



Olton and District u3a

December 2025

Newsletter 106



Website - oltonanddistrict.u3asite.uk



Welcome to the newsletter for December. Where has this year gone!! I would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. Thank you for sending in all your contributions to the newsletters and the corrections that I get blind to. I didn't think I was a creature of habit but I get used to getting little snippets from groups and find them really interesting. Wishing everyone a happy, healthy 2026.

[NEWS FROM YOUR COMMITTEE](#)

Welfare - Jo R.

"It is always nice to receive a card from Friends. It shows that they are thinking of you. If you are aware of a member of your group or an acquaintance who may be feeling down, unwell or has been bereaved please let myself, Jo Robinson on oltonu3ajor@gmail.com or Janice Cree on jmcree4@gmail.com and we will send an appropriate card.

Some people are very private so please consider if a card would be appropriate."

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."

Remembrance Day 2025 – Julie S.



"The u3a was proud to support the Remembrance Day this year, honouring the bravery and sacrifice of all those who served — past and present — in defence of our freedom. A beautiful wreath generously donated by **Pam's Florist** of Lyndon Road, Solihull was laid in remembrance of the fallen heroes and all members of the armed and civilian services who gave so much."



Interest Group Co-ordinator — Glenys T.



“We now have a Play Reading Group - Facilitators Greg J. and John M.

The first meeting was at Hobbs Moat Library on the afternoon of December 1st. As it is now pantomime season it seemed appropriate, when Greg, John, Pat and I met at a planning meeting

in November, that they should read Cinderella (Which Pat had written and directed previously) at the December meeting. The seven members who attended agreed it was great fun. They took time towards the end of the meeting to talk about the plays they would like to read. It was decided if they can get the scripts in time the next play will be ‘Abigail’s Party’ and following that ‘Under Milk Wood’ the 1954 radio drama by the Welsh poet Dylan Thomas. There will not be a meeting in January so the next meeting will be on 2nd February and the one following that will be on 2nd March.”

NEWS FROM OUR INTEREST GROUPS

Walking Group - Geoff T



“It was on 13th June 2016 that Margaret A., Sally B., Rob C., Janice C., John G., Lyn H., Alan and Mary P. joined me on our first walk from Meriden. Although I do not have a picture of our first walk, the following was taken on our second walk from Lawsonford in July 2016.



Last month Carolyn C. and Lesley C. led our 100th walk from Ryton.

Over this time there have been 2114 attendees in total covering 471 miles which is a straight-line distance from Olton to Limoges in West Central France. Just two other walks have had to be postponed due to adverse weather conditions.



Most walks have been around 5 miles and we have **lived, learned** and **laughed** on the way.

I am indebted to the support of members who have taken ownership of our group and moulded it into an active, strong, and successful part of Olton and District u3a. Many people have produced and led walks for the benefit of all.

If you want to find out more about the group and its activities, please have a look at the Walking Group section on our recently revamped Olton and District u3a website.”

Family History Group - Keith Y



“There will be no Family History meeting in December as the date would have fallen between Christmas and New Year.”

Scrabble and Rummikub - Chris F.



“On a wet 1st of December morning 6 members played various games at Josiah Mason. Where has this year gone, it seems to have flown by and Christmas is just around the corner when all will finish up eating too much and putting on weight.

The next Scrabble and Rummikub meeting will be on the 5th January 2026 and this just leaves me to wish all the u3a members a Happy Christmas and all the best for 2026.”

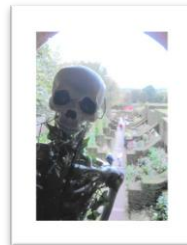
Garden Lovers' Group - Rob C.



“On 14th November the garden lovers group visited the Twisted Boot bar at Kings Court hotel for lunch. A good time was enjoyed by everyone with a tasty meal and lots of good conversation and general merriment.

