

## NOTICE OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

on 25<sup>th</sup> October 2023 at 2.15 pm at Kennet Valley Hall,  
Lockeridge, Wiltshire SN8 4EL

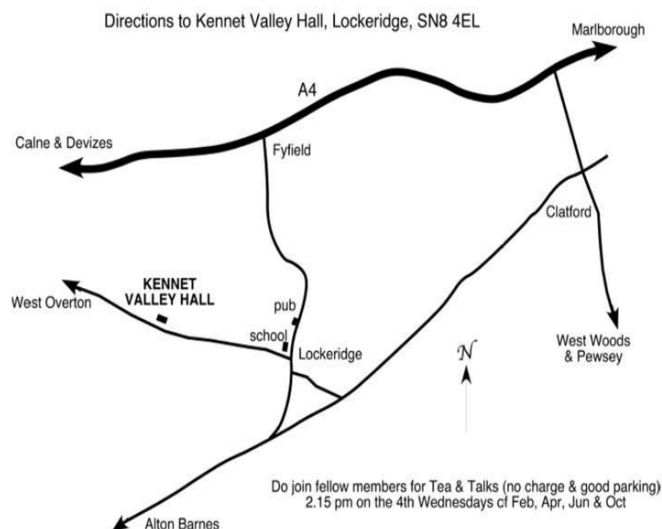
NOTICE is hereby given that the THIRTY-FIRST ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of the UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE IN KENNET (WILTSHIRE) CHARITY NO. 1028680 will be held on WEDNESDAY 25<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER 2023 at 2.15 pm at the Kennet Valley Hall Lockeridge for the transaction of the following business:

### AGENDA:

1. Chair's Welcome and apologies for absence
2. Approve the Minutes of the AGM, October 2022
3. Matters arising from the previous Meeting
4. Chair and Trustees' Report
5. Treasurer's Report and Accounts
6. Appointment of Examiner of Accounts for 2023/24
7. Election of Officers (Hon Secretary and Hon Treasurer) and up to 3 Committee Members to the Executive Committee:
8. Motion: Membership Subscription Issues

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 wish to vote in the Election, you may nominate the Chair 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 and return to [Secretary@u3ainkennet.org.uk](mailto:Secretary@u3ainkennet.org.uk)



# THE u3a IN KENNET (WILTSHIRE) ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

## Minutes of the 30<sup>th</sup> AGM

26<sup>th</sup> October 2022 at 2.15pm in the Kennet Valley Hall, Lockeridge and by Zoom

### 1. Chair's welcome & apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed everyone (over 85 present and 21 on Zoom) and declared the meeting quorate. Voting would be by a show of hands, and by proxy for those unable to be present.

Apologies for absence had been received from:

Marion Jefferys	Laura Fowler	Betty Dobson
Nigel Jefferys	John Fowler	Dorothy Maclachlan
Ilse Nikolsky	Chris Young	Miranda Gilmour
Deirdre Watson	Anne Carroll	Sarah Foxall
Sally Cripps	Alison Robinson	
Juliet Keel	Mike MacPherson	
Howard Cripps	Lexie Bray	

Proxy voting forms had been received from:

Karen Smith	Sally Bruce
Jacquie Hide	Christine Woodhead
Belinda Milne	Julia Tyler
Peter Crowther	Jenny Noble
Gloria Crowther	Peter Noble
Alix Booth	Yvette Courtney
Laura Fowler	Mike Morison
John Fowler	

### 1. Minutes of the AGM held on 20th October 2021

Acceptance of the Minutes of the 2021 AGM was proposed by Cate Mitchell and seconded by AnnMarie Newbigin. The membership gave their approval by a show of hands and there were no matters arising.

### 2. Chairman's Report (attached)

The Chair referred in particular to the general recovery from Covid restrictions, although u3a in Kennet had proved particularly resilient. Zoom was still proving useful including for hybrid meetings. Membership had grown in the past year despite fewer new members joining during Covid, and had increased, as of July, from 568 to 606. There were now 58 Groups including the new Quiz, Aviation and second Pétanque groups.

u3a in Kennet had been very active all year: Coffee Exchange meetings were held regularly in Wesley Hall and on Zoom, with Kennet u3a Talks in Kennet Valley Hall and on Zoom. Two very successful New Members' lunches were held in the Spring.

