

u3a in Kennet



Yearbook 2024

This handbook contains full information about u3a in Kennet

Redacted copy without telephone numbers

Information current at 28th November 2023

For latest information, go to www.u3ainkennet.org.uk



Charity No 1028680

Established 1992

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Cover Photos:

Marlborough Town Crier at u3a Open Day September 2023

u3a Cycling Group September 2022

Monday Walking Group May 2023

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Chair's welcome

Welcome to the 2024 edition of the **u3a in Kennet Yearbook**. This booklet is designed to be an easy reference source for important information about **u3a in Kennet** for both new and established members. It includes an introduction to **u3a** and its principles, details of the Executive Committee, other sources of information, diary dates for the coming year and full details of our interest groups. These details are as up-to-date as possible – but there will be changes—so please check the latest information on our website at u3ainkennet.org.uk and in our monthly Newsletter.



Following another successful year in 2023 in which our total membership numbers increased above pre Covid-19 levels and the numbers of Groups grew too, plans are underway for our events in 2024. These will include our programme of monthly Coffee Exchange sessions and quarterly Kennet u3a Talks. We are planning to hold another 'Special Interest Day' with Marlborough College and St Johns, Marlborough following the success of our 'Media Day' event in April 2023. The national u3a Week will be held from 21st –29th September 2024. Future details of our plans will be publicised in our Newsletter and member mailings.

Whether you have been a **u3a in Kennet** member for some time or have joined more recently please read this booklet and make the most of what we have to offer. If possible please consider getting involved to ensure that our u3a remains vibrant and healthy and enables more people to learn, develop and enjoy life. We need more people to come forward and run groups, help run our events and join the Executive Committee. Please do contact me and find out more.

Jill Turner

Chair, u3a in Kennet

chair@u3ainkennet.org.uk

What is u3a?

u3a is a UK-wide movement which brings people together to explore new ideas, interests and activities in a friendly and informal environment. Members are supported to make the most of life when no longer working full time.

u3a is a self-help organisation which provides educational, creative and leisure opportunities through a series of interest groups. Members draw on their knowledge and experience to learn from each other.

Formed more than 40 years ago, there are now over 1,000 **u3as** in the UK with thousands of interest groups between them and around 400,000 members across the country. The national body, the Third Age Trust, looks after all the **u3as** in the UK and provides educational, legal and administrative support and advice.

u3a in Kennet was formed in 1992 by Derek Robbins and Bill Hawes. Derek became the first chairman and has been followed by 13 others. At the end of 2023, we have over 660 members and 65 interest groups.

The Group Leaders are volunteers who organise and support their groups. They don't have to be experts and most rely on their group members to support them and contribute to their group in many different ways.

Any member with enthusiasm and basic organisational skills can start a group at any time if there is sufficient member interest. Meeting venues can be fixed or shared around members' homes. Guidance on running a group is available from the Executive Committee.

u3a in Kennet is in the u3a Bath and Wiltshire Network which in turn is part of the South West Region:

www.u3a.org.uk/advice/u3a-networks#southwest.

Footnote 1: Formerly known as the University of the Third Age

Principles of the u3a movement

The **u3a** movement is non-religious and non-political and has three main principles:

The Third Age Principle

- Membership of a u3a is open to all in their third age, which is defined not by a particular age but by a period in life in which full-time employment has ceased.
- Members promote the values of lifelong learning and the positive attributes of belonging to a **u3a**.
- Members should do all they can to ensure that people wanting to join a **u3a** can do so.

The Self-help Learning Principle

- Members form interest groups covering as wide a range of topics and activities as they desire; by the members, for the members.
- No qualifications are sought or offered. Learning is for its own sake, with enjoyment being the prime motive, not qualification or awards.
- There is no distinction between the learners and the teachers; they are all **u3a** members.

The Mutual Aid Principle

- Each **u3a** is a mutual aid organisation, operationally independent but a member of The Third Age Trust, which requires adherence to the guiding principles of the **u3a** movement.
- No payments are made to members for services rendered to any **u3a**.
- Each **u3a** is self-funded with membership subscriptions and costs kept as low as possible.
- Outside financial assistance should only be sought if it does not imperil the integrity of the **u3a** movement.

You can find out more about the **u3a** including its Vision and Mission at the national website: www.u3a.org.uk

Membership of u3a in Kennet

Membership of **u3a in Kennet** entitles you to join as many of our interest groups as you can manage. Members are invited to attend the monthly **Coffee Exchange** sessions in Marlborough where we also welcome people interested in joining u3a.

Our **Kennet u3a Talks** are held four or five times a year giving everyone the opportunity to meet and discuss any issues as well as listen to interesting and entertaining guest speakers. The Talks will continue to be held mainly at the Kennet Valley Hall and also in the Town Hall in Marlborough.

We also have reciprocal agreements that allow members to join one group in Pewsey Vale u3a and/or one group in Devizes u3a as part of their membership of u3a in Kennet.

Information for u3a members

Monthly Newsletter

The Newsletter is sent out monthly by email. It contains up-to-date news on upcoming events. Members without email are sent a limited printed version of the Newsletter.

Yearbook

The Yearbook is published each year after the Annual General Meeting and sent to all members by post. It contains the key information about our **u3a** including telephone numbers of Group Leaders and Executive Committee members. This information should be kept confidential. The most up-to-date information on our groups can be found on our website.

u3a in Kennet website www.u3ainkennet.org.uk

The site is our “shop window”. It allows prospective members to apply for membership and gives access to up-to-date group and other information for our members

u3a national Website

www.u3a.org.uk

The national website has general information about u3a. It also has a “members’ area” where you can get access to information on resources, subject advice and other support. To access this area you need to “create an account” which costs nothing and is very straightforward. You can also request to receive the regular emailed Newsletter from the u3a National Office.

