



Long Eaton and District u3a
in the County of Derbyshire
<https://longeaton.u3asite.uk/>

newsletter 317 of 1st September 2026

A Message from the Vice Chair.

I am writing this as John our Chairman is not feeling too good at present as he is having a few issues with his hip.

I hope you all have had a good August whatever you have been doing be it on holiday or even looking after the Grand Children. They do go back to school soon so it will be time to relax and bring yourselves up to date with our U3a newsletter.

Please read the newsletter as there is bound to be something going on with the various groups in September.

I am looking forward to seeing you all at the general meeting on the 16th where we will have Victoria from Derbyshire Police talking to us about her role with the youth engagement scheme, Staying Safe and scams.

Peter Turner Vice-Chair.

September Monthly Meeting

Wednesday 16 September 2026 2:00pm–3:45pm
Erewash Voluntary Action, Granville Avenue, Long Eaton

Scams and Staying Safe

Our September speaker will be from Derbyshire Police, with a practical and topical talk on scams and how to stay safe. This should be a particularly useful meeting for members and visitors.

September Restart

After the August summer break, the monthly meeting and many activity groups restart in September. If you have been thinking about joining, September is an ideal time to come along, meet members and find out what is on offer.

Try Something New for u3a Week

September is the perfect time to expand your horizons. Why not:

Try a different u3a group

Speak to a group leader about attending a session

Bring a friend along

Visit our website and discover an activity you have not considered before

U3a Facebook

Our Facebook page has been very busy during August, lots of shared news items. Any group leaders who haven't been in touch and would like to share a photo or few lines of information. Please contact us either via our website or Facebook messenger. The cover photo for August was a few of our committee members, which received lots of views and likes during the month.

This cover photo is changed at the beginning of each month, if you would like to enter a photo for this, please get in touch.

Julie and Anna
Facebook Administrators



Jukebox Group

The August meeting of the Jukebox Group happened to coincide with my birthday, so I popped myself down to compose the playlist. I called it 'Tracks of my years', which turned out to be 1956-62!! Basically 2nd to 6th forms at Grammar School.

We began with "Be-bop-a-lula" a 1956 hit for Gene Vincent and ended with "Theme from a Summer Place" a film theme by Percy Faith and his orchestra, and one of my all-time Top 10. This was from 1960, and remained in the UK chart for 31 weeks. I didn't get as far as 1962; bad planning or more discussion than usual? Well, it must have been one of those!

We also had a quiz, presented by Annie Holdsworth and cake; iced vanilla sponge and chocolate cake. Perhaps I'm prejudiced, but I think it was a very enjoyable afternoon, and lots of members seemed to agree.

Peter Holdsworth,
Jukebox Group Leader

History Group

This month we had a look at King Cnut (Canute) and discovered some interesting facts about him apart from his seaside adventure! Next month we will be looking at King Edward the Confessor. We meet on Wednesday 23rd September at 11.00 am at Long Eaton EVA.

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

Art Group

At Wednesday Art group we painted along to a YouTube video by Paul Clark, entitled Manor House and Gardens. The actual name is Penshurst Place in Kent. Everyone said it was hard to complete within the 2 hours, apparently Paul took 4 hours, in between Gin n tonics. We had treats from Julia as it has been her birthday recently. A few completed, a few have homework and a couple unfortunately were filed in the bin !

We do look busy concentrating on this photo. More can be viewed on our u3a Facebook page. Well done everyone, no matter what happened.

Julie and Barbara
Group Leaders



Line Dancing

Our Line Dancing Group performed at The Olympic in Draycott on Saturday night, 15th August. It was great fun and the audience enjoyed having a go at the end under Sue's expert tuition.

A large audience, very popular group.

2 videos can be seen on our u3a Facebook page.

Sherry



Quiz Group

At quiz group in August, subjects included :-

Food Facts

What's in a name

Religion

GK

Dingbats

I've lost the plot !

Plus we sang Happy Birthday to Peter, who had brought treats for coffee break.

A fun morning, the winning team scored 59?

Ann and Hilary

Group Leaders



U3A Photography Group

The hot weather has hindered our group's trips out this month. A small group went to Barnsdale Gardens, which is always an amazing experience (photos courtesy of Jean). On 6th August our visit was to The Children's Country House at Sudbury (photos courtesy of Alan). 8 of us went to Ashby de la Zouch. A very warm day, but a very enjoyable visit. We went to the Castle and then wandered through the town to a delightful cafe for lunch. Afterwards we cooled off in the Church.

Gill Hartley



Drawing and Painting group.

This time at the drawing and painting group we continued with our watercolour workshops the theme being reflections. A large subject covered in different ways. As can be seen from the examples I posted it was another success so well done to everyone. Next session we are tackling reflective surfaces so watch this space.

Steve



Drama Workshop Group



The Drama Workshop Group is looking for new recruits! You may have been to one of our shows in the past and, hopefully, enjoyed it. We're in our ninth year and gearing up to the next revue in March 2027. Now would be an excellent time to join us as we're starting to cast the sketches and comedy routines. We write all the material ourselves but don't let that put you off! You don't need any prior experience, just a desire to muck in and have a laugh. Even if you're not interested in performing, we always need stage crew, front of house, costumes and props people., We meet on the second and fourth Monday of the month at Sawley Community Hall, Draycott Road from 2 till 4 where the emphasis is on having fun. Why not come to one of our Monday sessions to have a chat and see what we do? You will be made very welcome. Find out more about us by clicking this link: [Drama Workshop Group](#)

Helen and Jackie



Current Affairs

Fourth Monday of the month 1:30pm–3:30pm
Lacemaker Court, next to Long Eaton Fire Station

Members discuss topical national and international issues in a friendly and informal environment. At their last meeting, subjects included Meghan and Harry returning to the UK, prisoners being released early, and the increase in drowning accidents. The next meeting is on Monday 28 September.