In the wider community, Kennet u3a also participated in the Queen's Platinum Jubilee celebrations in Marlborough and the Wiltshire Wildlife Trust Bay Meadows project. The forthcoming u3a Day Celebration of the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of u3a in Kennet and 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of u3a movement had been delayed until 9<sup>th</sup> November, and the Special Interest Day on The Future of the Media had been postponed, due to the death of Queen Elizabeth II, until Spring 2023.

#### **4. Chairman's Report (Attached)**

Acceptance of the Report was proposed by Alison Dewar and seconded by Cate Mitchell. The membership gave their approval by a show of hands.

#### **5. Treasurer's Report and Accounts (attached)**

Kieran Roughan presented his Report and the Accounts, which were looking very healthy. Acceptance of the Accounts was proposed by Brian Chilvers and seconded by Louisa Maskell, and approved by a show of hands.

In response to a question from the floor the Chairman explained that the reserves had increased during the Covid 19 pandemic due to the restrictions on group activities and the decision to cease publication of a regular magazine thereby reducing printing costs

#### **6. Appointment of Examiner of Accounts for 2022/2**

A motion was proposed by Anna Harrison to appoint David Hargrave as Examiner of Accounts for 2022/3. This was seconded by Nick Swan and the membership gave their approval by a show of hands.

#### **7. Election of Officers and Committee Members to the Executive Committee**

The Chair explained the 3-year cycle of Committee membership under the Constitution, meaning that some Members were due for renewal and others, including the Chair David Hammond, Vice-Chair Jill Turner and Social Events Secretary Jan Lillywhite had to stand down. There were also four new Committee Members to be elected.

<b>Candidate</b>	<b>Proposed by</b>	<b>Seconded by</b>	<b>Committee Position</b>
Jill Turner	Gordon Pepper	Gillie Pepper	Chair
Jeff Hide	Susan Turner	Alison Dewar	Vice-Chair
Mike Morison	Janet Howell	Ken Howell	Committee Member
Tom Horwitz	Anne Carroll	Laura Fowler	Committee Member
Geneviève Mapson	Kathy Perryman	Laura Fowler	Committee Member
Georgina Neville	Christine Skipper	Laura Fowler	Committee Member
Jill Chambers	Alison Hammond	Alison Dewar	Committee Member
Alison Dewar	Jacque Hide	Jill Chambers	Committee Member

All were elected unanimously.

#### **8. AOB**

There being no further business the Meeting was closed and was followed by a very interesting talk by Sibella Laing on *Power Behind the Veil*.

## 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 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and the movement's 40<sup>th</sup> 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**

**1. u3a in Kennet – aims**

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.

**2. 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 was 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.

### **3. u3a in Kennet – profile**

#### **3a) Membership**

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

- 606 Ordinary members, (568 on 31<sup>st</sup> 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 4<sup>th</sup> 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 motor cycles 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 <sup>th</sup> October 2021	Andy Kempe	Greenham Common on the 40 <sup>th</sup> anniversary of the women's peace camp
9 <sup>th</sup> February 2022	Dr Nicola Snashall	Avebury: the story so far

20 <sup>th</sup> April 2022	Ben Gallagher	Evolution or extinction, the future of the human race by looking to the past
20 <sup>th</sup> 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 24<sup>th</sup> October 2018 and amended on 25<sup>th</sup> March 2021.

The Annual General Meeting was held on 20<sup>th</sup> 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	Kieran 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) 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of u3a in Kennet**

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

### **4. u3a Day – 3rd June**

Following the first u3a Day on 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 14<sup>th</sup> September 2022. The date was changed subsequently to 9<sup>th</sup> 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.

### **5. 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 5<sup>th</sup> May 2020 but was postponed twice due to the pandemic and was held on 20<sup>th</sup> 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 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the BBC and the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Sunday Times. Following the death of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II the proposed date of 19<sup>th</sup> September 2022 was changed subsequently to the spring of 2023.

### **6. 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.

## **7. 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 £,3050.00, 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 the 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.

## **8. 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](mailto:Vicechair@u3ainkennet.org.uk) September 2022.

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## **Treasurer's Report and Accounts**

### **Financial Year 1<sup>st</sup> August 2021 – 31<sup>st</sup> July 2022**

The 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.

