

## **newsletter 314 of 1<sup>st</sup> June 2026**

### **A Message from the Chair**

This is the time of year when trees and flowers are nearly at full bud and shade is at a premium. After the May rains, we will all be looking forward to the sunshine. Cricket, that very English of sports, has already started back in April and the football season has all but ended and wives wonder how their men will be entertaining themselves until August when it all kicks off yet again. Maybe now is the time to suggest that the decorating be started.

The selection of our speakers in May took a turn towards our musical heritage with John Eaves giving us a variety of his songs.

On Wednesday, 17<sup>th</sup> June, we have no speaker as it is our Annual General Meeting. This is your opportunity to ask the Committee Members questions about their roles and responsibilities. We should appreciate some notice however so if you could forward any questions to Bob Baron for us to answer it would be appreciated.

The AGM is also the time when we bribe you to attend. We shall be providing Fruit Scones and Cream and maybe some strawberries, to have with your cups of tea to try to encourage you to attend. We are always grateful to those people who take an interest in the workings of your committee and we look forward to seeing you there.

One person who we will be saying "Cheerio" to but not "Farewell" is the wonderful Helen Baron. Helen has overseen the publicity for our u3a Group and has, over the many years in the job, been responsible for our participation in so many events to promote this wonderful group. She will be missed at Committee meetings, but we welcome her replacement, Andy Thorpe.

We are attending a Community Day at Long Eaton Rugby Club on Saturday, 6<sup>th</sup> June, 11 to 4, so if you fancy coming to West Park to say hello and have a chat, we shall be pleased to see you.

Meanwhile, if you are sitting sweltering in the heat, please take care. Sun hats, sunscreen (high factor) and a bottle of water to hand are three important items to have close to hand.

Until the next time, keep living, laughing and learning.

John Hassall

## June Monthly Meeting

The Annual General Meeting will be held during the next Monthly Meeting on Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> June at EVA, Granville Avenue. Details of the AGM are below.

When the business of the AGM is over, there will be a tea party with scones, cream, and jam plus strawberries! Doors open at 2.00 pm. The tea bar will close at 2.20 pm.



Long Eaton & District

<https://longeaton.u3asite.uk>

**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

The AGM will be held on

**Wednesday 17th June 2026**

at

**Erewash Volunteer Action Centre**

**Granville Avenue**

**Long Eaton**

**at 2.30 pm**

**You are invited to attend the meeting at which you will be asked to vote in committee members for the coming year and discuss any issues you may wish to raise.**

***Please note that we may not be able to answer your question at the meeting. To ensure an answer please submit your question by Monday 8<sup>th</sup> June to the secretary at the address below.***

**Please come along and make your views known**

**Please download and print a copy of the Nomination Form  
from our website – See AGM pages**

**Secretary: Terry Holbrook. 1 Draycott Road Borrowash Derby DE72 3GG  
or [bussecl edu3a@gmail.com](mailto:bussecl edu3a@gmail.com)**

In connection with the AGM persons are particularly required for the posts of Group Coordinators.

## U3a Facebook



### Long Eaton & District U3A

275 likes • 348 followers

Another popular month for our Facebook page. Lots of different stories and photos shared.

I've attached 3 photos, Discover Africa, Committee meeting, Barbara's garden.

The views for these were 300, 700 or 2,400!

Which do you think was the most popular.

Please continue to send any information to me to share and help promote our u3a.

Julie

Facebook Administrator



## Tea & Coffee Rota



Hi, I've recently taken over the rota for tea/coffee refreshments at our u3a Monthly Meetings.

Any volunteers are welcome to join our usual team, normally required only twice a year. I've noticed that we don't have any male volunteers?

We have a vacancy for September, please let me know male or female if you are able to help, or if you can join us in 2027.

Thankyou

Julie Gilson

## Publicity and Communication Team


We are setting up a new Publicity and Communication Team, following on from Helen, who has recently completed 9 and a half years for our u3a. We have had a meeting and our first official publicity event is The Long Eaton Carnival on 20th June.

