

Olton and District u3a

October 2025

Newsletter 104

Website - oltonanddistrict.u3asite.uk



Welcome to the October newsletter, Autumn is now upon us with the changing leaf colours and the fresher weather. This is one of my favourite seasons as everything begins to get ready for the coming winter.

NEWS FROM YOUR COMMITTEE

Interest Group Co-ordinator – Glenys T

“The NEW Discussion Group with Jo as Facilitator will commence on Thursday 16th October 1.30pm – 3.00pm at Olton Friary (room at the rear). You will be very welcome to this introductory meeting. To be held bi-monthly.

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

Play Reading Group – Facilitators Greg J and John M. and they would like a few more Members to join them. Should you be interested in this new group that is being set up please contact Greg or John at the Core Meeting or email me by going on to the Olton and District website – Click Contact – Click Interest Group Co-ordinator – send message and I will reply.”

Speaker Secretary - Beverly P.



Our speakers over the next few months are:

October - Bill Cowley is telling us about scams and what to look out for.

November - Richard Churchley singing his way through the Merrie England Folklore Calendar.

January - John Homer will be telling us all about the Black Country.

Recycling Opportunity



“We will have a collection box for used cartridges at th 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

Creative Writing - Gordon C.



"The September meeting was well attended and we discussed our writings on the continuation piece which was about a man finding a carrier bag full of money in a bus shelter. The endings supplied by members were diverse and all very interesting. We all seem to be improving.

Our next meeting will be on Wednesday 22nd October at 2:15 in the Dwell, Solihull Central Library (The Core). Our task for this meeting write a story based on the theme of 'Rumour'. Further information from Gordon Cresswell on gordon@gordoncresswell.co.uk."

Scrabble and Rummikub Group - Chris F



"Thanks to Beverley for running the group for me in September while I was sunning myself in Eastbourne, eleven members attended. On a sunny morning in October ten members played the games at Josiah Mason. How long will we keep this pleasant weather and what is ahead for us?"

Please note that the November meeting will be on the **10th November** as the room has been booked for the Trust on the 3rd."

Holiday Group - Joy E and Janice



On Monday 1st September a group of eager Olton and District u3a members boarded the coach to whisk us away to Eastbourne. A good journey down there and on arrival we were allocated our rooms, the sun was shining so time for a stroll before dinner.

Tuesday saw us off the Battle and Hastings, luckily the battle was over. Sunny Hastings was a welcome sight, quite a few of us made our way to the East Lift for a glorious view of the town and sea.

Wednesday off we went to Uckfield, a bit showery here and as we made our way to the coach the rain came down in stair rods. As we arrived at the Bluebell Railway the sun was shining and we boarded the steam train for the 11 mile ride between Sheffield Park and East Grinstead and return, a touch of nostalgia as we were in steam. Some people went to the theatre in the evening for songs from the shows.

A sunny Brighton on Thursday with a lot of attractions such as the Brighton Pavillion, The Lanes and not forgetting the shopping.

Friday on a sunny morning we say goodbye to Eastbourne after a lovely week. The staff at the hotel were very good and cheery, Graham our driver couldn't do enough and finally thanks to Joy and Janice for organising it.

Poetry Group – Glenys T.



“One of our members told us about Poetry Jam at the Symphony Hall in Birmingham and as a group we thought it sounded interesting. It hosts poets who are starting out, seasoned veterans and everyone else with a story to tell.

I thoroughly enjoyed my visit as the atmosphere was very relaxed. We were in the Jane How and Justham family Room on the Grand Tier from where there was a splendid view of the city below, much of which has been redeveloped in recent years.

One of the poems that resonated with me was ‘Coping Mechanisms’ – always ‘a cup of tea and a slice of cake’.

There were many topical poems some quite sensitive and as nothing was censored some explicit words.

Benjamin Zephaniah’s poem ‘People need People’ inspired Birmingham’s Poet Laureate Ayan Aden to write and read a poem ‘People make people’.

It was an informal meeting and when one arrived you could say you would like to read or recite a poem you had written. As Poetry Jam is on each month maybe one or two of Olton and District Poets will be inspired to read one of the poems they have written.”

Trips Group - Margaret H.



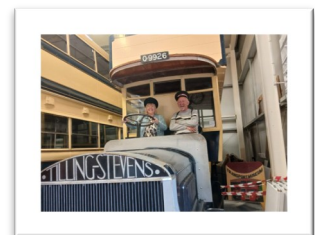
“Our September trip to Gloucester was attended by over 30 members. Everyone spent time in the magnificent cathedral with its beautiful architecture, fascinating history and various royal connections. Some visited the museum and some went to the docks. Although the weather was not very good it didn’t put a dampener on the day . Everyone agreed it was an excellent day out.”

Local History Group - Pat K.



“About 26 of our members visited the Wythall Transport Museum on September 19th. We were fortunate to have a fine weather day and thoroughly enjoyed ourselves.

Our guides, Dennis and Gordon has extensive knowledge of the transport of the West Midland which they imparted with clarity and humour. We all felt nostalgic at the sight of the old cream and dark blue buses, taking us back in time. We had a giggle at Ernie the milkman, excellently played by Gordon to much amusement, tracing the time line of milk delivery over the years. The workshop, explained to us by George was also fascinating. Because of the age of the vehicles, some engineering parts have to be hand made now. All in all a great day out.”