The 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 20<sup>th</sup> 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 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Woodland. This project involved the planting of 5,000 trees on a site in the Brecon Beacons. The 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.

The activities of most groups revived quickly in the post covid period. Groups received income (including cash) totalling £13,243.19 and spent a total (including cash) of £11,859.19 during the year. This resulted in a surplus of £800.87. Group funds carried over in the bank totalled £4,389.43 at the year end. A total of £370.41 was also carried over as cash.

The Accounts for 2021–22 have been examined by Mr *David Hargrave, an independent accountant who is not a member of the U3A.*

**Kiaran Roughan, Treasurer, September 2022**





## Trustees' Report with Chair's introduction

UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE IN KENNET (WILTSHIRE)

KNOWN AS "U3A IN KENNET"

(REGISTERED CHARITY NO. 1028680)

REPORT FOR YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2023

### **1. Chair's introduction**

I am delighted to present the following report on my first year in post as the Chair of u3a in Kennet.

This has been a year in which our membership continued to grow following the Covid 19 hiatus and we established several new Groups. The report charts our progress during the year as we developed our activities including more Groups and events to support our increased membership.

Our year began on a sad note with the untimely and unexpected death of Trustee Tom Horwitz who managed our website and associated technical support arrangements. The Committee was most grateful for support from Hamzah who returned to the Committee as a co opted member and former Chairman David Hammond, both of whom provided valuable technical skills and knowledge.

Following the Covid-19 pandemic lockdowns and restrictions u3a in Kennet continued to recover and grow enabling its increasing membership to meet, to learn and to share their knowledge and experience. The overwhelming majority of groups had resumed their in-person meetings with a few continuing to meet online using zoom and telephone conference calls.

My thanks are due to all members of the Executive Committee and to our Group Leaders whose individual and collective efforts have contributed to the continued growth and success of our organisation.

I would like to encourage all members to consider how they too can support our u3a; becoming a Group Leader or a Trustee can be very rewarding, interesting and above all enjoyable.

### **2. u3a in Kennet – aims**

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.

### **3. u3a in Kennet profile**

#### **3a) Membership**

The membership of the u3a in Kennet grew during the year and by 31<sup>st</sup> July 2023 comprised:

- Ordinary – 661 (598 in July 2022)
- Retired – 1 (3 in July 2022)
- Associate – 10 (8 in July 2022)
- Totals – 672 (609 in July 2022)

#### **3b) Groups: numbers and progress**

Groups have flourished this year, thanks in particular to the hard work, enthusiasm and dedication of our Group Leaders and indeed to the continued enthusiastic participation of the members.

There are currently 60 groups available to members, most of which now meet face to face. Inevitably some groups have finished, notably English History and STEM (Science Technology Engineering and Maths) whilst others, including Life Sciences, are taking a temporary break. During the year new groups have also started successfully. These include: Family History, Croquet, Current Affairs, Recorder, Craft and Qigong. Currently some new groups are in the process of being set up. These are: Global History, Science Discussion, a 2<sup>nd</sup> Poetry Appreciation group and a Tennis group.

In February 2023 we held a meeting and lunch for Group Leaders to thank them for their work and to provide a forum for the exchange of ideas. The meeting was very well attended. We hope to run similar events in the future and to offer some training for new group leaders.

### 3c) Programme of events

The quarterly '*Kennet u3a Talks*' continued during the year and we welcomed a range of speakers who addressed the following topics at our afternoon member only events at Kennet Valley Hall:

26 <sup>th</sup> October 2022	Sibella Laing	The power behind the veil
9 <sup>th</sup> February 2023	Stuart Laing	The Messenger and the Minaret
19 <sup>th</sup> April 2023	Commodore Ian Gibb CBE	From Cadet to Commodore and beyond
29 <sup>th</sup> July 2023	Jonathan Hinks	Dams and the world water problem

The Committee surveyed members' views about the quarterly Kennet Talks series inviting comments on aspects such as the content of the Talks and the location. Hitherto every Talk has been held at the Kennet Valley Hall in Lockeridge.

A significant proportion of the respondents emphasised their preference for the Talks to have "real" content and a strong preference for Marlborough as a venue. Cognisant of the venue feedback the Committee arranged to hold the 2024 Annual General Meeting and associated Kennet Talk in Marlborough on a trial basis.

