



Newsletter

January 2024

WELCOME

Welcome to our first u3a in Kennet Newsletter for the new year. We have a busy programme of events planned for 2024 with our Coffee Exchanges and Kennet u3a Talks, day trips and much more.

Marlborough has experienced some unfortunate events in its history and the recent flooding which followed Storm Henk has affected some of our members. Sadly too we learned of the passing of Mike Tupman, MBE the Town Crier last week and we remember his good humored support for our recent Open Days at the Town Hall (see later section)

EVENTS

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.

This month we are going to try something different and at 11am we will have the privilege of hearing some live music from the Marlborough Concert Orchestra. A wind quintet and a string quartet will entertain us with classical music from Mozart, Borodin, Elgar and Holst.

We look forward to seeing you there.

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 – by invitation. Postponed to 8th March 2024.

Here are the links to our web page u3aikkennet.org.uk and Facebook page www.facebook.com/u3aikkennet

Please "control and click" on links to visit suggested webpages

Kennet Talk: 2.15pm 14th February 2024. Kennet Valley Hall.

u3a in Kennet member Alix Booth will entertain and inform us about the long history of Punch and Judy. Further details will follow next month.

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

Video presentations (ViP)

Since 2020 we have held exhibitions for both our own members and the general public, demonstrating our interest groups and activities. These have included our regular coffee exchange days, our annual open days as well as for national events such as the late Queen's Jubilee weekend. We have also provided special interest days at Marlborough College.

These activities have been supported by photographs and video films showing examples of our u3a in Kennet in action, supplied by groups and assembled originally by our webmaster, the late Tom Horwitz and recently by Hamzah. These presentations have required both finding the material needed as well as the skills necessary to achieve a 'professional' standard, the former being increasingly difficult.

I should therefore like to assemble a few members who may be interested in learning how to create video footage and edit it for our publicity purposes. In an ideal world we could have members who already have such skills but failing that dream, there surely must be half a dozen out of our current 673 members who have the interest and time to be taught what skills are needed. If you are one, please contact me, without any commitment, to talk about this. Jeff Hide (Email: Vicechair@u3ainkennet.org.uk)

Qigong

We are pleased to confirm that our Qigong Group will recommence again in February 2024. Group Leader Felicity Simpson proposes to meet on alternate Thursday afternoons from 2pm – 3,30pm at the Scout Hut in Marlborough.

If you are interested to join the Group please contact Felicity on; qigong@u3ainkennet.org.uk

Singles Supper Club,

There has been a lot of interest in our new Singles Supper Club following our Newsletter article in December 2023. David Moakes is organizing the arrangements and is keen to welcome any other members who would like to find out more about the Club. The Group will meet together regularly for a meal and conversation. They might meet in someone's home with each member providing a course or the wine, or would plan a takeaway meal, alternatively agree to meet in a restaurant or pub.

If you are interested to find out more please register your interest (without obligation) by emailing Chair@u3ainkennet.org.uk in the first instance.

OTHER NEWS

Savernake – Our Forest. u3a in kennet member and former Chairman Peter Noble writes:

'I wonder just how many of us visit Savernake Forest for summer picnics, year-round dog walking, photographing the autumn colours, searching for ancient or named trees, collecting chestnuts for roasting, exploring with grand-children or just enjoying pleasant exercise. Whatever *your* purpose you will inevitably have noticed our old forest needs some TLC. Fine trees are being hidden and threatened by rogue saplings and ivy; brambles and bracken are invading those wide green rides.

Thirty years ago, maybe less, there were at least six full-time on-site foresters and nurserymen, today there are none. There is however a small team of local volunteers that meets once a month to tackle some of the maintenance tasks. The Forestry England supervisor supplies all necessary tools as well as tea and cakes. It's fun and good exercise. You also develop new skills and learn much about the forest and its denizens.

If you think this might be for you, and we need more people, then please give me a ring.

Peter Noble 01672 519034

Help Ukraine Group Support in collaboration with Swindon Humanitarian Aid Partnership will be collecting for Ukraine on Tuesday 27th February 2024 from 9am – 2pm at Marlborough Town Football Club, Elcot Lane, Marlborough, SN8 2BG. See here for details of requested items;

<https://www.shapuk.org/aid-donations>

Mike Tupman, MBE



Marlborough Town Crier Mike Tupman, MBE passed away on 13th January 2024.

Known locally as 'Tuppers', Mike has supported u3a in Kennet in recent years launching our Open Days from the steps of the Town Hall with good humor, ad lib jokes and much gravitas. He will be missed by many in the town and beyond.

Mike had been the Town Crier for the past eight years and before that the 'face of policing' as the town's Special Constable. Further details here: <https://marlborough.news/news/mike-tupman-mbe-town-crier-special-constable-tuppers-marlborough-will-miss-you/>

u3a in Kennet Chorister Boy apple tree

The Marlborough Community Orchard will hold their winter health check on the trees in the Jubilee Field in Manton including our u3a in Kennet Chorister Boy apple tree.

Volunteers are invited to join the Community Orchard volunteers to help with looking after our tree and generally learning how to care for young trees.

You do not have to be an experienced gardener! Join us from 2pm on Monday 29th January 2024 at the Jubilee Field in Manton (weather permitting). The Community Orchard team will supply mulch and fertilizer, stake ties etc. Please bring your wellies as well as a kneeler, garden gloves, small trowel or fork and secateurs.



The Orchard Team will be at the Diamond Jubilee Plantation again on Marlborough Common on Saturday 27th January from 9am and then at Rogers Meadow.

Please let me know if you are available to join us to help care for our tree and to learn some new skills about plant care.

Email: chair@u3ainkennet.org.uk.

U3A IN KENNET COMMITTEE.



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*Chair and Charity
Commission Contact*



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Vice Chair



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