Third Age Matters (TAM)

This printed national magazine contains news of u3a groups up and down the country, upcoming events, general advice and encouragement. It is funded centrally through advertising and sent to all u3a members. Postage costs are met by the local u3a, so if you don’t want it, please let the Membership Secretary know. There is also an on-line Screenreader version available at:

www.u3a.org.uk/news/publications

Social Media

u3a in Kennet has a private Facebook group:

www.facebook.com/groups/u3ainkennet

and a public page: www.facebook.com/u3ainkennet

Register for the private group and share information about our activities and interests. The public page, along with our website, is our “window to the world”.

The national organisation has its own private group: www.facebook.com/groups/U3AKeepingInTouch

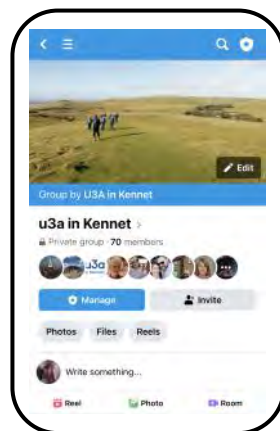
where members across the UK can share news and information.

The national organisation also has a public Facebook page:

www.facebook.com/u3auk, an X (Twitter) page: twitter.com/u3a_UK,

a radio podcast page: u3a.org.uk/news/u3a-radio-podcast

and online learning facilities at: www.u3a.org.uk/events/educational-events



Events for all members

Coffee Exchange

This is our primary monthly meeting and is held in the Town Hall in Marlborough and is a great opportunity to meet other u3a members, hear the latest news, listen to a local speaker and chat over a coffee. This is our main opportunity to meet potential new members. Members can also let the Executive Committee know what's on their minds.

Generally held on the last Thursday of the month 10.15–12.00 in the Town Hall, Marlborough. Dates may vary.

The Kennet u3a Talks

This series of talks allows all our members to come together and learn from an interesting speaker and enjoy a cup of tea or coffee and cake. We also use these events to keep everyone up to date with our news.

2nd or 3rd Wednesday of the month from 2.15–4.15 (February, April, July, and October)

Usually held at Kennet Valley Hall, Lockeridge, SN8 4EL

Really Usefuls

The Really Usefuls are a group of volunteers who take responsibility for a number of practical roles to support u3a in Kennet. The group requires a wide range of skills for different tasks. Come and join with other members to get to know each other better and make a real contribution to the smooth running of our u3a.

Contact: usefuls@u3ainkennet.org.uk

Executive Committee (Trustees)

Chair and Charity Commission	Jill Turner	chair@u3ainkennet.org.uk charities@u3ainkennet.org.uk
Vice Chair and Event Logistics	Jeff Hide	vicechair@u3ainkennet.org.uk
Secretary	Annette Weaver	secretary@u3ainkennet.org.uk
Treasurer	Alastair Sheen	treasurer@u3ainkennet.org.uk
Membership Secretary	Mike Morison	membershipsec@u3ainkennet.org.uk
Social Events Coordinator	<i>Vacancy*</i>	socialevents@u3ainkennet.org.uk
Newsletter	<i>Vacancy*</i>	newsletter@u3ainkennet.org.uk
Speaker Secretary	Jill Chambers	speakersec@u3ainkennet.org.uk
Committee Member	Alison Dewar	groups@u3ainkennet.org.uk
Committee Member	Georgie Neville	groups@u3ainkennet.org.uk
Technical Support	Hamzah	technical@u3ainkennet.org.uk

* At the time of going to press we need more volunteers to join the Executive Committee. Get in touch and help run our u3a.

Any ordinary member may attend meetings of the Executive Committee. If anyone would like to attend any meeting, please contact the Secretary before the meeting.

Recognise your Committee



Jill Turner



Jeff Hide



Annette Weaver



Alastair Sheen



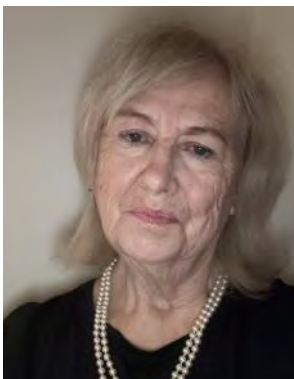
Mike Morison



Alison Dewar



Georgie Neville



Jill Chambers



Hamzah

Diary Dates for 2024

Annual General Meeting

Wednesday 30th October 2.15pm Kennet Valley Hall

The Kennet u3a Talks

Wednesday 14th February 2.15pm Kennet Valley Hall

Wednesday 10th April 2.15pm Kennet Valley Hall

Wednesday 24th July 2.15pm Kennet Valley Hall

Wednesday 30^h October 2.15pm Kennet Valley Hall (after AGM)

Coffee Exchange

Thursday 25th January 10.15am Town Hall, Marlborough

Thursday 29th February 10.15am Town Hall, Marlborough

Thursday 28th March 10.15am Town Hall, Marlborough

Thursday 18th April 10.15am Town Hall, Marlborough

Thursday 23rd May 10.15am Town Hall, Marlborough

Thursday 27th June 10.15am Town Hall Marlborough

Thursday 18th July 10.15am Town Hall Marlborough

Thursday 22nd August 10.15am Town Hall, Marlborough

Thursday 19th September 10.15am Town Hall, Marlborough

Thursday 14th November 10.15am Town Hall, Marlborough

New Members' Lunches

Dates to be confirmed Kennet Valley Hall (by invitation only)

National u3a Week

20th—28th September

Executive Committee*

(*Dates and venues to be confirmed)

Thursday 1st February 10.00am

Tuesday 2nd April 10.00am

Wednesday 5th June 10.00am

Tuesday 3rd September 10.00am

Tuesday 5th November 10.00am

Yearbook

Published annually in December

Newsletter

Published monthly

Note: If your group has an event open to all, please let the Executive Committee know and it will be published on the website and in the Newsletter circulated by email.

Interest groups

Our groups are the foundation of u3a. Every member can join as many groups as they can manage. Group Leaders are volunteers who run their groups in many different ways. Some split the leadership role between two or more individuals. Most rely on group members to contribute to the activities of the group. This could involve leading a walk, giving a presentation, hosting a meeting or arranging a visit.