Andy, one of our team is very hot on AI and has been putting together new posters, with all of our input.

I've attached a couple of the ideas; these will be updated for different groups and to give out on any publicity events.

Please let us know if you have any photos/information or ideas.

Andy, Peter, Julie



**LONG EATON & DISTRICT**  
**u3a**  
*Learn, Laugh, Live*

A welcoming community to enjoy friendship, learning and new experiences.

- MAKE NEW FRIENDS
- LEARN NEW SKILLS
- ENJOY PERFORMING ARTS
- EXPLORE NEW INTERESTS
- HAVE FUN AND ENJOY LIFE

Over 40 interest groups including:  
Arts & Crafts • History • Languages • Music • Photography  
Science • Literature • Performing Arts • and many more!

**JOIN US TODAY!**  
Visit our website or come to a meeting to find out more.

[www.longeaton.u3a.le.uk](http://www.longeaton.u3a.le.uk)  
Long Eaton & District u3a

*Celebrating later life – learning together, using better*



**u3a** Long Eaton & District  
*learn, laugh, live*

**Long Eaton Carnival**

**FIND US AT**  
**LONG EATON CARNIVAL**

**SATURDAY 20<sup>TH</sup> JUNE**  
**LONG EATON - WEST PARK**

**THROUGH THE DECADES**  
GRAND PARADE THROUGH TOWN  
11AM - 1PM

LOTS TO SEE AND DO ON THE CARNIVAL SHOWGROUND, WEST PARK THROUGHOUT THE WEEKEND

**u3a**  
Long Eaton & District

## u3a Group News

### Drawing Group

At the drawing and painting group this month we started on a series of watercolour workshops designed to improve our use of watercolour as an art medium. The theme was skies and it was surprising how many different ways of painting a sky there are. Chris led the workshop with some excellent advice and great tuition. I have attached a few pictures which I think are brilliant.

There are still places left for anyone who wants to take part in these workshops which run till December.

Steve



### History Group

The History group met on 27<sup>th</sup> May and we discussed Bismarck and the Unification of Germany. We all learnt a lot about this interesting time in history.

Next month, 24<sup>th</sup> June, we will be looking at the Hanseatic League the mediaeval commercial and defensive network of Northern and Central Europe.

Contact the group leader, Andrew, at [andrew.savill@hotmail.com](mailto:andrew.savill@hotmail.com) for more information.

## Art Group

Our Wednesday Art Group had to swop to Tuesday for one week, during May. The subject was "Afternoon Tea" and they all looked delicious., if only we could have had a few delivered. I've attached a couple of paintings, all others can be viewed on our u3a Facebook page.

A few finished off previous work, which can also be viewed.

Well done to all, another superb delivery.

From Julie and Barbara

Group Leaders



## Gardening Group

In May the gardening group teamed up with Risley WI to visit Doddington Hall. What a wonderful venue! Many thanks to Risley WI for allowing us to share. It was one of the best trips out. House and gardens fabulous, not to mention the cafe and shops. Friendly staff too.





## Quiz Group

The quiz group met this month.

Questions included: -

Which flower does saffron come from?

What does QI stand for from the TV programme?

Which breed of dog won Crufts this year?

Romans used to eat Glis glis - what is it?

Which county is The Vicar of Dibley situated?

Also 22 clues for puddings and desserts.

How many do you know?

Please check out our u3a website for group details.

Anne and Hillary

Group Leaders



**Puddings and Desserts**

	Solve the cryptic clues	No. Of letters
1	What you do to start a race?	4
2	Ben...an...a	6,5
3	Richard is suffering from acne	7,4
4	State in the oven	5,6
5	An idiotic citrus fruit	5,4
6	Clown's missiles	7,4
7	Praise for baggy trousers	13,5
8	Do you make money from these small breads?	12
9	Gluey, chewy desserts	6,6,7
10	Autumn is too early for this pudding	9,7
11	....but not for this one	6,7
12	This pudding does not amount to much	6
13	ELPPA	5,8
14	Fruit for an operatic diva	5,5
15	First woman...her dessert	4,7
16	A dessert expertly made in Derbyshire	8,4
17	Does this dessert get in a paddy?	4,7
18	Not a sandwich cake but close	5,3,6,7
19	Best wear your boots for this American dessert?	11,3,3
20	Granny Smith disintegrates	5,7
21	Eaten in Whiby or York?	9,7
22	An idiot makes a crowd of three	10,4

### U3A Photography Group

This month's trips included Clumber Park and Bakewell with a trip to Trowell Garden centre for a tea/coffee meet up to end the month.



