

Newsletter

January 2023

u3a
in Kennet

News Updates

General News: Welcome to our first Newsletter of 2023. At the start of the year we look ahead to a further twelve months of Group meetings, Coffee Exchange sessions and Kennet u3a Talks as well as other events including our Special Interest Day on the Media which was postponed from 2022, our u3a in Kennet Open Day and the royal Coronation.

HAPPY
NEW YEAR
2023

Coffee Exchanges: At the November talk by Eileen Hill on the Wansdyke, there were over 80 people, and we had very good questions. The speaker obviously prepared the talk very carefully, but the high quality of questions brings out even more. There was a real buzz about the event. Having the event in Marlborough Town Hall also seems to have added to the popularity. Thank you to all who came and made the talk such a success.

January's Coffee Exchange is a talk by Robert FitzPatrick on Chalk – the nature of this rock and its effect on our lives. On a Monday walk, someone asked, "Are all u3as the same?" and went on, "If we were in a u3a in London, we would not be having these wonderful walks". So, how come we live in such an extraordinary countryside? Well, the answer is the underlying rock, the chalk, on which our lives are based. The scale of the effect of this rock on our lives is greater than we could have imagined. A walk across the countryside will never be the same!

We have a fascinating program of talks for the New Year. All except one is arranged. There is often an educational aspect to the subjects, or the subject is of local interest. They are not just entertaining, but have a side that appeals to the inquiring mind in us. A listing of planned Coffee Exchange talks to be held at the Town Hall is attached with this Newsletter. The list also includes those talks to be held at the Kennet Valley Hall.

Upcoming Events – details in
main text

26th January at 10:45:
Coffee Exchange

9th February at 14:15:
Kennet u3a Talk

28th February:
Group Leaders Lunch

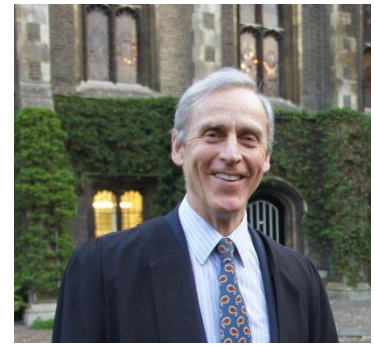
20th March and 5th May:
New Members' Lunches

28th April: Special Interest Day

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*

Kennet u3a Talks: The next talk is on 9th February and will be given by Stuart Laing. The title is "The Messenger and the Minaret". Stuart Laing had a first career in the British Foreign Service, serving in Saudi Arabia and in Cairo, and then as Ambassador in Muscat and in Kuwait. He was Master of Corpus Christi College, Cambridge, 2008 – 2018, and now researches and writes on Mediterranean, Arab and East African history. He is co-author of a book on Omani-British history, and has published a biography of Tippu Tip, the Arab-African ivory trader. Nationally and globally we face tension, sometimes conflict, as a result of failure of communication across religious and cultural divides. In recounting the early history of Islam, its rapid expansion out of Arabia, its beliefs and practices, and its influence on society, art and communal life, Stuart Laing hopes to dispel some of the mystery about one of the world's principal religions.



Special Interest Day – The Future of the Media: We are pleased to confirm that we have agreed a new date with Marlborough College for our Special Interest Day on the Media which was postponed from September 2022 due to the death of her Majesty Queen Elizabeth. The new date will be **Friday 28th April 2023** at the Memorial Hall at the College. The speakers who had agreed to join us last year are being contacted to check on their availability for the revised date and the programme for the day will be confirmed as soon as possible. We will send the final details to everyone who had booked in 2022 in order to confirm whether they are able to attend in April or would prefer to be reimbursed. Places will be available too for new bookings to be made including for non-members. Further information is to follow.

New Members' Lunches: The dates for our new members' lunches are now planned at Kennet Valley Hall for 20th March and 5th May 2023. The invitations will be sent out soon to you new joiners, so please have one of the dates set aside if you want to attend.

Group Leaders Lunch: The first face to face group leaders' meeting since before Covid will be on 28th February. All our leaders (or their representatives) are invited to discussions and lunch. The aim is simply to help sustain and develop our vibrant interest groups. The morning discussion will be shaped by responses from interest group leaders to a short survey. RSVPs and surveys by 30 January please, to help with planning. If any leaders haven't got the invitation or survey please contact alisondewar@u3aikkennet.org.uk

Yearbook: Our 2023 Yearbook was published shortly before Christmas and contains information about our many groups and activities including the contact details for the Executive Committee members and Group Leaders. The telephone numbers are not available on our website. Please keep the Yearbook for reference and the latest information is always available here: www.u3aikkennet.org.uk.

