



**The How do they do it** group visited Broomfield college garden. The Head Gardener gave a very detailed and interesting guided tour. There is an extensive area of established trees, some from the 19-century, and also the garden areas where students can practise their planting design ideas. The college also has an extensive plant sales area where you can purchase a large variety of plants.

**The Geology group** has a very full program. They have been doing Rock Identification and also looked at the evolution of minerals, from atoms to rocks. Visits to Nottingham University Geology dept, Creswell Crags, Kimberley Cuttings, Dowlow Quarry in the Peak District and Hope Cement works are planned which will link to the topics they have been studying.

### Message from the Chairman

I've been thinking a lot about 'Space' this month – in all its connotations. I asked you last month to 'Watch this space' for an update on your Executive Committee's search for new premises, due to our current lack of space at the monthly meetings in Plumptre Hall. I am very pleased to tell you that we have come to an agreement with St Mary's Church to hire the church and parish room for our meetings on the first Wednesday of the month for the remainder of 2016, commencing Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> May. This will give us far more seating space, as well as a separate room for refreshments, social committee information, membership matters, merchandise and books.

Have you been following Britain's very own astronaut Tim Peake during his six-month mission to the International Space Station? He has made a magnificent contribution to space knowledge for everyone, using space-age technology. He answered questions from school children via a live Web-link, and has been sending breathtaking photos back to earth via Facebook. I have no wish to be on the first – or any other – commercial space flight, but have been fascinated by Tim's posts. He has made Space accessible to us all.

And now, having filled my allocated space, I will leave you to enjoy the rest of this month's newsletter.

**Craft/Textiles group** have worked with Knit Aid to make hedgehogs for the Nature Conservation group, cards using quilling & embroidery, and "twiddle muffs" for Derby Royal Hospital for Alzheimer's patients. Cards on sale at the monthly meeting have raised money to cover the postage of items sent to Knit for Peace who distribute them worldwide.



**Wine Group:** A very unusual grape, Alicante bouschet, has made an excellent wine, Aluado, from Portugal. It has intense flavours of dark berries, full-bodied and long lasting on the taste. Super value at £7.99 from Sunday Times.

**May Monthly meeting: Refreshments Rota:** Marie King, Irene Schofield, Janet Taylor.

**Meet & Greeters Rota:** John Beech, Pauline Beech, Chris Carey  
If you are unable to attend ring Barbara Wigley on 01773 762383

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

Wed May 4<sup>th</sup> at 10 a.m

Stephen Flinders "Oud Ilson" Part 2.

Wed June 1<sup>st</sup> at 10 a.m

Annual General Meeting and surprise guest.

Wed July 6<sup>th</sup> at 10 a.m.

Simon Brown Artefacts officer.



## Featured New Interest Groups

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

Latest up-to-date information at:

[www.eastwoodu3a.org](http://www.eastwoodu3a.org)

### New Groups proposed for 2016

Radio Waves- Ray Dring, Discovering Nottingham- B Wigley 01773 762383.

Theatre group -Val Simons 01773 710518. Creative writing- Chris Niven 07891032300. Pub quiz teams -Val Kidd 01773 761501

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

### Group News:

**5 mile Walkers:** next walk Tues 3rd May walk starts 10.15 am Greasley Sports & Community Centre. Contact Roger Reynolds on 01773 788169.

**Nature Conservation:** next meet Tues 10<sup>th</sup> May meet 10 am at 65 Raglan St. for car sharing to Shipley Park.

**Past & Present:** next visit June 7<sup>th</sup> a guided tour of Historic Belper.

**Contact David & Joanna to book a place on 01773 570346 or email [davidandjoannakeeling@sky.com](mailto:davidandjoannakeeling@sky.com)**

**Pub Pals:** next meet on Mon 16<sup>th</sup> May, 7pm at Inn the Middle, Langley Mill.

**Coffee Mates:** next meeting May 18<sup>th</sup> Costa Coffee, Eastwood 11am. Ring Andrea 0115 9382299 for more details.