There are around sixty five groups listed in the directory but there is always room for more. If you have a certain interest which is not yet covered, please do get in touch with a member of the Executive Committee to discuss this further. Even if you do not want to lead a group, please do make contact, as that way we can build up a list of people with that particular interest. If you would prefer to email, there is an email address that relates to groups which is monitored regularly: [**groups@u3ainkennet.org.uk**](mailto:groups@u3ainkennet.org.uk).

The following directory gives a description of each of our current groups and contact details for the Group Leader(s). If you are interested in joining a group, please get in touch with the Group Leader directly. **These details are up-to-date as we go to print — but there will be changes—so always check the latest information on our website at u3ainkennet.org.uk and in the monthly Newsletter.**



Tuesday**American History**

Quaker Meeting House

Tuesday, 3rd of month, 14.00 – 16.00

The American History Group has now been running for more than 2 years and we are now in the 20th century discussing the First World War. New members are welcome and can join in at any point. Past presentations are available on the website if anyone is interested in previous work. The group is led by an American who has a special interest in looking at the details of US History and sharing information for discussion purposes with the group members, who are mainly British though not entirely!

Email: amhist@u3ainkennet.org.uk

Contact: AnnMarie Newbigin

Friday**Art & Art History**

Quaker Meeting House

Friday, 2nd of month, 10.30 – 12.30

The topics are chosen by individual members. We do not follow a fixed curriculum or study a specific period or school. This approach has enabled the group to explore some unusual topics and artists. Discussions are prepared and led either by individuals or a small team. No experience necessary! Some members are new to the subject while others have a longstanding interest. We all learn from each other. Occasional visits to galleries and museums are also on the agenda.

Email: art.history@u3ainkennet.org.uk

Contact: Jane Fox

Thursday**Art Group, The**

The Scout Hall

Thursday, 1st and 3rd of month, 14.00 – 16.00

Our members have varying abilities ranging from beginners to those with a very good level of artistic expertise. Members learn from each other. Occasionally a group member may have a specific new skill to share with the group. Help and advice is always available when needed. All that is required for an artist to see improvement in their work is plenty of practice, enthusiasm and be prepared to 'have a go'. Quite a few members like nothing more than doing their own piece of work, away from distractions! We also have occasional 10 minute challenges as a diversion from doing our own work.

Email: art@u3ainkennet.org.uk

Contact: Allan Skipper

Wednesday

Aviation

Eating place in Marlborough Wednesday, 2nd of month, 12.00 - 14.30

We are an informal and sociable group who will meet either at a venue for a presentation or plan a visit to an old airfield or museum. We will usually meet at lunchtime for a chinwag over a drink and some food before progressing to the subject in mind. New members are always welcome.

Email: aviation@u3ainkennet.org.uk
Contact: Mike Morison

Thursday

Birdwatching

Varies Thursday, 3rd of month, (time varies)

The group visits various sites within Wiltshire and adjacent counties where we hear and see a wide variety of bird species. Outings are generally half day with the more distant being a full day. The meets leader, Steve Edwards astounds the group with his knowledge of birds, wild flowers and fauna while the formal leader, Brian Davies, attends to the administration

Email: birds@u3ainkennet.org.uk
Contact: Brian Davies

Wednesday

Book Circle

Quaker Meeting House Wednesday, 4th of month, 10.30 - 12.30

A diverse range of books to discuss, most recently The Gamekeeper (Barry Hines), I, Mona Lisa (Natasha Salomon) and Lessons in Chemistry (Bonnie Gamus). Members of the group introduce the book and its author before general, lively discussion.

Email: book.circle@u3ainkennet.org.uk
Contact: Sarah Foxall

Tuesday**Book Club – Short Stories**

Varies

Tuesday, 1st of month, 10.00 – 12.00

This group discusses short stories generally using one book of a variety of short stories. After more than two years using "That Glimpse of Truth", we are now agreeing on a new easy source of short stories and welcome new members and new ideas. Our meetings are informal, enjoyable and relaxed in a member's home. We consider the author's overall body of work and the specific short story learning about writing techniques and why short stories are so special.

Email: book.short@u3ainkennet.org.uk

Contact: Cynthia Lawrence

Thursday**Book Group**

Marlborough

Thursday, 4th of month, 14.30 – 16.30

The group meet once a month to discuss a book that they have all read. The books to be read are chosen by the members. Over the last year we have read a variety of novels – some recently published and others that were several years old. All led to lively discussions which gave the group members added insights to the books' contents.

Email: books.marl@u3ainkennet.org.uk

Contact: Alison Hammond

Tuesday**Books**

Members Homes

Tuesday, 1st of month, 14.00–16.00

The Books! Group meets on the first Tuesday of each month in a member's house in Marlborough and environs. We read a wide range of fiction and occasional non-fiction. Each month we vote on a shortlist of three suggested by a different member. A wait list operates beyond 9 members.

Email: BOOKS@u3ainkennet.org.uk

Contact: Julia Tyler

Friday**Bowls (Short Mat)**

Leisure Centre Marlborough Friday, weekly, 13.45 – 15.45 (October–April)

The venue is Marlborough Leisure Centre costing £2 per person per session (dependent on numbers attending). Players of all abilities are welcomed. Equipment is provided and instruction given. The Group is very supportive and an entertaining afternoon is assured. The group operates from October to April, in term time only, and runs from 1:45 to 3:45pm.

Email: short.mat@u3aikkennet.org.uk**Contact:** John Lafford**Sat / Mon****Bridge (Online)****Zoom**

Conference Call Saturday and Monday, weekly, 14.00–16.00

We play on-line bridge using BridgeBase and Zoom which gives interesting hands and the ability to communicate via Zoom. All ability levels are welcome and a crib sheet is available to assist with bidding. You do not have to worry if you don't have a partner to play. One will be provided.

