Harborne and Edgbaston u3a

Edition no. 1 – July 2026

Welcome!

Hello and welcome to the first edition of the all new Harborne and Edgbaston newsletter. There will be no extra time or penalty shootouts, no deuces, pit-lane infringements, silly-mid-ons or byes, or by-elections. And at this stage no recipes or crosswords, although who knows for the future!

We haven't produced a newsletter for a long time, and our aim is to publish newsletters in the summer and winter. So here goes.

We are aiming to produce a newsletter that is both light-hearted, and informative. We would love to receive any anecdotes or bits of information you feel your fellow members would be interested in.

Recent events

Our Open Day was held at Harborne Baptist Church on 1 July, and proved to be a huge success. Over 80 people attended, both members and visitors. As a result of everyone's hard work, we recruited some new members. I'd like to thank Tina Howard and all those who organised the Open Day, and all the Group Co-ordinators for their magnificent work in putting on such a great display.

Below is a photo taken on the day:



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Visitors to Open Day were invited to contribute to our collection of quotes from a variety of sources this year, inspired by the u3a logo “learn, laugh live”. Perhaps unsurprisingly, when matched against the Three Main Principles outlined on the national u3a website, February 2025, these are mainly related to the first two;

1. The Inclusion Principle (about the values of lifelong learning and the positive attributes of belonging to a u3a)
2. The Self-Help Principle (about interest groups being by members for members, with enjoyment being the prime motive)
3. The Mutual Aid Principle (about each u3a being independent and self-funded)

enjoy, engage, explore		the square peg…
life without labels	never lonely, never bored	join in and chat
my second chances	getting out; keeping sharp	out and about
examining without sitting the exam	… the university of youth, then of life, now of our third age	a reason to go out: a promise to be acknowledged
I laugh so much	our age of opportunity	don’t give up: just turn up
use it or lose it	from retired to inspired	just one friend
I never knew…	making new experiences	where I share my interests
retired but resuming	no role defines me now	a youth club for seniors
still here: still curious	finished? You must be joking	3rd chance saloon
just doing it for me	about time	From living to enlightened
not dead yet	life goes on	here I go again
park the dark	just being around people	old fools (can) laugh longest
just keeping me going	the prairie not the stable	a reason to leave the house
half-full now	who would have thought it?	finding like-minded people
something just for me	coming along for the ride	education, entertainment, edification
There are shortcuts to happiness and dancing is one of them. Vicki Baum	*Be yourself: everyone else is already taken.* Oscar Wilde	*Dance is a way to find yourself and lose yourself all at the same time.* Peter Townsend

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On behalf of Tina, I'd like to provide the following update on our Groups

	Our u3a Groups		Next
Groups	**Venue**	Day	**meeting**
Ancient Rome	Harborne Baptist Church	3rd Wed pm	19th Aug
Art Appreciation	Harborne Baptist Church	3rd Mon pm	17th Aug
Bridge	Quinborne Centre	2nd & 4th Tues pm	11th Aug
Church Architecture	Harborne Baptist Church	2nd Mon pm	10th Aug
Coffee Morning	The Green Man	Alt Mon am	27th Jul
Chance to Dance	St Faith and St Laurence	Ist & 3rd Thurs pm	6th Aug
Creative Writing	Member's home	2nd & 4th Weds am	12th Aug
Egyptology	Harborne Baptist Church	3rd Thurs pm	20th Aug
Fermentation	Member's home	3rd Fri	21st Aug
Games	Member's home	Alt Mon am	3rd Aug
Garden Group	Various	3rd Tues am	11th Aug
Literary 1	Harborne Baptist Church	2nd Thurs am	13th Aug
Local History	Quinborne Centre	3rd Mon am	TBA
Lunch Group	Green Man Harborne	4th Friday	26th Aug
Play Reading	Harborne Baptist Church	4th Mon	24th Aug
Science	Quinborne Centre	1st Thurs pm	3rd Sep
Strollers	Various	Wed am	29th Jul
Tai Chi	St Faith and St Laurence	Tues pm	28th Aug
Table Tennis	Harborne Leisure Centre	2nd & 4th Fri pm	14th Aug
USA	Harborne Baptist Church	4th Thurs pm	27th Aug
Visiting the Arts	Ongoing	Anytime	
Contact Groups Secretary	**tina howard24@icloud.com**		

Vacancies – can you help?

The Group Co-ordinators for the Local History and Art Appreciation are stepping down, and we are looking for someone to lead these groups. It could be a single person, or a team of 2 or 3. Veronica is standing down as Speakers Secretary later this year, and again we are looking for someone to take on this role – again, just one person or a team of 2 or 3. I'm sure you would find the roles rewarding, and if you are interested please email me at iantrotteru3a@gmail.com

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Upcoming General Meetings – please note change in start time

In order to leave enough time for tea and coffee and for socialising after the speaker and questions, the committee has decided to bring forward the start of the General Meeting to 2.00 pm – the doors will open at 1.30 pm as usual.

Next edition

We are hoping to produce the next newsletter in 6 months' time, and would welcome any contributions from members.

We hope you have a good summer break.

The team

Ian Trotter
Vicky West
Sue Lawlor
Eileen Waddington