Italian for Beginners

Thursday afternoons EVA Centre

The group continues developing practical Italian through lessons, conversation and activities. They also arrange occasional social gatherings at a local Italian restaurant.

Other u3a Activities

Our programme includes Art, Ukulele, Belly Dancing, Singing, Line Dancing, Lunch Club, Photography and many more activities.

Group leaders are encouraged to send a short update for inclusion in this section.

For the latest information about all our activities, visit: www.longeaton.u3asite.uk

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.

All the 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

According to u3a UK it was National Allotments Week and this year's theme was 'Learning to Grow'

These great photos are from our u3a members Janet and Pete, who's allotment is at the bottom of their own garden. Lots of produce harvested already.



u3a Week: 19–27 September 2026

The national u3a Week theme is “Expanding Horizons”, with members encouraged to try something new and share what they discover.

This gives us a great opportunity to embrace the spirit of u3a Week here in Long Eaton. Why not try a new Long Eaton & District u3a group in September, bring a friend along to a meeting, or tell us about something new you have tried? We would love to feature a few short “I tried something new” stories in a future newsletter.

National online events during u3a Week

Monday 21 September, 2:00pm – Sleep and Dreams with Dr Bob Pullen

Tuesday 22 September, 2:00pm – Galapagos talk

Thursday 24 September, 2:00pm – Future Lives: Brain Health

Friday 25 September, 10:00am – Vegetarian for Life cookery demonstration

u3a matters magazine

The national u3a matters magazine is published five times a year, including a September issue. It contains member stories, u3a activities, interviews, travel, technology, recipes, competitions and letters.

Latest national stories

The national u3a website is currently highlighting:

u3a book group summer reading recommendations

Member connections at Festival 26

A remembrance note for Mo Brown, former Chair of Northumbria u3a

Community News

Wilne 10K

Sunday 6 September 8:00am–12 noon

The Wilne 10K will result in temporary road closures around the circular route. Affected roads include:

Sawley Road
Lodge Street
South Street
Market Street
Wilne Road
Wilne Lane

Members travelling through Long Eaton, Sawley or Draycott on the morning of the event should allow extra time.

Long Eaton 50+ Forum

Monday 14 September

9:45am–12 noon

Erewash Voluntary Action Volunteer Centre, Granville Avenue, Long Eaton

The Long Eaton 50+ Forum provides an opportunity for older residents to learn about local services, support networks and issues affecting people aged over 50.

New Pop 'n' Rock Lunchtime Choir

Thursday 10 September 12:30pm–2:00pm

Ashbrook Community Centre, Harrington Avenue, Borrowash

A new mixed-voice lunchtime choir begins in September. There are no auditions and members do not need to be able to read music. Refreshments are provided and new members are welcome.

Long Eaton Natural History Society

Wednesday 23 September

United Reformed Church, Midland Street, Long Eaton

Michael Lacey will give a talk entitled "Alien Plants of Derbyshire".

Visitors are usually welcome. Meetings start at 7.00 pm and usually last 2hrs.

Tea and biscuits at half-time. Full disabled access. All welcome.

Cost £2.50 per meeting

Ilkeston Creative Hive Market

Sunday 6 September 1:00pm–4:00pm

Trowell Parish Hall

Free entry. The market is expected to feature nearly 40 stalls, including:

Crafts, Gifts, Local artists, Refreshments.

There is free parking and the venue is disability friendly.

Summer Kidz – Final Session

Thursday 3 September

11:00am–1:00pm

Trinity Church, Cross Street, Long Eaton

The final Summer Kidz/Picnic Packed Lunch session takes place at the beginning of September. Although mainly aimed at families, it may be useful information for members looking after grandchildren or supporting local families.

Rotary Club of Long Eaton Golf Day

Wednesday 30 September

Erewash Valley Golf Club

The Rotary Club of Long Eaton is holding its Golf Day at the end of September. This may be of interest to members who support local fundraising or have links with Rotary.

Pubs, Clubs, Parish Councils and Community Noticeboards

Wilsthorpe Tavern Community Garden Party

Saturday 5 September 1:00pm–6:00pm

Wilsthorpe Tavern, Wilsthorpe Road, Long Eaton

A community garden party bringing together local residents, businesses, charities, community groups, performers and food vendors for a fun-filled afternoon for all ages. The event is open to the general public.

Character Encounter Tour at University Park, Nottingham

Saturday 5 September, 2pm–3.30pm

Join us for a guided heritage tour by members of the Friends Group, around some of University Park's historic houses. Discover more of the rich history of the properties and some of their inhabitants and gain an insight into the prominent and colourful individuals with a strong connection to the Estate. This insight is given in the form of dramatic sketches covering the life of the individual. These are both informative and great fun. The characters you will be meeting this time will be Thomas Adams, William Player and Thomas Shipstone.

Fee £5 per person. Numbers limited to 25 people; advance booking required.

To book, please email: FOUP-Events@nottingham.ac.uk

Car parking charges are payable at all times, please refer to notices displayed at entrances and around the University's Campuses. Visitors are recommended to travel to Campus by using public transport.

Please send items for the October Newsletter to Andrew Savill by 25th September 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.ac.uk