## Derbyshire u3a Network

To find out more about our Network, click on this link:

<https://derbyshirenetwork.u3asite.uk/>

## Online Learning Events from u3a National Office

Our National Office offers a number of workshops, webinars and interactive sessions, delivered by members for members, which are free to join. These are in high demand and spaces are limited, particularly for those with an interactive element.

**In June, events include: An ABC of Victorian Painting** – Thursday, June 11 at 2pm – Simon Evers explores three Victorian painters—from famous to forgotten—and a surprising discovery that transformed oil painting forever.

We begin with Sir Lawrence Alma-Tadema, one of the most celebrated artists of his day, renowned for his exquisitely detailed depictions of the ancient world. We then turn to Ford Madox Brown, a painter whose evolving artistic vision reflected shifting social and cultural concerns, and whose work challenged conventional expectations. Finally, we rediscover Philip Hermogenes Calderon, an artist now largely overlooked, yet once an influential figure within the Victorian art establishment.

The talk concludes with a fascinating postscript: a little-known discovery that profoundly transformed the practice of oil painting, reshaping how artists worked and what they could achieve.

Ideal for art enthusiasts and curious minds alike, this talk offers fresh insights into well-known masterpieces, changing artistic perspectives, and forgotten figures whose stories deserve to be told.

**A history of Britain's roads: why we should feel proud** – Friday, June 19 at 10am – discover the surprising stories behind Britain's roads, from radical legislation to quirky inventors, with Diana Laffin. There doesn't seem to be much to celebrate in Britain right now. And considering the traffic jams and pot holes we all suffer from; you may be surprised to learn that this talk aims to cheer you up with a history of British roads.

The talk covers radical legislation, quirky inventors and arguments over road signs from the late 19th century when a man with a red flag had to precede a motor vehicle, to the first motorways in the 1960s. We tend to go about our streets without paying much attention to the traffic island, the Belisha beacon, the white lines or the traffic light. Yet all of these have an interesting history which, in many cases, shows Britain at its best.

**Islands of the Venetian Lagoon** – Friday, June 26 at 2pm – This engaging talk with pictures will guide you around twelve islands that can each be reached by public transport (vaporetto, or water bus).

Many visitors to Venice don't look beyond the city itself – yet there is a world of diversity and rich culture to be found in the wider Venetian lagoon. This engaging talk with pictures will guide you around twelve islands that can each be reached by public transport (vaporetto, or water bus).

Each island you'll hear about is distinctive – and there are some stories that have hardly been told. For example, did you know that Lord Byron studied Armenian on the monastery island of San Lazzaro degli Armeni? Another idyllic island, San Giorgio Maggiore, has a hedge labyrinth based on a short story by the Argentinian writer Borges. You'll hear, too, about Murano (known for glass), Burano (with biscuits and lace), and Torcello (with stunning mosaics and the oldest building in the lagoon area) – as well as seven others.

Aside from offering a short slide-show and regaling you with stories from the Venetian lagoon, the guest speaker will be keen to facilitate discussion, hear what interests audience members, and will try to answer any questions you might have. This talk includes many references to writers and literature. It may especially appeal to U3A members who are interested in reading (or writing!), as well as in Venice and Italian culture.

**All the above courses are free and on Zoom.** For more information on these events and others, please go to: [u3a - Online Learning Events](#).

