



Welcome to the September newsletter, what a hot August we have had. We went to Croyde for the last week in August and got the remnants of hurricane Erin. This gave rise to some spectacular waves on the beach and lots of puddles to meander around. At least it was dry for the bank holiday.

[NEWS FROM YOUR COMMITTEE](#)

Gardens in Bloom - Jo R.

“Many members attended and participated in St Bernard’s Road Gardens in Bloom earlier in the summer.

The amount raised was **£12,636.76 for the Stroke Association**. What an amazing amount, well done to everyone.”

Interest Group Co-ordinator – Glenys T.

“I am pleased to inform you that several new interest groups will be commencing in the Autumn

Discussion Group – Facilitator Jo R. This will commence on Thursday 16th October at The Friary (room at the rear of the Friary). To be held bi-monthly, 1.30pm - 3.00pm.

Macular Degeneration Support Group – Facilitator Jo R. This will commence on Thursday 29th November at The Friary (room at the rear of the Friary). To be held bi-monthly, 1.30pm – 3.00pm.

Further information on both groups will be provided shortly

Play-reading Group – Facilitators Greg J. and John M. - The formation of this group is in its early stage of finding out who may be interested. Speak to Greg J or John M at the Core Meeting or email me via the website (see below).

The Cinema and Theatre Group – Carmel D and Jo R have taken over as facilitators from Judith W who did an excellent job – thank you Judith

Curry Night – Facilitator – Jo R.- Jo is proposing to book a curry night for the 3rd week in September

As a Member of Olton and District U3a have you thought about starting an Interest Group? Do come and talk to me about any ideas you have for doing so as I will be delighted to help you.

To contact me a) Go to website and Click on Groups, b) Click on the link Interest Group Coordinator. It is underlined and in blue, c) A contact form will be displayed - please send your message.

****Extra Ordinary General Meeting - Tony M.****

“We will be having an Extra Ordinary General Meeting prior to the Core Meeting on 9th September in order to vote on the position of Chairperson and Vice Chairperson.”

Recycling Opportunity



“We will have a collection box for used cartridges at the next core meeting. Any money raised from recycling cartridges will be used to support Olton and District u3a. We have so far raised over £200.00 by recycling used ink cartridges.”

NEWS FROM OUR INTEREST GROUPS

Ukulele Group - Jim H.



“Another busy time for the band with three gigs in July starting with our Core meeting AGM which saw us playing non-Christmas songs for our u3a members for the first time since we were formed! In place of a photo of this one I hope that this newsletter will include a link to my YouTube channel (https://youtu.be/mj_708KmNrI) on which there is our complete performance including Jo's introduction and closing words.

Another of July's performances saw us venturing into Warwickshire (well for the band members, Lorraine and I live near Warwick these days) for an evening show at the Budbrooke WI monthly meeting. As this was the day after the Olton AGM that was a particularly busy week. The photo is of that performance.



We are taking a couple of weeks off from rehearsing in August before our 'Autumn schedule' kicks off in September; three bookings in already. Just enough time to bring some new songs up to scratch to keep our sets refreshed.

Quite a few bookings are now 'repeat' ones whereby we are being asked back to somewhere we have played previously; if imitation is the sincerest form of flattery then being asked back must be a close second I reckon.

But the biggest thing is that we are continuing to have great fun playing and singing together, whether at rehearsals or in front of an audience. Which is what the u3a is all about really.

The final thing I have to mention is that I have declared our group to be 'full'; we now number 35 members and regularly have over 20 at each rehearsal with the room we have becoming rather busy, not to say crowded, at times. A larger room is not currently available and besides I do not feel that the group can satisfactorily expand further and I do not have the time nor energy to run a second group, although some initial help with setting up another group would be possible.”

Family History - Keith Y.



“The September meeting of the Family History Group will be held on **Monday 29th September** which is the 5th Monday of the month and not 22nd September as previously scheduled. The time and place remain unaltered and no other months this year are affected.”