The monthly '*Coffee Exchange*' sessions continued during the year at the Town Hall with a slight change of format to allow more time for members to meet and chat with friends prior to the monthly speaker slot, and sharing of news about future events. These sessions became increasingly popular with current and potential members such that growing attendance figures necessitated a move upstairs from the Court Room to the larger Assembly Room.

Our speakers covered a variety of topics including:

- The Wansdyke
- Chalk: the bedrock of our lives
- Wiltshire Wildlife Trust – the Bay Meadows project
- The Dog's Trust
- The Bobby Van Trust
- Qigong
- Greatwood charity

Two new members' lunches were held during the year with a third planned for November 2023 reflecting the continuing increase in new members. The lunches provide a warm welcome for new u3a in Kennet Trustees Report 2023 incorporating Treasurer's report final page 2 of 6

members enabling them to meet with Group Leaders and Executive Committee members and helping them to choose which groups to join.

### **3d) u3a in Kennet governance arrangements.**

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

The Annual General Meeting was held on 26<sup>th</sup> October 2022 resulting in the re-election of John Martin, Newsletter Editor for a second three year term of office. Jill Chambers, Alison Dewar and Georgie Neville were welcomed as new Committee members.

The full Committee is shown below:

#### Officers:

Chair	Jill Turner	Also Charity Commission contact
Vice Chairman	Jeff Hide	Also Event Logistics
Treasurer	Kiaran Roughan	
Secretary	Annette Weaver	

#### Other Trustees:

Committee Member	Mike Morison	Membership Secretary and Beacon System Administrator
Committee Member	Tom Horwitz *	Website
Committee Member	David Lacey **	Speaker Secretary
Committee Member	Genevieve Mapson ***	Social Secretary
Committee Member	John Martin	Newsletter
Committee Member	Jill Chambers	Subsequently Speaker Secretary
Committee Member	Alison Dewar	Media Day and temporarily supporting Groups
Committee Member	Georgina Neville	Temporarily supporting Groups

\*Sadly Tom Horwitz passed away unexpectedly on 10<sup>th</sup> November 2022 and Hamzah was duly coopted to the Committee in February 2023 taking on responsibility for managing the website and technical support arrangements.

\*\*David Lacey resigned from the Committee in February 2023 and the role of Speaker Secretary was taken on by Jill Chambers

\*\*\*Genevieve Mapson resigned from the Committee in January 2023

The Executive Committee met on five occasions at two monthly intervals during 2022–23. Sub Committees including those for 'Special Interest Day' and Technical support also met as necessary during the year.



#### 4. u3a Open Day – 9<sup>th</sup> November 2022

u3a in Kennet commenced planning for an all day event in Marlborough to be held on 14<sup>th</sup> September 2022 as part of the national u3a Week celebrations. The date was changed subsequently to 9<sup>th</sup> November 2022 following the death of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II and the period of national mourning.

Aiming to increase the u3a profile in Marlborough and the surrounding area, u3a in Kennet was showcased with a poster exhibition in the Town Hall with light refreshments. Committee members and Group Leaders welcomed visitors to the exhibition and 40 new members were recruited on the Day.

#### 5. Research and education: Special Interest Day on 'The Future of the Media'.

Following the success of the Special Interest Day on "*Climate Change and Sustainable Futures*" in 2021 the educational links with Marlborough College which had been fostered originally in 2018 were developed further with plans for another multi generational event in 2022. The jointly agreed topic was '*The future of the media*' noting that 2022 was the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the BBC and the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Sunday Times. Following the death of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II the proposed date of 19<sup>th</sup> September 2022 was changed subsequently to 28<sup>th</sup> April 2023.

More than 130 u3a members from Kennet, the wider Bath and Wiltshire u3a Network and beyond attended the Day along with College pupils, making it a truly multi generational event.

