



Newsletter

January 2025

NEW YEAR GREETINGS



Photo: Susan Turner

Welcome to the first edition of our u3a in Kennet Newsletter for 2025. Our full calendar of events for the new year includes our regular monthly Coffee Exchanges and our quarterly Kennet Talks. We have some new additions too this year including our Special Interest Day with local schools and at least one other Talk. Further details will follow.

COFFEE EXCHANGE 23rd JANUARY 2025.

Our first Coffee Exchange session of the year will be held on Thursday 23rd January 2025 at the Town Hall in Marlborough.

The theme of the session will be how to live healthier and longer and will be presented by local GP Dr Angus Tallini.

Previous talks on this subject to u3a in Kennet members by Professor Sir Muir Grey have been popular and well received and there is always more to learn on this important topic.

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

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

'THANK YOU' FROM THE MARLBOROUGH COMMUNITY CHOIR

Emma Pooley from the Marlborough Community Choir has informed us that the Choir raised £1,345 for British Ukrainian Aid during December 2024 of which £275 was collected at our festive Coffee Exchange on 7th December.

Thank you to the choir and to all who contributed.

SUPPORT FOR THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

u3a in Kennet is an entirely voluntary organisation with all members, in particular the Committee members and our many Group Leaders giving generously of their time and support to sustain and develop us to move into the future.

Those of you who were present at our Annual General Meeting in October 2024 will recall the request for more members to come forward to join the Committee members; some of whom who are required to stand down after completing their terms of office.

In addition to our Committee we also draw on support from other members too for example our 'Really Useful Group' members and those who help with our website and technical support, our publicity arrangements and Newsletter (see below) as well as other 'behind the scenes' tasks. The more people who come forward the tasks can be shared more equitably between our many willing volunteers.

As we continue to grow now with 706 members (correct at the time of publication) we need to strengthen our support arrangements to enable us to plan ahead with confidence.

Please contact chair@u3ainkennet.org.uk for a conversation to find out more. Thank you.

NEWSLETTER EDITOR/S – request from Jill Turner, Chair, u3a in Kennet.

I took on the role of Newsletter Editor in August 2023 in addition to my roles as your Chair and the Charity Commission Contact for u3a in Kennet. As I look ahead to my final few months in office prior to our AGM in October 2025 I would welcome support from a member – or a group of members – to take on the role of producing our Newsletter. I believe that this publication is important in maintaining regular communication with all members, providing you with updates on the many and varied groups and other news of general interest.

I act as the Editor collating news from our Group Leaders along with other contributions and items of local interest to produce the monthly Newsletters. Other approaches might include taking an active role in writing articles and inviting member contributions. Several members forming an Editorial Team would help to share the workload too.

Please get in touch if you are interested to find out more about how you can support your u3a.
(chair@u3ainkennet.org.uk)

GROUPS NEWS CALLING ALL DOG LOVERS

ART GROUP VISIT TO BIRMINGHAM ART GALLERY AND MUSEUM

The Art Group invites u3a in Kennet members to join them on a visit to the Birmingham Art Gallery and Museum on Friday 14th March 2025. Please note that non members are **not** eligible to join the trip. The cost is £18 per person and the travel arrangements are as follows:

Pick up from: Pewsey Bouverie Hall, Goddard Road, SN9 5EQ, 8.00am **or** Marlborough High Street 'One Stop' at 8.30am. **Return from Birmingham** at 4.30pm to arrive back at approximately 6 to 6.30pm.

Please reply to art@u3aikkennet.org.uk with by **Friday 24th January 2025 and state:**

1. The number of tickets you require.
2. Where you will join the coach – Marlborough or Pewsey.
3. A mobile phone number in case we need to contact you on the day.
4. A contact number for you (next of kin etc) in case of an emergency.

Your booking will be confirmed on receipt of your email and you will be sent details of how to pay. Information about the Art Gallery can be found here:

<https://www.birminghammuseums.org.uk/birmingham-museum-and-art-gallery>

In addition to the Gallery there are many other interesting places to visit in Birmingham including:

- The Cathedral
- The Bull Ring for shopping
- Ikon gallery (modern art)
- The library
- The jewelry quarter
- Birmingham 'Back to Backs'

NEW GROUP – CHESS



Members are invited to join our 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@u3aikkennet.org.uk if you are interested to join the group.

GRANTS FOR GROUPS

We have some funds available to support Groups to purchase items of equipment for example cycling maps, jacks for short mat bowls and a table tennis table. Typically a percentage of the cost is provided and the Group members fund the remainder that is required.

Please contact Alastair: our Treasurer for further details: treasurer@u3aikkennet.org.uk.

CALLING ALL DOG LOVERS

Would you like to join or help with our dog walking group?

Our long-serving group leader will be standing down at the end of January and help is needed to keep this much-loved group going.

Firstly, you and your dog might simply want to join the group. You would be meeting with like-minded owners on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday morning each month, in different areas and with group members volunteering to lead each walk.

Secondly, it would be brilliant if anyone were willing to lead or co-lead the group. This would involve keeping in touch with group members to organise and publicise the programme. In other words, smoothing paths to support the group's 2 and 4 legged friends. Training and support are available.

