



Newsletter

March 2025



Photo: Susan Turner

WELCOME

Spring is officially here now and along with it our programme of talks, Coffee Exchange sessions and other events with many interesting topics and speakers.

This month's Newsletter shares reports from our Coffee Exchange in February, the special Talk on Henry Orlik and details of several new and proposed groups.

COFFEE EXCHANGE 27th FEBRUARY 2025.

WATER: ITS USES AND ABUSES

Dr Jane Sellwood has had a career as a clinical scientist working for the UK Health Security Agency and as a clinical virologist working with European laboratories to discover new methods of identifying viruses by checking sewage, fresh water and sea water. This experience and knowledge have helped her to form a view on the water issues of today.

She gave us an interesting talk on the Thames Basin giving us some extraordinary facts about the amount of water we use both communally and as individuals. She told us about how it is

CALENDAR OF EVENTS 2025

Coffee Exchange, 10.15 am, 27th March 2025, Town Hall, Marlborough.
Nicola Abraham, Education and Visits Co-Ordinator at the Merchant's House in Marlborough. Nicola will introduce us to the history of the 17th century house.

Kennet Talk, 9th April 2025, Kennet Valley Hall, Lockeridge.
Francis Cornish 'The Arab/Israeli dispute'.
(Members only)

Coffee Exchange, 10.15 am, 24th April 2025, Town Hall, Marlborough. The chalk horses of Wiltshire.

Here are the links to our web page u3aenkennet.org.uk and Facebook page www.facebook.com/u3aenkennet

collected and treated and delivered to our homes. She also told us how that same water is treated and put back into the system when we have used it. Altogether it was a thought provoking talk.

THE REDISCOVERY OF HENRY ORLIK: GENIUS ARTIST by GRANT FORD. 6th MARCH 2025

On Thursday the 6th of March the u3a in Kennet Art & Art History Group, with the help of the Executive Committee and the 'Usefuls' Group, were privileged to enjoy a special afternoon presentation by Grant Ford of 'The Little Gallery' 1-2 The Parade Marlborough. Eighty members were in attendance.

Grant Ford is a well-known international fine art specialist, advisor, curator and representative of prestigious art collections. Grant worked at Sotheby's for 30 years and was head of their Victorian, Pre-Raphaelite & British Impressionists' Art Department between 2001-2016. He is also a senior specialist for the BBC's Antiques Roadshow and a regular guest lecturer in the United Kingdom, Ireland, USA, Canada and elsewhere.

He spoke briefly of his own career which started at the age of just 16, and the main body of his presentation was about the rediscovery of the surreal artist Henry Orlik.



Orlik moved with his Polish/Belarussian parents to England in 1948, eventually settling in Swindon where in 1963 he went to Swindon Art College, then Gloucester and Cheltenham Colleges of Art between 1969 and 1972.

He first made a name for himself in 1971 with a submission at the Royal Academy Summer Exhibition, then a one man show at the Surrealist Art Centre in London, and a mixed Surrealist Masters exhibition in 1974 alongside Artists such as Rene Magritte, Yves Tanguy and Salvador Dali.

Photo: member of the Art and Art History Group

In the years following he created some of his most exciting and dynamic work. Sadly, he became more and more reclusive, and this work remained unseen until his sell out exhibitions arranged by Grant Ford's Winsor Birch company in London and Marlborough in 2024.

There is so much more to say about this man and his extraordinary paintings.

You will find a catalogue of his work at:

<https://winsorbirch.com/viewing-room/1-henry-orlik-b.-1947-a-rediscovery-of-genius-locked-up-dreams/>

u3a IN KENNET SECOND TECHNOLOGY WORKSHOP 25th MARCH 2025



Photo; Susan Turner

Our second technical support workshop was held on 25th March at the Friends Meeting House in Marlborough. Led by Mike Morison, our Membership Secretary, the aim was to help members with their mobile phones and other technical devices such as ipads and laptops and working on the basis that “there is no such thing as a stupid question”.

We provided focused support on a small group and one-to-one basis divided into 2 groups; one for those who use Apple devices (phones and laptops, Ipads etc) and the other for users of Android devices. We responded to individual members’ specific issues, problems and queries allowing the ‘pupils’ to work through the particular issues using their own phones / laptops etc.

