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

newsletter 319 of 1st November 2026

A Message from the Chair.

It's been just over a year since we moved home. Having lived in our previous property for over thirty years the upheaval was huge. Downsizing in any aspect can result in huge decisions. What do we keep? Do we really need this? Is this valuable? Should we keep it? There are differing views on everything but after negotiations we got a skip and filled it. Regrets? Definitely. But if you can't take it, then maybe it's time to move it along. Now, after a year I still haven't opened all the boxes which were so carefully packed! Maybe it's time to say *"Cheerio"* to the clutter.

As Chairman you are required at times to explain decisions that are made by your committee. Occasionally these are easy, sometimes not so simple. The decision for example to hold the price of our Christmas Party at £8 per head. This event is limited to eighty tickets and with entertainment, music and a seasonal quiz we hope that the afternoon of Wednesday, December 16th will be a memorable time for all.

Last month's speaker was our very own Angie Pollard who provided us with great entertainment from her career as a comedienne. This just proves how our u3a members are full of incredible and varied skills. For example, our art group produces wonderful work, month in and month out, giving recognition to people who have undisclosed talent. If you ever wondered if you could do something, then give it a try. My grandfather used to say, *"If you don't give it a go, you'll never know"*. With forty groups maybe now is the time to try something new.

This month we welcome our speaker Phil Drabble, with a talk about his journey on a Triumph Tiger motorcycle through the Western Front, visiting some well-known and some less well-known places.

We hope you are enjoying, living, learning and laughing with your u3a.

All the best.

John Hassall.

November Monthly Meeting 18th November 2026

Travels with a Tiger - Riding the Western Front

Inspired by historian Anthony Seldon's book 'The Path of Peace' in which he recounts his solo walk along the length of the Western Front, Phil Drabble decided to do the same journey on his Triumph Tiger motorbike. Tracing this historic route, he crossed some of Europe's most evocative and beautiful scenery from the Swiss border, riding through Alsace, Lorraine, Champagne, the Somme and Flanders, finishing at the North Sea in Belgium. Phil's personal account is a homage to all of those people, on all sides, who fought and died on the Western Front, focusing in particular on the fate of two men from his native Nottingham.

u3a Facebook

Another increase in followers this month.
Following on from a social media workshop and the group leaders' lunch, you might spot a few improvements to our page.
Please send any photos or information to share, either via our website or Facebook messenger. Our cover photo changes each month and we would love to share a different photo each month from our groups.

Thankyou

Julie and Anna
Facebook Administrators




Long Eaton and District
u3a
Christmas Party
At E.V.A. Long Eaton
On
Wednesday, 16th December 2026
From
1.00pm to 3.00pm
Tickets : £8.00
TICKET
Tickets available from Julie at monthly meetings on:
21st October
18th November
Deadline: End of November
Please note : Ticket numbers are strictly limited to eighty tickets.

A Successful Group Leaders Event

On Tuesday 20 October, the Publicity & Communications Team attended the Group Leaders event, where we received a wonderfully warm welcome. It was a great opportunity to meet group leaders, hear about their activities and discuss how we can help promote their groups.

During our presentation, we shared examples of publicity support including Facebook promotions, posters, newsletters and website content. We also demonstrated how artificial intelligence can help create publicity materials and learning resources.

The response was encouraging, and we've already started following up with several group leaders, preparing promotional posters and discussing possible new activities.

A big thank you to everyone who made us feel so welcome. Our message to group leaders is simple: we're here to help! Whether you need more members, want to promote an event or have a story to share, please get in touch.

Three Groups Looking for New Members

Looking for something different to try? These three groups would love to welcome additional members.

Belly Dancing

A fun and gentle way to keep active, with movements that can be adapted to suit individual needs. No previous experience is needed. Meets on the second and fourth Tuesday each month, 1.30–3pm, at Erewash Voluntary Action (EVA). Sessions cost £4.

Scrabble

Enjoy word games, friendly competition and good company. The group meets on the second and fourth Monday of each month at 2.30pm at The Sportsman pub, Long Eaton. November meetings: Monday 9 and Monday 23 November.

