



Newsletter

December 2024

SEASONS GREETINGS



Photo: Susan Turner

groups have continued to thrive and our overall membership has grown.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all members for your support for our u3a. In particular I will mention our Group Leaders, my Executive Committee colleagues and many other members for their help 'behind the scenes' including organising the refreshments and technical support at our events, compiling our Yearbook and keeping our website up to date.

I hope you all have a relaxing and enjoyable Christmas and best wishes for 2025.

Jill Turner, Chair, u3a in Kennet

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

2025

Coffee Exchange, 10.15 am, 23rd January 2025, Town Hall, Marlborough.

Kennet u3a Talk, 2.15pm 12th February 2025, Kennet Valley Hall, Lockeridge

Coffee Exchange, 10.15 am, 27th February 2025, Town Hall, Marlborough

For the full list of dates for 2025 please see page 7

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

FESTIVE COFFEE EXCHANGE 11th DECEMBER 2024.

Over 90 members joined our Coffee Exchange event in the Town Hall on 11th December for our festive morning of Christmas music provided again this year by the Marlborough Community Choir led by Emma Pooley.



Photos: John Slaughter

Following the warm welcome with coffee and mince pies, Vice Chair; Jeff Hide read one of his poems to launch the event: *'The Man in Green at Yuletide and Santa Claus unite'* and was followed by Emma and the choir.



We were entertained with an enjoyable and varied selection of traditional and modern carols and songs each of which were introduced by Emma with details of the various composers and dates. Audience participation also featured with some of the well known carols providing an enjoyable morning for all.

GROUPS NEWS
THE ART GROUP



The Art Group meets on a twice monthly basis at the Scout Hut in Marlborough and welcomes members of varying ability from beginners to those with artistic expertise.

For more information about the Group please contact Allan: the Group Leader at art@u3ainkennet.org.uk

Paintings by Allan Skipper



DAY TRIPS GROUP



Day Trip to Winchester

On December 6th the Day Trips Group took 48 members to Winchester. It was the Group's fourth trip this year.

Amazingly, we've had good weather each time: London in February, Oxford in May, Wells in September and in Winchester we beat Storm Darragh by an hour.

A large group joined Ian Brooks for a guided city tour. People reporting back said that it was very interesting, that they learned about Winchester's history and that the view from St Giles' Hill was spectacular. Thank you to Ian for making the day memorable and entertaining.

Photos; Kathryn Morrison



Winchester Cathedral, illuminated in colour, was a big draw and several people joined the Cathedral tours. A highlight was the Anthony Gormley statue, Sound II, in the flooded crypt. Others took in the Christmas market and shops and visited pubs and restaurants.

Thank you to all that were able to come. We're already thinking about trips for 2025.

For more information about the Group please email:

daytrip@u3ainkennet.org.uk

CONTROVERSIAL DISCUSSION GROUP 3

Our Controversial discussion Group 3 is open to new members. Topics are suggested and discussion led by members: usually one per meeting. Discussion can be lively and humorous, is usually evidence or experience based, but is never confrontational. Minds are sometimes changed – a bit.

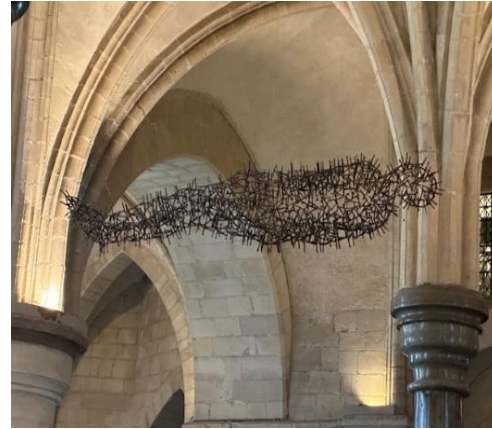
The group meets on the 2nd Thursday of each month at 10.30 am at the Friends Meeting House in Marlborough. The email address for further details is: cont.disc.3@u3ainkennet.org.uk

TRAVEL GROUP

Our u3a in Kennet Travel Group is a joint Group with Pewsey u3a. Thirty members of the group enjoyed a five day holiday based in the lovely town of Faversham in Kent at Judds Folly Hotel in the autumn. Despite disappointing wet weather, amazingly it dried up every time they reached one of their planned destinations.

Visits included Leeds Castle; the Operations Tunnels in Dover Castle; The Wright Brother Museum; Dungeness Railway; Canterbury; Isle of Sheppey; and Knoll House.





Photos' Anne Carroll

OBITUARIES

We are sad to report the passing of two u3a in Kennet members in the past couple of months and extend our sympathies to their families.

Dorothy Jean Blythe, 07. 09.1938 – 07.10.2024

Dorothy was a long-standing member of the Marlborough community, having moved here from Cheshire with her husband and young children in 1972. Having trained as a nurse and midwife in Wigan she married Peter and started a family. Following a short stay in Savernake Hospital, and a nudge from the ward sister she returned to nursing, working firstly on the men's surgical ward, and latterly as Theatre Sister.

Her u3a involvement included the photography group and the wine appreciation society. Her love of wine led to vineyard tours in France, Australia and New Zealand.