Email: bridge3@u3aikkennet.org.uk**Contact:** Cate Mitchell**Varies****Classic Cars**

Varies

Flexible, various

We are a group of classic car enthusiasts and owners who like to use their cars (of whatever make) to enjoy:

- Country drives and pub lunches;
- Visits to car factories and restoration companies;

- Classic car events;
- Visits to country houses;

- Any other car related events organised by our members or their partners

To join you do not need to own a classic car. Any make, any year. We're very flexible as to what is a classic.

Email: class.cars@u3aikkennet.org.uk**Contact:** Ashley de Safrin

Thursday**Controversial Current Affairs**

Axford

Thursday, last of month 14.00 – 16.00

We are a group with strong opinions who take an interest in what's going on in the world. We're not afraid to be politically incorrect and say what we think and enjoy a lively discussion on any topic of the day. We limit ourselves to twelve people so that everyone has a chance to speak and to avoid the interaction becoming a presentation from one person. Unlike other Controversial Discussion groups we do not generally discuss philosophical questions. Once a year we have a lunch at Christmas – if we are all still talking, that is!

Email: cont.disc.2@u3ainkennet.org.uk

Contact: Nick Swan

Monday**Controversial Discussion 1**

Ogbourne St George

Monday, 2nd of month, 10.30 – 12.30 but not July

We discuss a wide range of subjects which are both important and challenging. Many of these will have controversial elements. Our discussions are stimulating, friendly and often amusing. We do not expect to reach agreement. Members of the group are expected to come forward with ideas for subjects, and to lead discussions on them in a rough rota. One of us will act as Moderator at meetings. Group numbers are limited in order to facilitate good quality discussions.

Email: cont.disc.1@u3ainkennet.org.uk

Contact: Clyde Nancarrow

Thursday**Controversial Discussion 3**

Quaker Meeting House

Thursday, 2nd of month, 10.30 – 12.30

We meet most months in or around Marlborough and are currently using the Friends Meeting House for the majority of our meetings (10.30 am–12.30pm). Topics are suggested by members and the discussion is led by members in turn. Discussion can be lively and humorous, is usually evidence or experience based, but is never confrontational. Minds are sometimes changed – a bit.

Email: cont.disc.3@u3ainkennet.org.uk

Contact: Dan Mace

Wednesday

Controversial Discussion 4

Members Homes

Wednesday, 1st of month, 14.00 – 16.00

We meet in members' homes and discuss a wide range of subjects chosen & usually introduced by group members. Depending on the topic, some research may be helpful. We usually have fun, while respecting everyone's view. Sometimes we agree but not always!

Email: cont.disc.4@u3ainkennet.org.uk

Contact: Jean Gray

Tuesday

Craft

Members Homes

Tuesday, 1st and 3rd of month, 10.00 to 12.00

Up and running from April 2023, meeting in the Group Leader's home. We are a friendly group, who chat as we work on our individual portable craft projects, exchanging crafting ideas, learning from each other and generally putting the world to rights!

So far there has been knitting, crochet, embroidery, cross stitch, bunting making and paper craft taking place but other portable crafts are welcome. In future we may tackle new skills together such as felting.

Email: craft@u3ainkennet.org.uk

Contact: Kath Pocock

Tuesday

Croquet

Members Homes

Tuesday 2nd & 4th of mnth 10.30–13.00 May–Sept

This Group meets during the summer months at members' homes.

Equipment is provided and participants enjoy the game and conversation with refreshments to follow.

Email: croquet@u3ainkennet.org.uk

Contact: Nick Stedman

Thurs / Fri

Current Affairs

Quaker Meeting House Thursday, 2nd and Friday 3rd of month, 10.00–11.00

This group considers current affairs from a variety of perspectives; economic, social, political and medical. Topics are chosen on a monthly basis in accordance with prevailing events and have included the COVID 19 pandemic, war in Gaza and Chinese territorial expansion. New members are always welcome and contributions are encouraged. No particular knowledge is required other than an interest in current affairs.

The 2nd Thursday of the month meeting is held from 10.30 – 12 noon at the FMH and the 3rd Friday session is from 10 – 11am on WHYPAY.

Email: current@u3aikkennet.org.uk

Contact: Jill Turner

Monday

Cycling

Varies

Monday, 1st and 3rd of month, 10.00

Fed up with cleaning muddy boots and scrambling over stiles? Want some exercise in the open air in the beautiful local countryside? Haven't cycled for years but still remember how you enjoyed it?

Then why not join us? We usually cycle around 20 – 25 miles at a leisurely pace mostly on quiet lanes and cycle paths, and we always stop for coffee and cake at some point on the route. We also have occasional whole day rides when we stop for lunch and cover up to 40 miles. We are a very friendly mixed group with currently 27 members on the books.

Email: cycling@u3aikkennet.org.uk

Contact: Toby Crampton

Varies

Day Trips

Varies

Three or four trips per year

We aim to offer three or four Day Trips each year to places of interest within approximately two hours travelling distance from Marlborough. We have no preset ideas, but aim to take full advantage of the abundance of places of interest in our region, spanning the arts, gardens, historic properties/sites, towns, cathedrals, exhibitions and combinations of these to provide interesting and enjoyable days out without the hassle of driving. By joining this group you are under no obligation to join trips, but it does ensure you are first to hear about them.

Email: daytrip@u3aikkennet.org.uk

Contact: Kate Morrison
Juliet McGregor

Friday**Digital Photography**

Minal Village Hall

Friday, 1st of month, 09.45–12.00

We are a friendly group owning a variety of camera types. We either go on a photo shoot or set ourselves a topic and individually take photos. At the monthly meetings we view the results, some of us put these photos onto our site on Flickr which can be viewed using a link from the u3a in Kennet website. We aim to get more from our cameras by helping each other, watching teaching videos and general discussion

Email: digi.phot@u3ainkennet.org.uk

Contact: Brian Wood

Tuesday**Dog Walking**

Varies

Tuesday, 2nd and 4th of month, 10.30 – 12.30

We meet on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of the month usually starting at 10.30am. The walks take place in many different areas with members of the group volunteering to lead. Steep hills and farming stock are avoided! Details of the meeting place and a short precis of the walk are communicated to members by e-mail. It is hoped that those intending to walk notify the walk leader in advance.

