

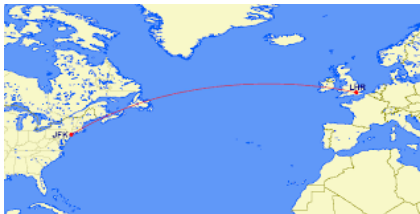


## Newsletter – November 2023

### GENERAL NEWS UPDATES

As we approach the end of the year we can reflect on another busy and stimulating year for our u3a with our varied programme of Coffee Exchange and Kennet Talks and other events. Thanks are due to our hard working Group Leaders and Committee members whose voluntary commitments to u3a in Kennet have contributed to our increasing size and activities.

**Coffee Exchange, 10.15am Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> November 2023, Town Hall, Marlborough.**



On November 30<sup>th</sup>, we will welcome one of our own celebrities: Mike Morison (our Membership Secretary) who will be presenting a talk on **Crossing the Pond**.

Mike is a former RAF pilot and instructor at Oxford Aviation and he will be giving us a comprehensive explanation of the many activities that commercial pilots have to perform in ensure a safe and smooth flight. He will be describing in layman's terms what they do starting with the visit to flight operations, then preparation in the cockpit, procedures they have to follow through departure, cruise and arrival for a typical journey from London Heathrow to New York's John F. Kennedy Airport.

### CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**Further details in the main text.**

**30<sup>th</sup> November 2023 from 10:15am: Coffee Exchange 'What pilots do to cross the pond' Mike Morison at the Town Hall, Marlborough.**

#### **NEW EVENT!**

**7<sup>th</sup> December 2023 from 10.15am**  
Coffee and carols; Town Hall Marlborough



**New Members' lunch – postponed to 8<sup>th</sup> March 2024.**

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

## Festive Coffee Exchange – 7<sup>th</sup> December 2023.



### NEW EVENT

In addition to our November Coffee Exchange we have arranged an additional seasonal event on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> December also at the Town Hall. Join us for coffee, mince pies and carols with the Marlborough Community Choir which includes some u3a in Kennet members too.

## Annual General Meeting and the Kennet u3a Talk, 25<sup>th</sup> October 2023.

Our well attended **Annual General Meeting** and Kennet Talk were held on 25<sup>th</sup> October 2023 at Kennet Valley Hall. We looked back on a successful year in 2022–23 with increased membership and more Groups. We thanked Kieran Roughan and John Martin who stood down as Treasurer and Newsletter Editor respectively and welcomed Alastair Sheen as our new Treasurer. The draft Minutes from the AGM are here: at <https://u3ainkennet.org.uk/u3a-in-kennet-agm-2023/>.



**Robin Nelson: 'Great Musical Moments'** Robin entertained us royally at the Kennet Talk. He is very well known as a former musical director at Marlborough College, an examiner for the Associated Board of Royal Schools of Music, a choral conductor and composer, and a lecturer on various subjects particularly on birds. With his wife Sally, he now runs musical appreciation courses at their home in Avebury. Robin gave us the benefit of his exhaustive musical knowledge when he chose his favourite musical pieces– just like Desert Island

Discs. These were presented visually with pictures and pieces of music score, and audibly playing on the keyboard and recordings of famous orchestras and singers of the various pieces. He described the background to his choices, the reason for his choosing them and the detail of the musical scores. His passion for music was clear throughout his fascinating talk. His choice of music included pieces by Brahms, Bach, Britten, Tchaikovsky, Stravinsky, Handel and Mozart but when questioned of all his pieces he had picked which, if he was only allowed one to take to the desert island, he chose the Last Songs of Strauss.

If you are interested in hearing more from Robin and attending one of his courses, you can contact him at [robin@robinnelson.plus.com](mailto:robin@robinnelson.plus.com) or on 01672 539489.

## GROUPS NEWS

**Day Trips.** First of all we would like to say a big thank you to Enid Mitchell who has been running this very successful group for some time and has now decided to step down from her role as Group Leader. Thank you for the time and enthusiasm that you have given to this role. It has been much appreciated by all the members who have enjoyed some wonderful days out.

We are pleased to announce that we have two new group leaders who are taking over from Enid. They are Kate Morrison and Juliet McGregor. Thank you to both of you for taking on this role. We are delighted to welcome you to these roles. Incidentally Kate and Juliet have asked if members of the group could send them ideas for future outings ( [daytrip@u3ainkennet.org.uk](mailto:daytrip@u3ainkennet.org.uk) ).

**Theatre Group.** Sarah Foxall and Jenny Oakshott have been running this group very successfully for many years. They have now decided to step back from their roles and we would like to say a very big thank you to them for the time and energy that they have put into this group. The numerous plays and theatre locations serve as testimony to their hard work and the trips have been enjoyed by members who have had the opportunity to visit theatres further afield. We are very pleased to introduce the two new Group Leaders of this group. They are Mary-Ann Bettinson and Anna Shantry. Welcome to you both and thank you for taking on this role.