Topical issues were explored including:

- the media revolution,
- social media and podcasts
- governance processes
- the media and politics
- changes in the way in which news is consumed
- local media and news stories
- the future of print journalism

We were joined by an impressive range of experienced national and local journalists:

- **Nigel Farndale:** a senior editor at The Times, former award-winning interviewer for The Sunday Telegraph writer for The Observer, Financial Times and Spectator and a best-selling novelist.
- **Karen Gardner:** social media journalist and radio presenter with BBC Wiltshire.
- **Naomi Kerbel:** Communications Director with media advisers, SEC Newgate. Former TV journalist with Bloomberg, Sky News and CNBC.
- **Tom Newton Dunn:** news presenter and political commentator with TalkTV.
- **Dominic Ponsford:** Editor in Chief, UK Press Gazette and Media Editor, New Statesmen Media Group.

Five College students presented short illustrated T.E.D.\* talks which they had prepared on issues including the media in China, the influence of artificial intelligence and social media on marketing and beauty standards, as well as mental health issues.

With valuable assistance from the College two online surveys were completed by attendees (u3a members and the students): one before the Day which explored attitudes to the media and one following the event to gather feedback about the delegates' experience and suggestions for future events.

The post event survey revealed a pleasingly high level of satisfaction with the Day with high scores including 4.45 / 5 rating regarding the content and 4.37 / 5 on arrangements. Both u3a in Kennet and the College agreed to pursue further collaborative events in future.

\*TED talks were named after the Technology Entertainment and Design conferences after 1989 which set a standard for short talks.)

## **6. Communications: Newsletters, website and social media**

Regular and effective communication with all members was maintained during the year with the monthly newsletters and the annual yearbook.

The website was updated regularly with new events and information about group activities and the system of email 'buddies' was maintained to ensure that those members without email were contacted too. The u3a in Kennet Facebook page was also updated regularly.

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

## **7. Financial matters.**

### **7a) Treasurer's Report and Accounts for the financial Year 1<sup>st</sup> August 2022 – 31<sup>st</sup> July 2023**

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.

The 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 12.86% compared to the income received in 2021-22, showing growing interest in membership following Covid.

The total general income for the year was £10,547.93 (compared to £9,373.03 in 2021-22). Most of the increase compared to 2021-22 arises from the income generated by ticket sales for the Special Interest Day that was held in April. It should also be noted that the Gift Aid refund for 2021/22 (£1,414.46) was not received by the u3a in Kennet until after the end of the financial year. If it had been paid in year, the general income would have been £11,962.39, an increase of 27.62% over 2021/22.

The main areas of expenditure are:

- the national u3a Capitation fee;
- the annual Beacon Management fee;
- national u3a Magazine postage;
- the Yearbook.

During 2022-23, the Special Interest Day on the Media was an event involving significant ticket sales and expenditure.

The National Capitation, Beacon management fees and the national Magazine postage were higher this year because of the increase in the number of members.

General expenditure shows that venue hire for u3a wide events was a little lower than in 2021/22, There were no expenses incurred attending any national or regional u3a meetings. However, u3a in Kennet hosted a Regional Meeting at the Kennet Valley Hall in June 2023 for which it received a grant of £186 from the National u3a. u3a in Kennet incurred a net cost of £47 in hosting the event.

Two New Members' Lunches were held in Kennet Valley Hall in March and in May 2023, and a Group Leaders 'Meeting was held in February 2023. The cost of these events was £724.21 plus £176 for the hire of the Kennet Valley Hall (total cost: £900.21)

A Special Interest Day on the Media was postponed from its original date in September 2022 to April 2023 as the original date clashed with the Queen's funeral. Within the 2022/23 accounts income u3a in Kennet Trustees Report 2023 incorporating Treasurer's report final page 5 of 6

(£1,884) was more or less balanced by expenditure (£1,871.19). Payments for tickets totalling £54, mistakenly paid into the Groups Account, will also appear in the accounts for 2023/24 as they were not transferred back to the main account until after the year end. Income from ticket sales of £529 during 2021/22 means that most of the overall surplus from the event of £605,81 was banked during 2021/22.

Total general expenditure for the year was £11,906.44 (compared to £9,956.16 in 2021-22). This results in a general excess of expenditure over income for the year of £1,358.51. However, if the Gift Aid refund had occurred in year, there would have been a slight surplus of £55.95.

The reserves in the deposit account amount to £16,842.94.

Group income totalled £12,321.15; Group expenditure totalled £13,176.72 (excluding cash). This resulted in spending exceeding income by a total of £855.57 compared with a surplus in 2021/22 of £800.87. However, the Groups had carried forward funds from 2021/22 and therefore did not overspend.

