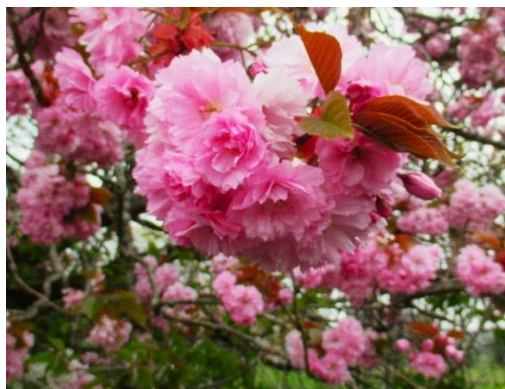




Newsletter

June 2025

WELCOME



Our summer programme of events continues with our Kennet Talk on 25th June focussing on the early history of Penguin Books.

This month's Newsletter includes more news from our groups and our 2025 Special Interest Day on

15th September as well as details of an Oxford University research project, and other local events.

Photo: Susan Turner

COFFEE EXCHANGE 22nd MAY 2025

M C ESCHER: ARTIST OR MATHEMATICIAN?

Over 100 members came to the Coffee Exchange in May. Jane Fox, the Group Leader of the very successful Art and Art History Group, gave us an insightful talk on the work of Maurits Cornelis Escher, the Dutch Graphic Artist. She explained the development of his work of mezzotints, lithographs and woodcuts. She showed us many images of his work – the impossible staircases of Relativity, the intricacies of Waterfall and the complexities of Day and Night. Jane explained how these were built up to produce the bizarre optical illusions. Often referred to as a mathematician, Escher was always very honest about his lack of

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Kennet Talk, 2.00pm, 25th June 2025. Kennet Valley Hall

Coffee Exchange, 10.15 am, 24th July 2025, Town Hall, Marlborough

Coffee Exchange, 10.15 am, 28th August 2025, Town Hall, Marlborough

Special Interest Day; 'Global tipping points'. 15th September 2025 at Marlborough College.

Copy date for July Newsletter 21st July 2025 . Send to: chair@u3aikkennet.org.uk.

Links to our web page u3aikkennet.org.uk and Facebook page www.facebook.com/u3aikkennet

Please "control and click" on links to visit suggested webpages

mathematical ability at school. However, as his work developed, he drew inspiration from mathematical ideas often working directly from structures in plane and projective geometry. He has been described as having the amazing natural ability of being able to combine both his talent as an artist with the techniques that he learned from others into mathematically perfect designs. Escher said of himself:

"By keenly confronting the enigmas that surround us, and by considering and analysing the observations that I have made, I ended up in the domain of mathematics, Although I am absolutely without training in the exact sciences, I often seem to have more in common with mathematicians than with my fellow artists."

Escher produced 448 lithographs, woodcuts and wood engravings and more than 2000 drawings and sketches. Much of the work is in private collections in North America either in private collections or in the Museum of Modern Art (MOMA) in New York and the National Galleries of Washington and Canada. There is a large display at the *Escher in the Palace* Museum in The Hague. Here there are also some interactive exhibits exploring his techniques and mathematical influences. Very little of Escher's work held in the UK. An exhibition was held at the Dulwich Picture Gallery in 2015 and there is one print in The Hunterian Museum in Glasgow and a few in the Print Room in the Ashmolean Museum. Jane has recommended that people may like to watch the film narrated by Stephen Fry about Escher. Here is the link: <https://www.amazon.co.uk/Escher-Journey-Infinity-Stephen-Fry/dp/B09GT7B82X>.

NEWS AND UPDATES FROM OUR GROUPS

BUS ADVENTURES

Thanks to meticulous research by group members we've been out and about again recently, with small groups enjoying Bath and Aldbourne. Enough of us to fit a chatty café table! We made good use of 3-4 hours in each plus all the views we'd never spotted by car.

In Bath we liked the rather glorious bus route, the Norwegian coffee shop, Herschel's astronomy museum and the equally quirky Mr B's Emporium (see photograph). We also found the market and a fine arts gallery specialising in prints by rock and film stars.



Aldbourn was delightful, with its ducks, Dalek and Post Office café. Visiting on a Wednesday meant that the local heritage centre was open, too.

For further details about the Group please email:

busadventures@u3ainkennet.org.uk

Photos: Alison Dewar



MOTORCYCLE GROUP



Our new Motorcycle group is active now under the leadership of new member Greg Shakeshaft.

Taking advantage of the summer weather they met recently at Krumbz in Marlborough before a group ride to Cirencester. The photograph was taken by another new member Reg Eyre and shows Greg leading the riders as they headed off.

For more information about the group please contact Greg on motorbike@u3ainkennet.org.uk

SCRABBLE GROUP



The Scrabble group is looking for a few more members who are seeking an intellectual challenge and at the same time enjoy social chit chat.