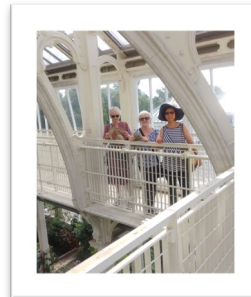
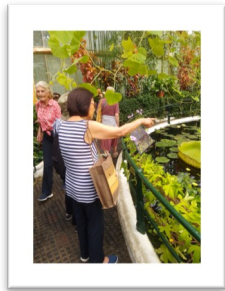
Garden lovers' group - Rob C.



"Hopefully our u3a will continue to thrive and the current difficulties will only be a temporary hiccup. My old mum used to say "It will all sort itself out" and it usually did, but not all by itself so if you can offer any help please do so.

In July the garden group visited a rare plants fair at Winterbourne gardens in Edgbaston. It was a nice day and we had a relaxing time looking around the gardens and chatting. There was also some retail therapy including some very bold plants.

Our coach trip to Kew in August also went well. The weather was warm and sunny. The glass house were particularly warm but that did not stop some of our members ascending to the highest and hottest parts!



I am still happy to take registrations for our future visits.

On Friday 12th September we will make a self-drive visit to Charterhouse in Coventry. This property has recently been incorporated into the National Trust portfolio. There is plenty to explore at the site including the walled garden. In addition there is a heritage wild area, an arboretum and medieval building. I think we will meet in the cafeteria at about 11.00.

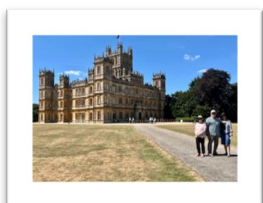
On 17th October we have our final coach trip of the year. We will be visiting Bridgemere garden centre in Cheshire and the National Trust site at Biddulph Grange gardens in North Staffordshire. Garden lovers group have already booked most of the seats but there are a few left. The cost will be £22 for members who are in National Trust or £33.70 for those not in National Trust.

If you would like to go please contact Rob for full details."

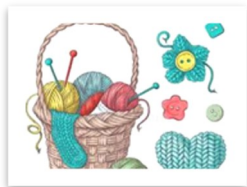
Trips Group - Pat C



"On Thursday 10th July a group of 49 members visited Highclere Castle in Hampshire. The property is the home of the 8th Earl and Countess of Caernarvon but it perhaps more well known as "Downton Abbey", the fictional home of the Crawley family. It sits within a park which was designed by Capability Brown in the eighteenth century. Everyone visited the castle and enjoyed the gardens which lay beyond the lawns. There were endless places to pause and take in the glorious landscape."



Craft and Chat - Jan B.



“The Craft and Chat group had a big reveal of their painted pottery that has now been glazed. Everyone was amazed at the results and happy with their pieces.”



The next meeting will be on the 25th September at Olton Library.”

Quiz Group - Hilary B. and Carol O.



“This month, we have a football theme. Can you name the 10 male footballers who have represented England more than 100 times? Their initials and the number of caps they have are given to help you.

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| 1. P.S (125) | 6. A.C. (107) |
| 2. W.R. (120) | 7. H.K. (107) |
| 3. D.B. (115) | 8. B.C. (106) |
| 4. S.G. (114) | 9. F.L. (106) |
| 5. B.M. (108) | 10. B.W. (105) |

Here are the answers to July’s quiz about songs from ‘The Sound of Music’

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| 1. Maria | 6. The Lonely Goatherd |
| 2. My Favourite Things | 7. I Must Have Done Something Good |
| 3. Do Re Mi | 8. Sixteen Going On Seventeen |
| 4. Edelweiss | 9. I Have Confidence |
| 5. Climb Every Mountain | 10. So Long, Farewell |

The Quiz Group meets on the second Thursday of each month at 1.30pm at Olton Friary. Our next meeting is on Thursday, September 11th. Carol and Hilary would be pleased to see you if you would like to join us.”

If you have any items you would like included in the October newsletter, please send them to me at oltonu3aeleanor@gmail.com