Group funds carried over in the bank totalled £3,533.86 at the year end. A total of £197.85 was also carried over as cash.

Total funds held at the year-end were £25,023.41 compared to £27,426.55 at the year end of 2021/22.

The Accounts for 2022-23 have been examined and agreed by Mr David Hargrave, an independent accountant who is not a u3a member.

**Kiaran Roughan, Treasurer, September 2023.**

#### **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.

#### **8. Summary**

Following the challenges imposed by the Covid-19 pandemic, u3a in Kennet continued to grow and developed its range of support for members during the year August 2022– July 2023.

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, Chair and Contact for the Charity Commission. [Chair@u3ainkennet.org.uk](mailto:Chair@u3ainkennet.org.uk) September 2023.**





**Section A Independent Examiner's Report**

**Report to the trustees/  
members of**

University of the Third Age in Kennet (Wiltshire)

**On accounts for the year  
ended**

31 July 2023

**Charity no  
(if any)**

1028680

**Set out on pages**

As follows

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended **31 July 2023**

**Responsibilities and  
basis of report**

As the charity trustees, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

**Independent  
examiner's statement**

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect,:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act; or
- the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or
- the accounts did not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

**Signed:**

**Date:**

18 Sept 2023

**Name:**

David Hargrave

**Relevant professional  
qualification(s) or body  
(if any):**

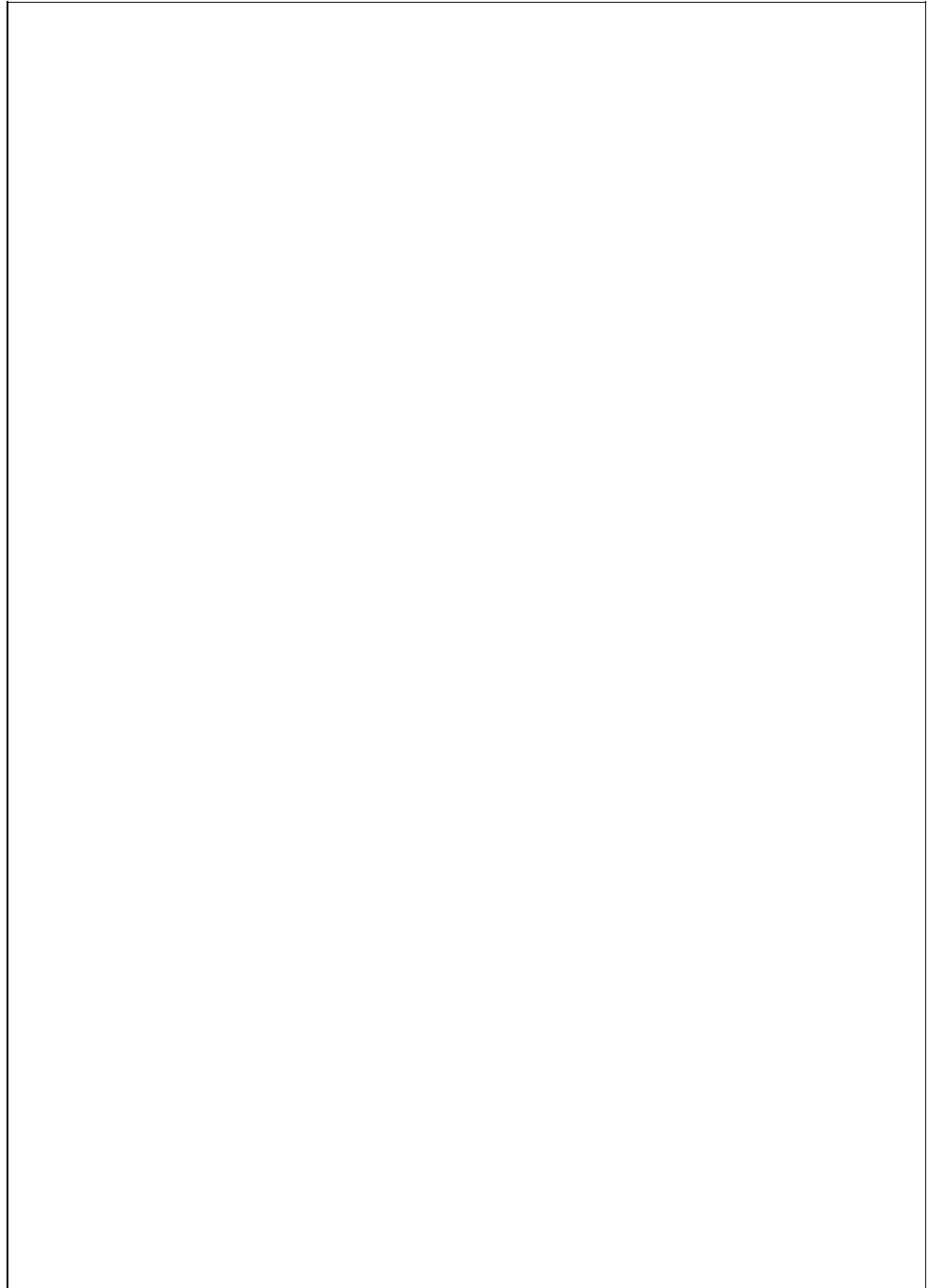
Fellow, Chartered Association of Certified Accountants (Ret'd)