Help Required: Led by our Social Events Coordinator the 'Really Usefuls' Group provides valuable support for our events so that we can provide welcoming refreshments and help for members who need assistance to travel to meetings. More support is always welcome. The more people we have in the Group the less work there is for each member. Please contact chair@u3aikkennet.org.uk if you are interested to find out more and to offer your help. We need a leader (or a couple of leaders) too for the 'Really Usefuls' Group. The leader is not required to be a Committee member. Please do get in touch if you are a good organiser who is willing to help. Thank you.

Third Age Matters: The national u3a Trust has increased the annual charge made for its magazine: 'Third Age Matters' (TAM) by 7% below the level of inflation despite the increased cost of production and postage. If you no longer wish to receive the publication please contact Mike Morison: membershipsec@u3ainkennet.org.uk who will update our lists and reduce unnecessary expenditure. Thank you.

Group News

Family History: As mentioned in November, this is a potential new group that we have an offer to set up. If it is of interest to you please contact Tony Globe at tony.globe@icloud.com and let him know you would like to find out more and possibly join. Dates, times and venue will be set once a meaningful number of members are identified.

Art History Group: The Group is underway again in 2023 holding its first session of the year at the Friends Meeting House, an excellent meeting venue for up to 30 people. The first talk of the year was given by Angela Hutt, all about Louisa Anne, the Marchioness of Waterford, a 19th century noblewoman, a philanthropist and able artist. If you would like to know more contact art.history@u3ainkennet.org.uk.



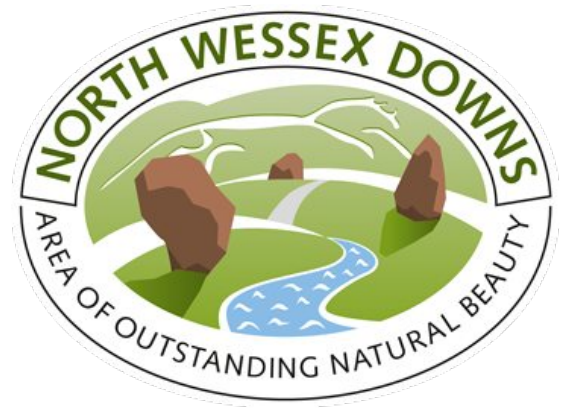
Monday Walking Group: Monday walkers marked the New Year with a visit to the 'lost village' of Imber on one of its rare opening days. Deep in Salisbury Plain's danger zone, access is highly restricted. The trip's highlight was the preserved church of St Giles, with coffees, chat, historical exhibitions and bell-ringers. Find out more at imberchurch.org.uk

Other News

First u3a National Newsletter for 2023: Here is a link to the first National u3a Newsletter with messages included from Liz Thackray and Sam Mauger (Chief Executive), wishing everyone in the u3a movement a Happy New Year – us9.campaign-archive.com.

Threads through Creation: Members visiting Bath may be interested to see the touring textile exhibition at Bath Abbey. 'Threads through Creation' is an art exhibition showing at Bath Abbey from 7th January to 19th March. It's a real treat for anyone in the applied arts, textile art and sewing. The show is touring twenty cathedrals, and consists of twelve beautiful silk panels re-imagining the story of Creation from the bible. The panels are huge – 2.7m high, from 1.5m to nearly 4m wide. It's one of the largest textile art projects by a single artist, ever. It took textile artist Jacqui Parkinson three years – and eight million stitches. Further information can be found at bathabbey/threads-through-creation. In addition a free PDF is also available, entitled 'Behind the scenes', giving a lot of extra background information especially for stitchers. Download it here at creation-threads

North Wessex Downs Landscape Trust Quiz Night: You are invited to apply to take part in the third North Wessex Downs Landscape Trust Quiz Night on Saturday, 11th March, 2023 in The Memorial Hall, Ramsbury. Please come and support this local charity, which is making a significant contribution to the North Wessex Downs. Tables can accommodate 6-8 people, so gather together a team or they can easily put you in a team. Please book early to avoid disappointment; they were oversubscribed last year. Email info@nwd-landscapetrust.org.uk to find out more and receive an application form. Their web site can be found at northwessexdowns.org.uk. They are looking forward to welcoming you to what promises to be a fun evening.



u3a in Kennet Committee (recently updated)



Jill Turner
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Jeff Hide
Vice Chair



Kieran Roughan
Treasurer



Annette Weaver
Secretary



Mike Morison
Membership



John Martin
Newsletter



David Lacey
Speaker Secretary



Alison Dewar



Georgie Neville



Hamzah
Technology



Jill Chambers

For more information: u3ainkennet.org.uk/executive-committee/