

u3a in Kennet



Yearbook 2026

This handbook contains full information about u3a in Kennet

Redacted copy without personal telephone numbers

Information current at 24th November 2025

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



Charity No 1028680

Established 1992



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u3a Motor Cycle Group

u3a in Kennet Open Day 2025

u3a Coffee Exchange

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u3a Monday Walking Group

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Chair's welcome

Welcome to the 2026 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.



2025 saw our membership continue to expand, with now over 750 members and still over 65 active groups. As well as our usual Coffee Exchanges in the Town Hall and quarterly Talks at Lockeridge, our Special Interest Day (SID) on Global Tipping Points in cooperation with Marlborough College was well attended. The next SID is planned to be in the Spring of 2027. In 2026, as well as continuing with our usual activities, we will be exploring how we can further reach out into our community, following national u3a guidelines. This is in order to attract new members from all backgrounds and contribute to other local organisations particularly concerned with learning from each other.

In my first year as Chair, I am keen that our members, whether long-standing or having recently joined, feel encouraged to contribute to the activities of the u3a in Kennet. We will always welcome ideas for the formation of new groups or how to help with existing groups. There are many other ways to get involved, be it with our growing number of support groups or just attending our many events

Please do feel free to contact me to discuss any ideas or suggestions you may have to improve or add to the u3a in Kennet. Don't forget, this is your u3a; I look forward to hearing from you.

Mike Morison

Chair, u3a in Kennet

chair@u3ainkennet.org.uk

What is u3a?

u3a¹ is a UK-wide movement of locally-run charities that provide a wide range of opportunities for members to come together to learn for fun. Members explore new ideas, skills and activities together 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 14 others. Interest Groups have grown from 3 to more than 65 and we currently have over 750 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:

southwestregion.u3asite.uk/

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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 three or four 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 each of the neighbouring u3as: Pewsey, Devizes and Hungerford.

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 from our groups and details of 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.u3aikkennet.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 at membership@u3ainkennet.org.uk 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

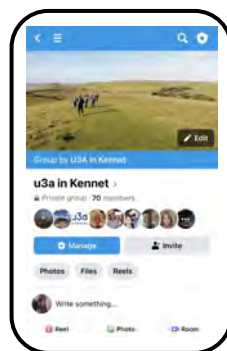
where members across the UK can share news and information.

The national organisation also has a public Facebook page:

www.facebook.com/u3auk, an X (Twitter) page: [twitter.com/](https://twitter.com/u3a_UK)

[u3a_UK](https://www.facebook.com/u3auk), a radio podcast page: [u3a.org.uk/news/u3a-radio-](http://u3a.org.uk/news/u3a-radio-podcast)

[podcast](http://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 u3a national Trustees, national Council members, and Network teams are unpaid volunteers. The Third Age Trust is supported by a small professional team headed by the Chief Executive, Iain Cassidy.

Here in Kennet 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 Useful 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 tea or 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.

**Held in February, May, July and October
at Kennet Valley Hall, Lockeridge, SN8 4EL
or 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 & Membership Secretary	Mike Morison	chair@u3ainkennet.org.uk membershipsec@u3ainkennet.org.uk
Joint Vice Chair & Outreach	Gavin Maxwell Hart	vicechair@u3ainkennet.org.uk
Joint Vice Chair & Events	David Pocock	vicechair@u3ainkennet.org.uk
Hon Secretary	Annette Weaver	secretary@u3ainkennet.org.uk
Hon Treasurer	Alastair Sheen	treasurer@u3ainkennet.org.uk
Compliance & Charity Commission Contact	Jeff Hide	charities@u3ainkennet.org.uk
Groups	Georgie Neville	groups@u3ainkennet.org.uk
Groups & Really Usefuls	Alison Dewar	groups@u3ainkennet.org.uk usefuls@u3ainkennet.org.uk
Speaker Secretary	Jill Chambers	speakersec@u3ainkennet.org.uk
Technical	Hamzah	technical@u3ainkennet.org.uk
Information & Publicity	Julian Beames	publicity@u3ainkennet.org.uk



Mike Morison



Gavin Maxwell Hart



David Pocock



Annette Weaver



Alastair Sheen



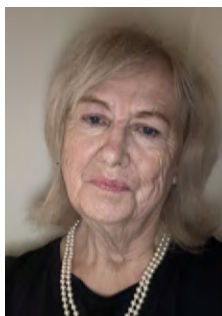
Jeff Hide



Georgie Neville



Alison Dewar



Jill Chambers



Hamzah



Julian Beames

Diary Dates for 2026

Annual General Meeting

Tuesday 20 th October	2.15pm	Town Hall Marlborough
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The Kennet u3a Talks

