



Newsletter

September 2024

WELCOME



Welcome to our first autumn edition in which we look ahead to our Annual General Meeting and share more news from our many and varied Groups and our recent Open Day in the Town Hall in Marlborough.

Photo; Susan Turner

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AND KENNET TALK

Our Annual General Meeting will be held on 30th October 2024 at the **Town Hall in Marlborough** and will be followed by the **Kennet Talk** which will be presented by **Bob Holman** on the subject of **'Marlborough underground'**.

The AGM invitation email has been sent to all members along with the formal Notice of the meeting and the combined Nomination and Proxy Voting form. The full set of AGM papers are here: <https://u3ainkennet.org.uk/u3a-in-kennet-agm-2024/> including the accounts, Chair and Trustees' report and the AGM Minutes from 2023.

We look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at the AGM so that we have the necessary quorum (currently approximately 70 members)

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- **Annual General Meeting** 2pm, 30th October 2024, Town Hall, Marlborough.
- (Please note change from our usual venue)
- **Kennet Talk**, 3pm, 30th October 2024, Town Hall, Marlborough. Guest Speaker Bob Holman,
- **New Group Leaders' induction meeting**, 6th November 2024 (14.00 – 16.00) Friends Meeting House, Marlborough.

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

RECENT COFFEE EXCHANGE SESSIONS

THE HISTORY AND PRACTICE OF ENGLISH BELL RINGING 22ND AUGUST 2024.



(Photo by John Slaughter)

Ian Wyld rings the bells at various local churches including St Marys in Marlborough. He explained he was not an expert but he clearly has a passion for his hobby. He began his talk with a detailed and illustrated tour of St Marys Tower and it's eight bells. He covered the terminology, and how the ropes and bells work together. He described change ringing and the sequences. These must require incredible concentration. He illustrated and explained the changes that are rung, showing us the mathematical concepts which are followed to produce the different peals. Finally he told stories of the ringers and

their reputations over the years – the heavy drinking and riotous behaviour, including the brewing of beer in towers, for example in Netheravon up until the 1960s! For better or for worse, things have changed today.

Many of us may have struggled with the complexities of the maths involved. However we can now appreciate what skill and energy are involved in producing the glorious notes which serve as a sound track to our daily lives. The particular sounds we hear are produced by bells which swing through 360 degrees. This is a peculiarly English obsession. Ian told us that there are about 6000 towers with these bells in the British Isles, mostly in England, and there are only 150 in the rest of the world.

Following on from his talk on bell ringing, Ian Wyld would like to invite members to attend St Mary's tower while the bells are being rung. This would probably be on a Tuesday evening. Please note that access to the ringing room is via a 42 step spiral staircase and that access would be restricted to four people per session. Visitors must follow any safety instructions. If you are interested please contact chair@u3ainkennet.org.uk and we will forward your details to the bell ringing organiser.

19th SEPTEMBER 2024. 'IT ISN'T ALL ABOUT RUBBISH!' COUNCILLOR JANE DAVIES.

One of Marlborough's County Councillors visited the Coffee Exchange to talk about the responsibilities of a Wiltshire County Councillor and explain the structure of the Council and how our money is spent. Jane Davies, who represents the Marlborough West Ward on the Council, also has county wide responsibility for Adult Social Care and Special Educational Needs



Jane brought slides to illustrate her presentation. She explained something of her work and how she is able to help the residents of her ward.

Interestingly Jane had indicated that complaints on the state of roads was the issue most often raised by the residents who contacted her. Certainly this was confirmed when most of the questions that followed the talk were on highway issues. This was confirmed when most of the questions that followed the talk were on highway issues.

Photo by John Slaughter

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE NEW MEMBER

We are delighted to welcome John Slaughter as a newly co-opted Committee Member. Many of you will have met John at our Welcome desk at the Coffee Exchange events and taking our photos. John is a retired Chartered Mechanical Engineer whose career was spent in the electricity supply industry. He has lived in Marlborough since 1992 and joined u3a in Kennet in 2019. In his spare time he is also a civilian instructor with the Air Training Corps and enjoys DIY and working on cars.

We have other vacancies on the Committee and invite members to consider coming forward too. No particular experience is required other than a willingness to join the team and to support our various events, associated activities and publicity. Positions on our Committee are time limited in accordance with our Constitution and as we look ahead we need to plan to replace some of the members to enable us to continue to exist as an organisation. Please contact Chair Jill Turner (chair@u3ainkennet.org.uk) for further information.

GROUPS NEWS

We begin with a 'thank you' to all of our Leaders who sustain our many and varied groups. The Leaders' support for u3a in Kennet is essential to our continued growth and development.

DAY TRIPS GROUP VISIT TO WELLS. GROUPS NEWS

Fifty-four members of the Day Trips Group went to Wells on September 18th and had a great day. The sun shone, the sky was blue and Wells was not crowded. We all did our own thing but we think the Cathedral was on everyone's list.

It has been described as a jewel of Gothic architecture and it was a privilege to be inside and see the fabulous 14th Century stained glass Jesse Window and the massive scissor arch or even just to sit on the lawns outside and admire the beautiful West Front.



