

## newsletter 315 of 1<sup>st</sup> July 2026

### A Message from the Chair

It is with deep sadness that I have to tell you that our former Treasurer Margaret Pilkington passed away on Tuesday, 23<sup>rd</sup> June. She was a staunch supporter of our u3a and had been a member since August, 2019. The Committee will, I know, wish to pass on our sincere thanks for her attention to detail with the preparation and maintenance of the accounts.

The AGM passed off without too many issues being raised. Those questions and suggestions that were raised will be dealt with by your Committee in time. Should you however wish to discuss any matter with any Committee member please feel free to approach us at the monthly meetings. You will be able to find a full list of the Committee members further into this newsletter.

Your Committee, have throughout this year encouraged, corrected, praised and supported me through a steep learning curve during my first year as Chairman and I wish to place on record my sincere thanks for their efforts on your behalf.

At the next monthly meeting on Wednesday, 15<sup>th</sup> July we have the entertainment provided by the Juke Box Group and their leader Peter Holdsworth. Music will be provided but I can assure you that *"Dad Dancing"* or should it be *"Grandad Dancing"* will not be on my agenda.

Finally, as we emerge from what is a sweltering end to June, I sincerely hope that you are enjoying your time at Long Eaton and District u3a and that our motto of *'Learn, Laugh and Live'* is at the forefront of your minds as you face the future.

Until next time *"keep on keeping on"*.

John Hassall.  
Chairman.

## **Committee Roles for the Year July 2026 to June 2027.**

<b>Chairman:</b>	John Hassall
<b>Vice Chairman:</b>	Peter Turner
<b>Treasurer:</b>	Richard Lindley
<b>Business Secretary:</b>	Terry Holbrook
<b>Membership Officer:</b>	Angie Pollard
<b>Equipment Officer:</b>	Bob Owen
<b>Publicity Officer:</b>	Andy Thorpe
<b>Facebook Officer:</b>	Julie Gilson
<b>Group Co-Ordinator:</b>	Pat Kelly
<b>Welfare Officer:</b>	Christina Hogg
<b>IT Management:</b>	Ann Bennett and Martyn Smith.

### **Other Committee Members:**

Bob Baron  
Margaret Reid  
Anna Spencer  
Stephen Platkiw

## **Publicity and Communication Team**

As part of the new Publicity & Communication Team we have organised for Val, from Erewash Sound to join us at the monthly meeting (Wednesday 15th July).

Val will arrive at 1.30 to talk to John and our team, she will stay for coffee and chat to any members joining the meeting.

The recording will be broadcast on a Thursday, she will let us know the date. Hopefully this will reach a large audience and we will receive lots of interest in our local u3a.

Andy Thorpe, Peter Turner & Julie Gilson  
Publicity & Communication Team

## **July Monthly Meeting**

Why not join us for our July Monthly Meeting on Wednesday 15 July from 2.00 pm to 3.45 pm

This month's guest speaker is Peter Holdsworth, presenting A Taste of Jukebox. Enjoy an entertaining afternoon of music and memories as Peter explores the history of the jukebox and the classic songs that became the soundtrack to a generation. Whether you enjoy rock and roll, pop classics or simply a trip down memory lane, this promises to be an enjoyable afternoon for all members.

We look forward to seeing you there!

# U3a Facebook



## Long Eaton & District U3A

569 followers • 26 following  
A group of people from Long Eaton and surrounding areas in the "third age" of life who come together to learn, laugh, live .



Contact Us Favourites Message

Our u3a Facebook page continues to be very popular and increasing our followers again this month. Most articles receive 300+ views.

We had extremely good viewing figures following our promotion at EVAC open day at The Rugby Club and at Long Eaton carnival, both in June.

Viewing figures were over 2,000, with our line dancing video hitting a massive 23,000 views. A lot of interest on both days, plus many comments replied to on Facebook.

We now have over 550 followers to the page.

Please let me know if you would like to promote your group, either message via our website or Facebook.

Julie Gilson and Anna Spencer  
Facebook Administrators



## u3a Group News

### Real Ale Group

A wet Thursday afternoon saw the Real Ale Group take the Skylink to the Johnston Arms in Dunkirk. This fine traditional Shipstones pub is beautifully renovated and has the added attraction of being next to the Taste of India restaurant. What better way to keep out of the rain for a few hours!

Bob Baron



### Quiz Group (On-Line)

THE QUIZ ONLINE GROUP NEEDS MORE MEMBERS – CAN YOU HELP PLEASE?

The Quiz Online group has a very small membership which came together during the Covid lockdown. For various, mainly health, reasons, we continued to have our monthly quiz meetings on Zoom. This works very well with the group receiving their Zoom link a few days before the next meeting. We have had the inevitable hiccups, but most of these have been resolved.

We are looking for new members to join us from August on the THIRD Tuesday morning each month at 10:30 for a round of 60 questions over about an hour and a half. The questions are set by one of the group, so what we ideally need are new members who will join us online and who will also be agreeable to setting a quiz too. Don't worry too much about quiz setting as there are ways we can possibly get round this.

