



Olton and District u3a

January 2024

Newsletter No 85



Happy New Year to you all. Hope 2024 is a good year for you.

Hello and welcome to the January newsletter. December certainly went out in a flurry with storms and furious winds. We will just have to see what January gives us. This is a strange month as some see it dragging on and on while others use it as a time to recharge after the hectic build up to Christmas or a chance to do some decorating which is the group I shall be in.

NEWS FROM YOUR COMMITTEE

A Message from Jo R (Chair)

“Happy New Year. Our Core meeting in December and it was a great success with our very own Ukulele group playing so many songs and it looked like everyone enjoyed themselves. Although it has been very wet and windy I hope you enjoy the warm welcome when you attend the Core meetings and wish you a 2024 that brings a healthy and peaceful year.”

News from our Speaker Secretary - Beverley P

“We have an exciting year ahead with regards to speakers so starting us off in January is David Carrington Porter. He will be giving us his talk entitled 'The way I see it'.

In Feb Kelly Matthews is coming from the Cats Protection League and then March will be a talk from Helen Lloyd entitled 'Extraordinary Lives of Ordinary People'.”

Next Core Meeting - Tuesday 9th January 2024 1.30pm for 1.45pm start

Please remember to book your place to attend this meeting by emailing Val Rapson valrapson06@gmail.com by **Monday 8th January at the latest**. Thank you.

Please also remember to **bring your own cup** if you wish to have a drink.

Recycling Opportunity from Roy W (Treasurer)



“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.”

NEWS FROM OUR INTEREST GROUPS

Swimming Group - Susanne R.

“The swimming group will be meeting up for our first swim of the year on Wednesday 7th February 2024 meeting up at 10.00 a.m. at Fox Hollies Leisure Centre, I look forward to seeing you there. I wish you all a very Happy New Year.”

French Language and Culture - Pamela D.

“The final session of 2023 took place on Friday 8th December. We concentrated on all things to do with Christmas. Listening to the French carol ‘Douce Nuit’ (Silent Night) we noticed that a lot of the words had irregular plurals, so we revised this point of grammar. We also read a piece about the Santons of Provence. Most villages in Provence have a creche/nativity scene in the village square. The little figurines (santons) are made of clay and depict the main characters in the Christmas story as well as local tradespeople.”



Our next session will be on Friday 12th January between 10.30 am and 12 noon. Anyone interested in joining us should phone Pamela Davis on 0121.745.5707 or email her at pamelajoandavis@yahoo.co.uk”

Scrabble and Rummikub - Chris F.

“Wishing all the u3a members all the best for 2024.

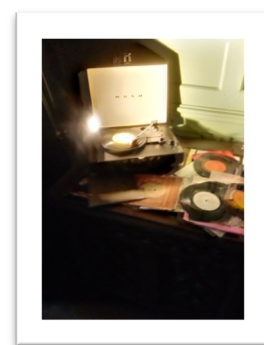
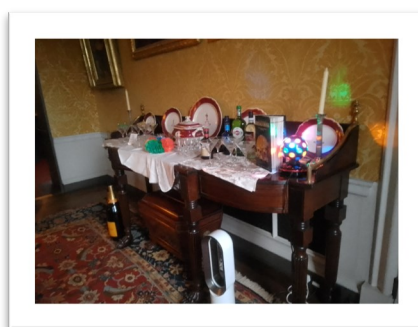
There were a few members who attended in December and thanks to Beverley Peet running it for me as I was away in sunnier climes.

The next scrabble and rummikub meeting will be 5th February 2024, see you there.”

Garden Lovers Group - Rob C

“Happy new year for 2024 to all of our members. I hope everyone had an enjoyable time over Christmas and New Year. The world is troubled by conflict and climate change but hopefully our u3a meetings and events helps you escape for a while.

At our meeting on 8th December about 30 of us gathered in the hall at the Friary. Many members brought food with them and we had a lovely selection of cakes, biscuits, and savoury snacks. Carol, Gill and Annette organised a quiz and a festive garden craft competition. We had a lovely afternoon. There is a photo of some members deep in thought about one of the competitions (although they could just have been having a nice chat). We shall not be meeting in January but we will get ready for a very full programme in 2024. Our first meeting will be on Friday 9th February when we will go on a self-drive visit to the Valley at Evesham. The Valley has a large garden centre, two or three craft shops and several coffee and meal outlets so as well as garden lovers group members it may appeal to members not currently in the garden lovers group. I will be including full details of this visit on Beacon to all garden lovers group members so please let me know if you would like to join.



One of the places we have visited previously and which we will again in future is Hanbury Hall near Droitwich. There are a couple of photos of Hanbury dressed for Christmas – but perhaps a little different from what you may expect. Can you guess the record which is playing? It is by one of the most successful pop and rock groups ever, it came from the Album Some Girls and reached number one in USA and number 3 in UK in August 1978. Clue it may reflect what many of us feel about Olton u3a over Christmas and New Year?”

Walking Group - Geoff T.

“The image, taken in December, shows some of the 23 members of the group leaving the Boar’s Head in Hampton Lucy on a scenic five mile walk over rolling countryside. Rob and Gill expertly organized our ramble and at one part we paused to have the views from Stratford upon Avon, Hidcote, and Edge Hill pointed out. Before setting out, most walkers placed orders for lunch and that gave us incentive to work up an appetite and be back in good time for a plentiful lunch in our own private bar.

The group generally walks 4 to 5 miles on the third Monday of every month. Check out our website, or contact Geoff T. for more information.”



Trips Group - Margaret H.

“On Fri December 15, 28 u3a members and friends went to Cheltenham. The occasion was to visit the Christmas Arts and Crafts Fair. After a trouble free journey we arrived mid-morning in time for coffee. Cheltenham is an attractive town with lots of lovely architecture and a very nice shopping area. The market itself was quite small but had a variety of interesting things for sale. When we boarded the coach for the journey home everyone said they had enjoyed the day. The trips group will be announcing details of our spring trip in a few weeks time.”

Craft and Chat - Jan B

“Craft and Chat wish everyone a happy and healthy 2024.

Our next meeting will be on Thursday 25th January. We hope to see you there. “

Quiz Group - Hilary B. and Carol O.

“Like the Roman god Janus we look back over 2023 (questions 1-5) and forward to 2024 (questions 6-10) for our quiz this month.

1. In which month was the coronation of King Charles III?
2. In which English city did Sweden win the Eurovision Song Contest?
3. Who was sacked for a second time from the job of Home Secretary?
4. Which country won the Men’s Rugby World Cup?
5. Who was crowned ‘King of the Jungle’ last month?
6. In which European city will the Olympic and Paralympic Games take place in the summer?
7. Which Bank Holiday falls on the 127th day of the year?
8. This month celebrates 100 years since who became the UK’s first Labour Prime Minister?
9. Name the best-selling teen magazine for girls that was first published 60 years ago this month.
10. What is the date of St Andrew’s Day?

Here are the answers to December’s Christmas No 1’s quiz.

- 1) Dave Edmunds
- 2) Benny Hill
- 3) Jimmy Osmond
- 4) Slade
- 5) Mud
- 6) Queen
- 7) Johnny Mathis
- 8) Wings
- 9) Boney M
- 10) Pink Floyd

The Quiz Group meets on the second Thursday of each month at 1.30pm at Olton Friary. Our next meeting is on Thursday, January 11th. Carol and Hilary would be pleased to see you if you would like to join us.”

The answer to the question in the garden lovers piece is **Miss You** by the Rolling Stones-

If you have any articles, you would like included for the February Newsletter, please send them to me at oltonu3aeleanor@gmail.com