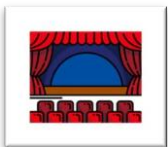
The final garden lovers meeting of 2025 will be a get together at the Friary on Friday 12th December starting at 1pm. Entry will be free for garden lovers' group members. We ask all attendees to bring a snack or two which are put out onto tables as a large picnic to share. There will be a prize for the person with the best Christmas attire and also a competition to guess the gardens where there are giant hedgehogs or the garden where the skeletons hide? Quite a few members have already registered for this but if you intend to come along and have not yet registered please let Rob know. Non garden lovers are also welcome and will also be able to come in for free - provided they also bring a snack for the picnic and wear something Christmassy like a jumper or earrings.

This is the final newsletter for 2025 and I am already looking towards garden group visits for 2026. Merry Christmas to everyone in our u3a. Lets all hope for 2026 in plenty of laughing



everyone in our u3a. Lets all which we live life to the full with and we learn a bit.”

Theatre and Cinema Group - Carmel D.



“On 13 November, 21 members went to The Core Theatre to see ‘The Full Monty’ performed by St Augustines Musical Theatre Company.

They Played to a full house and everyone seemed to enjoy the show. They did actually perform THE FULL MONTY however, the lights were dimmed which avoided any member of the audience from suffering an attack of the vapours!!!!”



Creative Writing Group - Gordon C.



"The group enjoyed the November meeting where we discussed our continuation piece which Trish had started and the rest of us completed the story which dealt with a woman getting stuck in a bath in a posh hotel. This happened to one of us !!! The stories ranged from the bawdy to getting a husband killed, all equally enjoyable.

We do not meet in December but our next meeting will be on 14th January 2026 at 2:15 in the Central Library when we will submit our writing on 'The View'."

***** Craft

and Chat - Jan B.



"This was our last meeting for this year and what a busy one!. Carolyn read us an amusing short story by M Kempadoo, Letters of Thanks, which are from the recipient of the Twelve Days of Christmas gifts.

The group made beautiful angels from sheet music and folded paper Christmas decorations.



Pat showed us the knitted snowballs on a sled that she had made."

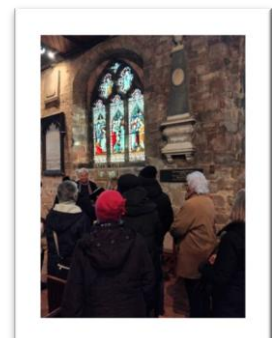
***** Local

History Group - Pat K.



"On 21st November a party of 22 visited St Nicholas church and the Tudor Grammar School in Kings Norton. We were blessed by a fine sunny but cold day. Our guide Michael, who had specially conducted the tour for us, was very knowledgeable and also very entertaining. The church is 900 years old and the Grammar school 500 years old. There was a medieval water

font, medieval wood still in use and the ancient stained glass was beautiful. Fun fact: The author of Thomas the tank engine used to be a curate at the church. We learned and laughed lots. We were also kindly provided with tea and biscuits, which were very welcome. All in all a super day out."



Quiz Group - Hilary B. and Carol O.



“Here are 10 Christmas Number One hits. They are in chronological order, two per decade from 1952 (when the charts began) through to 1999.

Can you name the singers or the groups who performed them?

- | | |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. ‘Just Walking in the Rain’ | 6. ‘When a Child is Born’ |
| 2. ‘Mary’s Boychild’ | 7. Don’t You Want Me’ |
| 3. ‘Moon River’ | 8. ‘Always on my Mind’ |
| 4. ‘Lily the Pink’ | 9. ‘Earth Song’ |
| 5. ‘Lonely this Christmas’ | 10. ‘2 become 1’ |

Here are the answers to November’s hidden words quiz.

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| 1. Deer | 6. Lion |
| 2. Fox | 7. Llama |
| 3. Dingo | 8. Okapi |
| 4. Camel | 9. Lemur, elk |
| 5. Horse | 10. Hippo, bear |

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