Science in the News

Explore and discuss scientific discoveries and developments in the headlines. No scientific background is needed, just curiosity. Meets on the first Thursday each month, 10am–12 noon.

For group information and leader contact details, visit https://longeaton.u3asite.uk.

Good Food, Great Company and New Friendships — Our u3a Lunch Club

One of the real pleasures of being part of Long Eaton & District u3a is the opportunity to meet new people, catch up with old friends and enjoy some good company.

I've been fortunate enough to attend the last two Lunch Club gatherings, first at The Cornmill and more recently at The Victoria Hotel in Beeston.

Both occasions were thoroughly enjoyable, with excellent food, plenty of conversation and a lovely, relaxed atmosphere.

What I particularly enjoyed was the chance to meet members I hadn't spoken to before, while also catching up with familiar faces. It's amazing how quickly the conversation flows when everyone is gathered around a table enjoying a good meal!

For me, the Lunch Club is a wonderful example of what u3a is all about — bringing people together, building friendships and sharing enjoyable experiences.

A special thank you to Val and Joyce, who organise these lovely gatherings and help make them such enjoyable occasions. Their efforts are very much appreciated.

If you haven't tried the Lunch Club yet, I'd certainly recommend it!

You can find details of forthcoming lunches on the Lunch Club page of our website:

https://longeaton.u3asite.uk/u3a_groups/lunch-club/

Andy Thorpe

Introducing Our New Welfare Officer

We are pleased to announce that Christina Hogg will take on the role of Welfare Officer from January 2027. The role will help ensure our u3a remains welcoming, supportive and inclusive.

Christina will help promote members' wellbeing, support accessibility and inclusion, and offer members a point of contact for guidance or support. We wish her every success in her new role. Further details about how to contact Christina will follow.



Helping Our Groups Shine

We're continuing to showcase interest groups on Facebook and help more people discover what our u3a offers. We're also exploring new ways to reach the local community.

If your group has an interesting story, an upcoming event or places for new members, we would love to hear from you.

Keep in Touch with the Publicity & Communications Team

Email: publicitycomms.ledu3a@gmail.com

Website: https://longeaton.u3asite.uk

Facebook: Find and follow Long Eaton & District u3a for news, group photographs, events and announcements. Please like, comment and share our posts!

I.T. MATTERS

- To all members -

Have you changed your address, email or phone number recently? Let our Membership Secretary know so that we can keep in touch with you.

Use the email message form on our website - click Contact Us then MemSec. Please include your Membership Number, full name and phone number.

I.T. Team

u3a Group News

Jukebox Group

At our October meeting held on 6th October I presented a brilliant playlist compiled by Margaret Wood. It was very varied including tracks by Buddy Holly, 60's icons The Everly Brothers and Simon & Garfunkel, not to mention the evergreen Rolling Stones. There were also instrumentals from Fleetwood Mac plus Canadian groups from Margaret's time over the water.

All in all it was very entertaining and well received.

At our November meeting John Cookson will be presenting his latest playlist, whilst in December my daughter Laura is promising us some 'entertainment', not currently specified.

Peter Holdsworth, Group Leader.

History Group

This month we had a look at King Edward III with a presentation by Stephen. It was an interesting and informative talk.

We next meet on Wednesday 26th November at 11.00 am at Long Eaton EVA where we will look at Good King Wenceslas – Fact and Fiction. Appropriate Christmas nibbles will be on offer too!

Contact the group leader via the website for more information.

Andrew Savill

Gardening Group

At our October meeting Geoff Banks gave us an illustrated and informative talk on clematis and other climbers. Although many of us have at least one climbing plant in our gardens, some of us are unsure how and when to prune. Geoff allayed our fears by explaining the different methods and times. There are climbers for all seasons and with about 10,000 different clematis alone, there are plenty to choose from.

