



Olton and District u3a

April 2026

Newsletter 110

Website—oltonanddistrict.u3asite.uk



Welcome to the newsletter for April. This is my last newsletter and I would like to thank Olton and District u3a for giving my partner Alan and me an outlet to join a group in order to meet people when we moved to Shirley. We were so very lucky to have joined in your second year and loved attending the meetings, going on walks, trying our best at the quiz, enjoying the days out, curry nights, scrabble, craft and chat and the Christmas meals. I can't thank the line dancing group enough for rekindling my love of this dancing and I was so glad that at my first core meeting I ended up sitting next to Sue. Finding another line dancing group was my first objective when we moved down south with positive results. I never thought I would be included in giving a demonstration during our local carnival celebrations. Alan and I would like to wish this u3a group all the very best success for the future.

[NEWS FROM YOUR COMMITTEE](#)

Speaker Secretary - Beverly P.



“In **March** we had 3 people from the British Motor Museum presenting their talk on ‘The Car and The Crown’. We learnt many interesting facts on how the Royal Family had an influence on the car market, 1901 saw the 1st electric car which could travel at 20 mph and do 40 miles on a single charge. King George 5th owned over 20 cars and Queen Elizabeth owned 30 Land rovers. In **April** we will have a talk from Ronald Ball on the Philippines. In **May** Stephen Hoddell is going to give us a talk on musical instruments

Going forward....I am standing down from the Speaker Secretary role as it is time for some fresh ideas. It is a fairly easy role and the speakers have all been booked for this year. I will be around to help and have a few suggestions for 2027 if required. Any one interested please speak to me or email me on oltonu3abev@gmail.com if you are interested or need more information about the role.”

New Group - Glenys T.

“Pub Grub Group Facilitator – Ros P – rosalind009@blueyonder.co.uk

Venue – The Bull’s Head, Hall Green (Stratford Road corner of Fox Hollies Road)

How often – monthly on 3rd Wednesday at 7pm

Booking – essential as numbers will be limited

If you are interested, please email Ros giving your full name so you can be entered on the group list. Ros will send an email out to all those on the group list prior to the evening to enable booking.”

Website News - Carol O.

“The Olton and District u3a Website is our “shop window” for new members, but it is also useful for existing members to check when their groups are meeting and read about upcoming activities or reports about the latest trips, outings, and activities. All the pages for the individual groups have now been updated, and there is information about the Core meeting on the Events page, including details of the speakers and the Focus Group for the month.

The Home page has a ‘Notices’ section where you can see the latest news, and check for cancellations or changes to an advertised event.

For our 10th anniversary I am working on a Gallery page, so if you have any good photographs from years gone by, please sent them to me.

For Group Facilitators, the old Facilitators Pack has been replaced by an on-line version, which can be viewed from the Groups page.”

Recycling Opportunities



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

[Additional information for members](#)

Direct Bus 98 from Olton to Heartlands Hospital - Vernon F.

“There is now a direct bus 98 from Olton to Heartlands Hospital every half-hour daytime on Monday-Saturday. The 98 runs from Solihull to Heartlands Hospital via Lode Lane, Castle Lane, Olton Station Drive, Richmond Road, Barn Lane, Sheldon Wheatsheaf & Yardley, conveniently stopping at the back of the Hospital and terminating at the front of the Hospital. The journey time from Olton Station is 40mins.”

A Bit of Nostalgia - Geoff T.

“I have attached a copy of our very first Newsletter, which was published in September 2016. I believe it was written by a founder member, Pennie H. Our current members might like to see how our u3a Newsletter has evolved over the years. It also details the first ten interest groups.”



NEWS FROM OUR INTEREST GROUPS

Trips Group - Pat Castro



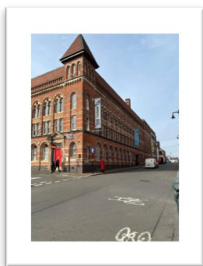
“A group of members recently enjoyed a visit to Quarry Bank Mill in Styal, Cheshire. They explored a complete world of the Industrial Revolution. The mill sits in a deep river valley and has some beautiful gardens. Everyone had the opportunity to see the cotton spinning machines, water wheel and steam engines and in the afternoon they were given a guided tour of the Apprentice House. It was a beautiful, sunny day and everyone enjoyed the experience.”



Local History Group - Pat K.