Tuesday 10 th February	2.15pm	Kennet Valley Hall, Lockeridge
Tuesday 5 th May	2.15pm	Kennet Valley Hall, Lockeridge
Wednesday 22 nd July	2.15pm	Kennet Valley Hall, Lockeridge
Tuesday 20 th October	3.00pm	(after AGM) Town Hall, Marlborough

Coffee Exchange

Open to all

Thursday 22 nd January	10.15am	Town Hall, Marlborough
Thursday 26 th February	10.15am	Town Hall, Marlborough
Thursday 26 th March	10.15am	Town Hall, Marlborough
Thursday 23 rd April	10.15am	Town Hall, Marlborough
Thursday 21 st May	10.15am	Town Hall, Marlborough
Thursday 25 th June	10.15am	Town Hall, Marlborough
Thursday 16 th July	10.15am	Town Hall, Marlborough
Thursday 27 th August	10.15am	Town Hall, Marlborough
Thursday 17 th September	10.15am	Town Hall, Marlborough
Thursday 19 th November	10.15am	Town Hall, Marlborough
Thursday 17 th December	10.15am	Town Hall, Marlborough

New Members' Lunches

Dates to be confirmed	Kennet Valley Hall (by invitation only)
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National u3a Week

19th —27th September 2026

u3a in Kennet Open Day

Wednesday 30 th September	10:00am	Town Hall, Marlborough
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Executive Committee Meetings

Wednesday 14 th January	10.00am	Friends Meeting House
Tuesday 14 th April	10.00am	Friends Meeting House
Wednesday 3 rd June	10.00am	Friends Meeting House
Thursday 10 th September	10.00am	Friends Meeting House
November—to be confirmed	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 and Newsletter Editor (newsletter@u3ainkennet.org.uk) know and it will be published on the website and in the Newsletter circulated by email (and by 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.



Recorder Group performing at
u3a in Kennet Open Day 2025



Monday Walking Group
August 2025



Monday Walking Group
September 2025

Tuesday

American History

Friends Meeting House

Tuesday, 3rd of month, 14.30 – 16.30

We research and share illustrated talks, followed by discussion with tea-and-buns. New members are welcome. Special knowledge isn't needed – only a lively interest in this powerful and extraordinarily successful nation (how it got here, as well as its future). Since 2019 the group has covered major milestones of American history, and is now considering 'the American Way' in politics, culture and society.

Email: amhist@u3ainkennet.org.uk

Contact: *Patrick Hickman-Robertson*
Alastair Sheen

Friday

Art & Art History 1

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*

Friday

Art & Art History 2

Friends Meeting House

Friday, 4th 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 vary in ability, from beginners to high level artistic expertise. We learn from each other with help and advice always available, including sharing specific new skills. 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 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, 3rd of month, 1300 – 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: Bill Perrins

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

Wednesday

Book Bunch!

Members Homes

Wednesday, 1st of month, 11.00 to 12.30

This very friendly group of book lovers meets once a month at each other's homes (where there is space for 10/11 – our maximum size). We alternate fact and fiction – our fiction taken generally from newspaper best paperbacks of the year or prizewinning nominations; our fact taken from personal recommendations. Recent books include Mukiwa by Peter Godwin; Birnam Wood by Eleanor Cotton; Strangeland by Jon Soper; and the Litfest Big Town Read.

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: Sara Blow
Anna Shantry

Tuesday**Books**

Members Homes

Tuesday, 4th of month, 14.00–16.00

The Books group meets on the fourth Tuesday afternoon of each month in a member's house in Marlborough and environs. We take it in turns to host the meeting and to provide tea and cake.

We read a wide range of fiction and occasional non-fiction, which we then discuss in a friendly and lively atmosphere. We choose the books democratically – the host of the following month's meeting providing a shortlist of three which we all vote on. A wait list operates beyond 9 members.

Email: BOOKS@u3ainkennet.org.uk

Contact: Iain Goodfellow

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 short(ish) bus trips with Kennet u3a colleagues, admiring scenery while visiting – for example – a range of local towns. Group members take turns to organise trips by researching times and routes. Group members can learn together about bus passes (see <https://wiltshire.mybuspass.co.uk/>) and a range of services. We are like-minded travellers who want to board buses with confidence (with no concerns about car parking).

