



Newsletter

October 2024

WELCOME



Photo; Susan Turner

Welcome to our second autumn edition in which we look ahead to our Annual General Meeting and the Kennet Talk.

As usual we share more news from our Groups and updates including a recent national u3a report extolling the benefits; both physical and mental, of u3a membership.

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'** (details on next page.)

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://u3aikkennet.org.uk/u3a-in-kennet-agm-2024/> including the accounts, Chair and Trustees' report and the AGM Minutes from 2023.

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**, 'Marlborough underground'.
- **New Group Leaders' induction meeting**, 6th November 2024 (14.00 – 16.00) Friends Meeting House, Marlborough.

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

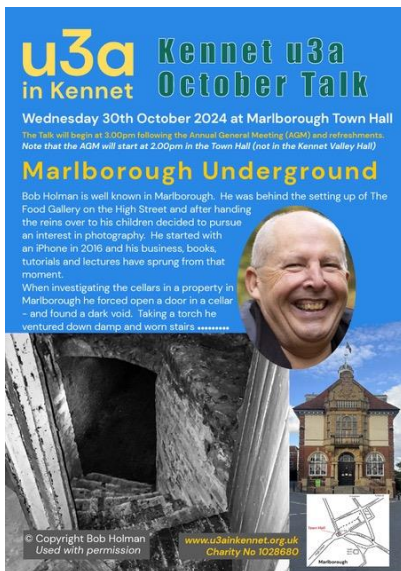
Please "control and click" on links

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)

We have vacancies on the Committee and invite members to consider coming forward to help the team now to support our various events, associated activities, our Newsletter and our publicity arrangements. Positions on our Committee are time limited as set out in our Constitution.

As we look ahead we will need to replace some of the Committee members soon to enable us legally to continue as an organisation and to plan for a smooth transition with new members.

Please contact Chair Jill Turner (chair@u3ainkennet.org.uk) for further information.



The Kennet Talk following our AGM will be presented by Bob Holman on the subject of 'Marlborough underground'.

Bob is well known in Marlborough as a photographer and the Founder of 'The Food Gallery'.

He will enlighten us with an illustrated talk about his recent exploration of the cellars under properties in the High Street.

We look forward to his fascinating presentation and to finding out more about the history of the town literally beneath our feet.

NATIONAL REPORT ON THE BENEFITS OF U3A MEMBERSHIP

We know that membership of u3a helps us with our health, our wellbeing and friendships.



The u3a Trust has issued a new report called '**Learn to live**' which is available for you to download from the national u3a website here: <https://www.u3a.org.uk/our-impact/learn-to-live>

The introduction to the report was written by Sir Muir Gray who as many of you will remember has given presentations to our u3a at a previous Coffee Exchange and a Kennet Talk.

Sir Muir states '.....The science is now clear. Ageing is not the cause of major problems for most people until the nineties. In addition to deprivation there are two other major factors, loss of mental and physical fitness and disease, most of which is not caused by ageing but by the modern environment.....'

This report should encourage u3a groups and members to see they have the opportunity and the skills to help all older people Learn to Live Longer Better not only among members but in the population as a whole. u3a is uniquely positioned to lead this learning and cultural revolution...'

TECHNOLOGY WORKSHOP FOR MEMBERS



Photo; Susan Turner

We know that some of our members would like help with their mobile phones or other technical devices such as ipads and laptops. If you are one of those members, you may be interested in coming to our first IT Workshop where we will try to answer your queries, working on the basis that "there is no such thing as a stupid question".

Our first workshop will be held in the Friends Meeting House, The Parade, Marlborough, SN8 1NE at **10.30am on**

Tuesday, 26 November. If you would like to come to this session, please contact Mike Morison on morison_2017@outlook.com or 01249 891093. Spaces will be limited and if there is a high demand, we will run more workshops in the coming months.

GROUPS NEWS

If you missed last month's bumper news about our groups you can catch up with your September newsletter here: <https://u3ainkennet.org.uk/u3a-in-kennet-newsletter-september-2024/>

Great 'new' news for BOOK LOVERS is that we can start another Wednesday morning group. A new leader has stepped forward: thank you David Du Croz! This means we can shorten our waiting list and cater for others, too. If you are interested please contact groups@u3ainkennet.org.uk.

Click here for the full listing of our Groups showing at a glance when they meet: <https://u3ainkennet.org.uk/u3a-in-kennet-welcome-leaflet/>. Please contact groups@u3ainkennet.org.uk if you have any queries or want further information.

Interested in helping? Our induction meeting on 6th November is for all our newer group leaders – and for prospective ones too. Can we tempt you to help out with a group or pursue your interest in starting a new one? Please contact Georgie and Alison via groups@u3ainkennet.org.uk. We also run a regular 'groups table' at our Coffee Exchanges which have been very successful so far in helping our members explore groups to join. We've had potential leaders coming forward, too.

