves, disability or death have left a vacuum where no existing group member feels able to pick up the baton. Bridge was one such but an on-line Bridge group was formed and has proven to be a success. Music Appreciation was another case but after a one-year hiatus following the passing of the Group Leader a new 'Music Maestros' Group was established.

u3a in Kennet was represented at several events in Marlborough during the year further raising its profile in the local community. The Classic Car Group participated in the Queen's Platinum Jubilee celebrations in the town representing u3a in Kennet which had been appointed as responsible for the celebrations in the town on the Saturday of the bank holiday weekend. The group organised a cavalcade of classic cars in the morning and of motorcycles in the afternoon.

Several Groups including Bird watching, Flora and fauna and Local History contributed to the Wiltshire Wildlife Trust's Bay Meadows project providing expertise and research skills.

3c) **Programme of events**

The quarterly 'Kennet u3a Talks' continued as hybrid arrangements allowing people to meet again or to join on Zoom. The following topics were addressed:

20 th October 2021	Andy Kempe	Greenham Common on the 40 th anniversary of the women's peace camp
9 th February 2022	Dr Nicola Snashall	Avebury: the story so far
20 th April 2022	Ben Gallagher	Evolution or extinction, the future of the human race by looking to the past
20 th July 2022	Sir Muir Gray, CBE	Brainability and how to reduce the risk of dementia

The monthly hybrid 'Coffee Exchange' sessions continued during the year with face-to-face meetings in Wesley Hall and using zoom with a mix of u3a and local speakers providing a regular meeting opportunity for members and for disseminating u3a news. The sessions also enabled potential and new members to find out more about u3a in Kennet.

The diverse range of topics included:

- Water for the urban poor
- Savernake Forest
- Larkhill airfield
- Sea Scamp: a pre-war classic yacht
- The James Webb telescope
- Farming in 2022
- St Peter's Church Marlborough
- Another lively Christmas session led by Group's Coordinator Jeff Hide.

Two new members' lunches were held during the year following the enforced absence in 2021. The lunches are intended as a welcome for new members enabling them to meet with Group Leaders and

Executive Committee members and helping them to choose which groups to join.

3d) Governance, Trustees / Executive Committee membership / meetings

u3a in Kennet is led by an Executive Committee and governed by its Constitution which is based on the national model constitution and was adopted on 24th October 2018 and amended on 25th March 2021.

The Annual General Meeting was held on 20th October 2021 resulting in the re-election of John Martin, Newsletter Editor for a second three-year term of office. David Lacey was welcomed as a new Committee member and took up his position as the Speaker Secretary.

The full Committee is shown below:

Officers:

Chairman	David Hammond	
Vice Chairman	Jill Turner	Also Charity Commission contact
Treasurer	Kiaran Roughan	
Secretary	Annette Weaver	

Other Trustees:

Committee Member	Mike Morison	Membership Secretary and Beacon System Administrator
Committee Member	Jeff Hide	Groups Coordinator and Event Logistics
Committee Member	Jan Lillywhite	Social Secretary
Committee Member	John Martin	Publicity
Committee Member	Tom Horwitz	Website

The Executive Committee met using Zoom on five occasions at two monthly intervals during 2020-21. Sub Committees including those for 'Special Interest Day' and u3a Day also met as necessary during the year.

3d) 30th Anniversary of u3a in Kennet

2022 represents the 30th Anniversary of u3a in Kennet and plans were developed during the year for a commemorative tree planting event to be held in the autumn.

3. u3a Day – 3rd June

Following the first u3a Day on 3rd June 2021 the national u3a Trust revised the timing for a week of u3a promotional event delaying it to September 2022.

u3a in Kennet commenced planning for an all-day event in Marlborough to be held on 14th September 2022. The date was changed subsequently to 9th November 2022 following the death of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II and the period of national mourning. The event will be centred on the Town Hall aiming to increase the u3a profile in Marlborough and the surrounding area and will showcase u3a in Kennet activities including a poster exhibition in the Town Hall with light refreshments. Group members will be available to welcome visitors to the exhibition and to introduce their respective groups.

