



Long Eaton and District u3a
in the County of Derbyshire
<https://u3asites.org.uk/long-eaton>

newsletter 287 of 1st March 2024

A Message from the Chair

Hello all

It's March already and Easter will soon be upon us as it's an early one this year.

It was very good to see well over 70 members at our February meeting and I know you all enjoyed hearing the speaker tell us about Hans Christian Andersen. Next month we have our speaker telling us about Captain James Cook, his life and his voyages around the world. It should be very interesting.

Thank you to all who have renewed your next year's membership already; it makes it easier for the Membership Secretary and Treasurer if we can have a steady flow of renewals.

We heard at the February meeting from David Pinney about how important the newsletter is in terms of communication. Thank you for continuing to read it and please can you pass on the word to any fellow members who don't currently read about our news and events. We don't want anyone to miss out.

It might seem early but our AGM is due in June. Please do think about how you could help our u3a continue to thrive and grow by joining our committee. It's not onerous and it can be fun too. We are all members just like you, not superhumans, and we would welcome new people to come and join us. Please do think about it and if you have any questions, please ask me or any other committee member. As I have said in the past, when paraphrasing President JFK, 'Do not ask what your u3a can do for you, ask what you can do for your u3a'.

Thank you.

Andrew Savill

Chairman

March Monthly Meeting

The next Monthly Meeting takes place on **Wednesday 20th March** at EVA, Granville Avenue. Phil Philo will talk about **the life and voyages of Captain James Cook** (1728–1779). Captain Cook was born the son of a farm hand in Middlesbrough and went on to lead three epic voyages in the Pacific Ocean. This talk will consider his achievements and legacy and conclude with some surprising links with land-locked Derbyshire. Phil Philo was Senior Curator of the Captain Cook Birthplace Museum, Marton, Middlesbrough. He has experienced sailing as a crew member of the replica Endeavour and is a member of the international Captain Cook Society.

Doors open at 1.45pm and refreshments are available until 2.20pm when the talk begins. Please ensure you get your hot drink in good time!

Membership Renewals

We will be taking renewal payments for 2024–25 from 1st February. The **membership fee this year will be £20** for the period April 2024 to end of March 2025. Online payments are still preferable. (Please remember to put your name and membership number as the Reference).

If you bank online you can renew by bank transfer. Payment details are the same as last year.

Our bank details are given in your Renewal e-mail or letter.

Please remember to put your initial and surname and membership number as the Reference.

It will also be possible to pay by Debit card at monthly meetings. However, payments can still be made by cash or cheque.

You can renew by **sending the renewal letter with a cheque** to: Long Eaton & District u3a Membership, 41 Springfield Avenue, Sandiacre, Nottingham, NG10 5NA. **Please write your name and Membership number on the back of the cheque.**

Membership cards

This year we have decided to save unnecessary expenditure on printing and postage so you will no longer receive a membership card. When you make your renewal payment you will be sent an email confirming receipt of your payment.

Long Eaton and District u3a Facebook Page



A couple more followers again this month for our Facebook page.

The most popular video shared is our Singing for fun group.

The most popular photo is a demonstration by Gail to our Art group.

Please keep sending your group stories, photos or any item to share on the platform.

Thank you for your likes too.

Julie

u3a Group News

Long Eaton Elevenses had its first outing on Thursday Feb 22nd at Copper Cogs. Good fun was had by all as we sat and chatted and drank tea or coffee. The next meet up will be at Costa Coffee on Wednesday March 13th at 11am.

Craft in a Bag holds its first meeting at Cleavers Coffee shop on Thursday March 7th at 10.30 . Come prepared to craft, chat and buy a drink.

Discover Africa is up and running and providing great interest. There is room for one more person in this group.

Potential New Groups still being developed are:

Armchair Yoga

Barn Dancing

Intermediate French.

'Singing for Fun' has lost its Musical Director and desperately needs someone who can lead them in the future. The ability to play the piano would be an advantage.

For information on any of the above, please contact your Group Coordinators.

To contact any of the group leaders to discuss group activities, please go to the Groups Page on our website by clicking this link: <https://u3asites.org.uk/long-eaton/groups>. Select the group in which you are interested and then click the bird link to send a message. Alternatively, you can speak to the Group Coordinators at the Monthly Meeting.

Garden Group

The Garden Group held the February meeting on a snowy morning. Considering the weather we had a good attendance. Everyone appeared to enjoy the social occasion and the lovely selection of cakes was appreciated – with thanks to those who provided them.