The next meeting will be on 12th November at EVA, Granville Avenue, 10am when we will have a quiz and a talk from Julia Powell

Janice Jowett

u3a Croquet Group

Our end of season croquet meal at Eaton Farm. We play on a Thursday afternoon in summer months. New members always welcome.
Sally

https://longeaton.u3asite.uk/u3a_groups/croquet/



Creative Craft Group

The Creative Craft Group were pleased to help with an appeal for knitted poppies for a Remembrance display. We devoted a meeting to knitting them from the same pattern. Our poppies are now a small part of a display at St Mary's Church, Weston on Trent from 8 November.

Dorothy





Art Group

One of the subjects covered last month at Art Group was inspired by our Andy Warhol exhibition visit from earlier in the year. We also enjoyed cup a soups and Bovril on the day. A few painted their own subject.

Well done to all. All paintings can be seen on our u3a Facebook page.

Julie and Barbara
Group Leaders

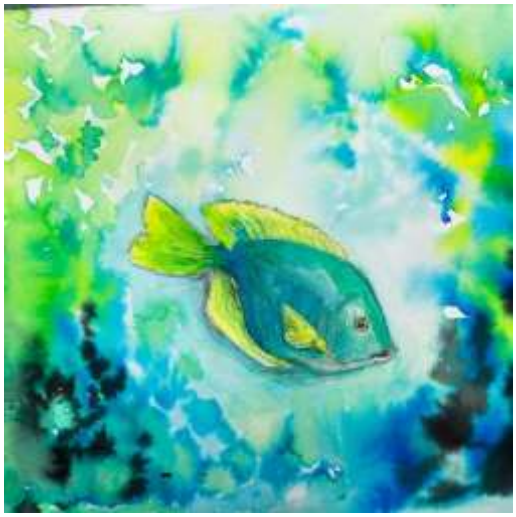




Drawing and Painting group.

At the drawing and painting group this month we did something completely different. Using coloured inks we attempted some underwater scenes. Some artists didn't' get on with this new medium but some did as you can see in the pictures.
Well done everyone for trying something new. Brilliant pictures.

Steve (group leader)








Chris Platkiw Art

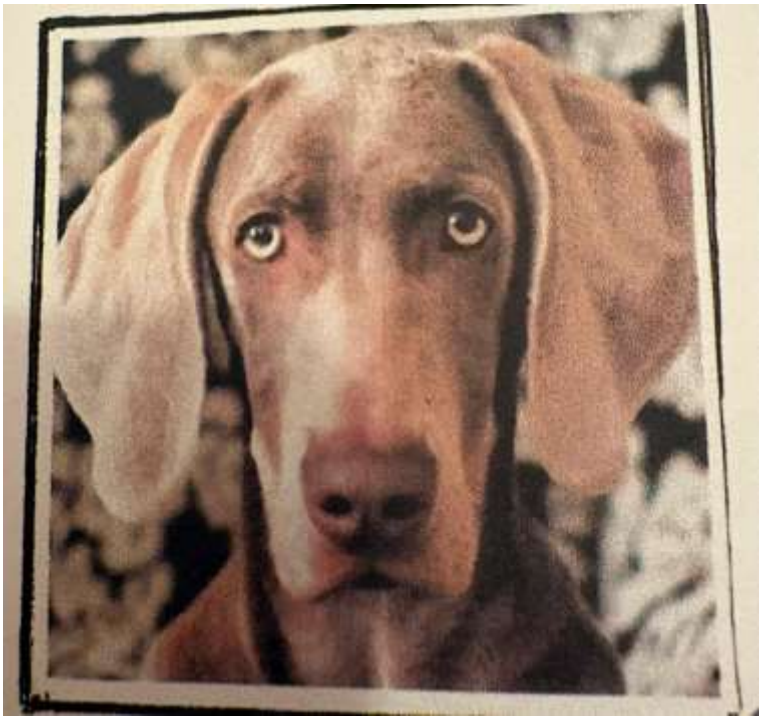
Quiz Group

The monthly Long Eaton U3A quiz had some interesting topics included seabird anagrams, historical questions (one for each of the last ten centuries), gemstones, famous quotations, “seconds”, fairy tales and identifying dog breeds.

Most scored over 50 out of the 80 questions which was very impressive.

A baptism of fire for new member Peter!

Here’s one breed of dog which caused a bit of discussion.







