

u3a in Kennet



Yearbook 2025

This handbook contains full information about u3a in Kennet

Redacted copy without personal telephone numbers

Information current at 10th December 2024

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



Charity No 1028680

Established 1992

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Photo Credits:

*John Slaughter: Cover: Marlborough Open Day / Coffee Exchange:
Page 13: Art Group and Recorder Group
Page 15: Kennet Talk and AGM*

Susan Turner: Page 15: Community Orchard

*David Hammond: Page 15: New Members’ Lunch
Back page: Monday Walking Group*

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Chair's welcome

Welcome to the 2025 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 we can manage—but there will be changes—so please check out the latest information on our website at u3ainkennet.org.uk and in our monthly Newsletter.



Following another successful and enjoyable year our membership now exceeds 700 and our Groups continue to increase and expand. We are planning a full programme of events again for 2025 with our monthly Coffee Exchange sessions at the Town Hall in Marlborough, our quarterly Kennet u3a Talks at the Kennet Valley Hall in Lockeridge and another of our Special Interest Days with Marlborough College and other local schools. The national u3a week will be held from 20th – 28th September 2025 and will be marked with another of our Open Day events for the public.

Whether you are a long-standing member, or have recently joined **u3a in Kennet**, please do take the time to read this booklet and make the most of what we have to offer. All u3a's are educational charities founded on principles of volunteering and mutual support. We are dependent on our members becoming involved and helping to ensure that our **u3a** remains vibrant and healthy enabling more people to learn, develop and enjoy life.

We need more people to come forward now and run new groups, help run our events and to join the Executive Committee. Please do consider how best you can support and feel free to contact me and to find out about our volunteering opportunities.

Gill Turner

Chair, u3a in Kennet

chair@u3ainkennet.org.uk

What is u3a?

Formed to support people make the most of life when full time working is over, **u3a**¹ is a UK-wide movement which brings people together to explore new ideas, interests and activities in a friendly and informal environment.

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 with Derek Robbins and Bill Hawes as its inspirers. Derek became the first chairman and has been followed by 13 others. Interest Groups have grown from 3 to more than 65 and we currently have over 700 members.

Group Leaders are volunteers who organise and support their groups. They do not 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 support. Meeting venues can be fixed or shared around members' homes.

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 are normally held at the Kennet Valley Hall in Lockeridge.

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. Discussions with Hungerford are underway too.

Information and resources for u3a members

u3a in Kennet Monthly Newsletter

The Newsletter is sent out monthly by email and post to those without email. It contains up-to-date news on upcoming events.

u3a in Kennet 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, online learning 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.

u3a Matters and Friends Extra

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 do not want to receive it please contact the Membership Secretary. For further information see here:



www.u3a.org.uk/news/u3a-matters



u3a Friends Extra is the national website providing access to offers, discounts and additional services

www.u3a.org.uk/get-involved/u3a-friends/friends-extra-faqs

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 national organisation has a private group:

www.facebook.com/groups/U3AKeepingInTouch

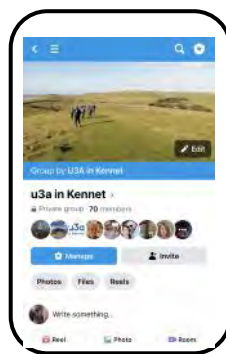
where members across the UK can share news and information.

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



Volunteering — How can I help?

All u3as rely on volunteers. Indeed the national Trustees, including the Chair, Vice Chair and all the Regional Trustees are unpaid volunteers and all the regional support teams are as well. The Third Age Trust is supported by a small professional team headed by the Chief Executive, Iain Cassidy.

Here we rely entirely on volunteers to organise and run our u3a and encourage every member to think about how they can help.

We need committee members (Trustees) to lead our u3a. They look after our finances, membership lists, arrange events and speakers, maintain our website and communicate with members and, most importantly, make sure that we comply with the increasing legal requirements of being a charity. They also ensure that our groups are supported and new groups encouraged. Without sufficient volunteers, people finish up with multiple roles and increased workload.

If you have basic organisational skills, or specific skills in areas such as finance, computers, publicity or have experience in running charitable organisations, please do get in touch and volunteer. The committee roles are time limited, so we always need new volunteers.

