



**Melbourne Area Derby**

**AUTUMN  
NEWSLETTER  
2025**

As usual, madu3a has been holding a diverse range of group meetings, participating in visits and hosting a number of fascinating talks, this year for the first time at the British Legion. Groups meet in a variety of venues including Bank of Beers (Current Affairs, below), Thomas Cook Memorial Hall (Whist, Book group, Crafting), MARS (Singing for Fun), the Catholic Hall (Quiz group) and of course in members' homes.

We make a small charge when meeting in halls in order to cover the cost of renting, and, while members make no charge to meet in their homes, as a rule, it is customary to make a donation to cover the cost of tea and biscuits and to recognise the contribution these hosts make.



The Current Affairs group which meets on the third Friday of the month at 2 pm in the Bank of Beers had a very lively discussion on the issue of what it means to be British and what is meant by the recent proliferation of flags on lampposts.



A Volunteers Fair, held at the Methodist Church in September, and organised by Melbourne Community Care, saw a number of community groups come together to raise awareness of the volunteering opportunities that exist in the village, not least in your very own madu3a, so if anyone would like to offer their services, Sue or any committee member would be delighted to hear from you. After all, without volunteers this wonderful organisation would simply not exist!

Also in September, following on from the talk we had on foraging – what you can safely find in nature and eat - twelve members went on an expert-led foraging walk in Coleorton Woods and came across some very unusual fungi and other potentially edible plants.

The Short Breaks group no longer has anyone to lead it, so is dormant until such time as a new leader comes forward, but our last hurrah was on a Warner Break to Studley Castle in October. In addition to enjoying a game of croquet, walking in the beautiful surroundings, playing croquet and Pooh Sticks (it was the inner child in us!), and dancing the night away, we visited Stratford on Avon and Coughton Court. Here are some of the photos:



STUDLEY CASTLE



COUGHTON COURT



## PLAYING CROQUET

What can we look forward to in the months to come?

All events are on our website <https://melbourne-area.u3asite.uk/events/>

**30 October – Quiz night.** Catholic Hall, Church St Melbourne. 7 for 7.30  
Come along and have some quizzing fun. Prizes will be awarded to the winning team. Come on your own, with a friend or as a group of 4. Bring your own drinks if you wish but tea, coffee and biscuits will be available.

**6 November – All Members’ Meeting.** British Legion. 2 pm

**13 November – Amazon Warehouse Tour.** Meet there at 11.45 for a one hour tour. Free event.

**22 November – Ceilidh/ Barn Dance.** MARS. 7.30. £10 or £12 for guests.

Groups meet all year round and details can be found on <https://melbourne-area.u3asite.uk/groups/>

**Like to stay at home more in the colder months?** There is still plenty going on online, mainly free for members. Why not have a look? <https://www.u3a.org.uk/events/educational-events>