4. Research and education – Special Interest Day

The educational links with Marlborough College which had been fostered originally in 2018 continued with the development of a Special Interest Day on "Climate Change and Sustainable Futures". The theme had been proposed by u3a in Kennet as a topic of interest and relevance to all generations and was organised on behalf of the Bath and Wiltshire u3a Network. The event had been planned initially for 5th May 2020 but was postponed twice due to the pandemic and was held on 20th September 2021.

More than 100 u3a members attended the event along with College students sharing questions and discussion around a series of four sessions introduced by leading experts. U3a in Kennet led the planning and securing of speakers with generous support from the College including use of the Memorial Hall as the venue for the Day and subsidised refreshments.

Planning for a further event commenced in 2022 once again in collaboration with the College. The

agreed topic was 'The future of the media' noting that 2022 was the 100th anniversary of the BBC and the 200th anniversary of the Sunday Times. Following the death of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II the proposed date of 19th September 2022 was changed subsequently to the spring of 2023.

5. Communications: Newsletters, website and social media

Regular and effective communication with members was maintained during the pandemic lockdown period with the monthly newsletters (formerly the ebulletin), and the annual yearbook. The quarterly magazine had been phased out in the autumn of 2020 reflecting the increased size and profile of the newsletter.

The website was updated regularly with new events and information about group activities and members were informed on matters concerning the pandemic and local u3a activity. The system of email 'buddies' was maintained to ensure that those members without email were contacted too.

Further local publicity was secured with a link to u3a news in Marlborough News online.

6. Financial matters

7a) Income and expenditure

The final accounts for the financial year ending 31st July 2022 demonstrate a total general income for the u3a of £9,373.03 and a total expenditure of £9,956.16, resulting in an overspend for the year of £583.13.

Annual membership subscriptions were maintained at £12.00 per person with an initial joining fee of £3.00.

The Special Interest Day on "Climate Change and Sustainable Futures," was re-arranged from May 2020 to September 2021. A total of £3,050.00, was carried over from 2020-21 into the 2021-22 accounts. The net receipts from the event, taking account of expenses and refunds of fees (£1,146.56) and new ticket sales (£180) amounted to £1,903.44.

The u3a national office publicised their scheme to plant a 40th Anniversary Woodland in the Brecon Beacons to mark this significant milestone in u3a's existence in 2022 inviting all areas to subscribe. The Kennet Executive Committee agreed to support the scheme and purchased a copse of one hundred mixed deciduous trees along with a plaque at a total cost of £650 from the net receipts from the Special Interest Day on Climate Change.

The Groups' Account commenced the year with an opening balance of £3,266.33. A total of £13,243.19 was received during the year (including cash) with expenditure of £11,859.19, resulting in a closing bank balance of £4,389.43 along with £370.41 held by groups as cash.

The Accounts have been examined by Mr David Hargrave, an independent accountant who is not a member of u3a.

7b) Asset register

The u3a in Kennet asset register was checked and updated during the year. The total value of assets remains within the limits of the standard u3a Trust insurance policy.

7. Summary

Despite the challenges imposed by the Covid-19 pandemic, u3a in Kennet continued to function and developed its range of support for members during the year August 2021 – July 2022.

The Executive Committee thanks all Group Leaders for their active and committed support for u3a in Kennet and all members for their interest and involvement.

Report prepared on behalf of u3a in Kennet by Jill Turner, Vice Chair and Contact for the Charity Commission.

Vicechair@u3ainkennet.org.uk September 2022.

Treasurer's Report and Accounts

Financial Year 1st August 2021 – 31st July 2022

u3a in Kennet is a voluntary self-help organisation that seeks to advance the education and social interaction of older people and those who are retired from full time work in Marlborough and its surrounding locality.

u3a operates through a committee of trustees elected at its Annual General Meeting. It mainly carries out its activities through groups led by group leaders.