We meet again on Thursday 14th March at Ereshash Voluntary Action in Granville Avenue, Long Eaton 10.00–11.30am, when we will be entertained by The Potty Potters, two enthusiastic ladies who enjoy working on their allotments and give advice on all manner of things. Do come and join us and possibly learn a lot! The Garden Group Committee

Broomfield Open Gardens 10am – 4pm Sunday 3rd March

Refreshments are available. The gardens are well worth seeing. They are looked after by volunteers. Address: Broomfield Hall Plant Centre, Morley DE7 6DN



Photos of crocuses by David Pinney

Art Group

We recently had a demonstration from Gail of a Regatta watercolour painting. As well as watercolours, a little salt, gouache, toothbrush flicking and ink were used for the effects. Well done to all. Sail away, sail away, sail away



Julie Gilson

Photography Group

Six of the group visited **Sherwood Forest** on 25th January. After coffee we followed the green route. The trees were fascinating; lots were dead and fallen. The Major Oak is always a photographic opportunity. There weren't many visitors so it was very quiet. After lunch we wandered down to the look at the main street in Edwinstowe which included the statue of Robin and Marian.

Next venue was **Ashbourne** on 1st February. Walking through the old railway tunnel to town was quite an experience. David, one of our group, had grown up around Ashbourne so he was able to be our guide. We visited the town hall and, even though it was closed for refurbishment, David managed to obtain permission for us to have a look around. A large collection of the 'Shrove Tuesday' balls is there, well worth a look. We then walked to St Oswald's Parish Church, passing various Alms houses. Plenty more places we didn't see so well worth a repeat visit.

The next planned venue was **Stowe Gardens** but the awful weather put a stop to that.

Bolsover was the next venue (22nd Feb), a National Heritage site. Six of us managed to brave the pouring rain and the weather was good enough to enable a good visit. This included a talk on Colonel Blood who attempted to steal the Crown Jewels.

Lynda Broughton



Quiz Group

The Long Eaton & District U3A Quiz Group continues to be an enjoyable monthly event, with members entertaining and sometimes challenging us with many and varied types of questions!

We meet on the first Tuesday of every month at 10:30 am at the EVA on Granville Avenue if anyone would like to join us.

Anne Shipley Misshipley@hotmail.co.uk

Singing for Fun

The 'Singing for Fun' group gets together on the 1st and 3rd Fridays of each month at the Sawley Memorial Hall. We sing a variety of popular songs, such as – 'On Top of the World' and 'Nellie the Elephant'. Whilst the emphasis is on having a fun time enjoying singing, we also have a refreshment break, so we get time to have a chat and catch up with each other, which is very important. During the year we have several 'Sing Outs' and visit Residential Homes and other groups, to sing a collection of our favourite songs, always finishing with 'Everybody's Blowing Bubbles.' So, if you enjoy singing and meeting people, why not join our fun group. For more information visit the Long Eaton and District u3a website.

We are currently looking to acquire a new singing leader, as we recently lost our lovely singing leader Joan. At the moment, Jean is doing an amazing job leading our group but, if anyone is interested in taking on the role of singing leader, please get in touch by clicking on the Birdlink on the u3a Singing for Fun web page.

A recent practice session. Gill Hartley



New Interest Group – Discover Africa



This new group started on 16th February.

The aim of the group is to learn about the African Continent by asking questions then to try to research the answers.

Everyone came along with their own questions, memories and information.

A very interesting morning, which flew by.

The group is nearly full. If you are interested in joining this group, please contact David Pinney via the u3a website.

Next meeting will be Friday 15th March 10am – 12 noon

Julie

Derbyshire u3a Network

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

<https://u3asites.org.uk/derbyshirenetwork/welcome>

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 March, events include: Artificial Intelligence News – Thursday, March 7 at 3.30pm.

Are you interested in learning about AI? Join other like-minded members discovering the world of AI. We will be reviewing recent news headlines about AI. A presentation or a guest panel will discuss a topic. There will be opportunity for members to 'show and tell' what they have been doing with AI, if they would like.

Members are invited to visit the [AI for everyone](#) online library of AI articles written by u3a members. About the Speaker: Barry Claydon is the u3a Subject Adviser for AI.

Read his [AI Subject Adviser page](#) .

Exploring World Faiths: Women in Faith – Monday, 11 March at 10am

International Women's Day occurs on March 8th. We will explore the roles of women in different faiths. The spiritual leaders in many faiths are male, but that maybe undervaluing the role of women. Lesa Cope, President of the Stake Relief Society, will talk about women in the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints (Mormons); Kam Kaur, Senior Social Worker, will talk about Women in the Sikh faith and Salma Hamid, Chair of the Birmingham More in Common group will talk about women in Islam. To contact our host, Exploring World Faiths subject adviser Dr Peter Rookes, please visit his [Subject Adviser webpage](#).

Introduction to Cryptic Crosswords – Thursday, March 28 at 10am.

Find out how cryptic clues work and try your hand at solving on this two-hour Zoom taster session for beginners. You will learn about two of the simplest and most common types of clues, be shown the basics of clue construction and be introduced to the variety of cryptic clues. At the end of the session, you will know if learning how to solve cryptic puzzles is something you would like to take further and how to go about this. **What you will need:** A laptop, iPad, desktop or tablet computer and a broadband connection. You will be emailed the Zoom login details and further information for the session after you have registered.