This second session was very well received too and we will offer further sessions if there is sufficient interest. Please contact Mike Morison on morison_2017@outlook.com or 01249 891093 if you are interested to find out more about the sessions.

Please contact Mike too if you are an Apple user and would be willing to provide support at the workshops.

The national u3a Trust provides online support and training for technology with sessions provided by a volunteer organisation called ‘Ability net’. Please see here for further details <https://www.u3a.org.uk/news/learning-news/online-events-with-abilitynet>

STAYING SAFE ONLINE

The Wiltshire Bobby Van Trust offers guidance on staying safe online here: <https://www.wiltshirebobbyvan.org.uk/stay-safe-online>

GROUPS NEWS

NEW GROUP: AMATEUR RADIO

We have in our midst a keen (and very experienced) amateur radio operator who also happens to be the u3a’s national subject advisor on this subject.

Is anyone else out there with a ‘hams’ licence or interest in the topic? If so please get in touch and we’ll see what we can do to make it happen. Please contact: groups@u3ainkennet.org.uk

NEW GROUP: SPANISH

We are exploring the potential to set up another Spanish Group in addition to the two we have already.

If you are interested to find out more please contact groups@u3ainkennet.org.uk

NEW 'FORGET-ME-NOT' GROUP

The 'Forget-me-not' Group provides an informal setting enabling a sharing of experiences and information, general discussion and mutual support for u3a in Kennet members who are becoming less able to contribute to u3a in Kennet activities due to physical or mental difficulties and yet are still capable of meeting others, and their spouses / carers.

The Group has eight members (four couples) and was established in March 2025 on a pilot basis. The size of the Group was felt to be appropriate and other similar Groups may be set up if there is further demand in due course.

The Group Leader is Nick Stedman. Email: forget-me-not@thestedmans.org.uk and the Group aims to meet on a monthly or more frequent basis at venues to be determined.

QIGONG GROUP

The Group will meet for 8 weekly sessions from April 4th 2025 until 16th May 2025 from 10:30 am in Priory Park Gardens, Marlborough. The class size limit is 10 people.

Please contact Felicity Simpson (Group Leader) via Whats App on 078343 771599 if you are interested to join the sessions.

GROUP LEADERS' NEWSLETTER

Our Groups' Coordinators Alison Dewar and Georgie Neville have launched a newsletter to thank the group leaders for their commitment to u3a in Kennet and to provide them with news and updates.

For further information please contact groups@u3ainkennet.org.uk

OTHER NEWS AND INFORMATION : FIRST AID ADVICE IN CASE OF EMERGENCIES

<https://www.sja.org.uk/get-advice> see the 'How to' drop down list too

<https://www.bing.com/videos/search?q=Red+Cross+first+aid+training&qpvt=Red+Cross+first+aid+training&FORM=VDRE>

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/first-aid/>

POEM: 'TO FLOAT IN THE AIR' BY ALLAN SKIPPER

You would think by now
they would know just how
To win a war
To trigger a thaw
To tell a lie
To climb this high.

You would guess by today
they would know to say
The risk is too great
That power is state
The fog too thick
That's too ripe to pick.

You would wish from here
they would feel the fear
That plots too dense
The facts no sense
The thoughts too wild
The curry too mild.

You would predict I guess
they would make a mess
Of making rich the poor
Of healing the sore
Of feeding the world
Of flags unfurled.

You would foretell for all
they would eventually fall
At economic predictions
And democratic elections
At pollution controls
And repairing potholes.

You would know all this
they are searching for bliss
To rest in peace
To wrap in lamb's fleece
To float in the air
Without any Care.

THE ART GROUP – SELECTION OF PAINTINGS

Members of our Art Group have painted a range of subjects as shown below:



Mike Shires



Brenda Bradley



Mike McPherson



Steve Ballard



Elizabeth Radford



Liz Barker



Janette Fox



Edward Judge

WILTSHIRE COUNCIL'S HOME LIBRARY SERVICE

Wiltshire Council provides a 'Library at Home Service' for people who may be unable to visit a public library.

Further information is available here: <https://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/libraries-home-library-service>



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



Hamzah
Technology



Alison Dewar
Committee Member



Georgina Neville
Committee Member