An advantage of this group is that any LED U3A members who find it increasingly difficult to attend meetings can still experience a degree of interactivity with others via the wonders of Zoom.

The committee have been supportive of us in this and have arranged a Zoom license

to be used for our group.

We are a friendly group and do not look on our quizzes as being difficult but still maintain a degree of challenge to keep the little grey cells working!

So, if you have a couple of hours to spare on the THIRD Tuesday of the month at 10:30 why not sign up or at least give us a try. If you have any questions, or if you wish to sign up, then please drop me an email at [andru.merriman@btinternet.com](mailto:andru.merriman@btinternet.com).

Andrew Merriman, Group Leader

## **History Group**

The History group met on June 24<sup>th</sup> to discuss the topic 'The Hanseatic League. We learnt about this 13<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup> century trading group, a sort of precursor to the EU.

Our next meeting was due to be July 22<sup>nd</sup> but due to holidays this has been cancelled and therefore we will next meet on 26<sup>th</sup> August instead. Topic to be advised. Suggestions from group members are welcome.

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

## **Gardening Group**

At the June meeting Danny Wells gave us an illustrated talk on Joseph Paxton. Starting as a gardener's boy, going on to be head gardener for the Duke of Devonshire at Chatsworth House and all his other properties, eventually designing and building the huge pavilion known as the Crystal Palace to house the great exhibition in 1851. A fascinating man with such a diverse history.

The July meeting on the 9<sup>th</sup> at EVA, will see Sally Welch demonstrate her talent as a flower arranger with the completed arrangements being raffled off at the end

Janice Jowett

## **Lunch Club**

A meeting was held at Cleavers to start the Lunch Club which will hopefully have their first get together in July. Val will be sending more information on this once she has had some Beacon Training.

## U3A Photography Group

The weather hasn't been kind to us this month. Firstly, it was too hot and we cancelled going to Worsbrough Mill in favour of Trowell Garden Centre for coffee. Our trip to Ilkeston wasn't without drama either, as one of our members had to get a punctured tyre sorted out. Then we were due to go to Barnsdale Gardens and we had to cancel as the heavens opened, but we enjoyed a meal out at Eaton Farm instead. Enjoy photos from Ilkeston and our own gardens.



Gill Hartley

## Gold Card Bus Trip to Bingham

Gold Card Group trip to Bingham on Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> July went off without a hitch. Unfortunately, there were only four takers, including myself, but that's made it all the more sociable.

We met at The Green at the predetermined time and caught the Skylink bus to Friar Lane, Nottingham at 10-10am. Our next bus, a Mainline, was waiting at the next stop so we hopped on, and off we went. The route took us through West Bridgford and Ratcliffe on Trent, both worthy of a visit. We arrived in Bingham about 40 minutes later, and sat down for a coffee at Rose & May, a very convenient coffee bar.

We then browsed around the market and shops independently, and met in the Butter Cross, a Wetherspoons pub, where we had lunch. I was hoping to take the group to the

parish church but, having had a look myself, didn't think it was worth taking the Group. As parish churches go, it was fairly uninspiring.

We caught a Mainline bus home at about 2-00pm, and waited about 15 minutes for our Skylink bus back to Long Eaton.

All in all, a very enjoyable day out.

Peter H, Trip Leader

## **Jukebox Group**

The June meeting of the Jukebox Group was held on Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> June in Sawley Methodist Church Hall.

We listened to a playlist compiled and presented by Di Hawke, entitled "Di's Favourite Tracks". It took us from 'High Society' by Bing Crosby and Grace Kelly in 1956, right through to 'Perfect' by Ed Sheeran in 2017 via tracks from the 50s to the 90s.

During our tea break we had a quiz from Tim Rodgers and a birthday cake for Ken Austin, whose birthday happened to fall that day.

Our next meeting on 7<sup>th</sup> July will have a playlist from Dudley Arnold entitled "Musical Landmarks", and a quiz from Gay Richards.

We have had to set a maximum of 30 members because of the size of the room, and are fully subscribed.

Peter Holdsworth, Group Leader

## **Drawing and Painting Group**

At the drawing and painting group this month we continued our workshops trying different watercolour techniques with the aim of improving our artistic skills.

Tonal differences and how to achieve depth of field with a limited pallet was ably demonstrated by Chris with a fabulous picture of a lighthouse using one colour.

All attendees at these workshops have agreed how useful they have been and I have attached a number of the paintings for you to enjoy from this very talented group of artists.

Additional note.

Chris has set up YouTube site covering the various workshops. If you would like the link to the site, please email me through the U3a website and I will forward it to you.

Steve Platkiw



## Quiz Group

Our quiz met this month, subjects included: -

Pot luck

County Towns

Food & Drink

Erewash Borough

Occupations

General knowledge

Do you know the answer to: -

What is the largest landlocked Country?

