

newsletter 316 of 1st August 2026

A Message from the Chair

The second year of my tenancy at the helm of your u3a in Long Eaton and we are on an upward trajectory. Our overall Membership increases, slowly but surely, the number of groups has increased and prospered due to members interests and new members taking part in different activities.

Together, we can learn different skills and hopefully enjoy the company of people who share a similar interest. The u3a motto "learn, laugh, live" rings true especially in these difficult times.

We are however due to say "cheerio" in December to two stalwarts of our organisation, Pat and Christina our long serving Group Co-ordinators. We are therefore once again appealing for your active participation to replace these two wonderful people who have by their efforts endeavoured to ensure you are all educated and entertained within a safe environment. If you would like to know what goes on in the Group Co-ordinators role, please make a point of talking to either or both of them at our Monthly Meeting. Should you decide to take on the role you would be learning best practices to ensure our groups continue to be active and more importantly thrive in a positive way.

Christina will be moving to a role as Welfare Officer which involves ensuring best practices are upheld in all groups. Pat, who is taking a rest from the role of Group Co-ordinator, will continue to be involved in u3a and may even appear in some form in future Drama Group productions.

At the September Monthly Meeting we shall be welcoming a member of the Derbyshire Constabulary who will be talking to us about staying safe and avoiding the dreaded on-line scams.

You may be interested that on Wednesday, 5th August at 2p.m. I shall be giving a talk to the Stapleford u3a at their Monthly Meeting entitled "**Bertie and his ladies**" a journey through the life of the future Edward VII at The Methodist Church Hall, Eaton's Road, Stapleford. All members are welcome.

Finally, I sincerely hope that you enjoy the remainder of the summer and wherever you are please keep safe.

John Hassall. Chairman.

No Monthly Meeting in August

There will be no Long Eaton & District u3a monthly meeting on Wednesday 19 August. Members are invited to enjoy the summer break.

The next monthly meeting will be held on:

Wednesday 16 September 2026

2.00 pm–3.45 pm

Erewash Voluntary Action, Granville Avenue, Long Eaton

The meeting will include a talk from Derbyshire Police entitled Scams and Staying Safe. <https://longeaton.u3asite.uk/events/>

Radio Interview

Our Long Eaton & District u3a are Famous! The interview from our last monthly meeting has been aired on erewashsound.com

If you missed it you can go to listen again (Val at Erewash Voluntary Action Centre– u3a).

Please let us know what you think.

Julie Andy Peter
Publicity and Communication Team



U3a Facebook



Long Eaton & District U3A

603 followers • 27 following

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

Community



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 now have over 600 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

IT Matters

Microsoft has extended the date for the provision of security updates for Windows 10 from Oct 2026 to Oct 2027. This is important to all members who run Windows 10 on their PCs/Laptops as the security updates help to protect your machines from security risks and malware.

If you enrolled in the Extended Security Updates (ESU) in 2025, when it was launched, your cover is automatically extended without any further intervention. If you have not enrolled the link below from Microsoft will explain how to enrol. Copy and paste it into your browser.

<https://www.microsoft.com/en-gb/windows/extended-security-updates>

The link below from Which? magazine also provides useful background & context.

<https://www.which.co.uk/news/article/windows-10-is-losing-security-support-in-october-2027-aZV723o24RP9>

I.T. Team

Although there is no general meeting in August, some Long Eaton & District u3a interest groups may continue to meet, arrange visits or operate revised summer programmes.

Members should check directly with their Group Leader before attending, particularly during the summer holiday period.

Plant Study Group

The Plant Study Group's published 2026 programme includes August visits to Hammersmith Meadows and Trinity Farm, Awsworth. Members should consult the group programme or contact the Group Leader for dates, meeting points and availability.

- <https://longeaton.u3asite.uk/wp-content/uploads/2026/04/LED-u3a-PSG-programme-outline-2026.pdf>
- <https://longeaton.u3asite.uk/news/>

Writing for Fun

A poem

In my garden I can see
That cat again from 23
"Go on, clear off!" I loudly shout
"No birds will come while you're about"

I bang the window, shake my fist
Hoping it will get my gist,
But no, it stares with deep disdain
That stupid woman's there again.

I know, I'll chase it with my broom
And, running out the living room
With brush aloft – until I saw
My victim's owner from next door

Pretending then to sweep the path
I smile and give a nervous laugh
(I think he must have smelt a rat)
Says "Don't suppose you've seen our cat?"

"No, I lie, no not at all"

(it's sitting on the bottom wall)
"I hope it comes back safe and sound
There are some funny folk around"

Just then a thought popped in my head
The water pistol in the shed!
I hurry off and fish it out
Check the neighbour's not about

Cat's still up there, in full view
(perhaps deciding where to poo?)
Quickly, I undo the cap
And fill it from the outside tap

I tiptoe over, gun held high
Softly whisper "Cat Goodbye!"
Didn't screw the top in place
Pour all the water on my face.