Last but not least, did you realise that your £12 annual membership fee allows you to join one group at no additional cost with two of our neighbouring u3a organisations in Devizes (<https://www.devizesu3a.org.uk/join-us/>) and Pewsey (<https://pewsey.u3asite.uk/join-us/>). You will need to state your u3a in Kennet membership number when contacting these u3a's. Please contact membershipsec@u3ainkennet.org.uk if you need to check your number.

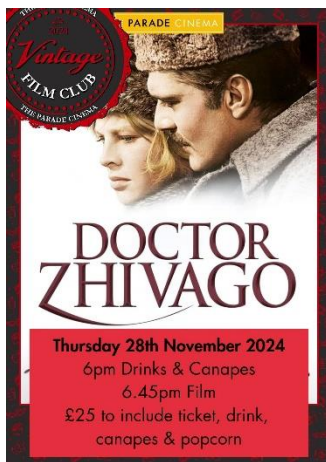
In addition to our local groups and events the national u3a organisation also offers lots of FREE opportunities – from quizzes to competitions, arts to science, health to history ... and more: <https://www.u3a.org.uk/learning>

Anything else? We'd be pleased to hear from you at groups@u3ainkennet.org.uk

OBITUARY

We were saddened to learn of the recent death of Dorothy Blyth. She joined u3a in Kennet in 2013 and was a member of the Digital Photography Group. We send our condolences to her husband Peter (also a u3a in Kennet member) and her family.

PARADE CINEMA OFFER



The Parade Cinema has launched its **Vintage Film Club** with ticket prices including canapes and a drink, plus a small popcorn. The first film will be **Dr Zhivago**

The intention is for the Club to become a focal meeting point for likeminded people who collectively share an interest in classic films. The aim is to show one a month, although there will not be one in December. They will return in January with 'The Graduate'.

Please find below the **Film Club invitation for Dr Zhivago**, for sharing with any friends and colleagues who may be interested. There is free parking in The Parade itself (subject to availability) or positioned at the rear of the cinema (Waitrose public car park).

To book click link:- <https://www.theparadecinema.com/movie/dr-zhivago>

St PETERS MARLBOROUGH ROOF APPEAL

St Peter's Trust has launched it's roof appeal aiming to raise £60,000 for essential repairs to this historic building in Marlborough.

The website contains further details here including several forthcoming events: <https://stpetersmarlborough.org.uk/st-peters-roof-appeal>

VACANCY AT THE NORTH WESSEX DOWNS NATIONAL LANDSCAPE (formerly known as the North Wessex Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty)

The North Wessex Downs National Landscape has invited u3a in Kennet to share details about their forthcoming vacancy for a new chairman. For details please see the website:

<https://www.northwessexdowns.org.uk/about-us/vacancies-volunteering/>



North Wessex Downs National Landscape

The organisation is currently recruiting for a new Chair of the Council of Partners. Sarah Nichols is stepping down from this voluntary role next March. During her tenure Sarah has been extremely proactive driving forward the aim to become the first UK protected landscape to attain the International Union for

the Conservation of Nature's (IUCN) Green List protected area status, working with the Partnership to develop their strategic objectives and business plan.

The Chair's principal responsibilities are:

- representation of the NWDNL at national, regional and individual local authority levels;
- chairing the Council of Partners meetings, which are held at four-monthly intervals;
- chairing the NWDNL Annual Forum; and
- liaison between the Council of Partners, the Chair and members of the Management Working Group, and the Director and officers of the NWDNL Team.

The ideal candidate would be someone who has an interest in, and enthusiasm for, landscape and natural beauty; a commitment to environmental conservation and enhancement; experience of chairing meetings at a high level and proven experience of organisational leadership and management at a senior level.

Further information about the Council of Partners can be found [here](#), and the Candidate Brief is [here](#). For more information, or if you would like the Brief in a different format, please email caroline.dale@northwessexdowns.org.uk

Applications close at midnight on Sunday 27th October and interviews will take place on Friday 8th November.



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



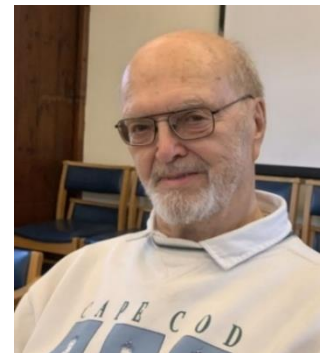
Hamzah
Technology



Alison Dewar
Committee Member



Georgina Neville
Committee Member



David Moakes
Publicity