**Address:**

Bramble Cottage, 8 Preston, Chippenham, SN15 4DX

Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight matters of concern (see CC32, Independent examination of charity accounts: directions and guidance for examiners).

**Give here details of any items that the examiner wishes to disclose.**



## U3A IN KENNET ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 25<sup>th</sup> October 2023

### MOTION: MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTION ISSUES

#### 1. Introduction

The following motion is presented to the u3a in Kennet Annual General Meeting to propose:

- no change to the u3a in Kennet annual membership subscription for the membership year commencing 1<sup>st</sup> August 2024
- the revision of the month from which the membership fee reduction to £6.00 is available from May to March each year commencing in March 2024.

#### 2. Membership subscription

The current u3a in Kennet annual membership fee is £12.00 having been held at this level at least since the financial year 2010–11. New members pay a joining fee of £3.00. Any changes to the annual subscription must be agreed at the Annual General Meeting during the preceding year.

The Executive Committee has considered whether the annual membership fee should be increased from August 2024 in recognition of the inflationary pressures currently being experienced across the British economy which have increased the u3a in Kennet's core running costs including hall hire, refreshments and technical support.

The Committee has concluded that cognisant of the currently healthy financial reserves held by u3a in Kennet it is not necessary to increase the membership fee at this time and therefore proposes that there is no change to the annual membership fee for u3a in Kennet for the membership year commencing 1<sup>st</sup> August 2024.

#### 3. Reduced subscription for members joining during the year.

Members who join u3a in Kennet in May, June or July are entitled to a reduced membership fee of £6.00 in recognition of the fact that the membership year begins shortly afterwards in August. Thereafter they are required to pay the full £12.00 per annum.

The Executive Committee proposed that the reduced payment date is brought forward to March to encourage new members to join throughout the second half of our financial year.

#### Resolution

- no change to the annual membership fee for u3a in Kennet for the membership year commencing 1<sup>st</sup> August 2024
- the revision of the month from which the membership fee reduction to £6.00 is available from May to March each year commencing in March 2024.

u3a in Kennet Executive Committee. October 2023.



**Nomination Form and Proxy Voting Form  
for Annual General Meeting on 25<sup>th</sup> October 2023**

Nominations are sought for the post of Secretary, Treasurer and up to 3 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 (sign & print):	<input type="text"/>
Seconded by (sign & print):	<input type="text"/>
<b><i>I declare I am willing to stand:</i></b> Date:	<input type="text"/>
Signature of candidate:	<input type="text"/>

Please note that candidates must not be nominated or seconded by current Committee members.

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The Proxy Voting form is for u3a in Kennet members who are unable to attend the Annual General Meeting on 25<sup>th</sup> October 2023 in person. Do not complete this form if you are planning to attend the meeting.

**Proxy Voting Form**

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

Please return forms by **Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> October 2023** to [secretary@u3ainkennet.org.uk](mailto:secretary@u3ainkennet.org.uk) or by post to Annette Weaver (Secretary u3a in Kennet), Flat B Ardle Bank, 14 Kingsbury Street, Marlborough, SN8 1HU