"I'm going in, but I'll be clear"
(Tipping water out my ear)
"Cross my path again today
And I will wipe your smile away"

I'll lunch outside, the weather's fine
Got my salad, glass of wine
I sigh, admitting my defeat
The bugger's sleeping on my seat!

Jackie Tilly

History Group

The History group did not meet in July as previously advised.

Our next meeting will be on 26th August instead. Topic to be advised. Suggestions from group members are welcome.

Contact the group leader, Andrew, at andrew.savill@hotmail.com for more information

Gardening Group

At our July meeting Sally Welch demonstrated her skills as a flower arranger. The finished arrangements were stunning and some lucky members, whose raffle tickets were drawn, got to take them home.

There is no meeting in August but on 10th September we will have a visit from Wayne Peapell who will be showing us how to plant up hanging baskets and tubs for the winter months



Quiz Group

At our quiz group this month as well as categories of questions: –

Food and Drink

General Knowledge

Firsts

2026

Women's names

July

We had 10 different flavours of crisps to identify.

I think everyone had a fun morning and the winning team scored 55/80.

Well done all.

Do you know a few answers: –

What are the ingredients of 007s martini?

What are the names of the Bennett sisters?

What was aired first Mastermind or Countdown?

Who did the Romans name July after?
Which women's name is most popular in songs?
Can a donkey see all 4 of their feet?
The next u3a quiz will be on 4th August, all welcome.

Please contact the group leader via our website 👍

Anne and Hillary
Group Leaders



Wednesday Art Group

The Wednesday art group this month included the subject of oysters or oyster catchers. We didn't eat any as there isn't an R in the month. The room was quite cool with air con on before we arrived. I've attached a couple of the paintings; more can be viewed on our u3a Facebook page. Enjoy the paintings.

Well done to everyone.

Julie and Barbara
Group Leaders



Jukebox Group

At our July meeting we listened to a popular playlist composed and presented by Dudley Arnold entitled "Musical Bookmarks".

It started back in the 1950s with Perry Como and took us through to Queen's "Bohemian Rhapsody" from 1975. At the time "Bohemian Rhapsody" set a record for being at No.1 for 9 consecutive weeks. This was eventually surpassed by "(Everything I do) I do it for you" by Brian Adams, which spent an incredible 16 consecutive weeks at no.1 in 1991. At the break Gay Richards gave us a quiz, and we had a birthday cake for Ken Austin whose birthday coincided with the meeting.

At the LEu3a monthly meeting on Wednesday 15th July, I presented a playlist entitled "A Touch of Jukebox", where I alternated vocal with instrumental tracks. We started with The Shadows "Foot Tapper", for years used by Brian Matthew to introduce his Saturday morning show "Sounds of the Sixties", and finished with "Tie a Yellow Ribbon Round the Old Oak Tree" by Dawn featuring Tony Orlando.

The playlist was designed as a 'song-a-long', and seemed to be well received. Anyone interested in joining the group is welcome to join the waiting list, as we are at capacity for our venue.

Peter Holdsworth.
Leader, Jukebox Group.

Drawing and Painting Group

At the drawing and painting group we were continuing with the watercolour workshops Chris was running.

The theme this time was colour and to show what you can do with colour flowers were chosen as the subject.

I have attached a few pictures from the extremely talented group of artists.

Hope you enjoy.

Steve



Derbyshire u3a Network

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

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

Our chairman, John Hassall, is giving a talk to our neighbours at Stapleford u3a on Wednesday 5th August. Details below.

STAPLEFORD & DISTRICT u3a

John Hassall

presents an illustrated talk on Queen Victoria's eldest son
Albert Edward and the women in his life

BERTIE and his LADIES



Early lectures on "Bertie's" politics revealed audiences are far more fascinated by King Edward VII's varied relationships with ladies (including his wife).

Since John (currently Chair of Long Eaton & District u3a) abandoned a lifetime in industry to graduate in History at Derby University, he has written multiple short stories and several one-act plays

Wednesday, 5th August, 2026

at 2 p.m. (doors open 1.45 p.m.)

in the Methodist Church Hall, Eatons Road, NG9 7EA

(£2 fee for non-members)

The u3a (University of the Third Age) enables retired and semi-retired people to come together, learn together, and take part in interest groups, not for qualifications but for the joy of activity and discovery.

Find more details of your local u3a on the website:

Stapleford & District u3a

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.

Festival 26 Celebrates Learning and Friendship

More than 1,000 u3a members came together at the University of York for u3a Festival 26, held from 1–3 July. Activities ranged from flower arranging and wine tasting to tai chi, handbell ringing, talks, exhibitions and sporting activities.