Photography Group

Each week we have a photo challenge on our Photography Group's Facebook page. We started doing this during lockdown and we chose to continue with it. We have had a wide variety of topics – recent ones being feathers, autumn, and chimneys. I thought that I would share some of these photographs this month. Thank you to the contributors.











Gill Hartley

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Other u3a 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.

u3a members can access a wide range of free online talks, workshops and courses through their membership. Most sessions are led by fellow members, sharing their expertise, with additional talks from notable speakers and organisations.

All events are bookable via Eventbrite. Please ensure you can attend when booking and cancel if you're unable to make it so others can participate. Events are exclusively for u3a members. Sign up to our events mailing to get our monthly online events straight to your inbox.

If you are considering offering a talk or workshop, please get in touch at events@u3a.org.uk - we'd love to hear from you.

All the courses are free and on Zoom. For more information on these events and others, please go to: u3a - Online Learning Events.

Community News

Christmas Tree Festivals — Supporting Our Local Community

St Chad's Christmas Tree Festival — 21 and 22 November
Long Eaton & District u3a will exhibit a decorated Christmas tree at St Chad's Church, Draycott, on Saturday 21 and Sunday 22 November, 10.30am–3.30pm each day. We hope members will visit and look out for our tree alongside other local displays.

St Laurence's Christmas Tree Festival — 26 to 28 November

St Laurence's Church, Long Eaton, is bringing back its Christmas Tree Festival after a two-year break. Our u3a has been invited to exhibit again. The festival runs from Thursday 26 to Saturday 28 November, opening to visitors on Thursday evening. It's another lovely local event to support; we'll share confirmation of our participation when available.

What's On in and Around Long Eaton — November 2026

Remembrance Sunday — We Will Remember Them
On Sunday 8 November, communities across the country will remember those who gave their lives in service. Long Eaton traditionally holds a parade and wreath-laying at the War Memorial in Market Place, near St Laurence's Church. Sawley also has a tradition of an Act of Remembrance at its village War Memorial. Please check the latest local arrangements, as exact 2026 times have not yet been confirmed.

On Wednesday 11 November, Armistice Day, the nation will observe a two-minute silence at 11am. We will remember them.

West Park Bonfire & Fireworks — Thursday 5 November
Erewash Borough Council's annual display takes place at West Park, Long Eaton. Gates open at 5pm, bonfire at 6.30pm and fireworks at 7.30pm, with fairground rides. Advance tickets: £8 adults, £5 for over-60s and under-17s; on-the-day prices are higher. Details: www.erewash.gov.uk.

Blood Brothers at the Duchess Theatre — 4 to 7 November
A local production of the well-known play at the Duchess Theatre, Long Eaton. Check the theatre's programme for performance times and tickets.

Meet the Mayor — Saturday 7 November
An opportunity to meet Erewash Mayor Councillor Greg Maskalick at York Chambers, Long Eaton, from 2pm to 4pm.

Erewash CAMRA Long Eaton and Sawley Social — Saturday 7 November
A social visit to pubs in Long Eaton and Sawley, starting at 1pm at The Sportsman, Long Eaton. Check the Erewash CAMRA website for further details.

Long Eaton Art Room Festive Craft Fair — 14 and 15 November
Open studios and a festive craft fair at 29–31 Lime Grove, Long Eaton, from 10am to 4pm on both days. Around 30 exhibitors will offer art, handmade gifts and crafts. Free admission.

Free Digital Skills Workshop — Tuesday 17 November
Direct Help & Advice is advertising a free two-hour digital skills workshop. Please check eligibility, venue, times and booking arrangements with the organiser before attending.

Free Introduction to Photography — Sunday 29 November
Long Eaton Art Room is offering a free beginners' photography workshop from 10am to 1pm. A smartphone is sufficient; booking is required.

Chestnut Fair Update
Erewash Borough Council has confirmed that the Long Eaton Chestnut Fair will not take place in 2026 because of ongoing town-centre regeneration works. Organisers expect it to return in 2027.

Please send items for the November Newsletter to Andy Thorpe by 25th November at the very latest.

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

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The email address is publicitycomms.ledu3a@gmail.com