

Hello and welcome to the October newsletter. Autumn is on its way and pumpkins come into mind with all the lovely soup, stew and even pudding recipes available. Not to mention the carving of them for Halloween.

News from the committee - Jo R (Chair)



Remembrance Service -A Remembrance service in conjunction with Olton Residents' Association will be held on Saturday 11th November at the Clock by the junction of Warwick Road and Old Warwick Road on Saturday 11th November at 20.45 am. All are welcome



Festive lunch reminder - Please remember to book your Festive lunch at Hogarth's by the 31st of October. If you require a booking form, there will be some to collect at the Core meeting on 10th October.

Vacancies

Website Editor Despite our plea last month, we have not had anyone volunteer for this role. It needs two people to manage this which is important when prospective members are looking to join us. We cannot expect our deputy editor to maintain it without some help. Please consider offering your support. Thank you in anticipation.



Core meeting – Power Point - After October's Core meeting we will not have technical support for our PowerPoint or the visiting speakers that require help in setting up. Geoff T is taking up another role and will be unable to support both roles, he will give you all the help and support needed to anyone who is willing to take on this role, please consider helping your u3a

Next Core Meeting - Tuesday 10th October 2023 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 9th October at the latest**. Thank you.

Recycling opportunity from Roy W (Treasurer)



We 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. We have already raised over £11.00 so please keep bringing your cartridges along.

Speaker Secretary for the Core Meetings – Beverley P

Speakers for the next couple of months are:

Oct - Michael Skinner with Shanties and Songs of the Sea with hopefully lots of audience participation.

Nov - Kath Reynolds - Goose Grease and brown paper - A fun trip down memory lane pre-NHS with kitchen cupboard remedies!

There are no speakers at our December meeting.

NEWS FROM OUR INTEREST GROUPS

Slow Ways Group – Geoff T



Our Slow Ways Group Has Halted. Olton and District u3a Slow Ways group started in the Summer of 2021. Its aims were to walk, review and verify local routes identified by the National Slow Ways Initiative. The exact nature, length and accessibility of these walks were not known beforehand. They also tended to be 5 to 7 miles in length. All this may sound daunting however, members that took part pulled together as a team developing their sense of direction, map reading skills and stamina. Although often tired on completing a walk, there was always a sense of satisfaction and achievement. The group went out on 10 occasions and produced information available to anyone

using the National Slow Ways website.

It has only met twice in 2023. Such limited activity points to the fact that this is not a healthy functioning interest group. There are several reasons for this, and I have decided to step down as its Facilitator and there are no plans for any walks in the foreseeable future. If this is a role you think might appeal to you, please contact myself or Carmel D.

I am grateful for the support that I have received from several of the Slow Ways Group members.

Creative Writing Group – Gordon C

At our September meeting we discussed our offerings on the theme of 'The Café'. One dealt with the day-from-hell experienced by the café owner whilst another described a potentially romantic encounter following a coffee accident. The third discussed a chance Café meeting between the author and the great granddaughter of Daphne Du Maurier! We are never short of inspiration.

Our continuation piece this time (where one person writes 500 words and each of the others finishes the story) started with a new house owner discovering a hidden door wall when she started renovations of her Victorian terrace. Some were scary, another a little surreal but fascinating and another left the door open for further speculation!

Our next meeting will be 2:00pm, Wednesday 25th October in the Core café at Solihull Library. Further information from Gordon on 07815 887005".

French Language and Culture – Pam D

At the September session, we looked at some phrases useful when eating in French restaurants, had a look at how the position of the adjective affects its meaning, for example 'un grand homme' means 'a great man', but 'un homme grand' means 'a tall man'!



We also listened to a Charles Trenet song 'La Douce France' sung by an American group called 'Pomplamoose'. We compared it to the rendition by Charles Trenet and, I think, most preferred the modern-day version. Have a listen to 'Pomplamoose' out on You Tube and I think you will be impressed".

Scrabble and Rummikub Group – Chris F

This month on Monday 2nd October, 11 members came, and we played both scrabble and rummikub. We had two tables of 4 playing rummikub and one table of 3 playing scrabble. These games are a good way of getting your brain in gear for the month ahead and are enjoyed by all who attend.

Craft and Chat – Jan B

The craft and chat group said a big THANK YOU to Annette Lee for being their facilitator and looking after us so well for many years. Annette was presented with flowers and a card, and everyone enjoyed some cake. Jan Burchell has now taken over as the facilitator.