Photographs and a highlights video from the festival are now available on the National u3a website. <https://www.u3a.org.uk/what-we-do/events/festival-2026>

u3a Getaways

National u3a has launched u3a getaways, an exclusive holiday programme designed to bring u3a members together for travel, learning and friendship.

Details of the holidays and how to participate are available through the National u3a website. <https://www.u3a.org.uk/latest-news/u3a-getaways-launched>

National u3a Elections

The election process for several National u3a roles continues during August. Candidate interviews are scheduled for 14 and 20 August, with voting due to open on Thursday 27 August 2026.

Further details, including information about the available roles and election process, can be found on the National u3a website.

Online Learning Opportunities

National u3a continues to offer talks, workshops and courses through Zoom. These online learning events are normally available to u3a members at no additional cost.

Members should check the National u3a online learning page regularly because new events and booking opportunities are added throughout the year.

Trent College Arboretum Tours

Welcome to the August Arboretum Tour at Trent College

Here is the link with booking details for the next Arboretum Tour which is on Saturday 15th August 9.30 am to 12 noon.

<https://alumni.trentcollege.net/events/view/arboretum-tour-15-august-2026>

The donation goes towards tree planting in the grounds of two primary schools in Kenya. This is planned to be David Pinney's last public tour. Tours take place whatever the weather.

Long Eaton Music Festival

The Long Eaton Music Festival will take place on:

Saturday 8 August 2026

11.30 am–10.00 pm

West Park Events Field,

Long Eaton Last admission:

7.45 pm

The family festival is expected to feature leading tribute acts celebrating performers including Queen, Oasis, The Killers, Green Day, ABBA, Amy Winehouse, Dua Lipa and Taylor Swift. The event will also include licensed bars, street food, traders, fairground rides, children's entertainment and seating areas.

This is a ticketed event. Members are encouraged to check the organiser's website shortly before attending for any programme updates.

<https://www.skiddle.com/whats-on/Nottingham/West-Park-Events-Field/>

Bold as Brass at West Park

Erewash Borough Council's Bold as Brass 2026 programme includes a summer concert at West Park, Long Eaton, on Sunday 9 August, from 2.00 pm until 4.00 pm.

Members planning to attend should check the council's event page shortly before travelling in case weather conditions or other circumstances result in a change.

Men Walking and Talking

The Long Eaton branch of Men Walking and Talking provides a relaxed opportunity for men to walk, talk and support one another.

Walks leave from outside Long Eaton Leisure Centre on Thursdays at 7.00 pm.

There is no booking requirement or attendance fee.

Local Pubs, Clubs and Parish Events

Breaston Summer Band Concert

Breaston Parish Council's annual Summer Band Concert is scheduled for:

Sunday 2 August 2026

Duffield Close, Breaston

The concert is a popular annual community event organised by Breaston Parish Council. Members planning to attend should check the Parish Council website for the confirmed start time, programme and arrangements before travelling.

Harrington Arms Beer Festival

The Harrington Arms in Sawley will hold its 26th annual Beer Festival over the August Bank Holiday weekend:

Friday 28–Monday 31 August 2026

Harrington Arms, Derby Road, Sawley

Visitors can enjoy a wide selection of beers together with live music throughout the Bank Holiday weekend.

Copper Cogs Quiz Night

Why not put your general knowledge to the test at one of Copper Cogs' popular quiz nights?

Thursday 27 August 2026

Copper Cogs

73 Market Place, Long Eaton

Copper Cogs has become one of Long Eaton's popular independent cafés and regularly hosts community events throughout the year.

Gather a team of friends and enjoy an evening of friendly competition. Booking is recommended as quiz nights are often popular.

To reserve a table, select the "Quiz" booking option on the Copper Cogs website.

<https://coppercogs.co.uk/wp2/book-a-table/>

Draycott Scarecrow Festival

The annual Draycott Scarecrow Festival returns over the August Bank Holiday weekend:

Saturday 29–Monday 31 August 2026

10.00 am–4.00 pm each day

Throughout Draycott village

Residents create and display scarecrows around the village, and visitors can purchase a trail map to find the entries. The event is organised by Draycott Village Fund and helps raise money for village projects and floral displays.

August Events at The Bulls Head, Breaston

The Bulls Head in Breaston is advertising several activities during August, including:

- A Pub Life Weekend opening event on Saturday 1 August
- A 1990s Nostalgia Party on Saturday 29 August
- Regular pub entertainment, including quizzes, open-mic sessions and live music

Exact times, admission arrangements and age restrictions should be checked directly with the pub before publication.

Have we missed something?

If your group has an event that may be of interest to our members, please let the Publications & Communications Team know. We'd be pleased to include it for a future edition.

Old Photos of Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire

The Picture the Past website gives access to the historical photograph archives of our 2 counties and may be of interest to members.

<https://picturethepast.org.uk/>

Please send items for the September Newsletter to Andrew Savill by 25th August 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