Interested or want to know more? Please contact groups@u3ainkennet.org.uk or dog.walks@u3ainkennet.org.uk



OBITUARY

Jeannette Therrien, Glass Artist and Designer. - Died December 2024



Originally from Southend, Jeanette came to live in Ogbourne St George via London, Calne and Marlborough. After the death of her partner, she felt the need to start something new in her life and did an Art Access course in Swindon. She fell in love with ceramics and glass and went on to complete a BA in both disciplines at High Wycombe University. Wanting to pass on what she had learnt to others, she founded the Clay and Glass Studio in Wagon Yard, London Road, Marlborough. Later, to share costs and responsibilities, it became 'Wagon Yard Artists', a collective of artists and makers to work and exhibit at the

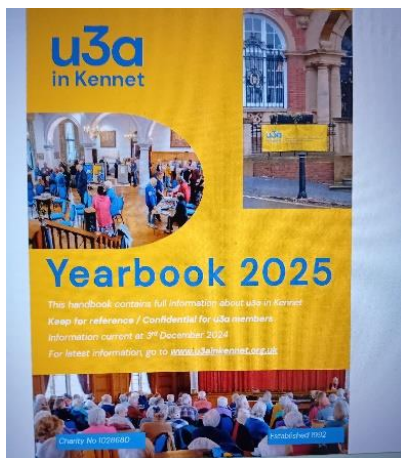
gallery. Collaborators came and went, but Jeanette continued her involvement along with one of her star pupils, ceramicist Jacqui Melliush.

In 2001 she had created her own Studio in Ogbourne St George, running classes and workshops, making her own work in stained glass and kiln fused glass to commission and to exhibit and sell locally and nationally. She showed her sculptural pieces at Croome Walled Gardens and in some National Trust gardens. For several years she tutored at Marlborough College Summer School, creating many new converts to glass art and ceramics. She was a member of the Marlborough Artists' Society and was proud to be a founding member of Marlborough Open Studios. Described as "a glass designer and maker of distinctive kiln-formed and stained glass, creating stunning glass forms that are both functional and decorative",

Jeanette never stopped learning and giving. She was an inspiration to all who knew her. She lived her life to the full despite a debilitating illness. She died peacefully while with family, at Christmas.

Her funeral was held on 13th January 2025. We will miss her.

U3A IN KENNET YEARBOOK 2025 with DIARY DATES FOR THE YEAR



The u3a in Kennet Yearbook for 2025 has been sent to all members with another full programme of events.

Other events are being planned too and the list of events is updated accordingly with the latest news on our website here: <https://u3ainkennet.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2025/01/Diary-Dates-for-2025-FINAL.pdf>

As usual further details of the speakers and topics will be sent out to all members during the year.

OTHER NEWS

APPLE TREE OFFER

u3a in Kennet has been supported by the Marlborough Community Orchard in the planting of our 30th anniversary tree in Jubilee Field in Manton.

Gerald Payne from the Orchard has two Wiltshire variety apple trees looking for a home. They are both called 'Bedwyn Beauty' which have been grafted on to MM106 rootstock and are two years old, pot grown trees. The Orchard staff invite a donation of £50 for each of the trees which will go towards the upkeep of all the trees in the Community Orchard within the town. If anyone is interested, they can contact Gerald Payne either on 07771937183 or via gerald.payne2017@gmail.com

WILTSHIRE COUNCIL and WILTSHIRE AND SWINDON SPORTS PARTNERSHIP (WASP) 'GET OUT – GET ACTIVE' PROGRAMME

Get Out Get Active

GOGA: Marlborough

Get Out Get Active (GOGA), is an exciting new programme that supports disabled and non-disabled people to enjoy being active together, focusing on getting people moving more through fun and inclusive activities.

GOGA: Marlborough

Multi-sports and fun activities
Monday afternoons
1.30pm - 2.15pm - followed by refreshments
Marlborough Youth Centre
Free
All ages

Sessions start Monday 13 January 2025

Come along and join in the fun whilst taking part in a variety of inclusive activities!

- Improve physical health
- Improve self-esteem
- Improve energy levels and mood
- Connect communities

for further information and to register your interest please contact:
sportsdevelopment@wiltshire.gov.uk
SportWiltshire Active Wiltshire

Wiltshire and Swindon Sport
WASP

Wiltshire Council

Wiltshire Council and WASP have launched a new activity programme which is held at the Marlborough Youth Centre.

Get Out Get Active (GOGA) are fun and inclusive sessions that provide a range of physical activities available to EVERYONE free of charge. Refreshments are also provided afterwards. Attendees are welcome to arrive on the day or email sportsdevelopment@wiltshire.gov.uk for more information.

If you would like to find out more about the sessions please contact Dominique Oughton, Operations Manager, (WASP) on 01225 781500 / 07786221235 or email: Dominique@wiltssport.org

THE PARADE CINEMA

Vintage FILM CLUB

This is Benjamin. He's a little worried about his future.

THE GRADUATE

Thursday 30th January 2025
6pm Drinks & Canapes
6.45pm Film
£25 to include ticket, drink, canapes & popcorn

THE PARADE CINEMA

The Parade Cinema has planned a full programme of Vintage Club films for 2025 – starting with 'The Graduate' on 30th January.

The ticket price includes canapes, a drink (wine, beer or soft drink) and popcorn. The event starts at 6pm with the screening at 6.45pm. There will be no adverts and every Vintage Club film will have an interval.

Advanced booking is required and further details are provided here:

<https://www.theparadecinema.com/movie/vintage-film-club-the-graduate>



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