What do you call oysters wrapped in bacon?

How many parishes are in Erewash?

Which county is Carlisle in?

What does Cairo mean?

The winning team scored 54/80

The next quiz is Tuesday 7th July, all welcome. Please contact group leaders via our website.

Anne & Hillary  
Group Leaders



## Wednesday Art Group

At Art Group this month one of our subjects was Africa. David had shared some photos from his recent visit to Lake Jipe on the border of Kenya and Tanzania.

Other paintings can be found on our u3a Facebook page.

Well done everyone.

Julie & Barbara  
Group Leaders



**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.

### Join the National u3a Festival!

One of the highlights of the national u3a calendar takes place from Wednesday 1 to Friday 3 July 2026 at the University of York. The u3a Festival 2026 brings together more than 1,000 members from across the UK for three days of learning, friendship and fun.

The packed programme includes over 35 talks, workshops and activities each day, covering subjects such as history, science, music, languages, art, photography, wellbeing, gardening, crafts and much more. It's a wonderful opportunity to meet fellow members, exchange ideas and discover new interests.

### **u3a Festival Fringe – Join in from Home!**

Can't make it to York? You can still be part of the excitement through the u3a Festival Fringe, a special programme of online events running 25 June to 10 July 2026. The Festival Fringe has been designed to complement the main u3a Festival, giving members across the UK the opportunity to enjoy inspiring talks, demonstrations and interactive sessions from the comfort of home.

This year's programme includes a wide variety of subjects, including:

- Technology Built into Modern Cars and Trucks – 1st July
- Mrs Charles Dickens Tells Her Story – 2nd July
- Watercolours with Tony – 6th July
- The History of Shoes – 8th July
- Fusion Tai Chi Gong – 9th July
- Vengeance or Vision: The Works of Artemisia Gentileschi – 9th July
- The Role of Women in Ancient Egypt – 10th July

These online sessions are open to u3a members nationwide and offer an excellent opportunity to learn something new, discover new interests and experience the atmosphere of the national Festival without travelling.

Find out more and book your place:

- u3a Festival 2026
- Festival Fringe & Online Events <https://www.u3a.org.uk/what-we-do/events/festival-2026?highlight=WyJmcmluZ2UiXQ==>

Dates for Your Diary

Date    Event

1–3 July    u3a Festival 2026 – University of York

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

**News from the National Office**

### **u3a Paint or Draw**

Thanks for all your entries for the last paint or draw topic, urban jungle. The pictures are now on the website page and there are some great examples to look at:

<https://www.u3a.org.uk/what-we-do/learning/learning-activities/paint-or-draw>

The next topic is Illumination which can be interpreted any way you like. Please do let other u3a member know about this monthly activity as it would be great to extend the reach more.

Best wishes

Janine Aldridge  
Learning Officer  
u3a UK

(Both Julie and Chris's entries have been chosen in June, see below)



**'Commuter' by Chris, Long Eaton & District  
u3a**

This one is for everyone who's had a commute in a big city. Sometimes it feels like you're battling the herd and you're just glad to get home and put your feet up! I sketched this with a fountain pen and then added watercolour to give it some depth and variety. Just a bit of fun with this topic.



'Lowry' by Julie, Long Eaton & District u3a

Lowry inspired Urban Jungle in watercolour

## Community News

### Long Eaton Carnival

The Carnival was a great success for Long Eaton and the weather was superb. Our stand in the Community Tent was well attended by members with quite a few new enquiries and should lead to hopefully some new members.



## Long Eaton Carnival Car Boot Sale

Although the carnival has finished for another year, the organisers continue their fundraising with a Car Boot Sale on Sunday 19 July at West Park. It's a great opportunity to pick up a bargain while supporting one of Long Eaton's biggest community events.

## Sawley Park Community Fun Day

Bring the whole family along to the Sawley Park Community Fun Day on Saturday 4 July, from 12 noon until 4.00 pm, at Sawley Park.

Organised by local volunteers and community groups, this free event offers an afternoon of entertainment and activities for all ages, including:

- Children's rides and inflatables
- Live music and entertainment
- Food and drink stalls
- Local craft and community stalls
- Emergency service displays
- Children's activities and games

## Long Eaton & District u3a at the Fun Day

Be sure to look out for the Long Eaton & District u3a Belly Dancing Group, who will be performing during the afternoon. Their colourful costumes and lively routines are always a crowd favourite and showcase just one of the many enjoyable activities available through our u3a.

If you're attending the event, why not come along and cheer them on? They'll be delighted to see plenty of friendly faces from the u3a.

## Dates for Your Diary

### **Date    Event**

4 July    Sawley Park Community Fun Day (12.00–4.00 pm)

19 July    Long Eaton Carnival Car Boot Sale – West Park

**Please send items for the August Newsletter to Andrew Savill by 25<sup>th</sup> July 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@ed3a.com](mailto:ledu3a.news@ed3a.com)