



Olton and District u3a

March 2024

Newsletter No. 87



Hello and welcome to the March newsletter. What does March bring? The feeling that spring is getting nearer, more blossom on the trees and shrubs, new life in the fields. St David's is celebrated on the first day of March, Mother's Day on the 10th is a day for celebration or remembrance. Easter just squeezes in with Good Friday on the 29th and Easter Sunday on the 31st. Colour is showing with daffodils coming through and snowdrops in abundance.

[NEWS FROM YOUR COMMITTEE](#)

Daffodils - Jo R (Chair)



As many of you know March is daffodil time, this was when we held our Inauguration meeting in 2016. I wanted those attending to return when we would be recruiting members, so I had the idea of giving people daffodils. We did not anticipate so many people would attend, and I had to go and purchase more.

This has now become a tradition in March that I give everyone a daffodil as my way of thanking everyone who has joined.

So, thank you for joining us and helping make Olton and District u3a such a success and let's hope we have many more years ahead of us.

Murder, Mystery - Jo R (Chair)



Have you ever wanted to solve a murder, mystery? Well now is your chance, Hogarth's are holding a Murder, Mystery night on Friday 17th May. The cost including the meal without drinks is £40.00 per person. We have provisionally booked 2 tables, (10 people on each table). Further details will follow shortly.

New Members Meeting - Jo R (Chair)

Invitations will be sent out shortly to all members who have joined since September 2023. This is an opportunity to meet Facilitators from the various groups. This will be held on 21st March at the Friary full details to follow. We look forward to meeting with you.

Membership Renewals - Val R

You should have received an email recently giving details of the Membership Renewal Process. Please note that:

- There will be Membership Renewal Forms available at the Core Meeting for any members who don't have access to a printer.
- There will be a tray on the 'Renewals Desk' at the Core Meeting for completed forms and cheques (where appropriate) **Please put your Membership Number on the back of the cheque and staple it to your form.**
- Members who don't have email or who are not attending the Core Meeting will have their Membership Renewal Form delivered.

If you have any membership queries, please do not hesitate to contact me: valrapson06@gmail.com 07906 817573/0121 707 4870

Speaker Secretary - Beverley P



For those of you that came to our last meeting in February our speaker Pam was a volunteer from the Cats Protection League. We learnt that back in the 1920's cats were considered pests. After the 1st World War Jessie Wade who was a campaigner for animal welfare started the Cats Protection League. Last Year they treated over 157,000 cats.

Our next Speaker in March is Helen Lloyd who will be telling us about some of the Extraordinary Lives of Ordinary people. She was previously a reporter for BBC Radio 4 programme Woman's Hour and recorded all the voices heard on the NT tour of the Back to Back Houses.

Alan Deeley, who is a local Beekeeper, will be coming in April to talk about bees and honey. Rest assured he won't be bringing his bees along though there may be some honey.

Then in May a lady named Jill Kashi will be giving a presentation about the 'Servants of Baddesley Clinton'

So, some interesting speakers to look forward to over the next few months.

Recycling Opportunity - 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

Ukulele group - Jim H



The group is going extremely well, and we are getting requests for us to perform almost monthly now which is great, everyone (including the audiences!) thoroughly enjoys the gigs, and they are very motivating. Our weekly sessions on Thursday morning are well attended and are great fun even when we try some more challenging songs, it can take a few goes before we get the hang of some but well worth the effort.



I produce our songbooks and the one for 2024 is progressing well with the next few additions due shortly. This is our third set of songs giving an ever widening repertoire to choose from when performing for others.

Our most recent gig was on Valentines Day in the evening for the ladies of the Pearls of Wythall WI when we played to a packed room and a good number got up to dance to our 'encore' number which is a not-unusual occurrence we're finding. Our next booking is in April.

On the 29th February our 'spin-off' new group for beginners began at the same time as our main group but in the adjacent room; 7 new members came along for that so looking good to become successful too. The plan is for members of this group to join the main group once they are sufficiently experienced players.

Creative Writing - Gordon C



At our February meeting we discussed our writings on 'The Class' and our shorter pieces about three strangers brought together through a Court case. Each of us took a different turn on the themes but without exception, each was interesting.