We also need members with enthusiasm to lead and support our groups. New groups can be started when someone has the enthusiasm to focus on an area where others have an interest. The role of Group Leader can be shared, and most groups benefit from individual members helping by hosting meetings or taking a lead for a particular meeting. Think about how you can help.

There are then lots of other roles that need to be carried out. These range from supporting our events with technical or physical help. Setting out chairs and tables, making tea and coffee, clearing up afterwards, offering people a lift to a meeting venue. There are lots of ways that a small contribution can make a great difference.

So think about how you could volunteer and make a difference by joining our Really Usefuls group.

Events for all members

Coffee Exchange

This is our primary monthly meeting 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.

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, June and October)

At Kennet Valley Hall, Lockeridge, SN8 4EL

and Town Hall Marlborough

Really Usefuls

The Really Usefuls are a group of volunteers who take responsibility for doing a number of practical things to support u3a in Kennet. The Group members carry out a range of tasks at our meetings and events. Come and join with other members to get to know each other better and make a real contribution to the smooth running of u3a.

Contact: usefuls@u3ainkennet.org.uk

Executive Committee (Trustees)

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.

Chair, Charities Commission, Compliance	Jill Turner	chair@u3ainkennet.org.uk charities@u3ainkennet.org.uk
Vice Chair	Jeff Hide	vicechair@u3ainkennet.org.uk
Hon Secretary	Annette Weaver	secretary@u3ainkennet.org.uk
Hon Treasurer	Alastair Sheen	treasurer@u3ainkennet.org.uk
Membership Secretary	Mike Morison	membershipsec@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
Committee Member	John Slaughter	committee1@u3ainkennet.org.uk
Technical Support	Hamzah	technical@u3ainkennet.org.uk



Jill Turner



Jeff Hide



Annette Weaver



Alastair Sheen



Mike Morison



Jill Chambers



Alison Dewar



Georgie Neville



John Slaughter



Hamzah

Diary Dates for 2025

Annual General Meeting

Wednesday 22nd October 2.15pm Town Hall Marlborough

The Kennet U3A Talks

Wednesday 12th February 2.15pm Town Hall Marlborough

Wednesday 25th June 2.15pm Kennet Valley Hall, Lockeridge

Wednesday 22nd October 3.00pm (after AGM) Town Hall, Marlborough

Coffee Exchange

Open to all

Thursday 23rd January 10.15am Town Hall, Marlborough

Thursday 27th February 10.15am Town Hall, Marlborough

Thursday 27th March 10.15am Town Hall, Marlborough

Thursday 24th April 10.15am Town Hall, Marlborough

Thursday 22nd May 10.15am Town Hall, Marlborough

Thursday 19th June 10.15am Town Hall, Marlborough

Thursday 24th July 10.15am Town Hall, Marlborough

Thursday 28th August 10.15am Town Hall, Marlborough

Thursday 18th September 10.15am Town Hall, Marlborough

Thursday 27th November 10.15am Town Hall, Marlborough

Thursday 11th December 10.15am Town Hall, Marlborough

New Members' Lunches

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

Special Interest Day with Marlborough College and local secondary schools

Monday 15th September Marlborough College

National u3a Week

20th –28th September 2025

Executive Committee Meetings

Tuesday 28th January 10.00am Friends Meeting House

Monday 7th April 10.00am Friends Meeting House

Thursday 5th June 10.00am Friends Meeting House

Wednesday 3rd September 10.00am Friends Meeting House

Thursday 6th November 10.00am Friends Meeting House

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 and post to those without 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: to lead a walk, to give a presentation, to host a meeting, to arrange a visit.

The following directory gives a description of each of our 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.

These details are as up-to-date as we can manage—but there will be changes—so always check the latest information on our website at u3ainkennet.org.uk and in our monthly Newsletter.

If you are interested in forming a new group, please get in touch with our Groups Team at groups@u3ainkennet.org.uk.



"Portsmouth" by Allan Skipper

*Art Group Display at
u3a in Kennet Open Day 2024*



Recorder Group performing at the u3a in Kennet Open Day 2024

Tuesday**American History**

Friends 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**

Friends 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**The Art Group**

The Scout Hall

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

Our members have varying abilities, from beginners to high level artistic expertise. Members learn from each other with help and advice always available when needed. This might include sharing a specific new skill. All that is required for an artist to see improvement in their work is plenty of practice, enthusiasm and being prepared to 'have a go'. Several 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

Friends Meeting House

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

Book Bunch!