The Group meets on the 1st Thursday of the month at the Group Leader's home in Axford at 2.30pm. They play at a moderate level but don't take the game too seriously.

If you are interested in joining please contact the group leader, Ashley de Safrin: scrabble@u3ainkennet.org.uk or phone 07584 354699

Photo: Susan Turner

ITALIAN GROUP

Bruce McCrea has stepped down after many years as Group Leader for our Italian group. We thank him for his sustained support for u3a in Kennet. His contribution has been greatly appreciated.

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

INVITATION TO PARTICIPATE IN AN OXFORD UNIVERSITY RESEARCH PROJECT

u3a members are invited to consider taking part in a University of Oxford research project into the health concerns of people who were in care during their childhoods. Medical evidence indicates that people who experienced care as children tend to suffer from health issues in later life. Consequently the aim of the research is to gather information in an attempt to improve the health services that are available for them.

Participants must be over the age of 50 and had been in care under the age of 18 years. The project will be conducted online through a 90 minute 'focus group' using Zoom and participants are offered a £40 gift voucher for taking part. All information gathered during the project will be kept in confidence.

If you are interested to find out more please contact the lead researcher: Dr Jonathan Taylor: jonathan.taylor@ndph.ox.ac.uk or telephone 01865 617912.

SPECIAL INTEREST DAY – ADVANCE NOTIFICATION

We are busy planning for our next joint 'Special Interest Day' with Marlborough College and other local schools. The Day will be held at the College on 15th September 2025 and members of other u3a's in the Bath and Wiltshire Network will join us too.

We will consider the theme of '**Global tipping points**' from a range of aspects including politics, health, language and climate change.



Our speakers will include Jonathan Dent: Senior Editor, Oxford English Dictionary, Professor Sir Muir Gray, Public Health physician, Heidi Venamore, Chair of Marlborough College Council and Professor David Waltham: Professor of Geophysics, University of London. Other speakers will



be confirmed and further details with registration forms will follow.

ARTICLE IN 'U3A MATTERS' SUMMER EDITION 2025



u3a in Kennet member Paul Foxall has featured in the current edition of 'u3a Matters' with an article 'Memories of Max'.

Paul is a retired documentary maker and member of a unique theatrical society that celebrates the late Max Wall.

His article includes an account of Max' career as a comedian, a dancer and an actor. Paul worked with Max on the 'South Bank Show' in 1984 and their friendship lasted over the following 20 years.

OTHER LOCAL NEWS

MILESTONES MUSEUM, BASINGSTOKE, HAMPSHIRE

u3a members are invited to benefit from a reduced rate to enter the Milestones Living History Museum in Hampshire. From 4 June to 21 July, on weekdays between 1pm and 4.45pm, a special discounted rate of just £10.00 per ticket – reduced from the usual price of £21.50.

See the website for details: <https://www.milestonesmuseum.org.uk/>



WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE 'MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING'

The 'Shakespeare Live' drama group produces an annual Shakespeare summer outdoor programme.

The Group is coming to Wiltshire during the summer and will perform 'Much ado about Nothing' at Cleeve House in Seend from 7th – 12 July 2025.

See here for further details www.shakespearelive.com Telephone 07780 938107..

WHITE HORSE BOOKSHOP – SUMMER SCHOOL 2025 REMINDER

The White Horse Bookshop in Marlborough is offering a summer of workshops and lectures until 1st August 2025. The Summer School Programme includes art workshops, author talks, an antiques valuation day, a jazz and Latin guitar lunchtime recital, silver jewellery-making workshop, a health workshop, yoga, history and politics sessions with tutors, creative writing workshops and lectures.

For tickets, call 01672 512071, visit the bookshop or see: www.whitehorsebooks.co.uk

NEWTON ABBOTT RACES

Dee McVey, Chair of Okehampton u3a, has negotiated a discount at Newton Abbott race course for u3a members. Instead of £18 for an online purchase of Paddock tickets it's been reduced to £10 per person for admission on Tuesday 9th September. For further details please email Dee at: chair@okehampton-u3a.org.uk or phone her on 01837 658590 by 25th August 2025.

UPDATE MARLBOROUGH LITFEST, 25th –28th SEPTEMBER 2025

u3a In Kennet member and LitFest Vice Chair: Julia Tyler gave an interesting presentation 'Under the covers at the LitFest' at our Coffee Exchange meeting on 19th June. Tickets go on sale on Friday 11 July, with priority booking for Friends of LitFest from Monday 30 June. The full festival programme will be announced in late June with priority booking for Friends of LitFest from 30 June and general ticket sales from 11 July. For more information and regular 2025 festival programme updates, see www.marlboroughlitfest.org



Jill Turner
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Alastair Sheen
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Jill Chambers
Speaker Secretary



Alison Dewar
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Hamzah
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Catherine Lockwood
*Co-opted Committee
Member*



Gavin Maxwell-Hart
*Co-opted Committee
Member*



David Pocock
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