Val Haynes showed us her diamond art pictures, and the rest of the group chatted over their knitting projects.

The next meeting will be on the 26th of October. All welcome.

A few words from Annette -

I would like to say a BIG THANK YOU to Jan and all my fellow crafters for the lovely card with all those beautiful words from you all - I was really touched. Thank you also for the gorgeous bouquet of flowers and the cake which we all enjoyed. You are such a lovely talented group of ladies - keep up the good work and keep supporting our new facilitator Jan who is a real diamond. Thank you again crafters.

Trips Group – Geraldine S

On 22nd September 24 members visited The National Trust property Attingham Park in Shropshire. It is a vast estate with a deer park and fields with cattle, but we were only able to see part of it. This included walled gardens, one with a huge vegetable patch and the other with a stunning array of flowers. The mansion itself is massive with a huge living room lined with pictures and an equally large dining room with a table set for dinner. The servants' quarters were fascinating with a table set for members of staff each with their individual names e.g. footman. As with all National Trust properties there was a café where we could buy drinks and a meal and of course a gift shop where there were already items for Christmas! There was also a second-hand bookshop.



We were lucky with the weather, mostly sunshine with a couple of showers though it poured with rain on the way home. Everyone enjoyed the day except the coach driver who had had a very tricky time negotiating narrow roads with cattle grids, sharp bends, and narrow archways to drive through".

Local History Group – Lynne C.

Have you ever wondered what happened to Chapel Fields Farm?

From Saturday 7th October local enthusiast Keith Staples will be holding a Local History Exhibition at Olton Library for 2 weeks focused on Chapel Fields Farm. Come along and find out more about your local area, all are welcome.

Garden lovers' group – Rob C.

Our coach trip on 8th September to Upton House and Thenford was enjoyed by everyone who went on it. The weather was lovely warm and sunny.

Our first stop was Upton House where we were met by National Trust greeters and provided with details about the site. The house had lots of beautiful art and furniture whilst in the garden late summer dahlias, and early autumn cyclamen were super. From there we journeyed on to Thenford where we were met by Rupert Heseltine. The gardens were fabulous including water features, glass houses, sculptures and immaculately laid out gardens. There are some photos provided by several members. I received several other photos as well so sorry if yours are not included.

In October we will make a self-drive visit to the Apple Day and country fair event at Hill Close gardens in Warwick. This will be on **Sunday 8th October starting at 11.00am**. There are 16 gardens with variable styles on this wonderful site which can all be visited. There will be apples from their orchards on sale, plus several local craft stalls and a tearoom with plenty of food and drink. When my wife Gill and I visited last year, it was so good we spent about three hours there! Entry cost is £5 per person. Please let Rob know if you would like to go and if you need or can offer a lift."



Our meeting on **Friday 10th November** is at the College of Food for lunch. I have final details of menus and the cost is £22 (including gratuity) for a three course lunch.

I will circulate these final details to all those who registered to go as soon as I receive information from the college. Three of our members who registered are no longer able to attend so if you have not registered but would like to attend, please let me know.

Early notice of our December meeting – I have booked the hall at the Friary from 1.30pm to 3.30 pm. Carol, Gill and Annette are helping me to organise a nice afternoon. More details next month but time to find out where those Christmas jumpers/ earrings / or reindeer headpieces are.

Quiz Group – Hilary B and Carol O

This month we celebrate 100 years of the 'Walt Disney Film Company'. From the clues can you find the titles of just a few of the many wonderful Disney films.

E.g., Small lady with a fish tail = 'The Little Mermaid'

1. Slumbering stunner.
2. A long-nosed wooden fibber.
3. Feline monarch.
4. He never grew up.
5. Friar Tuck's mate
6. Such a deer baby!?
7. Discovering a clownfish.
8. Refined woman and the vagrant.
9. Flying pachyderm.
10. Extremely cold.
11. Printed work from the rain forest.
12. Five score + 1 Slavic dogs.

Here are the answers to September's Rugby Union World Cup quiz.

1. France
2. Italy
3. Wales
4. Tonga
5. England
6. Ireland
7. Scotland
8. New Zealand
9. South Africa
10. Georgia
11. Australia
12. Argentina

The Quiz Group meets on the second Thursday of each month at 1.30pm at Olton Friary. Our next meeting is on Thursday, October 12th. Carol and Hilary would be pleased to see you if you would like to join us.

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