This is a new group. The venue, time and day to be agreed with the group members.

Email: bookbunch@u3ainkennet.org.uk

Contact: David Du Croz

Wednesday

Book Circle

Friends 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 with a variety of short stories. After exploring “That Glimpse of Truth”, we have agreed on new sources of short stories and also 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: *Iain Goodfellow*

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@u3ainkennet.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@u3ainkennet.org.uk

Contact: *Cate Mitchell*

Varies

Bus Adventures

Varies

Varies

Our common purpose is to enjoy some “transports of delight” by making short(ish) bus trips with Kennet u3a colleagues, admiring scenery while visiting – for example – Bath, Cirencester, Cheltenham, Devizes, Newbury, Oxford and Salisbury. Taking turns to organise trips by researching times and routes, group members can learn together about bus passes (see <https://wiltshire.mybuspass.co.uk/>) and about the mysterious delights of Wiltshire Council’s ‘Connect’ bus services. Join like-minded travellers in boarding buses with confidence (with no concerns about car parking).

Email: *busadventures@u3aikkennet.org.uk*

Contact: *Alison Dewar
Amanda Goatly*

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, pub lunches and some visits to country houses. We have visited car factories and restoration companies, and Classic car and other car-related events (sometimes organised by members or their partners). To join, you do 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 about what’s going on in the world. We’re not afraid to be politically incorrect, say what we think and enjoy a lively discussion on any current topic. Our limit is twelve members so that everyone has a chance to speak and thus to avoid a one person presentation. Unlike other Controversial Discussion groups, we do not generally discuss philosophical questions. We enjoy an annual lunch at Christmas – if we are all still talking, that is!

Email: *cont.disc.2@u3aikkennet.org.uk*

Contact: *Nick Swan*

Monday

Controversial Discussion 1

Marlborough

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

Friends 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: David Langton

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

We are a friendly group, approaching our third year of meeting in the Group Leader's home. We 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

Thurs**Current Affairs**

Friends Meeting House

Thursday, 2nd of month, 10.30-12.00

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.

Email: current@u3ainkennet.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 our very friendly mixed group to cycle around 20 - 25 miles at a leisurely pace, mostly on quiet lanes and cycle paths. We always stop for coffee and cake at some point! We also have occasional whole day rides stopping for lunch and covering up to 40 miles.

Email: cycling@u3ainkennet.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—travelling about two hours from Marlborough to a variety of places of interest. We have no preset ideas, but aim to take full advantage of the abundance of interesting places in our region, spanning the arts, gardens, historic properties/sites, towns, cathedrals, exhibitions and combinations of these. Our aim is to provide interesting and enjoyable days out without the hassle of driving. Group members are under no obligation to join trips, but it does ensure you will be first to hear about them.

Email: daytrip@u3ainkennet.org.uk

Contact: *Juliet McGregor*
Kate Morrison

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: *Sue Arnold*
Kath Pocock

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**Double Bounce Tennis**

Marlborough Tennis Club

Wednesday , weekly, 10.00 – 11.00

This group, which meets weekly, 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 per session which includes coffee and cake. Equipment can be provided if needed.

Email: walking.tennis@u3ainkennet.org.uk

Contact: Anne Carroll
Vivien Gibbs

Wednesday**Exploring English**

Friends 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**

Friends 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: David Hammond

Thursday

German Improvers

Zoom

Conference Call

Thursday, fortnightly, 17.00 – 17.45

This is 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

Friends 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. Currently we are focusing on cultures before 1000 A.D. Topics so far have included the Vikings, Byzantium 330-1034, India under Ashoka the Great, Greece and Persia in the time of Alexander, the Horse in History, Goths and Huns, Han & Tang dynasty China, and the evolution of the Christmas feast.