Email: dog.walks@u3ainkennet.org.uk

Contact: Barbara Davis

Wednesday**Exploring English**

Quaker Meeting House

Wednesday, 2nd of month, 10.30 – 12.00

We research and discuss a huge variety of topics, from rhyming slang to Proto-Indo-European roots. We look at reference works, new words, old words and how they have changed, the reform of spelling, the jargons of different crafts and industries. We have devilish quizzes on odd themes. And when we run out of existing phrases, we invent our own. In short we enjoy every aspect we can imagine of this quirky language of ours.

Email: exp.english@u3ainkennet.org.uk

Contact: Juliet Keel

Monday**Family History**

Quaker Meeting House

Monday, last of month, 14:30-16:30

There is a growing interest in family history and more and more information is accessible online. This makes it possible to research your own family history without experts or physical archive searches. We cover subjects such as key documents (Births, Marriages, Deaths, Census Forms, Military records etc), internet tools, family trees and on-line archives. We also share stories, ideas and advice. We have members with experience and those just starting. If you're interested in researching your family history but don't know where to start, or would like to share your experience with others, then do join us.

Email: familyhistory@u3ainkennet.org.uk

Contact: Tony Globe

Tuesday**Flora & Fauna**

Varies

Tuesday, 2nd of month, 14.15 - 16.15

The group meets monthly March - November at various sites suggested by members. The aim is to learn about the local flora and fauna, with group members identifying and recording our observations. Members share knowledge and expertise as well as photos, between meetings.

Email: flora.fauna@u3ainkennet.org.uk

Contact: Betty Dobson

Tuesday**French Conversation**

Members Homes

Tuesday, 3rd of month, 14.30 - 16.30

This group is for those with a reasonably fluent knowledge of the spoken French language who are interested in all things French but especially current affairs à la française. International and French current affairs as seen by the French press are discussed in French. You should be comfortable speaking French and reading advanced French magazine articles. Si vous parlez bien français, eh bien soyez les bienvenus! On parle et on s'amuse!

Email: french.adv@u3ainkennet.org.uk

Contact: Ashley de Safrin

Thursday

French Lang & Current Affairs

Marlborough

Thursday, 2nd and 4th of month, 14.15 – 16.15

This is a lively and engaging conversation group intended for participants with a firm familiarity with the French language. The group is focussed on gaining confidence in discussing and expressing opinions on a wide range of current affairs affecting all aspects of life in France. The content is diverse and dynamic, drawing on articles from recent French magazines/newspapers combined with related videos and music and taking advantage of the latest free language development tools available on the internet.

Email: french.lang@u3ainkennet.org.uk

Contact: Philip Elias

Tuesday

German (Advanced)

Members Homes

Tuesday, 2nd of month, 14.15–16.00

We read and discuss a variety of topics in German. Group members take it in turns to choose reading material on political, social and cultural subjects and these articles are distributed in advance to all.

Email: german.adv@u3ainkennet.org.uk

Contact: Ilse Nikolsky

Wednesday

German Conversation

Zoom

Members Homes

Wednesday, weekly, 10.30 – 12.00

This group is for people with some knowledge of German who would like to talk German more easily, without being too concerned about the technicalities of the grammar. A sense of humour is an advantage. We meet weekly on Zoom and at a member's house once a month.

Email: german.talk@u3ainkennet.org.uk

Contact: Bill Buxton

Thursday

German Improvers

Zoom

Conference Call

Thursday, fortnightly, 17.00 – 17.45

This an intermediate group for people with some knowledge of conversational German, who are self- motivated and want to develop their language skills through conversation. Daily use of Duolingo or equivalent is recommended.

Email: german.beg@u3ainkennet.org.uk

Contact: Karen Smith

Tuesday

Global History

Quaker Meeting House

Tuesday, 3rd of month, 10.00–12.00

We aim to explore the most recent approaches to the history of the cultures and civilizations on the planet. We choose a key book each month and two volunteer presenters lead our discussions. Topics include The Vikings, Byzantium 330–1034, India before the East India Company, China before Marco Polo and pre-columbine civilizations in the Americas.

Email: global.history@u3ainkennet.org.uk

Contact: Iain Goodfellow

Tuesday

History (Local)

Quaker Meeting House

Tuesday, 1st of month, 14.30 – 16.30

The group for people interested in learning more about the fascinating and extensive history of Marlborough and the wider Wiltshire area. All are welcome whether you have little knowledge of the history of this area or know a great deal and would like to pass your knowledge onto others. The group’s programme comprises talks by a mixture of external speakers and group members and visits to places of historic interest. A truly diverse range of topics are covered from pre-history to the present day. There is always something new to discover.

Email: loc.hist@u3ainkennet.org.uk

Contact: Geoff Hill

Tuesday**Italian Conversation**

Marlborough

Alternate Tuesdays, 10.30 – 12.00

This is a group of friends of Italy who meet to talk informally, but chiefly in Italian, on any topic, particularly those relating to modern life in Italy. No special level in the Italian language is required to enjoy the activities of this Group.

Email: italian1@u3ainkennet.org.uk

Contact: Bruce McCrae

Friday**Jazz Appreciation**

Broad Hinton

Friday, 1st of month, 14.00 – 16.00

Members present an informal recital or illustrated talk or just come and share their love of aspects of jazz – historic vintage performances, classic 'golden era' jazz, British jazz – trad or modern – Swing Era greats – Ellington, Goodman, Basie, Heath etc. – Bebop, West Coast, Cool, Progressive. There's a huge, free CD and book library available – all this plus tea and biscuits! We hope in the future to add the possibility of outings to jazz venues, concerts & festivals to our core activities.

