



Newsletter

December 2023

SEASONAL GREETINGS

U3a in Kennet has enjoyed a busy year in which our overall Membership has grown to 660+ exceeding our pre Covid 19 level and we have an impressive 65 groups now too.

It gives me great pleasure to thank all of our hard working Group Leaders, my Executive Committee colleagues and you: our members for your support and commitment to our organization. u3a is what we make it and Kennet has so much to offer new and potential members now.

With my best wishes to you all for the festive season and 2024.

Jill Turner, Chair, u3a in Kennet.



STOP PRESS! The annual 'Festival of 9 lessons and Carols' from Kings College Chapel on 24th December 2023 will feature an arrangement of 'Out of your sleep' by composer: Robin Nelson who was our Kennet u3a Talk speaker in October 2023. <https://www.kings.cam.ac.uk/chapel/a-festival-of-nine-lessons-and-carols#toc-20>

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Further details in the main text.

Coffee Exchange; 25th January 2024. Marlborough Concert Orchestra. Town Hall. Marlborough.

Kennet Talk: 14th February 2024. Kennet Valley Hall.

Coffee Exchange: 29th February 2024. Town Hall, Marlborough

New Members' lunch – postponed to 8th March 2024.

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

EVENTS

Report from our Coffee Exchange, Thursday 30th November 2023

'Crossing the Pond' is the expression, often used by pilots, to describe the route between the UK and the USA. The North Atlantic Ocean being the "pond". Mike Morison who has spent his whole career in aviation, including training civilian and Army pilots, gave us a thorough and detailed breakdown of the processes that commercial pilots need to undertake to ensure a safe and smooth journey for passengers. He showed us detailed plans of runways both in Heathrow and New York, weather charts, flight paths and alternate landing sites. Mike presented the intricate story of the flight and its possible twists and turns, in an entertaining way. We all hung on his words and the questions that were put to him showed how he had engaged us all in the journey.



Click here for Mike's presentation slides: <https://u3ainkennet.org.uk/coffee-morning-30th-november-2023-copy-of-presentation/>

Festive Coffee Exchange – 7th December 2023

We enjoyed a festive Coffee Exchange on 7th December 2023 at the Town Hall. We were joined by the Marlborough Community Choir led by Emma Pooley and by Santa (also known as Jeff Hide our Vice Chair) who brought us a gift of poems: <https://u3ainkennet.org.uk/festive-coffee-exchange-2023/>.



Several of our members sing with the Choir and we were entertained with a selection of traditional and new carols. We were treated to the world premiere of a new carol: '**As I was Walking out one Night**' with words and melody by Jennifer Jones and arranged by Emma Pooley. A first for u3a in Kennet too!

Our next Coffee Exchange: Thursday 25th January 2024

We will meet in the New Year at the Town Hall in Marlborough on Thursday 25th January at 10.15 for coffee and conversation. We are going to try something different and at 11am we will have the privilege of hearing some live music. Sections of the Marlborough Concert Orchestra have kindly agreed to play for us. We will hear several pieces of classical music from a wind quintet and a string quartet. Please come and join us. Further details will follow in the new year.

New members' lunch: Friday 8th March 2024

The first New Members lunch of the year will be held on 8th March 2024 at Kennet Valley Hall.

This lunch was postponed from November 2023 and attendance is by invitation. The lunches enable our new members to meet with the Executive Committee and Group Leaders to find out more about our groups and events and to meet other new members.

GROUPS NEWS

Short Mat Bowls Group

The u3a Short Mat Bowls Group have recently bought Extra Heavyweight Jacks for the use of u3a members at the Marlborough Leisure Centre, having previously used the outdoor jacks that were provided by the Centre. The new Jacks enable games to be played in the intended manner. The purchase was supported by a substantial grant from the u3a in Kennet Executive Committee.

The mats we play on were also purchased by the group members several years ago with assistance from the Committee.



The Short Mat Bowls Group play at the Marlborough Leisure Centre every Friday afternoon in school term time, meeting at 1:45pm, from November to the end of March.

New players are welcome. Tuition can be given, and bowls are available to use.

Bowls has become very popular since lockdown, and it is difficult to find small sizes of bowls at reasonable prices. We could use sets of sizes 00, 0 and size 1. If you have any bowls that you no longer use please would you consider sharing them or donating them to the group? Thank you.

Please contact: John Lafford. Group Leader at short.mat@u3ainkennet.org.uk

PROPOSED NEW GROUPS

Singles Supper Club,

Evenings can be a lonely time for singles so why not join our proposed new u3a in Kennet '**Singles Supper Club**'?

We propose to set up a new Group which would get together regularly for a meal and conversation. We might meet in someone's home with each member providing a course or the wine, or we would plan a takeaway meal, alternatively we may agree to meet in a restaurant or pub.

If you are interested to find out more we plan to get together early in 2024 to discuss the possibilities and decide on the way forward.

Please register your interest (without obligation) by calling David Moakes on 01672 511437 or mobile 07950 935924

OTHER NEWS

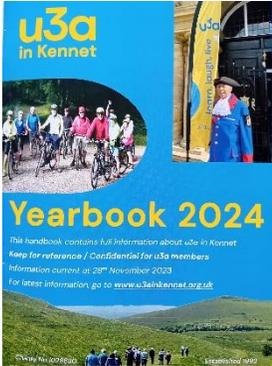
u3a in Kennet 30th anniversary tree planting

The Executive Committee agreed to plant a traditional Wiltshire variety of apple tree '**Chorister Boy**' in 2022 to commemorate the u3a in Kennet's 30th anniversary. The project was delayed to 2023 as our selected tree had not grown sufficiently large and took place eventually on 4th November 2023.

With expert advice from Phillipa Davenport of the Marlborough Community Orchard, and the Marlborough Town Council Estates Department team the tree is now in situ in the Jubilee Field at Manton.



u3a in Kennet 2024 Yearbook



Our 2024 Yearbook has been published and sent to all members now.

The details about our groups are correct at the time of publication although there may be changes and additions during the year.

Please check our website for the latest information:

www.u3ainkennet.org.uk

Please note that our AGM on 30th October 2024 will be held at the Town Hall and not at Kennet Valley Hall as stated.

How can you get involved and help your u3a?

We have about fourteen events a year which include a speaker. We have been trying to record these talks so that members who are not able to attend on the day, are able instead to watch the recordings at a later time. The events themselves require a certain level of technical support – be it microphones, screens or visual aids. The bigger the team – the less work for all. It is not necessary to be available for all the events. If you are interested in helping out, or know someone who could assist us, please do get in touch. Training will be given !!

Initially please email Jill Chambers on speakersec@u3ainkennet.org.uk

MEMBERS' NEWS

Marion Roundhill

Marion Roundhill is one of the small group who founded u3a In Kennet in the 1990s. She and the other early members including Rosemary Hawes and Derrek Robbins worked hard to set up our organization which has flourished and developed over the years.

Marion has stood down recently and we thank her for her contribution to u3a in Kennet and wish her all the best for the future.

u3a in Kennet Committee.

Your Committee works hard to support and develop u3a in Kennet and we would welcome some additional help from members so that we can continue to provide our wide range of interesting activities. Please contact Chair@u3ainkennet.org.uk for further information.



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
Committee Member



Georgina Neville
Committee Member

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