Photos Kate Morrison

The Bishop's Palace was also stunning. Several people took part in tours of its magnificent gardens. The almost June-like weather showed them to their best advantage. Some of us walked along the ramparts from where you can catch a glimpse of the faraway Glastonbury Tor. We walked the length of the medieval Vicars' Close and listened to students in the Cathedral School practising their music.

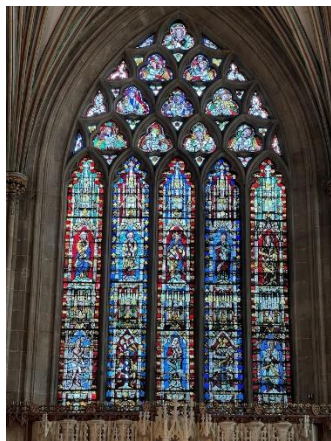


Photo David Hammond

There were plenty of cafés to sit in and relax after the hard work of exploring the farmers' market and local shops. Some were even lucky enough to find half-price sports gear in shops with sales.

It was a lovely day and we'd like to thank everyone that came. Our next trip is to Winchester on St Nicholas Day, December 6th. We will be notifying Day Trip Group members within the next couple of weeks.

Kate Morrison and Juliet McGregor. Email: Daytrip@u3ainkennet.org.uk

PÉTANQUE

Pétanque, 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>.

It is easy to play and will benefit hand/eye co-ordination, general fitness and most importantly in our case, social contact. It is an outdoor game and we do try and play throughout the winter

although there may be occasions when the weather is not on our side and we have to cancel the event.

The u3a Pétanque group has been running successfully since July 2021. Members who may be interested to join are asked to contact the group leader. There is no charge involved in this event but participants are expected to provide their own boules. Email: petanque@u3ainkennet.org.uk

As the venue that we play at is the local pub, we do tend to gather afterwards for lunch as a thank you to them for allowing us to use the facilities FOC

The Group meets on alternate Wednesdays from 10:30am. The venue is The Three Tuns, Great Bedwyn – [1 High St, Great Bedwyn, Marlborough SN8 3NU](#)

NEW GROUPS – CHESS (repeat publicity)



Chess players are invited to join our proposed new Group which will meet regularly. We have already received an offer to lead the group and boards and chess clocks are available too.

Please contact groups@u3ainkennet.org.uk if you are interested to join the new group.

BUS ADVENTURES GROUP

The new Group's first adventure will take place on Friday 25 October 2024 with a trip to Salisbury and back. The Group will take the X5 bus from Marlborough High Street (at 10.17am) and return from central Salisbury returning to Marlborough 15.30pm or 16.52. Bus passes can be obtained here <https://wiltshire.mybuspass.co.uk/> and single fares are being held at just £2 at present.

Please contact Alison Dewar and Amanda Goatly if you are interested to join the Group: Email: busadventures@u3ainkennet.org.uk

DOUBLE BOUNCE TENNIS GROUP

Our new u3a Double-Bounce tennis group is designed for those who probably cannot, or do not wish to, run around the court as fast as maybe they were once able to!

The tennis is played on a normal sized court, but a double bounce is allowed before hitting the ball. The sessions last for one hour.

The cost is £5 for a session, which includes coffee and cake. The Group meets each week on Wednesday mornings from 10 – 11am at Marlborough Tennis Club (at the Marlborough Golf Club, SN8 1DU.

Please email: walking.tennis@u3ainkennet.org.uk for more information and to express interest in joining the Group

QIGONG

Qigong is an ancient Chinese wellness practice promoting increased vitality, happiness and longevity for any age group and any level of fitness. Felicity Simpson led a Qigong group for u3a in Kennet earlier in the year and is planning to resume the group with trial sessions at the Priory Gardens on Monday mornings 10 – 11.30am and moving soon to an indoor venue during the colder weather.

Please contact Felicity on 078431 771599 if you would like to try qigong. No experience is required. Please wear clothing that is loose, comfortable and appropriate for the weather conditions.

WAITING FOR BOOKS?

Good news! We are planning to start a second Wednesday morning book group. Please email groups@u3ainkennet.org.uk if you are interested to join.

Our book groups are very popular! This means that some of you are on our waiting list. Alison and Georgie will be in touch shortly with all 'waiters' to find out which days would suit you best if spaces become available.

We have book groups on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays. Please let us know if you would like to wait for a space and on which days.

Sharp Flat Scale Largo Fortissimo Maestro Symphony

You do not need to recognize more than two of these words to come along to the monthly sessions of our **Music Maestro Group** held in Marlborough. You do not need to recognise this famous composer.



In fact, you do not even need to know anything much about music but might like to spend a couple of hours enjoying, learning and listening to and, if you wish to, commenting on video and audio excerpts of different aspects of music and its background from the mediaeval period to the modern day.

It is a small group and some spaces have just now arisen, so if you are at all interested let me know on 01672 511774, 07792102219 or personally or on music@u3ainkennet.org.uk.

"Don't be coy and miss the joy!." Jeff Hide

OTHER GROUPS?