Email: jazz@u3ainkennet.org.uk

Contact: Roy Oakshott

Wednesday**Life Sciences**

Quaker Meeting House

Wednesday, 3rd of month, 10.00 – 12.00

The aim of the Life Sciences group is to learn about and discuss major topics in the study of human and animal life, including basic aspects of Physiology and Psychology as well as broader topics such as Evolution, Natural History, Ecology and Environmental Science. Group meetings generally involve presentations of about one hour duration on specific topics, followed by discussion. Presentations will mostly use recorded video lectures from reputable sources, with occasional talks by individual members or guest speakers.

Email: lifesci@u3ainkennet.org.uk

Contact: Graham Barnes

Wednesday

Mahjong 1

Burbage

Wednesday, weekly, 14.00 – 16.30

Mahjong is a Chinese game originally, now played all over the world. It is similar to many card games but played with pretty tiles. It is very easy to learn and extremely enjoyable. We are a small friendly group who meet to play. Few of us had heard of the game before joining! Beginners welcome, or anyone who played "years ago" and wishes to re-learn. Come along and try just to see if you like it !

Email: mahjong1@u3ainkennet.org.uk

Contact: Linda Sloan

Tuesday

Mahjong 3

Marlborough

Tuesday, fortnightly, 14.00 – 17.00

The Marlborough Mahjong group has limited availability for anyone interested in playing this compelling game. Please contact Roland Fisher to discuss the possibility of joining the group.

Email: mahjong3@u3ainkennet.org.uk

Contact: Roland Fisher

Tuesday

Music Maestros

Members Homes

Tuesday, 2nd of month, 14.15–16.15

The group meets in Marlborough and, facilitated by the leader, discusses the music of composers early to modern times. Only a member's interest in the music is required without the need to perform or, indeed, to know any. Refreshments are enjoyed in comfortable surroundings.

Email: music@u3ainkennet.org.uk

Contact: Jeff Hide

Wednesday**Pétanque 1**

Great Bedwyn

Alternate Wednesdays, 10.30 – 13.00

Petanque, also called Boules, is an outdoor game where players toss boules (metal balls the size of an orange) as close as possible to a little wooden sphere (the jack). Play can be between individuals or teams. The game is played on a terrain or 'piste' that has a hard but rough surface. For more detailed information, refer to <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Petanque> on the internet. It is easy to play and will benefit hand/eye co-ordination, general fitness and most importantly in our case, social contact. There is no charge involved but participants are expected to provide their own boules.

Email: *petanque@u3ainkennet.org.uk***Contact:** *Des Clarke***Wednesday****Pétanque 2**

Great Bedwyn

Alternate Wednesdays to Petanque 1, 10.00–13.00

This group also meets at the Three Tuns, Great Bedwyn but on alternate Wednesdays to Petanque 1. Often called Boules, the two Petanque groups provide fun from beginner level in an ideal venue where parking, coffee, toilets and lunch are all available. Members use their own boules once accepted into a group.

Email: *petanque2@u3ainkennet.org.uk***Contact:** *Sally Bruce***Friday****Poetry Appreciation 1**

Varies

Friday, 1st of month, 10.00 – 12.00

A small friendly group welcoming new members who enjoy reading, sharing and discussing poetry. We touch upon a wide range of eras and genres depending upon the various choices made by members. Some enjoy taking the lead in selecting poems and poets and leading discussions while other members prefer to listen and reflect in their own way. There is a wide range of knowledge of poetry to enjoy sharing within the group but those new to appreciating poetry are very welcome to join.

Email: *poetry@u3ainkennet.org.uk***Contact:** *Mary Caudell*

Wednesday**Poetry Appreciation 2**

Varies

Wednesday, 3rd of month, 10.00 – 12.00

A small friendly group welcoming new members who enjoy reading, sharing and discussing poetry. We touch upon a wide range of eras and genres depending upon the various choices made by members. Some enjoy taking the lead in selecting poems and poets and leading discussions while other members prefer to listen and reflect in their own way. There is a wide range of knowledge of poetry to enjoy sharing within the group but those new to appreciating poetry are very welcome to join.

Email: poetry@u3ainkennet.org.uk

Contact: Mary Caudell

As arranged**Qigong**

Marlborough

As arranged

"The Fifteen Minute Practise": a 12 week course comprising a short daily practise combining breathing, meditation, tapping, visualisation, balancing and Qigong moves. Group members will be provided with a short written booklet at the end of the 12 week course as an aide memoire.

Email: qigong@u3ainkennet.org.uk

Contact: Felicity Simpson

Thursday**Quiz****Zoom**

Conference Call

Thursday, 1st of month, 14.30 – 16.30

We meet once a month for 5 rounds of questions on varied subjects; from Art to Words & Language. When we meet on Zoom, the teams of up to 4 members are changed each time to give us a chance to make new acquaintances. Now that Covid restrictions are relaxed, we may meet up, on occasions, at local village halls or pubs. New members are always welcome.

Email: quizzing@u3ainkennet.org.uk

Contact: Mike Morison

Varies

Really Usefuls

Varies

As required

We are well known for cheery catering and other organisational support at our coffee exchanges and other meetings. We enjoy volunteering with each other, as well as meeting other u3a members. Being “useful” and offering a helping hand can also be so much more: supporting other u3a members who may find it difficult getting to meetings or taking part in our wide range of interest groups and other activities. Do get in touch if you would like to help – or if you might like help. Note that it can take a few days to contact volunteers to help you.

Email: usefuls@u3ainkennet.org.uk

Contact: Alison Dewar

Tuesday

Recorder Beginners

Collingbourne Ducis

Tuesday, weekly, 14.00–16.30

If you have never played and would like to learn or if you have played and would like to play again, then come along and make music. The Group Leader has recorders available to borrow if you would like to try before you buy. All music is provided.

Email: recorder@u3ainkennet.org.uk

Contact: Harriet Oliver

Friday

Recorder Intermediate

Collingbourne Ducis

Friday, weekly, 14.00–16.00

If you already play and enjoy making music in a group come to this session. The Group Leader has recorders available to borrow and all music is provided.

Email: recorder@u3ainkennet.org.uk

Contact: Harriet Oliver

Tuesday**Science Discussion**

Members Homes 4th Tuesday afternoon of each month at 1400 hrs.

