



Newsletter

May 2026

Issue 111



Website

oltonanddistrict.u3asite.uk

Hi everyone and welcome to the May Newsletter. I always think of May as one of the loveliest months of the year, the weather is generally getting warmer and we can start to shed our winter layers. The days are getting longer and our gardens are looking greener with flowers of all colours. We can begin to get out more and enjoy all the opportunities that Olton and District u3a can give us. This year we are celebrating our 10th Anniversary and we began our celebrations with, of course, cake!

My name is Lynda M. and I have taken over the role of Newsletter Editor from Eleanor, who stepped into the role three years ago, and I would like to take this opportunity from all the members of our u3a to thank her for all her hard work in producing our monthly Newsletter. Best wishes, Eleanor

News from our Committee

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

ANNOUNCEMENT

NOTICE OF AGM FOR ALL MEMBERS

This is to inform all members that the Annual General Meeting (AGM) will be held on 14/07/2026 at 1.30 as part of the usual Core Meeting.

The meeting will provide an opportunity for nominations and voting to the Committee, proposals to be discussed and voted on, as

well as annual reports from the Chair and Treasurer.

You should have received by email or post all the initial paperwork. Please contact Carolyn on 01216820659 if you haven't received it.

Looking forward to seeing you there.

Carolyn and Deborah.

(Joint Business Secretaries.)

All the relevant documents are also available on the Olton and District website.

OLTON AND DISTRICT U3A 10TH ANNIVERSARY

April 14th 2026 saw the 10th Anniversary of Olton and District u3a's first Core Meeting. We began the afternoon with an interesting talk by Ronald Ball about the Philippines. He and his wife spend between 3-4 months of the year out there, so Ronald was able to give us a unique insight into how life is lived, rather than from a tourist or holiday company perspective.



“Following the talk, Chairman Tony asked Jo R, the first Chairperson of Olton and District U3a to cut the Celebration Cakes (this one was gluten free).”



“The cakes were decorated beautifully, there was so much detail on the bouquet of flowers. I heard people say the cake tasted ‘brilliant’ and looked beautiful.”

While the cakes were cut into 120 pieces, three members of the Poetry Group; Sheila R, Gill W and Gerardine S, read the poems they had written especially for the occasion. It was clear that these were appreciated and very well received by the audience. It was good to hear in the poems how Olton and District USA had evolved and how after the initial meeting “a daffodil was handed, as they left, to everyone. A flower open, warm and welcoming. A sign of things to come.” (by Sheila R.)

There was also thanks to those who have worked hard to make Olton and District USA what it is today. “With thanks to the founding members From this seedling idea A great tree did appear With many branches grown Fulfilling the dreams that were sown Many branches now fill that tree” (by Gill W.)

“So, we’ve good reason to celebrate And say thanks to all those who’ve worked hard for us all As this USA grows

As we live laugh and learn
... ..”
(by Gerardine S.)

Geoff T did a great job of putting together a PowerPoint presentation which included a range of Events and Interest Groups over the ten years which, of course, delighted the members.

There was also a fantastic number of photographs, supplied by Facilitators, on Display Boards which lots of people found time to enjoy.



Following all this, there was time to drink tea or coffee and enjoy the various cakes on offer while chatting and reminiscing on things past. (From Glenys T., Lead Coordinator.)

News from our Facilitators

Craft and Chat

It was more of a happy chatting session this month, but everyone brought in the projects they were working on.

Nessa finished this beautiful cross-stitch of Mary Ardens House, such detailed work.



Jan showed the two quilted table centre pieces she had made for Easter.



The other group members were happy knitting and stitching.

Next month the Group will be trying their hand at Paper Quilling.

(From Jan B. Facilitator.)

Scrabble & Rummikub

Due to the way the May Day Bank Holiday fell, Scrabble & Rummikub was cancelled, but will be up and running the first Monday in June. Hope you are enjoying the short blast of warm weather we are experiencing at the moment.

Lovely to see all the different shades of green in the gardens and countryside along with the array of colours of the different flowers.

(From Chris F., Facilitator.)

Creative Writing

Our Group last met on 1st April when we discussed our short stories on the subject of 'Better late than never'. I'm always amazed at the variety of approaches we get with us all using the same title.

For a variety of reasons, we are not meeting again until 20th May 2026, at 2:15 in the Dwell, a section of the Core, Solihull Central Library. This time we will all be offering our endings to a short story that Trish H. has started for us, relating to a woman who won a raffle to have a hunky guy act as a slave for the day. Her husband is distinctly unchuffed!! I again expect a varied approach to the outcome.

(From Gordon C, Facilitator.)

Anyone interested in the Group should contact Gordon C. on gordon@gordoncresswell.co.uk.

Garden Lovers

The season really gets going for garden lovers at this time of year. On 17th April seventeen of our members visited Tulley's

tulip festival at Hatton Country World. The weather was dry, if a little chilly, when we arrived at about 1pm. The dry weather held until late afternoon and everyone enjoyed their afternoon out.



Our next Garden Lovers' Group visit will be on 12th June when we will visit Stockton Bury Gardens and Berrington Hall by coach. The cost is £32 for members of the National Trust and £48 for those not in the NT. This trip is now full, but there is a waiting list if anyone wants to put down their name.

(Rob C. Facilitator.)

The Quiz Group

This month's quiz is all about first names. Can you put the correct first name to the surname, with just one clue given to help you. E.g. Explorer Livingstone - answer David.

1. Chaser Labbett
2. Runner Hodgkinson

3. Chef Wareing
4. Correspondent Doucet
5. Paralympian Simmonds
6. Actress Portman
7. Comedian Emery
8. Cricketer Statham
9. Silhillian Carney
10. Poet Zephaniah

Here are the answers to April's Interest Groups quiz.

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| 1. Spanish | 2. Walking |
| 3. Tai Chi | 4. Bridge |
| 5. Local History | 6. Gardening |
| 7. Meet and Eat | 8. Line Dancing |
| 9. Sailing | 10. Craft and Chat |

The Quiz Group meets on the second Thursday of each month at 1.30pm at Olton Friary.

Our next meeting is on Thursday, May 14th. Carol and Hilary would be pleased to see you if you would like to join us.

REMINDERS

Our next Core Meeting is on Tuesday 12th May. If you haven't yet booked a place, please contact BJ and remember to bring a mug.

The Focus Group will be Play Reading. Greg Johnson and Greg Mund are the Facilitators.

The Speaker will be Stephen Hoddell and his talk will be on Musical Instruments.

Please send any contributions for the June Newsletter to oltonu3alynda@gmail.com