“On 20th March, 23 of the members visited the Jewellery Museum in Birmingham which was owned by the Smith and Pepper families. When they decided to stop manufacturing, they agreed to leave the premises exactly as they were. Therefore, it is like walking into a time capsule, with tools, tea and time sheets all there to see. We had a fascinating guided tour. Then we went on to the Pen Museum another very interesting venue. Starting around 1820, pen nibs of all types were made in their thousands, replacing quills. In Victorian times nibs were even made for individual professions. We all had a go on the various machines to fashion our own nibs. Then to the pub for lunch! A great day out and we learned so much.”

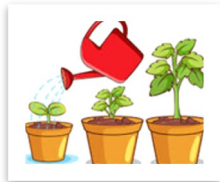


Scrabble and Rummikub Group - Chris F.



“Now Easter is over and did you have an overload of Easter eggs? Why does Easter egg chocolate taste different to ordinary chocolate? Because Easter Monday fell on the first Monday of the month there wasn't a meeting this month, not sure about May Day one at the moment so keep an eye on the events diary.”

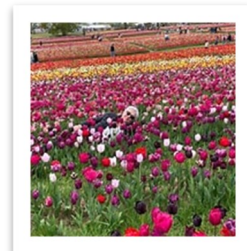
Garden lovers' group - Rob C.



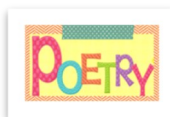
“At last spring appears to have arrived thank goodness. Garden lovers group members will be particularly pleased as it provides us with opportunities to work in our own gardens and also visit lovely places. Here is a photo of Brockhampton Hall in Herefordshire which I visited a couple of weeks ago.



The next meeting of garden lovers group will be on Friday 17th April. We will go on a self-drive visit to Tulley's tulip garden at Hatton Country world. I will start with lunch at about 1pm and then go to the tulip fields at 2pm. Tickets for the tulip garden are available on line and currently the availability for 17th April at 2pm is good. Although tickets may be available on the day itself it is recommended that advance booking on line to guarantee entry.”



Poetry Group – Glenys T.

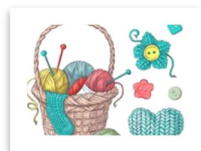


“In March I went with other members of the Poetry Group to a brand-new poetry night ‘Piece of Work’ at the Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery (B.M.A.G.) It will continue to be held on the last Thursday of selected months. The next one is Thursday 21st May.

Each Piece of Work will feature two headline acts: a ‘local legend’ poet who is based in the Midlands, alongside an ‘honorary Brummie’ for the evening from anywhere in the world. This is Birmingham’s Premiere poetry night featuring acclaimed, well renowned poets, as well as open mic (an opportunity for ticket holders to read one of their poems – none of us put our names in the hat!!) It was held in the beautiful, historic Tearoom where refreshments were available.

There was a lovely atmosphere, and it was a very enjoyable evening. The theme for our next Poetry Meeting in April is ‘Freedom’.”

Craft and Chat - Jan B.



“Happy Easter everyone! The Craft and Chat group made Easter baskets this month. There was a lot of concentration as grids needed to be drawn for the template.

We were very pleased with the results.”



Quiz Group - Hilary B. and Carol O.



“It is 10 years since Olton & District u3a Interest Groups were established. Thanks to the many facilitators who have given us so many amusing, enlightening and entertaining meetings, trips and other events. Here, in anagram form, are just a few of the original Interest Groups. Can you unravel them all?”

- | | |
|-------------------|--------------------|
| 1. HAS PINS | 6. RAGING END |
| 2. LAG WINK | 7. DATE TEA MEN |
| 3. I ACT HI | 8. LACED IN GINN |
| 4. BIG RED | 9. G.I. NAILS |
| 5. O HILLY ACTORS | 10. CATCH DART FAN |

Here are the answers to **March's TEN** quiz.

- | | |
|-------------|-------------|
| 1. Tenant | 6. Tension |
| 2. Tenor | 7. Tenby |
| 3. Tennyson | 8. Tender |
| 4. Tendon | 9. Tentacle |
| 5. Tennant | 10. Tenko |

The Quiz Group meets on the second Thursday of each month at 1.30pm at Olton Friary. Our next meeting is on Thursday, April 9th. Carol and Hilary would be pleased to see you if you would like to join us.”
