



Trustees' Report with Chair's Introduction

UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE IN KENNET (WILTSHIRE)

KNOWN AS "U3A IN KENNET"

(REGISTERED CHARITY NO.1028680)

REPORT FOR YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2026

1. Chair's Introduction

I am pleased to present the following report on my first year as the Chair of the u3a in Kennet.

Our u3a continues to grow with membership totaling nearly 800, with our membership fee remaining at £12pa. Several new Groups were established too, widening the range of interests and activities that are available to our members. Our regular monthly meetings have become increasingly well attended, supported by our 'Usefuls' team.

My sincere thanks are due to all members of the Executive Committee and to our Group Leaders, whose individual and collective efforts have contributed to the growth and continued development of the u3a in Kennet during the year.

2. u3a in Kennet – Aims

The u3a movement aims to provide 'public benefit' and the charitable purpose of the u3a in Kennet is:

'The advancement of education and, in particular, the education of older people and those who are retired from full-time work by all means, including associated activities conducive to learning and personal development, in Marlborough and its surrounding locality.'

thereby reflecting the Third Age Principles of membership, self-help learning and mutual aid.

3. u3a in Kennet

a) Membership

The membership of the u3a in Kennet grew during the year and by 31st July 2026 comprised:

- Ordinary members: 775 (742 in July 2025) – 4.4% increase
- Retired member: 1 (1 in July 2025)
- Associate members: 19 (15 in July 2025)
- Total members: 795 (758 in July 2026) – 4.9% increase

b) Groups – Numbers & Progress

Groups have flourished again this year thanks in particular to the hard work, commitment and dedication of our group leaders as well as to the enthusiastic support of the group members. There have been some changes in group leadership during the year: we would like to welcome the newcomers to their role and to thank all those who are stepping down. The role of group leader is vital to the continued success of our organisation, and we appreciate and value enormously the contribution that they make. In some cases, the leadership role is shared between two or more people.

There are currently 67 groups available to members. During the year new groups have started up successfully. These include: a second French Conversation (Advanced) group; a second Art and Art History group; and a fourth Table Tennis group. Some subjects are proving very popular hence the reason for the second groups. We are of course always looking for members who may be prepared to start a new group.

Finally, we would like to thank all group leaders for their hard work this year. Special thanks are due to the Really Useful group and its members who support both the catering and other arrangements at all our meetings and events.

c) Events

Our regular events consisted of the quarterly 'Kennet u3a Talks' and the monthly Coffee Exchanges held at the Kennet Valley Hall, Lockeridge and Marlborough Town Hall. Attendance at all talks was high, numbering well over 100 on a few occasions.

Quarterly talks topics were: 'The Wit and Songs of Noel Coward'; 'TV in the 1930s'; 'Passports, Traitors, Assassins and Spies'; and 'The Ticking Time Bomb'.

Monthly Coffee Exchanges covered a wide range of subjects including: 'The Quest for Wansdyke'; 'Livery of the City of London'; 'The Prospect Hospice'; 'Magna Carta, Myths and Realities'; 'The Wilts and Berks Canal'; 'Commonwealth War Graves Commission'; and 'Alexander Keiler and Avebury'; as well as our Christmas Extravaganza and a Musical Morning. Encouragingly, several of our talks were given by u3a in Kennet members.

In addition, a new members' lunch provided some 30 new members to meet group leaders and committee members, and a Group Leaders lunch was held to thank our valuable members who run our groups.

Our annual Open Day, held on Wednesday, 3rd September, saw the addition of 19 new members as well as improving our visibility in the local community.

Later in September, another Special Interest Day (SID) was held in conjunction with Marlborough College, with subjects presented on Global Tipping Points by invited experts and students of the college and Swindon's 6th Form Academy. Planning is now well under way for our next SID to be held in September 2027.

Two IT workshops were also provided; one for members to assist in their use of smart phones and tablets; and the other for Committee members in the use of Beacon and Drop-box.

d) Governance, Trustees / Executive Committee / Meetings

u3a in Kennet is led by an Executive Committee and governed by its Constitution which is based on the national model constitution. This was adopted on 24th October 2018 and amended on 25th March 2021.

The Annual General Meeting was held on 22nd October 2025 resulting in the election of the Chair and Joint Vice-chairs. Also elected as full members were David Pocock and Gavin Maxwell-Hart. Five committee members were also re-elected; Jeff Hide, Georgina Neville, Jill Chambers, Hamzah and Alison Dewar.

Two other Committee members were co-opted during the year: Kate Lacey and Julian Beames who have taken on the roles shown below.