The main source of income is member subscriptions. The accompanying accounts show that subscription income increased by 12.2% compared to the income received in 2020-21. This was the result of increasing interest and activity following the Covid pandemic and the associated lockdowns and restrictions which severely affected the operations and activities of most of the groups.

The total general income for the year was £9,373.03 (compared to £7,968.83 in 2020-21).

The main areas of expenditure are:

- the National u3a Capitation Fee
- the Annual Beacon Management Fee
- National u3a Magazine postage
- the Yearbook.

The National Capitation and Beacon management fees were higher this year because of the increase in the number of members. Expenditure on the national Magazine postage also increased because of the increase in members overall.

General expenditure shows that venue hire for u3a-wide events increased from zero in 2020-21 to over £1000 in 2021/22, reflecting the change from Covid restrictions where all meetings were held on Zoom to the post covid situation where we could meet again in halls, etc.

There were no expenses incurred attending any national or regional u3a meetings. The National Third Age Trust AGM was held virtually.

Two New Members' Lunches were held in Kennet Valley Hall in March and in May 2022, the first since before Covid. The total cost of these events was £766.14

A grant of £42.99 was made to the new Advanced French Group to pay for the first year's subscription to a monthly French news magazine to help set the development of the new group.

The Covid lockdowns, commencing in March 2020, resulted in the postponement of the planned Special Interest Day that was due to be held in May 2020. That event, which was subject to a fee for attendance, attracted considerable interest with all tickets being sold. The event was postponed, provisionally until May 2021. The event actually took place on 20th September 2021. The sum of £3,050 had been carried forward from 2020-21. After accounting for the costs of holding the event, including additional ticket sales and some refunds, there was a resulting surplus of £1,903.44. The Executive Committee decided that some of the profit from the SID should be used to contribute to an environmental project, the National u3a 40th Anniversary Woodland. This project involved the planting of 5,000 trees on a site in the Brecon Beacons. u3a in Kennet made a contribution of £650 for the planting of a copse of 100 trees within this new woodland. A surplus of £1253.44 remains from the Special Interest Day held in 2021.

Total general expenditure for the year was £9,956.16 (compared to £5,924.94 in 2020-21).

Activity has obviously increased significantly in the post Covid period. This results in a general excess of expenditure over income for the year of £583.13.

The reserves in the deposit account amount to £18,273.06.



Nomination Form and Proxy Voting Form
for Annual General Meeting on 26th October 2022

Nominations are sought for the posts of Chairman, Vice-Chair and up to 8 other members of the u3a in Kennet Executive Committee. If you wish to nominate more than one candidate, please submit the full information below on a separate sheet.

Nomination to the Executive Committee of u3a in Kennet

Candidate	<input type="text"/>
Post	<input type="text"/>
Proposed by:	<input type="text"/>
Seconded by:	<input type="text"/>
I declare I am willing to stand:	Date: <input type="text"/>
Signature of candidate:	<input type="text"/>

Please return this form by **Wednesday 19th October 2022** to secretary@u3aikkennet.org.uk or by post to Annette Weaver (Secretary u3a in Kennet), Flat B Ardle Bank, 14 Kingsbury Street, Marlborough, SN8 1HU

The Proxy Voting form is for u3a in Kennet members who are unable to attend the Annual General Meeting on 26th October 2022 in person or on-line using Zoom. Do not complete this form if you are planning to attend the meeting.

Note: proxy votes are not just for the elections, but also the other items on the agenda - approving the Minutes, Reports, Accounts, and the appointment of the Examiner.

Proxy Voting Form

Name	<input type="text"/>
Address	<input type="text"/>
u3a in Kennet Membership Number	<input type="text"/> Please tick:
I appoint the Chairman of the u3a in Kennet Annual General Meeting as my Proxy for all necessary votes	<input type="checkbox"/>
Signature	Date: <input type="text"/>
	<input type="text"/>

Please return this form by Tuesday 25th October to secretary@u3aikkennet.org.uk or by post to Annette Weaver (Secretary u3a in Kennet), Flat B Ardle Bank, 14 Kingsbury Street, Marlborough, SN8 1HU