

CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

Well, it looks as though we are beginning another silly season, sorry, I mean election run-up!

First the local elections in May – leaflets through the letter-box telling us about the magnificent improvements that have been achieved, and promises of better things to come. Then another General Election in June! As one woman on the BBC News said: 'You are joking. What, another one? I can't stand it!'

Now, I have no problem with elections, or any other democratic process for that matter. What I find tedious is being bombarded with all that goes with them, particularly the 24 hour-a-day coverage of childish squabbling, backstabbing and points scoring that politicians seem to indulge in, and reporters relish, at times like this.

At least we can look forward to it all being over and decided in six weeks or so, unlike the US Presidential elections that last for two years or more ... but that is another story. I am thankful I live in the UK.



Micro Brewery Pub Pals

were out in force in Eastwood at the Dog and Parrot, Thursday, April 13th. Joining us that night were several real-life parrots and dogs – we kid you not!

Check out the photo – who's a pretty boy then? The puns flowed thick and fast, as did the beer, one punter drank so much beer he was parrot-lytic; another was so incensed by being bitten by a parakeet he was spitting feathers; and, with beer like this, no wonder Long John Silver was one-legged! Next Micro Brewery Pub Pals will be at the Miners' Return, Kimberley, Thursday May 11th, from 7.0 pm – knee pads optional. *Geoff Gratton*



Nottingham Hidden Gems The first walk for this new group started in the Arboretum, looking at a number of places of interest. They then went on to look at the fine stone carvings, "hidden gems" on the Terrace Royal. On the way to Canning Circus they went through the General Cemetery. The walk ended at a "gem" many had not seen, the Park Tunnel. *B. Wigley*

The National Trust Group spent a wonderful day at Hanbury Hall in warm and sunny weather! The house was cosy and interesting to browse. Also there was plenty of time to explore and enjoy the magnificent gardens and parkland.

The formal garden had small box hedges, trimmed to perfection, and was bordered by masses of hyacinths interspersed with tulips. It was breathtaking, as was the scent! We walked through the lush meadows, full of sheep with new lambs, and up a steep hill to the estate church. There were bluebells and primroses everywhere and a panoramic view as far as the Malvern Hills! Everyone enjoyed the trip! *Claire Booth*

May Monthly meeting: Refreshments Rota: - Marion Chambers, Pauline Dawes, Carole Atkinson, Diane Goold.

Meet & Greeters Rota: - Claire Booth, Christine Smith, Barbara Gani

Set up/Clear away Rota: - Robert Leam, Geoff Gratton, Peter Hayden, Barry Day.

Signing in:- Maureen Hayden, Margaret Hill, Frieda Gill

Eastwood & District U3A – Notification is given of the 3rd AGM of the Eastwood & District U3A. It will be held at 10 am on 7th June at St Mary's Church, Church Street, Eastwood. The nomination form for all committee members will be on the notice board at the next monthly meeting. If you are acting as a proposer/seconded please ensure that the individual is willing to stand in that role. All nominations must be received before 12 noon on the 3rd May 2017.

Dates for the Diary: Meetings are held on the first Wednesday of the Month at St. Mary's Church, Church Street, Eastwood.

Wed May 3rd at 10 am -

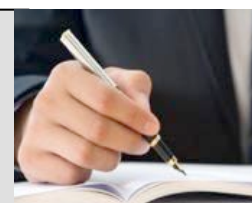
Philip Francomb – ex-patriot from Madeira

Wed June 7th at 10 am -

A. G. M. and entertainment.

Wed July 5th at 10 am

Pentrich revolution anniversary.



Featured New Interest Groups

Now that the directory has been published the newsletter will only feature details of new groups and items of news about activities.

Latest up-to-date information at:

www.eastwoodu3a.org

New Groups for 2017:

French Conversation: meet 2nd and 4th Tuesday of each month in the Conference Room at the Sun Inn, Eastwood at 10.00 to 11.30 am. Contact Peter Hayden 0115 9384033.

Coffee Mates 2: list for names. Contact will be Barbara Gani.

