



Newsletter

June 2026

Issue 112



Website

oltonanddistrict.u3asite.uk

Hi everyone and welcome to the June Newsletter. This month marks the start of the Meteorological Summer, but it would appear that summer started at least a fortnight ago! Heat records were broken all over the country and the fact that it coincided with the schools' half-term break must have pleased many people. Personally, I really cannot bear the extreme heat and am quite pleased to see the return of cooler, fresher weather. As you read on you will see that, whatever the weather, our members are, as ever busy "living laughing and learning".

News from our Committee

Our Annual General Meeting is on Tuesday 14 July 2026 starting at 1.30pm at the Olton Friary. This is your chance to have a say about the running of your u3a. We will also be electing our Committee for the next year. If anyone would like to be part of the Committee then please make yourself known to either

myself or any other committee member and we would really like to have you helping to run our u3a. Nomination forms for the new Committee will be available at the next Core Meeting on 9th June 2026.

SPEAKER SECRETARY: As many of you who regularly attend the Core Meetings know that we have some great speakers to keep us all informed and entertained. Thanks to Beverley for organising this over the last few years but she has decided to move on to other things in our u3a. We are, therefore, looking for a new Speaker Secretary to arrange and book these speakers. This can be a shared role between two people and it is a great way of making new friends and helping to keep our u3a active. Please contact me for more information if you are interested.
(From our Chair, Tony Mason.)

News from our Facilitators

Local History Group



The Local History Group visited Worcester Porcelain Museum in May. We had a wonderful talk from Colin who was extremely knowledgeable and entertaining and told us all about the different exhibits we would consequently see. We then had tea and biscuits served in Royal Worcester teacups and saucers, a real treat. On going around the museum we were able to appreciate all that Colin had told us about the various beautiful items. The skill of the sculptors and painters was breathtaking.
(Pat K., Facilitator.)



Some of us then had a look round Worcester Cathedral. A lovely day out.
(Pat Kelly,

Poetry Group

A dozen of us met on May 21st to share poems around the theme of 'Pearls of Wisdom'.

Since then, a group of us have been into Birmingham to a poetry evening held in the elegant historic Tea Room at the Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery. It just happened to be the evening of Aston Villa's Europa League victory parade when thousands of fans were there to welcome home the triumphant Aston Villa. The train we came home on was packed with good humoured fans some singing and still enjoying a day that they will always remember.

The two themes chosen for the June Meeting by the members at the May Meeting are Sea and Animals. Following the meeting a dozen of us are then going to the Olton Tavern for lunch.

(Glenys T., Facilitator.)

Craft and Chat(May)

This month the Craft and Chat group had a go at Quilling.

Paper quilling, or paper filigree, dates back to about 500 years ago. The name originates from the process of rolling paper strips around the quills of bird feathers.

The group produced some wonderful cards. (From Jan B. Facilitator.)



The old
Grammar
School.



St
Nicolas'
Church.

The
Nature
Reserve.



Strolling Group(May)

Ray organised a lovely 2-mile stroll for us this month around Kings Norton and through the nature reserve. We started at the Navigation Pub and walked to St. Nicolas Place which has several medieval buildings including the Grammar School and Church. As the church was open, we popped in for a quick look. Reverend Awdry, the author of Thomas the Tank Engine, was curate here in 1946. On to the Nature reserve and then back to the pub for lunch.

Scrabble & Rummikub

(From Chris F., Facilitator.)

After all the heat we have had it was a pleasantly cool day for the six members who came and played Rummikub.

Hope you have all enjoyed the weather we have had over the last week or so and haven't melted away - who needs to go abroad if we are going to have weather like this! Now we are having a week of much needed rain so out with the brollies.

Next meeting 6th July.

Creative Writing

Our May meeting saw a depleted number attending through holidays and illness. The task was for each of us to complete a story started by Trish Hartop which was about a middle-aged housewife winning a raffle - the prize was a tanned, muscled young man to be her slave for a day. The standard of everyone's writing was excellent this month, with most pieces following the humorous theme (laughs galore from all plus some great double entendres here and there!) One piece took us into an enjoyable story of romance.

Our next meeting is scheduled for 17th June 2026, 2:15pm in The Dwell which is inside the Central Library. This time we will be discussing our individual short stories on a subject of our choice.

Further information about the group from gordon@gordoncresswell.co.uk. (From Gordon C, Facilitator.)

Garden Lovers

Although the Garden Lovers Group did not meet in May we have all been busy in our own gardens and making visits individually.

Here are a couple of photographs sent to me in May.



Bluebell Woods at Badby, Northamptonshire from John and Betty E.



Tully's tulips in May from John and Carol E.

Our next Garden Lovers' group visit will be on 12th June when we will visit Stockton Bury Gardens and Berrington Hall by coach. Unfortunately, this visit is now completely full and therefore I am unable to take any more requests to join it.

There will be a coach trip on Friday August 14th to National Trust properties at Tatton Park and Little Moreton Hall. These will be available to members of the

Garden Lovers' group from 1st June and, if there are spaces available to members of other groups, from 1st July.



- Motor Museum.

I'm sure there is something of interest for everyone. More details of each of the above can be found online.

The cost is just £15 per person

If you are interested, please be aware there is a waiting list, and there are already 10 people on that list.

(From Margaret H., Facilitator.)

The Quiz Group

This month's quiz is all about creative people, both artists and composers. Do you know the first names of the following artists (1-5) and composers (6-10)?

Some are more recent than others.

1. Klimt
2. Degas
3. Pollock
4. Kahlo
5. Cezanne
6. Walton
7. Copland
8. Elgar
9. Stravinsky
10. Britten



(Rob C. Facilitator.)

Visits Group

I am pleased to announce that our next u3a trip will be to the lovely Welsh town of Llangollen on Tuesday 7th July.

The town has much to offer including:

- Plas Newydd House and Gardens.
- Castell Dinas Bran - medieval castle ruins.
- Horseshoe Falls - boat trips are available along the canal and over the spectacular aqueduct.

Here are the answers to May's First Names quiz.

1. Mark
2. Keely
3. Marcus
4. Lyse
5. Ellie
6. Natalie
7. Dick
8. Brian
9. Karen
10. Benjamin

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

Our next meeting is on Thursday, June 11th. Carol and Hilary would be pleased to see you if you would like to join us.

REMINDERS

Our next Core Meeting will be on June 9th and this is the deadline for the AGM nominations and proposals. You can hand them to Deborah L. or Carolyn C.

The Focus Group will be Creative Writing - Gordon C.

The speaker this month will be Bob King and the subject is 'The Magic of Glass'.

If you would like tea or coffee, please remember to bring your mug!

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