Absolutely no previous knowledge of, or qualifications in, science, technology, engineering or mathematics is needed to join our group, just an interest in the way the world and the universe works. We have monthly self-prepared presentations on a wide variety of subjects, sometimes given by outside speakers. We also have visits to places like observatories, museums, laboratories and factories.

Email: sciencetalk@u3ainkennet.org.uk

Contact: Nick Stedman

Thursday**Scrabble**

Axford Thursday, 1st of month, 14.00 - 16.00

For keen or aspiring wordsmiths join our once monthly Scrabble group. We are a friendly group and meet at the Group Leader's home.

Email: scrabble@u3ainkennet.org.uk

Contact: Ashley de Safrin

Monday**Spanish 1**

Quaker Meeting House Monday, 1st and 3rd of month, 10.30 - 12.30

Two parts to each session divided by a coffee break: the first is led by individual members of the group who introduce a topic of general or personal interest for discussion. In recent month these have included: cities of the future; second homes; the use of glass v. plastic The second part of the morning takes the form of a recording in Spanish on a topical subject from the internet. This improves listening and comprehension skills and allows for further and wider discussion on the particular topic.

Email: espana.1@u3ainkennet.org.uk

Contact: Sarah Foxall

Tuesday**Spanish 2**

Quaker Meeting House Tuesday ,1st and 3rd of month, 10.30 – 12.30

We are now well established as a group of Spanish improvers and are open to new members. The format is that members discuss topical issues followed by extracts from their own diaries. After a break for refreshments , elements of the Pasos Course Book, Read & Think Spanish or Spanish Short Stories are completed. The two hour programme concludes with a session about Spanish verbs.

Email: espana.2@u3ainkennet.org.uk

Contact: Patrick Mason

Tuesday**Spanish for Self Starters**

Members Homes Tuesday, 2nd and 4th of month, 14.00 – 16.00

This friendly group started meeting in February 2019 when all participants were beginners but, since then, they have made steady progress towards understanding and learning the basics of the Spanish language. The focus is on mutual support of learners and the main emphasis is on communication. We broadly follow a course book accompanied by CDs and a DVD to reinforce learning and listening to the spoken language. Recently we have also started reading and translating short stories.

Email: espana.ss@u3ainkennet.org.uk

Contact: Lorenza Johnston

Wednesday**Table Talk Luncheon**

Eating place in Marlborough Wednesday, 2nd of month, 12.15 – 14.00

We are currently meeting for lunch at The Lamb in the Parade on the second Wednesday of each month. Cost is dependent on how much you eat and drink. We are a very informal group and our aim is to discuss any item of interest or concern and if we prove to be a large group there could be several topics at the table at once. If we run out of topics we get out the "Table Talk" cards (hence the name) to keep the conversation flowing without falling into general chatter.

We are a friendly group and are an ideal group to join, especially if you are new to the area.

Email: table.talk@u3ainkennet.org.uk

Contact: Cate Mitchell

Friday**Table Tennis (Advanced)**

Leisure Centre Marlborough

Friday, weekly, 11.00 – 12.00

The group meets during term time and aims to provide an opportunity to play more competitive table tennis. Games are mostly doubles, some singles. There is a small charge to cover hire cost and balls are provided.

Email: tabtenfri@u3ainkennet.org.uk

Contact: David Radford

Wednesday**Table Tennis 1**

Leisure Centre Marlborough

Wednesday, weekly, 10.30 – 11.30

This very sociable group occupies three tables at Marlborough Leisure Centre. All levels of ability welcome. It's been known that playing Table Tennis will improve your co-ordination and reaction, so do come along and enjoy it. There is normally a small charge made to cover the cost of the court hire. Bats and balls can be provided. We do not meet during school holidays as the hall is normally booked for children's clubs'

Email: tabtenwed@u3ainkennet.org.uk

Contact: Hamzah

Thursday**Table Tennis 2**

Leisure Centre Marlborough

Thursday, weekly, 11.00 – 12.00

This friendly group hires three tables at Marlborough Leisure Centre. All levels of ability are welcome. As well as improving your co-ordination and reactions, table tennis is a lot of fun so do come along and try it. There is usually a small charge to cover the cost of the table hire. We do not meet during school holidays as the hall is taken up by children's clubs.

Email: tabtenthu@u3ainkennet.org.uk

Contact: Simon Caudell

Varies**Theatre**

Coach to various theatres

Varies, 2 or more per year

Over the past couple of years (2022–23) members enjoyed plays in Oxford, "Private Lives" (March '22), and Cheltenham, "The Two Popes" (October '22), as well as visits to the Watermill in Newbury to see "Notes from a Small Island" by Bill Bryson (February '23) and Guildford to see "Quality Street" (June '23). We always book a matinee which allows us time to look around the town and have lunch before a performance.

Email: theatre@u3ainkennet.org.uk

Contact: Maryann Bettison
Anna Shantry

Varies**Travel**

Within the UK

Varies, 1 – 2 per year

This group goes on short coach trips to different parts of Britain twice a year. The trip is usually for four days. The group includes members from Kennet and Pewsey u3as. There are no meetings. Communication is via email and priority for places is given to those who have travelled previously, but spaces often come up. If you would like to know more, please email Anne to be added to the mailing list.

Email: travel@u3ainkennet.org.uk

Contact: Anne Carroll

Monday**Walking 1 (Monday)**

Varies

Monday, weekly, 10.30

As a group, we aim to provide a congenial weekly walk of 4 to 5 miles for about 2 hours. Group members take turns leading the walks. Afterwards, walkers may choose to lunch at a nearby venue. A programme of walks is distributed to group members by email and published on our webpage. Dogs are not permitted on our walks.