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

Public events at University Park, Nottingham

Each year, the Friends Group at University Park in Nottingham organises events to welcome members of the public on to the campus. Most events need to be booked; please mention our u3a when you make a booking.

Here is the link to the relevant part of the University of Nottingham website.

[Friends of University Park - The University of Nottingham](#)

then go to the bottom right hand corner for the programme.

Any problems about this, please contact David Pinney.

There are eight public events in 2024. Most are on Saturdays. The short walks are about geology, trees, historical houses, gardens, bats and fungi. The last event is about planning a flower bed or area in your garden.

Blue Skies The Limit – Garden Tour Coach Trips

Adventure with us and explore gardens of interest on one of our Day Trips! Come and join us! Michelle and Gardener Steve not only work together in business but are also together in life. We have delivered 41 Garden Day Trips since 2017. Our trips start from £45pp, this includes a breakfast cob from The Plough Inn, Sandiacre. Either meet us at the Plough or earlier at the additional 'Pick-Up' point at Long Eaton ASDA Trent Street bus bay; please state pick up location at time of booking. We offer these trips to support those who enjoy adventure and capturing Nature's Beauties. For more information go to <https://blueskiesthelimit.square.site> or to book your place, call Michelle on 07413 408 751.

Available Trips

A. MARCH 16th – Ayscoughfee Hall Museum & Gardens and Springfields Outlet

B. APRIL 20th – Charlecote Park National Trust and Charlecote Garden Centre

C. MAY 18th – Biddulph Grange Gardens and Buxton Pavilion Gardens

Advance Notice! We need your photos for Connecting Erewash Week – 22nd–28th April

Erewash Voluntary Action will host a Community Information Day at Granville Avenue on Thursday 25th April from 10.30am – 2.30pm. A range of Erewash groups and organisations will have information stands and this will be a good opportunity to discover what's on offer in Erewash. More details about the event in our April Newsletter.

One of those stands will be Long Eaton & District u3a. The event offers us a wonderful way to promote our u3a and hopefully encourage new members. We'll be giving out information about our activities and we would like photos from our groups to display on our boards. We already have the photos published in the Newsletter or posted on Facebook but there may be others which haven't been used yet. If you are a group leader or a group member with suitable photos, it would be great if you could send me these. Just the name of the group will be displayed and not members' names. I look forward to receiving your photos and please don't hesitate to contact me for more details at publicity.ledu3a@gmail.com. Many thanks for your help. Helen

Treetops Hospice

Treetops Hospice are inviting bereaved people to a special event to remember loved ones. 'Time to Remember' will take place on Thursday 7th March at 6.30pm via Zoom for around 15 minutes and will be an opportunity to come together online. As part of the event there will be a slide show with the names of loved ones appearing alongside music. If you would like to have the name of someone special included, please email their first and last name(s) to cc@treetopshospice.org.uk by Monday 4 March. You can join the event using the Zoom link or meeting ID and Passcode:

<https://treetopshospice-org-uk.zoom.us/j/86469466519?pwd=XmTCBdvlkgoTei7UC4RsPZCrOCsbaL1>

Meeting ID: 8646946 6519

Passcode:382167

Erewash Borough Council Garden Waste Collection Fees 2024

How much will the garden waste service cost from April 2024 to March 2025?

The annual charge depends on when and how you sign up. Here are the charges:

Early Bird Online – sign up online between 29 January to 31 March 2024 – £20 first bin, additional bins £10 per bin.

By Telephone – £32 first bin, additional bins £16 per bin.

Online – sign up online after 31 March 2024 – £32 first bin, additional bins £16 per bin.

In Person – £37 first bin, additional bins £18.50 per bin.


When and how can I sign up?

You can sign up from Monday 29 January, using the following ways:

Online through My Erewash, find out how to set up an account.

Calling our Customer Services Team on 0115 9072244

Visiting Ilkeston or Long Eaton Town Halls (please check opening times before travel).


Are you 50 Plus?  Derbyshire's 50+ Forum Network


Come along and join us!

Long Eaton & District 50+ Forum
Monday 18th March 2024 @10.15am
Erewash Voluntary Action – Volunteer Centre,
Granville Avenue, Long Eaton NG10 4HD
Light Refreshments will be served from 9:45 am

Speakers:

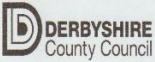
Clare Wilkins
Secretary of
East Midlands
National Pensioners
Convention

 NPC
NATIONAL PENSIONERS CONVENTION

 Derbyshire
Victim Services

DARYL FORAN
Adult Caseworker &
Hate Crime Lead
Derbyshire Victim Services,
Remedi

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:
 DERBYSHIRE
County Council

If you have already renewed your membership, thank you!
Membership renewal is due please by the end of March.

Please send items for the March Newsletter to David Pinney by 25th March 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 lead.u3a@live.co.uk