At our next meeting on 27th March (2:00pm in the Cafe at Solihull Library) we will present our longer pieces on 'The Journey' together with our shorter, continuation piece which was started by Wendy and concluded by each of the rest of us.

Further information and details of the group from Gordon C on 07815 887005.

Craft and Chat - Jan B



These adorable donkeys were knitted by Pat G for a Donkey Sanctuary. She will gift them to be sold in their shop to raise funds.



The group will be making knitted bunting for Olton Library to hang between the bookcases. Watch this space!

The rest of the crafters were busy with knitting projects, mindful sewing and the quilting class continued. Of course, lots of laughter and tea and biscuits were enjoyed.

Does anybody know what happened to the cat who ate a ball of wool?

She had Mittens! 😊

Garden Lovers - Rob C



I must start this month's garden lovers' section to reflect on the sad loss of one of our members, Sue S. Sue was a longstanding member of the garden lovers group and attended our last meeting at Evesham in February. I always found Sue to be a quiet but cheerful lady who was well liked by everyone in the group. I was very saddened to discover the shocking news of her passing and she will be sadly missed. Here is a photo of Sue with some other members from a couple of years ago.

Our last meeting on Friday 9th February was a self-drive visit to the Almon. Although the weather was poor to start the day it cleared up by mid-morning and then became quite sunny.



Many thanks to Mike G who produced a photograph of the current Almoner monk. As you know recently I have set a little brain teaser each month and this month's question is do you know what an Almoner did? Once again, the answer is at the end of the newsletter.

Our next meeting will be on Friday 8th March to Castle Bromwich Hall Gardens followed by a visit to the local Toby Carvery for those interested. We will meet at the garden cafeteria at 10.30.

In April we will visit Lichfield including a guided tour of Erasmus Darwin's house

The first garden lovers' group coach trip will be on Friday 14th June and will visit National Trust property at Greys Court which is near Henley on Thames followed by Waterperry gardens in the afternoon. There are still a few places left on the coach which I am opening up to members who are not in Garden lovers group. The cost is £35 for members who are in National Trust, or £49 for those not in National Trust. This covers costs of coach travel plus entry fees.

Quiz Group - Hilary B and Carol O

Here is a quiz for our 'Strictly' fans. Below are anagrams of 10 dances that feature on 'Strictly Come Dancing'. The letters of each dance are in alphabetical order, e.g AGNOT = Tango. Can you decipher them? Keep Dancing!

1) AABMS

6) CEIKPQSTU

2) EIJV

7) ACEHLNORST

3) ABMRU

8) AAEEGGINNNORTT

4) ALTWZ

9) AACEHIMMNOORST

5) FOORTTX

10) ACDEEEFN

Here are the answers to February's St Valentine quiz.

1) Nile

6) Anne

2) Nail

7) Lane

3) Lent

8) Vine

4) 'Alien'

9) Lenin

5) Lena

10) Vienna

The Quiz Group meets on the second Thursday of each month at 1.30pm at Olton Friary. Our next meeting is on Thursday, March 14th. Carol and Hilary would be pleased to see you if you would like to join us.

Scrabble and Rummikub - Chris F

On March 4th, 10 members of the group attended the March meeting, with three tables playing with both games.

Please note that Monday 1st April and Monday 6th May are both bank holidays so there will be no scrabble and Rummikub as with the office closed we are unable to gain access.

The next one will be Monday 3rd June.

French Language and Culture - Pamela D



In February, we had a look at the life of Richard Anthony and listened to him singing 'Ce Monde' this is the French rendition of the the Cilla Black hit 'You're my world'. However, the lyrics are very different from the English version. We also revised the past tense (le passe compose)



Richard Anthony 1938 - 2015

Anyone interested in joining us should ring Pamela Davis on 0121.745.5707 or email pamelajoandavis@yahoo.co.uk The sessions are held at the Facilitator's home in Shirley and are aimed at those who are beginners or have a basic knowledge of the language.



Answer to the garden lovers question – Monasteries appointed a monk to distribute alms to the deserving poor. This often meant distributing money to charities.

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