Dorothy's passion was bell ringing, which she started at a young age. She became Tower Captain of St Mary's Marlborough and represented the branch on the Executive team of the Salisbury Diocesan Guild of Ringers. She was also a keen bridge player, art lover and needle woman. Dorothy will be sadly missed by her husband Peter, children John & Louise. brother David and grandchildren Laura & Robert.

Carol Barnes

Carol died at home on the 9th December at the age of 77, having been diagnosed with cancer only 2 months previously. She and her husband, Graham (also a u3a in Kennet member), had been married for 57 years and had two children, Theresa and Duncan.

Carol was born and brought up in the Tunbridge Wells area, where she attended the local Grammar School and she subsequently trained as a teacher in Oxford. She and Graham moved to Fleet in Hampshire in the early seventies, where Carol taught mathematics at Courtmoor School for many years. At the same time, she also trained as a marriage guidance counsellor and worked voluntarily for the charity 'Relate'.



Subsequently, after a move to Cheshire, Carol retired from teaching and used her acquired skills to give voluntary bereavement counselling at a local hospice. Carol joined u3a in Kennet in 2016 and was a member of the Book Group and the Art Group.

Carol's funeral will take place in the North Wiltshire Crematorium, at Swindon Road, Royal Wootton Bassett, Swindon, SN4 8ET, (just off J16 of M4) at 11.00 on **30th December 2024** and there will be a reception with nibbles etc. to follow at the Marlborough Golf Club, the Common, Marlborough Wiltshire , SN8 1DU.

OTHER NEWS

PRINTER INKS OFFER

Peter Noble recently had to replace his printer having just stocked up with several cartridges of new ink. He is offering the unwanted ink cartridges now free of charge to anyone who could use them. They are for the Epson Workforce series of printer and the following colours are available: 3 x black, 2 x cyan, 2 x magenta, 1 x yellow

Please contact Peter directly via email if you are interested peter@kingsburysquare.org.uk

BOB HOLMAN'S LATEST PUBLICATIONS

If you were with us for our Kennet Talk in October you will remember the fascinating talk from Bob Holman on 'Marlborough Underground'. Bob has just announced that his most recent two publications are now available for purchase. Bob says



'Actually, it's two 'Zines - 7a and 7b - as there were so many fabulous 'Then' photos (from my Marlborough Then and Now photography project - thanks once again Rob Dickens) that I simply couldn't fit them all into one publication. They are immediately available from The Food Gallery and Marlborough Photo Services both in the high street - in addition, previous 'Zines 1-6 are also on display. For those of you not local or are unable to get in to town before Christmas, you can purchase all these 'Zines online from here <https://www.master-photography.co.uk/store/purchase-our-work/books--zines/>.

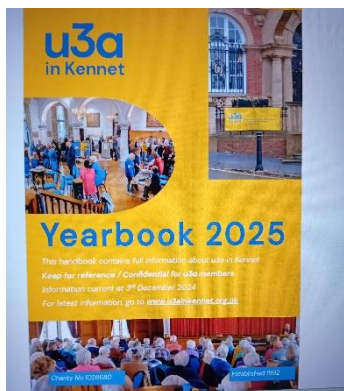
These publications will make fabulous Christmas stocking-fillers for those you know who've lived in the town, but are not lucky enough to live here now. I can post to any UK address with a 48 hour track and sign service. Online purchases can also be signed, together with a personal message to your recipient. AND - there are MultiBuy discount offers!

MARLBOROUGH CONCERT SERIES

The next concert will be held on Sunday 12 January 2025 at 3 pm in the Memorial Hall at Marlborough College. This concert is a special opportunity to hear a full symphony orchestra in the town. The Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra will present a "New Year Viennese Extravaganza" with a programme of the famous waltzes, polkas, and other pieces from the Strauss family, Lehar and others. Tickets are available now, on-line, at www.marlboroughconcertseries.org or email: mccstickets@marlboroughcollege.org

U3A IN KENNET YEARBOOK 2025 with DIARY DATES FOR THE YEAR

The u3a in Kennet Yearbook for 2025 has been finalised with another full programme of events open to all members. The dates and venues are set out below for you to put into your diaries now and further details of the speakers and topics will be sent out during the year.



Annual General Meeting

Wednesday 22nd October 2.15pm Town Hall Marlborough

The Kennet U3A Talks

Wednesday 12th February 2.15pm Kennet Valley Hall

Wednesday 25th June 2.15pm Kennet Valley Hall

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

Coffee Exchange (monthly except October)

Thursday 23 rd January	10.15 Town Hall
Thursday 27 th February	10.15 Town Hall
Thursday 27 th March	10.15 Town Hall
Thursday 24 th April	10.15 Town Hall
Thursday 22 nd May	10.15 Town Hall
Thursday 19 th June	10.15 Town Hall
Thursday 24 th July	10.15 Town Hall
Thursday 28 th August	10.15 Town Hall
Thursday 18 th September	10.15 Town Hall
Thursday 27 th November	10.15 Town Hall
Thursday 11 th December	10.15 Town Hall

New Members' Lunches dates to be determined. By invitation only.

Special Interest Day with Marlborough College and other local schools 15th September 2025 at the College.

National u3a Week: Wednesday 21st – 28th September 2025



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