Email: ***busadventures@u3ainkennet.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@u3ainkennet.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@u3ainkennet.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: Cate Mitchell
Clyde Nancarrow

Thursday**Controversial Discussion 3**

Friends Meeting House

Thursday, 2nd of month, 10.30 – 12.30

We meet most months at the Friends Meeting House in Marlborough (10.30am–12.00pm). Topics that are hopefully controversial 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

Thursday

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 global conflicts, water company profits 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

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

With growing public interest and more and more information online, we can now research our own family histories without experts or physical visits. We cover documents, internet tools, family trees, and online archives, as well as sharing our stories and uncovering new sources of information. Our ethos is learning and improving together, by sharing ideas and advice. Our members range from beginners to those with considerable experience.

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

Varies

Forget-me-not

Varies

TBD

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 activities due to physical or mental difficulties and yet are still capable of meeting others, as well as their spouses/carers.

Email: forget-me-not@thesteadmans.org.uk

Contact: Nick Stedman

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

Our lively and engaging conversation group is for participants with a firm familiarity with the French language. We focus 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: Contact by email only

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

The Global History group was formed in 2023 to explore beyond British and European history. Meetings take the form of illustrated talks given by a core group of members, but you are welcome to simply attend and enjoy the presentation. We are focused currently on the world before 1000 AD / CE.

Topics we have covered include the Vikings, India under emperor Ashoka, the Silk Roads, Tang dynasty China, the Sogdians, India's trade with the Roman Empire, the Late Bronze Age collapse, and Moorish Spain.

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 learns 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 knowledge onto others. Talks are by external speakers and group members. We also visit places of historic interest. Our diverse range of topics ranges from pre-history to the present day, with always something new to discover.

Email: loc.hist@u3ainkennet.org.uk

Contact: *Geoff Hill*

Friday**Jazz Appreciation**

Marlborough

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 – 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@u3ainkennet.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. For the current year the Group Leader is giving a series of talks concentrating on basic aspects of Neuroscience.

Email: *lifesci@u3ainkennet.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@u3ainkennet.org.uk*

Contact: *Linda Sloan*

Tuesday

Mahjong 3

Marlborough

Tuesday, fortnightly, 14.00 – 17.00

We have been playing this extremely enjoyable and compelling game for some years now and we are always happy to welcome new members. If you have never played Mahjong before, or if you have not played for some time but wish to play again, then that is not a problem, as we are happy to provide tuition. So please do get in touch.

Email: *mahjong3@u3ainkennet.org.uk*

Contact: *Roland Fisher*

Varies**Motorcycle**

Marlborough

Mid month subject to weather

We are experienced and capable motorcyclists, holding licences for at least 5 years. All responsibility for road safety, legal compliance, and navigation rests with each rider, as do decisions on the suitability of roads and weather.

Group members specify a rendezvous, midpoint and destination. Typically, we stop for lunch or coffee – and occasional picnics.

In winter, we meet for presentations, visits (by car) and lunches

Our WhatsApp group aids last minute arrangements.

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Email: *motorbike@u3ainkennet.org.uk***Contact:** *Greg Shakeshaft***Tuesday****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@u3ainkennet.org.uk***Contact:** *Jeff Hide***Wednesday****Pétanque**

Varies

Alternate Wednesdays, 10.30 – 13.00

Pétanque (<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/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 is with individuals or teams and played on a terrain or 'piste' with a hard but rough surface. Playing is easy and benefits hand/eye co-ordination, general fitness and social contact. There is no charge involved but participants are expected to provide their own boules.

Email: *petanque@u3ainkennet.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

Varies

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. 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, this group of volunteers provides 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 then come along 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, 14:00

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 and/or aspiring wordsmiths, do come along and 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 place Evenings, Thursday 2nd and Tuesday 4th of month

We will eat out twice a month, on the second Thursday and then later in the month (normally the fourth Tuesday), at a location in and around Marlborough. Members take it in turns to organise the meals out.