Email: mon.walk@u3ainkennet.org.uk

Contact: Betty Dobson
Dawn Twelftree

Thursday

Walking 2 (Thursday)

Varies

Thursday, weekly, 10.00

Our weekly walks are organised in advance and around six or seven miles. Group members volunteer to lead walks and provide details of the meeting point and a description of the walk. These details are published on the website and emailed to members giving an opportunity for walkers to clarify details and potential difficulties in advance. Proper walking footwear is essential and clothing appropriate for the weather should be worn or carried, as well as any medication possibly needed. Dogs are not permitted. Plans may change at the last minute.

Email: thu.walk@u3ainkennet.org.uk

Contact: Gerald Long
Allan Skipper

Tuesday

Walking 3 (Strollers)

Varies

Tuesday, 1st & 3rd of month, all year. 11.00

We are a friendly group and aim to walk 2-3 miles taking approximately one and a half hours. Our walks are led by different group members, on a rough rota basis. We meet on the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of each month at different locations within a 10 mile radius of Marlborough. We start at 11:00 am and a lunch is organised for those wishing to stay after the walk.

Email: strollers@u3ainkennet.org.uk

Contact: Marion Oatley

Tuesday

Walking 4 (Striders)

Varies

Tuesday, 2nd and 4th of month, 10.00

The Striders group is what it says. The object of each walk is to cover around 10 - 12 miles through interesting and beautiful countryside at a sensible distance-walking pace. The aim is to enjoy the walking, the distance, the situation and the conversation. If there is no conversation, we're going too fast! Walkers are expected to take drinks, packed lunches, and be suitably equipped re waterproofs, spare sweaters and any anticipated medications. The current programme can be viewed on the web site, alternatively anyone wanting a programme please contact the Group Leader. Dogs are not permitted on our walks.

Email: striders@u3ainkennet.org.uk

Contact: John Williams

Thursday

Wine Appreciation

Marlborough

Thursday, 4th of month, 19.30 – 21.30

If you enjoy a glass of wine and would like to extend your experience of tastes and your knowledge of types why not consider joining WAG? We meet once a month (except August and December) at the Rugby Club in Frees Avenue to sample and discuss around 6 wines. We compare grape varieties, countries and price ranges. Members present wines to illustrate their experience and share their knowledge. From time to time we have guest speakers from the wine trade. There is no subscription but there is a charge to cover the costs of each enjoyable and entertaining evening.

Email: wag@u3ainkennet.org.uk

Contact: Gordon Hutt

Group Activities and u3a Media Day



Wine Appreciation Group visit to Poulton Hill Winery 6th September 2023



New Members' Lunch March 2023

Group Leaders' Lunch February 2023

u3a Media Day at Marlborough College 28th April 2023



u3a Day in Marlborough – 13th September 2023



Past and present Chairs of u3a in Kennet at u3a Open Day:
 Peter Noble (2013-16), David Hammond (2019-22), Mayor of Marlborough
 Lisa Farrell, Gerald Long (2008-11), Val Clowes (2004-06),
 Len Street OBE (u3a National Chairman 1997-2000), Jill Turner (2022-),
 Graham Barnes (2016-19)

u3a in Kennet Resources

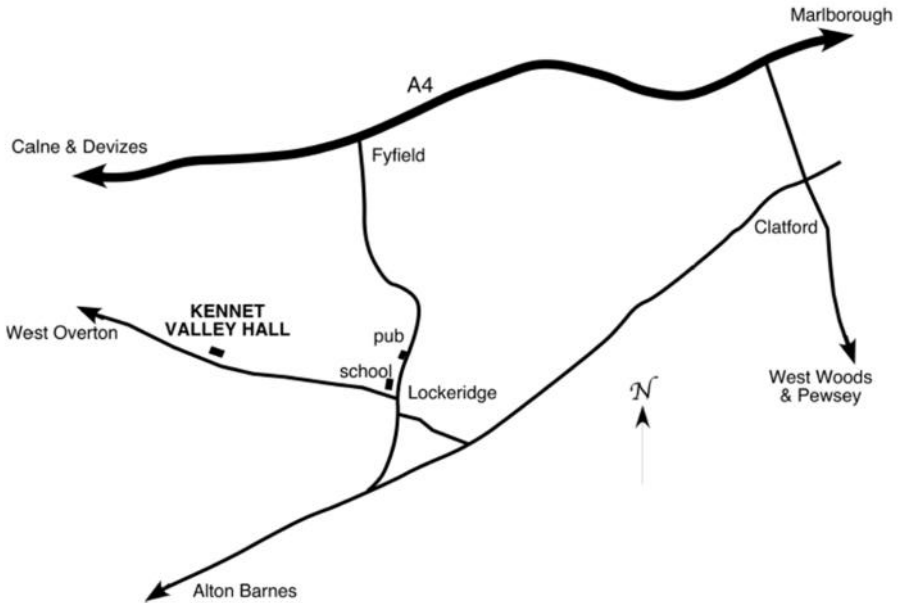
To support groups we have: digital projector, projection screen, laptop, display boards and guillotine. Also available is a list of available meeting venues in Marlborough. Just contact a member of the Executive Committee or Groups Liaison at groups@u3ainkennet.org.uk

Sharing travel costs

The Executive Committee has been asked on occasion for advice on sharing the costs of using private cars to attend u3a group meetings or visits. We have no formal rule on this but appreciate that people who provide the transport should not be expected to pay all the costs. Applying the national business rate (45p a mile) is unrealistic. The Executive Committee feels that having a central policy at all can lead to arguments. Our recommendation is that members who share transport should agree their own policy. A figure of 20p to 30p per mile shared between driver and passengers has been suggested to cover fuel and other costs. Some prefer a "tit for tat" arrangement and some drivers provide generously or freely. Whatever approach you adopt we do feel it should be discussed within your group so that no-one feels put upon in terms of subsidising other members. Please, don't assume the driver will pay!

If you represent u3a in Kennet at a regional or national event then the standard business mileage rate applies. This, or public transport fares, will be reimbursed by the Treasurer. For more guidance on what expenses can be claimed, please contact the Treasurer on treasurer@u3ainkennet.org.uk.

Directions to Kennet Valley Hall, Lockeridge, SN8 4EL



Directions to Town Hall Marlborough





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