**The Life Sciences Group.** This long-running group has been taking a short rest since July of this year but aims to start again in January 2024, with a regular monthly meeting in the Friends Meeting House on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of each month. The group was originally called Human Science but the new name was adopted to reflect the broader scope of topics that are now discussed. Human Science (Physiology, Psychology etc) still forms an important part of the programme but additional topics, such as Evolution, Natural History, Ecology and Environmental Science will also feature. The group will continue to use the same format for meetings as before, with presentations on specific topics followed by discussion between group members. Presentations will mostly use recorded video lectures from reputable sources, with occasional talks by individual members or guest speakers. If you're not already a group member and you are interested in joining the group please email the group leader, Graham Barnes at [lifesci@u3ainkennet.org.uk](mailto:lifesci@u3ainkennet.org.uk) . A science background is helpful but not a necessity; the aim is to present talks that are as accessible as possible to a general audience.

### **Thursday Walking Group**



Taking full advantage of the beautiful and accessible countryside around Marlborough our Thursday Walking followed the Mid Wilts Way / White Horse Trail on Milk Hill, just north of Alton Barnes. on 26<sup>th</sup> October 2023 and shared this photograph of the view from the top.

**Travel Group - October 2023**  
**5 day trip to Lincolnshire**



**OTHER NEWS**

**Invitation from Marlborough College**

u3a in Kennet has collaborated with Marlborough College in recent years with our one day events on Climate Change (2021) and The Media Day earlier this year. These events have built upon previous joint educational initiatives in which we have provided the College with speakers for some of their students and in turn we have been invited to attend some of their lectures and concerts.

We have been invited now to explore whether any of our members would be interested to speak at some of their academic Society sessions. They are particularly keen to invite people with backgrounds in the following broad areas:

counselling	legal	political
criminology	neuroscience	science in general
engineering	physics	sociology

Their Societies meet in the late afternoons on Tuesdays and Thursdays (approximately 17.00) and some meet in the evening from 19.40. If you are interested to find out more please contact [chair@u3ainkennet.org.uk](mailto:chair@u3ainkennet.org.uk) . We are planning to develop our links with St John's Marlborough too and more details will follow.

## **OBITUARY Michael Hart, 1<sup>st</sup> May 1928 – 30<sup>th</sup> October 2023**



Michael was born in London to a German father and English mother. He moved with his family to Germany in 1931 and attended the French Lycée in Berlin. He was sent to a school (Gymnasium) in Bavaria to avoid attention as the holder of a British passport after the Nazis ordered all foreign passport holders to leave Germany. Eventually he fled west across Germany encountering an advancing American army group at night. When challenged he responded in English saying he held an English passport. They employed him as an interpreter and he worked for UNRA until 1946. His father then arranged for him to travel to England to complete his education after the war. (Photo – Pete Davies, Marlborough Photo Services)

After teaching and studying for 'A' levels Michael gained an Exhibition to Keble College, Oxford in 1948 after translating at the Nuremberg Trials too. His first teaching post was at Sherborne followed by a post as a House Master at Shrewsbury. Subsequent posts included an Inspector of Schools, and Headships at Mill Hill and the European Schools at Mol in Belgium and in Luxembourg. Michael was awarded the C.B.E. for services to education in Luxembourg towards the end of his time in that country. Subsequently he became an Advisor on education to the British Government. After moving to Marlborough in 2006 he encountered Sir John Sykes 1942 – 2020, who had been a student of his at Shrewsbury. Michael soon joined u3a in Kennet where he took on the leadership of the European and subsequently the English History Groups, Current Affairs and Advanced German language Groups.

Many u3a members have benefitted enormously from Michael's extensive knowledge, global perspective and enthusiasm for history. His natural skill and obvious enjoyment of teaching was admired and respected along with his candid, balanced and concise lectures. He remained an active member of the Groups until the autumn of 2023. His intellectual curiosity endured and he was researching AI and Chat CPT shortly before he died.

In addition to his role as a Group Leader Michael supported u3a in Kennet as a member of the Executive Committee. He was also an active contributor to the Marlborough Summer School, the Merchant's House lecture series and the Marlborough History Society. He will be sadly missed by his many friends and colleagues within u3a and the wider Marlborough community.

**Ilse Nikolsky, Sue Sykes, Susan Turner and Jill Turner, Chair, u3a in Kennet**

## **COMMUNITY NEWS – NEW FEATURE**

In this new section of our Newsletter we propose to short updates and news of local interest. We start with St Peter's Trust where the Cardinal Coffee Shop has reopened following a major kitchen refit. For more information please see: <https://www.stpetersmarlborough.org.uk/>

NEXT MONTH Some proposed new u3a in Kennet groups and 'The Silks on the Downs'.



Jill Turner  
*Chair and Charity  
Commission Contact*



Jeff Hide  
*Vice Chair*



Alastair Sheen  
*Treasurer*



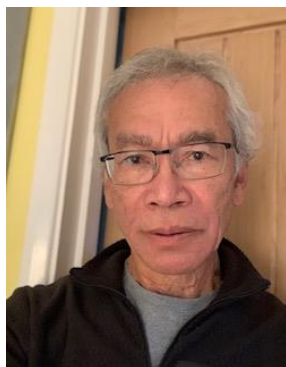
Annette Weaver  
*Secretary*



Mike Morison  
*Membership*



Jill Chambers  
*Speaker Secretary*



Hamzah  
*Technology*



Alison Dewar  
*Groups Liaison*



Georgina Neville  
*Groups Liaison*