Email: global.history@u3ainkennet.org.uk

Contact: *Iain Goodfellow*

Tuesday

History (Local)

Friends Meeting House

Tuesday, 1st of month, 14.30 - 16.30

The group is 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 enjoys talks by both external speakers and group members, as well as 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

Zoom

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@u3aikkennet.org.uk

Contact: Clyde Nancarrow

Wednesday**Life Sciences**

Friends 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@u3aikkennet.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@u3aikkennet.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@u3aikkennet.org.uk*

Contact: *Roland Fisher*

Tuesday**A Musical Miscellany**

Marlborough

Tuesday, 2nd of month, 14.00–16.00

The group's sessions are in Marlborough and, facilitated by the leader, hear and comment on mainly classical music composed over the centuries. Only an interest in music is required without needing to know much about it. There is no need to perform in any way nor, indeed, to feel the need to comment although all are free to do so and often do. Refreshments are enjoyed in comfortable surroundings.

Email: *music@u3aikkennet.org.uk*

Contact: *Jeff Hide*

Wednesday**Pétanque 1**

Great Bedwyn

Alternate Wednesdays, 10.30 – 13.00

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 See (<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pétanque>). 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@u3aikkennet.org.uk*

Contact: *Des Clarke*

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

Varies

Qigong

Marlborough

Monthly; Date by WhatsApp notification

Qigong is an ancient, drug-free wellness practice, working on the whole body and spirit, promoting longevity and optimal health. No fitness level or special clothes are needed. It is particularly well suited to seniors. The movements are slow but powerful.

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

Our Really Useful Group is well known for cheery catering and other organisational support at our coffee exchanges and other meetings. Group members enjoy volunteering with each other, as well as meeting other u3a members.

A helping hand might also mean support to u3a members who can't access meetings or interest groups easily. In essence, 'Usefuls' provide a range of services that aid participation and enjoyment in the many experiences offered by our U3a.

Do get in touch if you would like to be a helper or if you might like help.

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 News Discussion

Members Homes

Tuesday, 4th of month, 1400

Every month there are hundreds of science news announcements in the world's press covering a huge field of knowledge. We are a small group with a diverse range of backgrounds, not necessarily scientific, meeting together to talk about any news items which interest us and try to understand their significance or just shed a bit more light on them. None of us are experts but we have great fun de-mystifying the world.

Email: sciencetalk@u3ainkennet.org.uk
Contact: Gerald Long
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

Thu / Tue**Singles Dining**

Local eating places Evenings 2nd Thursday and 4th Tuesday in the month

We will eat out twice a month, on the second Thursday and fourth Tuesday in the month, in and around Marlborough. Members take it in turns to organise meals out.

Email: singlesdining@u3aikkennet.org.uk

Contact: Anne Carroll
Alison Delorie

Tuesday**Spanish 2**

Friends 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@u3aikkennet.org.uk

Contact: Patrick Mason

Tuesday**Spanish 3**

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@u3aikkennet.org.uk

Contact: Lorenza Johnston

Wednesday**Table Talk Luncheon**

Eating place in Marlborough

Wednesday, 2nd of month, 12.15 – 14.00

We currently meet for lunch at one of Marlborough's many eateries with everyone paying for their own food and drink. Our group is very informal and aims to discuss any item of interest or concern. If we prove to be a large group we might have 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 ideal to join, especially if you are new to the area. Cost is dependent on how much you eat and drink.

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 shares many members with the Thursday group. Games are mostly doubles, some singles and players use spin. 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 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: tabtenth@u3aikkennet.org.uk

Contact: *Simon Caudell*

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@u3aikkennet.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@u3aikkennet.org.uk

Contact: *Sue Owen*

Thursday**Walking 2 (Thursday)**

Varies

Thursday, weekly, 10.00

We organise a weekly programme of walks of around 6 to 7 miles the walks proposed by volunteers who lead them. Walks start at 10:00, with many walkers staying for a pub lunch. They are organised in advance and route descriptions and meeting points are published on the website and distributed by email to members. We might occasionally vary the time and/or day. Before any walk, members may contact the walk leader to clarify details of the route and any potential difficulties. Proper walking footwear and clothing appropriate for the weather are essential. Dogs are not permitted on our walks.

Email: thu.walk@u3ainkennet.org.uk

Contact: *Ian Brooks*

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. We 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 should bring drinks, packed lunches, and be suitably equipped with waterproofs, spare sweaters and medications. Our programme is on the website, or can be provided by the Group Leader. Dogs are not permitted on our walks.