The full Committee is shown:

Officers:	Name	Notes
Chair	Mike Morison	Beacon Administrator
Joint Vice-Chair	David Pocock	Events
Joint Vice-Chair	Gavin Maxwell-Hart	Outreach
Hon Secretary	Annette Weaver	
Hon Treasurer	Alastair Sheen	

Other Trustees:

Supporting Groups & Usefals	Alison Dewar	
Supporting Groups	Georgina Neville	
Technical Support	Hamzah	E-mail support
Speaker Secretary	Jill Chambers	
Charity Commission Contact	Jeff Hide	
Membership Secretary	Kathryn Lacey	Co-opted Member
Publicity	Julian Beames	Co-opted Member

The Committee is also supported by two non-committee members covering the following:

Newsletter	Jill Turner
Website Editor	Pat Harper

4. Communications & Publicity

Regular and effective communication with members was maintained with monthly newsletters sent by email (via Beacon) and the annual Yearbook. The few 'non-email' members receive the newsletters via the post.

The website was updated regularly with new events and information about group activities.

Our familiar 'Welcome leaflet' was produced identifying the meeting arrangements for all of the groups on a one page document along with a publicity flyer local leaflet for wider publicity.

In addition, u3a in Kennet has two Facebook pages: one for members and a public facing version.

Further local publicity was secured with a link to u3a news in 'Marlborough News'.

5. Finance

a) Treasurer's Report and Accounts for the financial Year 1st August 2025 – 31st July 2026

u3a in Kennet is a voluntary self-help organisation that seeks to advance the education and social interaction of older people and those who are retired from full time work in Marlborough and its surrounding locality.

The u3a operates through a Committee of Trustees elected at its Annual General Meeting. It mainly carries out its activities through groups led by Group Leaders.

The main source of income is member subscriptions. The accompanying accounts show that subscription income increased by 5.8% to £9,634 compared to the income of £9,107 received in 2024-25.

The total general income for the year was £13,421 (£12,454 in 2024-25), including £1,516 from Gift Aid and £2,059 of Revenue from the Special Interest Day.

The main areas of expenditure were:

- Third Age Trust (National u3a): £5,272 (36.3%)
- Special Interest Day: £2,329 (16.0%)
- u3a in Kennet Member Meetings (Coffee Exchanges, Kennet Talks etc.): £1,979 (13.6%)
- u3a in Kennet New Members' Lunches & Group Leaders Meeting: £1,972 (13.6%)
- u3a in Kennet Yearbook: £1,711 (11.8%)
- u3a in Kennet Administration: £1,037 (7.1%)

The National Capitation, Beacon management fees, and u3a Matters Magazine postage paid to the Third Age Trust totalled £5,272, representing a 3.2% increase compared to the previous year.

Venue hire, speakers, and refreshment costs for u3a-wide member meetings (Coffee Exchanges & Kennet Talks) rose to £1,979. There were no expenses incurred attending national or regional meetings this year, and no grants were made directly to individual groups.

Our regular Coffee Exchanges & Kennet Talks continue to be very popular. Costs for the New Members' Lunches & Group Leaders Meeting rose to £1,972. The Special Interest Day brought in £3,184 of income (£1,125 2024-25 & £2,059 2025-26) incurring total costs of £2,329 and resulting in a surplus of £855.

Total general expenditure for the year was £14,518 (£11,275 in 2024-25). This higher expenditure resulted in a general fund shortfall of £1,097 for the year, compared to a surplus of £1,178 in 2024-25. The most significant element being the additional £1,192 costs of New Member Lunches & Group Leader Workshop.

General reserves of £16,665 (£17,623 in 2024-25) were held at the end of the year. £10,000 of Reserves were transferred to a higher interest Lloyds Bank Notice Account during the year.

Groups income totalled £16,093 (£15,259 in 2024-25), while Groups expenditure totalled £15,749 (£14,687 in 2024-25). This resulted in a group surplus of £344.

Group funds carried over in the bank (Lloyds No 2 Account) totalled £6,489 (£5,306 in 2024-25) at the year-end. A total of £173 was also carried over as cash held by groups.

The Accounts for 2025-26 have been examined by Mr Kieran Roughan, a u3a in Kennet member who is not a Trustee or Committee Member.

Alastair Sheen, Treasurer, September 2026.

b) Asset register

The u3a in Kennet asset register was checked and updated during the year. The total value of assets remains within the limits of the standard u3a Trust insurance policy.

6. Summary

The u3a in Kennet continued to grow and developed its range of support for members during the year August 2025– July 2026.

The Executive Committee thanks all Group Leaders for their active and committed support for u3a in Kennet and all members for their interest and involvement.

Report prepared on behalf of the Trustees of u3a in Kennet by Mike Morison, Chair and Beacon Administrator. chair@u3ainkennet.org.uk

September 2026