

ODIHAM & DISTRICT U3A
NEW MEMBERSHIP CARDS

Dear fellow-member,

This year Odiham and District U3A will be celebrating its 10th birthday. We will be marking the occasion at our enrolment day, renamed on this occasion as Celebration Day, on Wednesday August 19th. I will be writing to you nearer the time with more details but you may want to note the day in your diaries now.

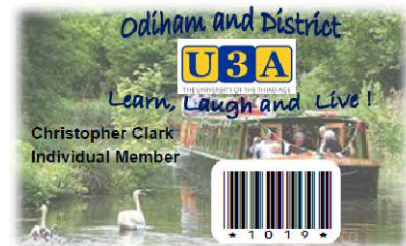
In the 10 years since our foundation we have come a long way. Our membership has grown to over 600 with over 40 groups in action and, as you will see in your March newsletter, more are being planned.

Equally with that growth has come an urgent need to update our systems to cope with the inevitable changes in legislation, in communication and in banking. Remember when Odiham had a bank or even a 24-hour cash machine?

Last year I wrote to you about the introduction of Beacon which enables you to control your own data and since then you will have seen further improvements, most noticeably in our newsletter and in the total revamp of our website. As postal costs rise and we all become more familiar with being online, I am sure we will be making ever greater use of such online means of communication.

As part of this programme of sustained improvements, we are now replacing our annual paper membership cards with a permanent card which is similar to a bank credit card. This step will eliminate the time-consuming and laborious process of preparing, printing and distributing cards each year. These new cards are expected to last for at least 5 years and importantly, should they wear out or are no longer needed, they are recyclable. You can see an example below.

We began the process of distributing these cards at the recent Group Leaders Conference and over the coming four months, they will be distributed to all current members via one of the groups that you belong to. Once you get your new card it replaces your existing card.



We expect that all existing members will have their new card by the end of June but if you have any queries, please raise them with your group leader.

I really do hope you can join us for Celebration Day on August 19th.

Best wishes,

Helen Smith