Nottingham Hidden Gems: Group contact Bob Ford 07812455380.

If you have ideas for other groups or need further info contact Lorna or Jim Stirland tel. 07977 415 072.

Group News:

5 mile Walkers: next walk meet on Tues 2nd May 10.00am at the top right-hand corner Morrisons Car Park then on to Layby at Greasley Church. Contact Roger Reynolds.

National Trust : meet Mon 8th May at 10.30 Dunnlite. Contact Yvonne Carey on 01773 712530. Tues May 16th a visit to Charlecote Park is planned, some seats available. August 9th visit to Waddenson Manor. September 8th to Lyme Park.

Micro Brewery Pub Pals: Next meet 11th May at the Miners Return, Kimberley. Contact Yvonne Carey.

Bowls: will meet on the 12th May at Brinsley bowling green.

Pub Pals: Next meet 15th May at the Nelson and Railway, Kimberley. Contact Yvonne Carey.

Coffee Mates: is now full: next meet 17th May at the Sun Inn, Eastwood. Contact Andrea Sadler.

General Gardening: Thurs 18th May visit to NGS garden, 334 Belper Rd Stanley Common. Admission £6 inc tea/coffee and cake. Meet at The Working Men's Club Car Park Stanley Common at 14:00 Contact Hazel Eyre on 01773 715 956.

Bird Watching: Next meet 18th May at Carsington Reservoir. Contacts Chris & Paul Millington on 01773 764 943 or 07977 436 471.

Vegetable Gardening: next meeting will be 5th May at 62 Lower Beauvale. Contact Barbara Moore.

Social Outings.

- **May 19th (Friday)** –visit to Whitby, £15 per head. Leave Morrisons' bus stop at 9.00 am.
- **June 19th (Monday)** - visit to Stamford and Burley House approx. £22 per head includes admission. Leave Morrisons' bus stop at 9.30 am.

More info at Main Meeting or from Joan Morley on 0115 938 3042 or Jill Parnaby on 01773 765 735

Strollers: next walk will be Wed May 31st at Shipley Park. Meet in the bottom car park at 10.15. Any queries contact Val Kennerell on 01773 712269.

Discovering Nottingham: May – Old Market Square & streets around the Council House – Thur 11th & Wed 24th – meet at Phoenix Park Tram Stop at 10.30 am or 11.00 am by the left hand Lion at the Council House.

Discovering Nottingham 2: May 10th 2017. St Mary's Church and Lace Market. Meet 11.00 am Council House Arcade.

Nottingham's Hidden Gems: meet on Tues May 23rd at 11.00 am at the General Hospital on the Ropewalk. Walk 5. The General Hospital to Brewhouse Yard.

The Social Group enjoyed a fabulous weekend in London. They went to see the show *Wicked* that was described as great, stage effects and costumes always seem better in London.

Sunday morning was spent in Covent Garden where there is always plenty to see and listen to. Some of the group had the opportunity to talk with and have photographs taken with some of the Pearly Kings and Queens. They are a charity group founded by Henry Croft back in 1875 and they still keep the tradition going strong today. Henry spent his early life in an orphanage and went to work in the local markets where he got to know the Costermongers. This led to him starting to raise funds for charity with their help. *Joan Morley*

Theatre group: Cancelled Show. Our visit, on 5th May, to 'Blithe Spirit', which the Greasley Players were putting on, has been cancelled. One of the cast is ill. They are hoping to put it on in November. Refunds will be available at our meeting. *Val Simons*



Eastwood U3A had a stall on the 28th March displaying our activities at an event organised by Age UK. This was at Eastwood Baptist Church to promote local organisations, activities and groups for people aged 55 plus. The photo shows the U3A Banner and Interest Group Bunting made by the Craft Interest Group.

Items or suggestions for the newsletter? Deadline: Mon 15th May, 2017.
Contact Caroline Winfield: newsletter@eastwoodu3a.org

Contact Janet O'Neill, Membership Secretary, 07961 832 864, email membership@eastwoodu3a.org
Executive Committee members: EastwoodU3A@gmail.com; Website: www.EastwoodU3A.org