

**U3a talk 2 April 2026**  
**Sharing and Repairing**  
**Lorna Montgomery, founder of Share and Repair**

The talk will address how repairing broken items had been part of a make and mend culture but these habits were replaced by a culture of cheap unrepairable goods that would be bought and then thrown away. This built in obsolescence resulted in the UK being second only to Norway in the amount of electrical waste that had to be disposed of annually. A spiralling climate emergency and the growing emphasis on sustainability have inspired projects using and sharing existing skills aimed at reducing carbon emissions, and at the same time developing an amazing cohesive community of people who want to make a difference. The speaker will talk about how the Share and Repair project developed, what it has achieved and its future prospects.

The speaker grew up in Scotland, studied at Durham University and had a short-lived teaching career at Writhlington school teaching maths and PE. After extensive travels observing local, national and international charities, she started a fundraising career with Save the Children in 1985 and launched the Charity Share and Repair in 2017.