**General Gardening:** next meet Thurs 19<sup>th</sup> May, 2 pm a National Garden Scheme visit to Alison Napier's garden at 9 Main St, Horsley Woodhouse.

**Bird Watching:** next meeting: May 19<sup>th</sup> Attenborough. Meet in the car park at 10.30 a.m. going on to see the sand martins.

Contact Barbara Wigley 01773 762383.

**Strollers:** next walk Wed 25<sup>th</sup> May along the Erewash & Nottingham canals. Meet at the Great Northern pub at Langley Mill at 10-15.

**Vegetable Gardening:** next meet, 3rd June will be held at 44, Raglan St, at 2 pm. Contact Barbara Moore 01773 770929.

## Social Outings

- *May 11<sup>th</sup> – Visit to Lea Gardens, a woodland garden with a unique collection of highly acclaimed rhododendrons, azaleas, kalmias, & species from around the world. Then on to Matlock for a few hours. Cost £15 per person, Main meeting last chance to book. Meet Morrison's bus stop 9.30 a.m.*
- *June 16<sup>th</sup> visit to Bempton Cliffs and Bridlington.*
- *July 27<sup>th</sup> to the Holocaust Centre and Gardens, Laxton.*
- *December 7<sup>th</sup> to Thursford Christmas Extravaganza & free time in Norwich. A 3 day/2 night visit, staying at Yarmouth Prom Hotel £199. A £50 deposit ASAP to Joan.*

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

### Notification of 2nd AGM

The second Annual General Meeting of Eastwood & District U3A will be held on 1st June 2016 in St Mary's Church at 10 am.

The majority of the Executive committee are willing to stand for re-election but there are at least **3 additional positions vacant**. Please consider putting yourself forward if you are interested in helping to develop our U3A. All candidates need to be nominated by a non-executive member and the nomination form can be found on the notice board at the monthly meeting. If you are acting as proposer or seconder please ensure the individual is willing to stand.

**Nominations must be received before 12 noon on 4th May 2016.**

**The Bird watching Group** had a successful visit to the Notts. Wildlife Trust (Skylarks) site at Holme Pierrepont on a sunny spring day. They saw signs of spring with the swans and ducks starting to build their nests, ladybirds and butterflies in the sunshine, as well as cowslips and forget-me-nots. They were lucky to see a Reed bunting, as well as a pair of Buzzards being chased off by a Crow. They watched the Oystercatchers and Lapwings on the scrapes, saw the usual Mallard, Tufted, and Gadwall ducks; Moorhen, Coot and also spotted Greylag and Canada geese, some young Cormorants, a Heron and Swans. The smaller birds were in full song and a Chiffchaff was identified by his perky song, as well as seeing Robins, Chaffinches, Blackcap, Wren, Starlings and the ubiquitous Magpies.

**Nature Conservation:** On Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> May the Nature Conservation group will visit Shipley Park to meet Lesley Robinson who runs a local hedgehog rescue. She will talk to them about her work. They will have a look at the wildflower garden and then head into the Visitors Centre for the talk. This will be a rare opportunity to actually see a hedgehog and talk about what to do to help them if one is found in trouble. This will also support the National Hedgehog Awareness Week that takes place from 1st-7th May. If interested, contact Anne Ryan. 01773 789612.



**Charity Concert:** There will be a spectacular concert in the grounds of Strelley Hall on 10<sup>th</sup> July to raise money for Maggie's Centre at Nottingham City Hospital. Gates will open at 4 pm, music start at 6.30 pm. Cost £15. Further info on Maggie's web site. Anyone interested in making a party to attend, contact Joan.

Items or suggestions for the newsletter? Deadline: Mon 16<sup>th</sup> May, 2016.

Want to help make the web site for Eastwood U3A?

Contact Philip Hartley: [newsletter@eastwoodu3a.org](mailto:newsletter@eastwoodu3a.org)