Email: striders@u3ainkennet.org.uk

Contact: *Michael Ruby*

Thursday

Wine Appreciation

Rugby Club, Frees Avenue, 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

u3a activities

u3a Kennet Talk: "A History of Punch and Judy" by Alix Booth: February 2024



u3a members with Marlborough Community Orchard volunteers January 2024



Annual General Meeting October 2024



New Members' Lunch November 2024

Finance, Money and other resources

Annual membership subscriptions fund local costs for running our u3a. This includes the cost of our centrally run events, publicity (including our website) and other administrative costs. We also pay a subscription for each member to the Third Age Trust to fund national services including liability insurance for our Executive Committee and Group Leaders.

With the reduction in local banking services, it is helpful if members can make their payments on-line directly into the u3a main bank account (rather than by cheque).

Any costs incurred by groups, such as the cost of meeting rooms, need to be met by their members. Any payment for group expenditure is part of u3a income and has to be accounted for. Such payments should be made to the second u3a bank account which is maintained for this purpose. All payments (eg for room hire) should be made by the Treasurer from the u3a Bank Account. Funds should not be collected and held in Group Leaders' personal bank accounts.

Note that care should be taken when making an on-line payment to u3a in Kennet to use the correct bank account (main account for membership subscriptions; second account for payments for group activities).

As Group Leaders, if you need to collect payments from members for the first time, please get in touch with our Treasurer (treasurer@u3ainkennet.org.uk) first. We can then work out the easiest option for all!

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. Our suggestion is that members who share transport

should agree their own policy with a figure of 20p to 30p per mile shared between driver and passengers to cover fuel and other costs considered reasonable. 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.

Kennet Resources

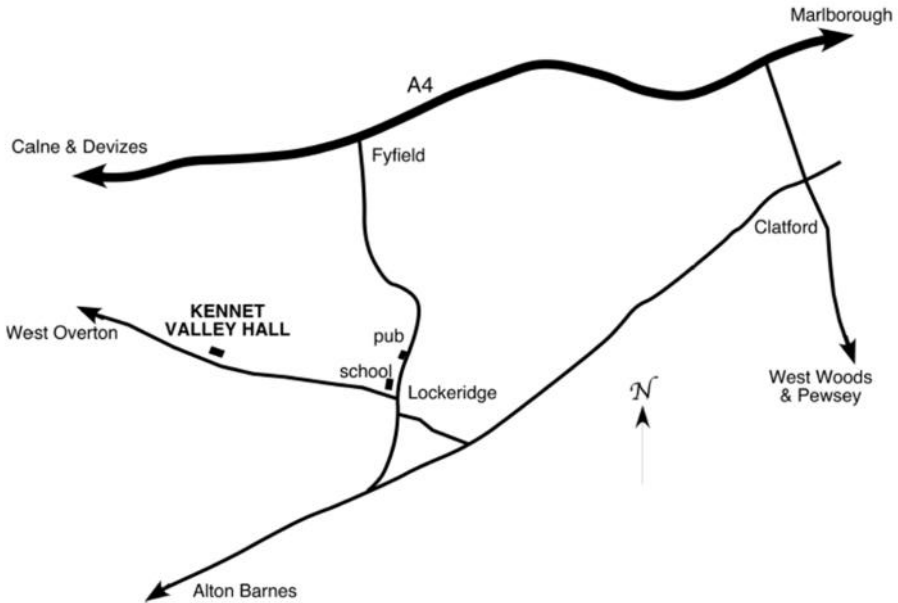
To support groups we have: digital projector, projection screen, laptop, display boards and guillotine. Grants may be available for more expensive, durable items. Please check with a member of the Executive Committee.

We have access to a range of meeting venues in and around Marlborough, including:

- Friends Meeting House, Marlborough
- Kennet Valley Hall
- Mildenhall Village Hall
- Marlborough Scout Hut
- Marlborough Rugby Club
- Marlborough Town Hall
- Pewsey Heritage Centre

If your group currently meets in a member's home, but is getting too big, a local meeting room may cost less than you think. Just contact a member of the Executive Committee or Groups Liaison at groups@u3ainkennet.org.uk

Directions to Kennet Valley Hall, Lockeridge, SN8 4EL



Directions to Town Hall Marlborough





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