## Community News

### **Erewash Community Celebration – Saturday 6th June 11am–4pm at the Rugby Club, West Park**

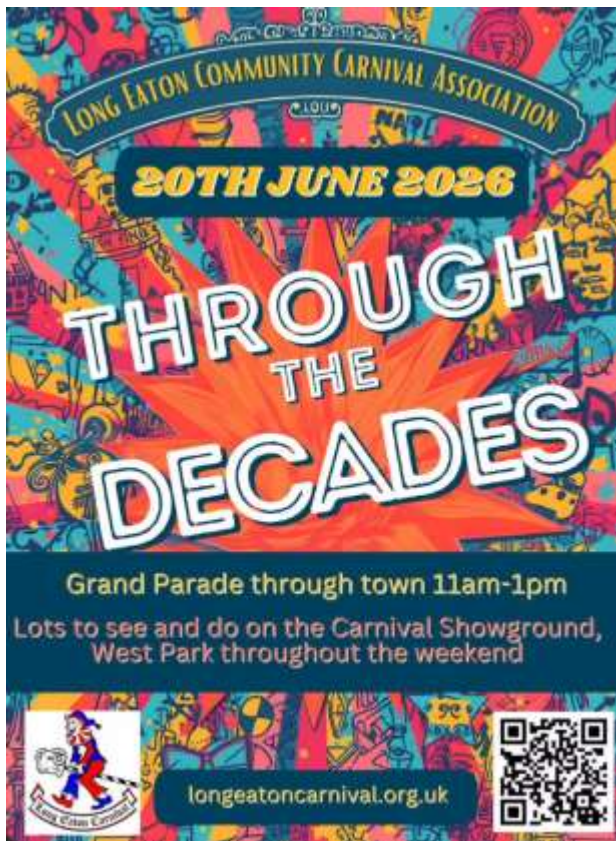
Erewash Voluntary Action will mark the end of Volunteers Week with a fun day of activities and information about local organisations. Our u3a will be entertaining visitors to the event with two dance performances: one from the belly dancing group and the other one from the line dancing group. The u3a display will provide information about our activities and also a Jenga game to challenge people's construction skills. Please see EVA's flyer for more information.



### **The Duchess Theatre, West Gate, Long Eaton**

Totally organised and run by volunteers, the Centre is Long Eaton's premier live arts and entertainment facility. The theatre and all its activities are managed by volunteers. We need volunteers for each performance in a variety of roles, including running the coffee bar, selling ice creams and helping in the bar.

If you could spare the occasional evening and would like a new experience, why not become part of the Duchess team? For more information, come and meet us at our weekly Saturday coffee morning from 10am till 12pm. Speak with any of our existing volunteers at a performance or email us at [info@duchess-theatre.com](mailto:info@duchess-theatre.com). It's a great opportunity to make new friends, develop old skills or learn new ones.



Are you 50 Plus?



Come along and join us!

Long Eaton & District 50+

Forum and AGM

Monday 8<sup>th</sup> June 2026 @10:15am

Erewash Voluntary Action – Volunteer Centre,  
Granville Avenue, Long Eaton NG10 4HD

Light refreshments, cakes and biscuits will be served from 09:45am



#### The Potty Plotters

The Potty Plotters are Elaine Crick and Julia Slater, two Derby-based allotment gardeners known for their humorous, "naughty" gardening advice and community, broadcasting on Radio Derby and through their podcast.

The Potty Plotters have a session planned but there will also be an opportunity to ask any questions you may have.

Enjoy taking part in a quiz created by one of our Committee Members and have the chance of winning a prize!

Raffle & Refreshments, come join us and bring a friend

If you cannot get to the meeting by any other means, please book yourself a local taxi and claim the fare back from the Treasurer at the meeting. You must obtain a receipt and remember to book your return journey.

Supported by:



Please send items for the July Newsletter to Andrew Savill by 25<sup>th</sup> June at the very latest.

Long Eaton & District u3a members are also invited to send in concise information about future local events.

The email address is [ledu3a.news@ed@gmail.com](mailto:ledu3a.news@ed@gmail.com)