



Newsletter

Sept. 2026

Issue 114

u3a
Olton & District

Website

oltonanddistrict.u3asite.uk

Hi everyone and welcome to the September Newsletter. Meteorologically, we have now moved into autumn, the season of "mists and mellow fruitfulness". This follows the hottest summer ever recorded in England. Who now can doubt that climate warming is affecting our climate! I hope you have enjoyed the summer, especially those who love the heat. Unfortunately, not all of us do. Personally, I much prefer the cooler weather and the rain! However, whatever the weather, our u3a has continued to be busy as you will see as you read through this newsletter.

News from our Committee

A MESSAGE FROM TONY MASON, CHAIR, OLTON & DISTRICT U3A.

"We are still looking for a Speaker Secretary, someone who can help to arrange the Core Meeting Speakers for the coming year. As we don't have speakers in the summer months or Christmas, there is only a need for nine speakers a year. Anyone willing to help would be greatly appreciated. If you think you can help and want to find out more you can always contact me for a chat first. Hope to hear from you."

The 10th Anniversary Afternoon Tea is on Monday 14th September 2026 at Hogarth's Hotel, Solihull. Bookings are now closed and let's hope everyone has a great afternoon.

APPEAL FOR ADDITIONAL MANPOWER TO SET UP CORE MEETINGS

As you all know, our monthly Core Meetings are a wonderful opportunity for members to meet and catch-up over a cuppa, along with enjoying the talk from a visiting speaker.

The team behind the hall set up needs extra support in preparing seating for 100+ attendees, as well as the requisite tables (not forgetting they all need putting away again at the end of the meeting).

This is a physical task, so we understand not all are able to support, but there is a need for more members on the team if the room is to be ready in time for the 1.15pm door-opening.

If you feel this is something you could help with when you attend Core Meetings, please speak to JESS or CAROLYN C.

SPEAKER SECRETARY

"The speaker for this month is David Williams who will be giving us a talk

entitled 'Mind the Gap'. It is about the London Underground.

In October there will be a talk by Andrew Lound about the 'Carpathia', the ship that went to the rescue of the Titanic.

Our last talk in November is by Shaun Higgins about the 'Life of Wilfred Owen'. December we will be entertained by the Ukulele band.

From January onwards there will be NO SPEAKERS AT THE CORE MEETINGS as unfortunately there is no one willing to take over the role of Speaker Secretary from myself.

This is a real shame as the task is not a difficult one and I have plenty of suggestions for future speakers if required. I will be at the September core meeting so please come and see me if you are interested in taking on the role."
(From Beverley P. Speaker Secretary.)

News from our Facilitators

Creative Writing

"Our last meeting, having been postponed due to attendance difficulties by a couple of our members, was held on 19th August to discuss our July submissions, a continuation piece which Wendy started and we all offered our various endings.

Wendy received appreciative comments for her excellent starter, and also for her own continuation. As usual, the members' continuation pieces were varied, with romance, crime and deception being among the subjects chosen.

Our next meeting will be on Wednesday 23rd September 2026 when we will

discuss our individual pieces on the subject of: "wedding dress for sale - never worn"

Further information on the group from Gordon C. -
gordon@gordoncresswell.co.uk.

Line Dancing

"Our Olton & District u3a Line Dancing Group was once again (3rd year) invited to do a demonstration at the St Margaret's School Garden Party held on 4th July. It was a perfect day, just before the heatwave kicked off, not too hot and NO rain. We danced a selection of our repertoire and then invited some 'willing' volunteers to join us. We all agreed that it was amazing, enjoyable and fun - and to be able to support a local event and fly the OGD u3a flag, was pleasing." (From Sue M. a Facilitator for Line Dancing.)



Craft and Chat

"We enjoyed another relaxed and creative Craft & Chat meeting today. Caroline shared the lino cutting and printing techniques she had learned on a course earlier, along with some of the lovely

prints she had produced. Claire showed us the latch hook cushion she is making.



Our next meeting in September will be to Forge Mill Needle Museum. (From Jan B. Facilitator for Craft and Chat.)

Garden Lovers

"On 14th August we visited two National Trust properties, Tatton Park in East Cheshire and Little Moreton Hall on the Cheshire Staffordshire border. Tatton has some lovely gardens and also beautiful interiors.

The beautiful outlook from the rear entrance at Tatton Park.



The fireplace is vertical; the room is sloping.