Email: singlesdining@u3ainkennet.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. Having reached our maximum in terms of numbers, we are unfortunately unable to accept any 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@u3ainkennet.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@u3ainkennet.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 the Roebuck in London Road with everyone paying for their own food and drink. Our group is very friendly, informal and welcoming to newcomers. We discuss items of interest or concern. With a large group we might have several topics at once. If we run out of topics, we get out the "Table Talk" cards (hence the name) to keep the conversation flowing. Cost depends 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, 10.30–11.30

The group meets during term time and is a little more competitive than the other three table tennis groups. We play doubles and singles to 11 points, the best of 3 sets. Balls are provided and there is a small charge to cover court hire.

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 four 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 and general well being, so do come along. There is a small charge made to cover the cost of the court hire. We play the whole year, apart from school holidays.

Email: tabtenwed@u3ainkennet.org.uk

Contact: Richard Newport

Thursday**Table Tennis 2**

Leisure Centre Marlborough

Thursday, weekly, 11.00 – 12.00

This friendly group hires four 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: tabtenthu@u3ainkennet.org.uk

Contact: Simon Caudell

Tuesday**Table Tennis 3**

Leisure Centre Marlborough

Tuesday, weekly, 10.00–11.00

This friendly group hires four 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: tabtentues@u3ainkennet.org.uk

Contact: Vivien Gibbs

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@u3ainkennet.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@u3ainkennet.org.uk

Contact: Sue Owen
Debs Carter

Thursday

Walking 2 (Thursday)

Varies

Thursday, weekly, 10.00

We organise weekly walks of 6–7 miles. Each is proposed and led by group members. Many walkers stay on for a pub lunch.

Walks are decided and publicised in advance, with route descriptions and meeting points (although might, occasionally, be varied nearer the time). Proper walking footwear and appropriate clothing are essential.

Dogs are not permitted on our walks.

Email: thu.walk@u3ainkennet.org.uk

Contact: Ian Brooks

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

We 'stride' 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. We arrange our programme of walks in advance. Dogs are not permitted on our walks.

Email: striders@u3ainkennet.org.uk

Contact: Michael Ruby

Thursday**Wine Appreciation**

Marlborough Rugby Club

Thursday, 4th of month, 19.30 – 21.30

We enjoy wine and aim to extend our experience of tastes and knowledge, during entertaining and enjoyable evenings. No subscription – just a charge to cover costs. 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. Sometimes, we have guest speakers from the wine trade.

Email: wag@u3ainkennet.org.uk

Contact: Dave Foulkes, Frans Scheepers,
Maddie Urquhart

u3a activities



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.

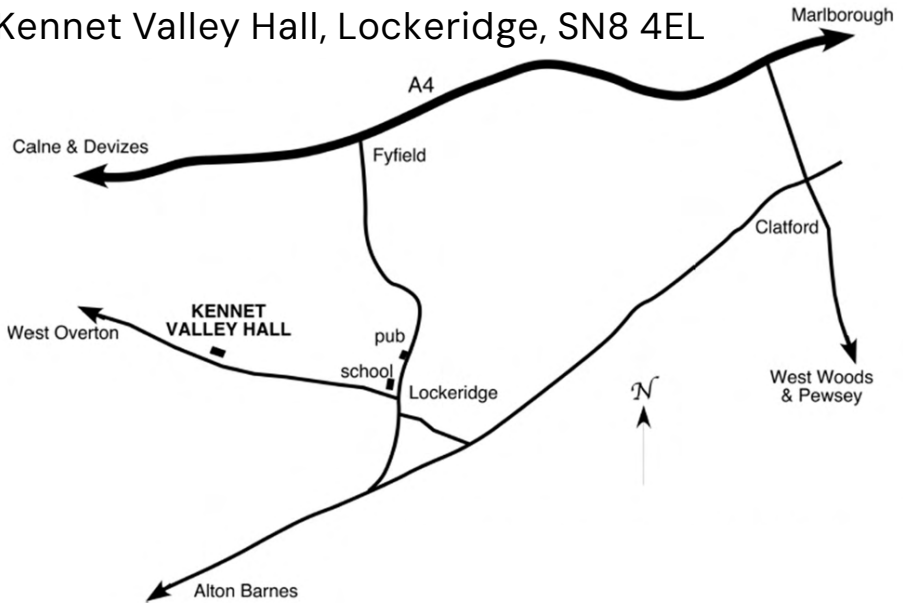
We have access to a range of meeting venues in and around Marlborough, including:

- 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 local venues

Kennet Valley Hall, Lockeridge, SN8 4EL



Friends Meeting House and Town Hall Marlborough





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