Please do let us know if you are interested in any of these new groups or have any suggestions or requests for other groups. Email: groups@u3ainkennet.org.uk.

We would be very happy to explore suggestions and to support the setting up of new groups.

U3A IN KENNET OPEN DAY

We held our annual Open Day at the Town Hall on 25 September 2024 and it was good to see many of you there.



The event was open to the public and we recruited at least 15 (possibly 20) new members on the Day. We were entertained with a mini concert from Harriet Oliver and our Recorder Groups and stands showing the work of the Digital Photography, the new Crafts Group, our Art Group and the

Jazz Group were also available to demonstrate our varied activities.

Thank you to our Group Leaders and the Really Useful Team members who were available to support the event, responding to queries and welcoming those who called in to see us.



OBITUARY

We were saddened to learn of the recent death of Group Leader Bill Buxton who died on Wednesday 11th September 2024. He had been suffering from early onset dementia for some time, but died of an unrelated condition.

He had a successful career in industry and lived with his wife, Sonia, in Winterborne Monkton. He joined u3a in Kennet in 2015. He was elected to the u3a in Kennet Executive Committee in

October 2017 and became Publicity Officer. He led the German Conversation Group for many years and was actively participating in its meetings until just a week before his death. Bill also played a leading role in the Marlborough History Society and sang in a local choir. He also served as Chairman of the Berwick Bassett and Winterbourne Monkton Parish Council. We send our condolences to his wife, Sonia, and their two sons and family.

CORRECTION; LEXIE BRAY

We recorded the death of Lexie Bray in our August 2024 Newsletter and It has been pointed out to us that she had joined u3a in Kennet in 2002/3 and not in 2015 as stated. We apologise for the error.

U3A IN KENNET APPLE TREE, MANTON



It is almost a year since we planted a tree to commemorate the u3a in Kennet's 30th anniversary. The 'Chorister Boy' tree is a traditional Wiltshire variety of apple tree. With expert advice from Phillipa Davenport of the Marlborough Community Orchard, and the Marlborough Town Council Estates Department team the tree was planted in the Jubilee Field at Manton and is developing well no doubt helped by the very wet weather during the past year.

REPEAT CALL FOR FILM REVIEWERS

Marlborough News (<https://marlborough.news/>) has invited u3a in Kennet members to join a panel of contributors providing short reviews of films they have seen at the Parade Cinema in Marlborough (<https://www.theparadecinema.com/>). The reviews will be published online. Please email Neil Goodwin to find out more about the request: neil@marlborough.news

ADVERTISEMENTS FOR VACANCIES AT THE MERCHANT HOUSE

The Merchant's House Trust has invited u3a in Kennet to share details about several vacancies which have arisen recently: a shop director volunteer post and two Trustee posts.

For details please see the website: www.themerchantshouse.co.uk and the flyers below.

Shop Director Volunteer Vacancy

We are seeking a volunteer Shop Director to join the small board of company directors for The Merchant's House Trading Ltd. We are looking for an individual with relevant retail experience who can help us ensure the shop is well managed, commercially successful and supports the visitor experience in this beautiful, unique and culturally significant building. This is an unpaid position.



For an application form and further details please have a look at our website www.themerchantshouse.co.uk or email trustmanager@themerchantshouse.co.uk

Trustee vacancy of The Merchant's House (Marlborough) Trust

We are seeking two additional trustees who can bring experience in the following specific areas:

- 1) A trustee with practical experience and knowledge of the Museum or Heritage sector.
- 2) A trustee with retail or visitor services experience.

This is a volunteer role.



For an application form and further details please have a look at our website www.themerchantshouse.co.uk or email trustmanager@themerchantshouse.co.uk

THE 'WILTSHIRE BUILDINGS RECORD' STUDY DAY; 12th OCTOBER 2024

The Wiltshire Buildings Record is a charity which specializes in investigating the history of the built heritage. Their members are building archaeologists, researchers and building historians and they will be holding their annual study day on 12th October 2024 in Devizes Town Hall. The day will explore and celebrate 1000 years of Wiltshire buildings and 45 years of the Wiltshire Buildings Record.

The detailed programme and booking form may be found on their website <http://www.wiltshirebuildingsrecord.org.uk>

u3a IN KENNET COMMITTEE. u3ainkennet.org.uk/executive-committee/



Jill Turner
*Chair and Charity
Commission Contact*



Jeff Hide
Vice Chair



Alastair Sheen
Treasurer



Annette Weaver
Secretary



Mike Morison
*Membership & Beacon
Administrator*



Jill Chambers
Speaker Secretary



John Slaughter
Committee Member



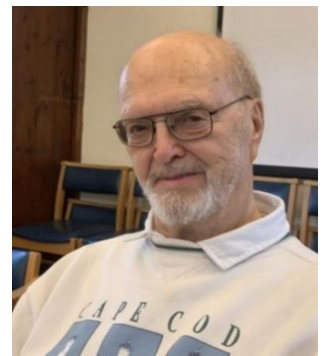
Hamzah
Technology



Alison Dewar
Committee Member



Georgina Neville
Committee Member



David Moakes
Publicity