Little Moreton Hall is a wonderful early 16th century black and white timber framed house.

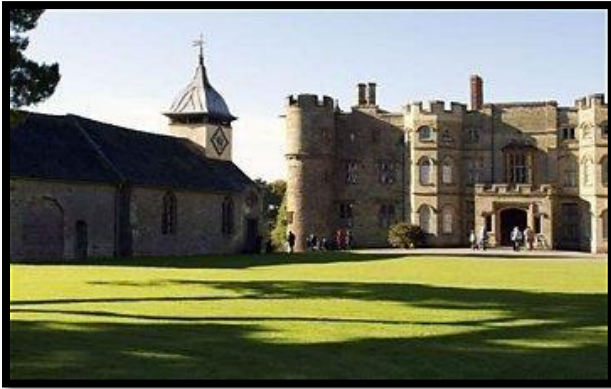


It was a lovely day which everyone enjoyed.

We do not have a Garden Lovers' meeting in September. Our final coach trip of the year will take place on Friday 16th October to Hergest Gardens and the National Trust site at Croft Castle. There are still a few seats remaining for this and the cost is £30 for members of the National Trust or £47 for those who are

not members of the Trust." (From Rob C. Facilitator for the Garden Lovers' Group.)

Croft Castle

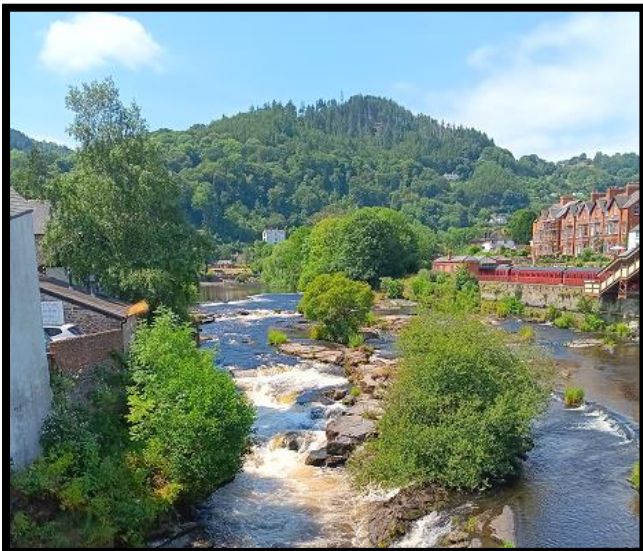


Trips Group

"In July a group of around 50 members went to Llangollen for a wonderful day out. Llangollen is a very attractive town in Wales with many interesting things to see including Plas Newydd, a house occupied for many years in the 18th century by 2 runaway Irish aristocratic ladies. There was time to stroll along the canal or walk beside the river. The weather was fantastic and our journeys there and back went smoothly." (From Margaret H., a Facilitator for the Trips Group.)



(Photographs from Margaret H. and Glenys T.)



The Quiz Group

"Part of the 10th Anniversary celebrations include an Afternoon Tea at Hogarth's, so this month we have an Afternoon Tea quiz. Can you recognise the two-worded items or ingredients taken from a couple of reputable Afternoon Tea menus?"

Alternative letters are given, e.g.

B_A_K_U_R_N_J_M = Blackcurrant jam.

1. E_G_A_O_N_I_E

2. _R_A_C_E_S_

3. C_R_N_T_O_C_I_K_N

4. _M_K_D_A_M_N

5. W_O_E_E_L_R_A_

6. _I_T_R_A_P_N_E

7. B_T_E_M_L_S_O_E_

8. _L_T_E_C_E_M

9. P_S_A_H_O_E_I_E

10. _C_D_O_F_E

Here are the answers to July's American states quiz.

1. Washington

2. Georgia

3. Oklahoma

4. Vermont

5. Colorado

6. Hawaii

7. Kentucky

8. Maryland

9. Florida

10. Virginia

11. Tennessee

12. Indiana

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

Our next meeting is on Thursday, September 10th. Carol and Hilary would be pleased to see you if you would like to join us."

REMINDERS

New sessions of the Zoom Computer Courses are starting on 14th. September. Please see the Website for details.

The Focus Group on 8th September is going to be Barbara C. talking about the Strolling Group. In October it will be Lynda M. talking about Tai Chi and in November Chris F. will talk about the Scrabble and Rummikub Group.

Don't forget to bring a mug with you to the Core Meeting if you would like a drink.

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