Ukulele Group - Jim. H



“As I mentioned last time we played three gigs in September of which two were to groups of people suffering with dementia and we made a few alterations to our song list to better suit our audiences. Fair to say we were a hit! Choosing songs that were more likely to be remembered certainly seemed to work well and we had tremendous responses from the audiences with some wanting to get up to dance even though they probably shouldn't have really. We get such a lot from playing especially when the feedback is so enthusiastic.



Things quieten down (a bit) for the next couple of months, we had just one booking in October, at the Shirley branch of the British Legion where our audience once again consisted mostly of residents from two retirement/ care homes. We had one of the largest number of players of any of our gigs and everyone enjoyed the event. One of the homes was the Star and Garter and I was asked for my contact details as we were packing away; by the time I returned home there was an email wanting to book us to play there in December. I felt it necessary to decline that as we have 5 gigs in the first three weeks and playing three gigs in one week seems a little too much! So it will likely be in November when we rock up to them.

From now on we will be brushing up on our Christmas set, it's nearly 10 months since we played any of them and there will be a couple of new ones to learn too. Life is never dull in the OAPs!

But the key thing always is that we are having fun doing what we do, the u3a motto might be 'Learn, Laugh and Live' and we do all those. And with both meanings of the word 'live' too! 'Till next time.'"

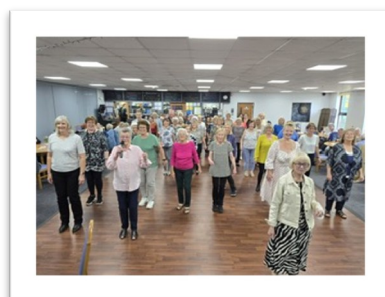
Line Dancing Group - Sue M., Gill N. and Carmel D.



“On Tuesday 30th September our Olton & District u3a Line Dance Group held their Annual Fish n Chip Social at the Indoor Bowls Club in Solihull. It was well attended by our regular dancers, both old and new – it was also lovely to catch up with dancers who are not able to regularly attend our weekly classes.

After getting a drink from the bar, we danced for a while until our lunch arrived, then we danced some more, briefly stopping for the free raffle (with many prizes ranging from a box of biscuits to a Garden Centre Voucher to an Afternoon Tea for 2, with Prosecco at a local venue).

After a little more dancing we finished at 3.45 pm. This event was funded by the support of our dancers throughout the year. Thank you dancers.”



Garden lovers' group - Rob C.

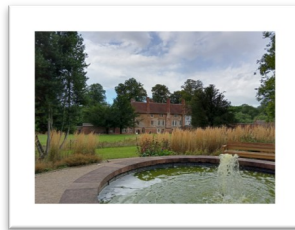


“On Friday 12th September 20 members made a self-drive visit to Charterhouse in Coventry. This property has recently been incorporated into the National Trust portfolio. For most of us it was our first visit there and everyone agreed it is a lovely interesting venue within easy reach. There is plenty to explore at the site including the walled garden. In addition there is a heritage wild area, an arboretum and medieval building. No doubt many of us will return with family or friends during the next few weeks and months. I have included a few photos including one of a medieval wall painting.

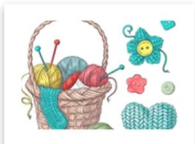
On Friday 17th October we have our final coach trip of the year. We will be visiting Bridgemere garden centre in Cheshire and the National Trust site at Biddulph Grange gardens in North Staffordshire. Garden lovers group have already booked most of the seats but there are a six left. The cost will be £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. I promised to let National Trust know our final numbers one week before our visit which will be 10th October so please let me know quickly.

Our following meeting on 14th November is a meal at the Twisted Boot. This is now fully booked so any future registrations will be included on the reserve list.”

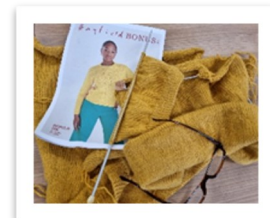
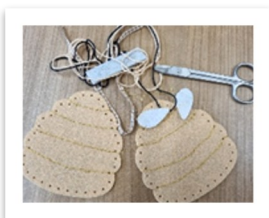


Craft and Chat group - Jan B.



“The group had a chatty meeting this month catching up on all our summer holiday news. One lady managed to do a whole line of knitting and another threaded her needle ready for sewing!

Below is the beehive ornament that Nicki is making, a knitted doll filled with lavender from Pat and what will be a beautiful jumper from Carol.



Our next meeting is on the 23rd October where we will be making felt poppies.”

Quiz Group - Hilary B. and Carol O.



This month, we are looking for a number of countries in each of the following sentences. There are two countries in each sentence, a total of ten to be found.

For example, “It is vital you know than Manila, Oslo and Rome are capital cities” contains Italy and Laos. .Good hunting!

1. Eric had to go home.
2. There must be nine men to man the pumps, at least.
3. I hope Ruth can adapt quickly.
4. I rang for a taxi from Kensington Gardens.
5. I’ve got one pal who will not give an inch in a game situation.

Here are the answers to September’s football themed quiz.

- | | |
|-------------------|-------------------|
| 1. Peter Shilton | 6. Ashley Cole |
| 2. Wayne Rooney | 7. Harry Kane |
| 3. David Beckham | 8. Bobby Charlton |
| 4. Steven Gerrard | 9. Frank Lampard |
| 5. Bobby Moore | 10. Billy Wright |

The Quiz Group meets on the second Thursday of each month at 1.30pm at Olton Friary. Our next meeting is on Thursday, November 13th. 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 November newsletter, please send them to me at oltonu3aeleanor@gmail.com