

CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

I can't help it, I just love Christmas. I love giving presents, preparing food, planning silly games and being surrounded by all the family.

It's a time to treasure what we have, remember those who are no longer with us and make plans for another new year.

So bring on all the fun and festivities and here's to a fabulous 2018. *Chris Niven*



Electrical equipment testing

All electrical equipment used in any of the interest groups must be PAT tested. This will be completed after the January monthly meeting so could members make sure that it is at the meeting ready.

Gift Aid

Eastwood & District U3A have amended the Gift Aid form in line with recent requirements from HMRC and all Gift Aid signatories need to sign an updated form. If you have received a new form by email, please print out, complete and post in the green box on the signing in desk. If you have signed a donation form for yourself and your partner, please include both membership numbers on the form. For those members who are not on the Internet, forms will be available from the Treasurer.



Members enjoying Christmas lunch at Eastwood Hall.

Interest Groups Update

Wine tasting group have now changed their meeting time to the first Monday of the month at the Sun Inn at 7.30 pm, however the next meeting will be the 8th January as the first Monday is New Years Day.

Jewellery will now meet on the 4th Thursday of the month only, 2.00 pm at Asda.



The Mayor of Eastwood, David Townes, presenting a cheque for £100 from Eastwood Town Council to the group.

January Monthly meeting: Refreshments Rota: -

Susan Hill, Jenny Brakes, Dawn Raffle, Jan Gibson.

Meet & Greeters Rota: - Kath Butler, Gordon Butler, Karen Rea.

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

Signing in: - Pauline Jackson, Marianne Chisholm.

Members Social Dance 2018

Do you fancy a bit of a bop?

Watch this space for date and venue!

Tickets on sale to members first may be opened up to partners later



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

Wed Jan 3rd at 10 am

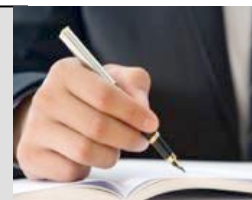
Pat Hall

Wed Feb 7th at 10 am

Vince Eager

Wed Mar 8th at 10 am

Bob Reed



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 started:

Art Appreciation - contact David Willey on 0115 8840217 will meet the 3rd Monday of each month 10.30am – 12.00 at the Sun Inn in the conference room.

Psychology – contact Margaret Naylor on 01773 788306. Now meet 2.30 - 4.30 pm the 4th Wed of each month at Eastwood Council Offices,

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 January, 10 am top right hand corner Morrisons' car park then on to Cromford Rd, park just before A610 (Woodlinkin Bypass) Contact Roger Reynolds on 01773 788169.

Bird Watching: Next meet 18th Jan 10.30 am at Shipley Country Park Visitors car park. Contacts Chris & Paul Millington on 01773 764 943 or 07977 436 471.

National Trust: Next meet Mon 8th January at 10.00 am at the Dog & Parrot, Eastwood. Contact Yvonne Carey on 01773 712530.

Micro Brewery Pub Pals: Next meet 25th January at Roots, Kimberley. Contact Yvonne Carey on 01773 712530.

Pub Pals: Next meet 11th January at the Gate Inn, Loscoe. Contact Yvonne Carey on 01773 712530.

Coffee Mates: is now full: next meet 17th January at Buonissima, Sandiacre. Contact Andrea Sadler.

Vegetable Gardening: Next meet in the spring. Contact Barbara Moore.

Singing for Pleasure: Next meet contact Karen Rea on 01773 719 118.

Coffee & Co: Next meet 11.00 am on 24th January at Durban House. Contact Barbara Gani 0115 9468721.

Jewellery: Now meet once a month on the 4th Thursday at 2.00 pm at Asda.

Wine Appreciation: Next meet on Monday 8th January at 7.30 pm at the Sun. New members very welcome.

Social Outings.

Watch this space for New Year plans – ideas include Doddington Hall, Chatsworth Flower Show, a steam railway visit and a possible holiday in the spring.

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

Discovering Nottingham:– Next meet at Nottingham Castle Museum 10th January at 11am, main entrance, admission £6. Contact Barbara Gani 01159468721

City Treasures: Meeting Friday 29th December at the Sun , 10.00 am to discuss future program. Contact Len Marsh 0115 9321230.

Nottingham's Hidden Gems: Meeting 11th January, 11.00 am at The Dog and Parrot for annual meeting. Meet 25th January at the left hand lion in front of the Council House for 11.00 am start. Contact Bob Ford 0781 2455380.

Strollers: next walk will be in the spring. Any queries contact Val Kennerell on 01773 712269.

The Bird Watching group met at Brinsley Headstocks. It was a cool bright day as we made our way along the old railway line. The very first sighting was a Goldcrest followed by many Blackbirds in the leaf litter along with the Robins. A little further along with Wood Pigeons in the fields a flock of Goldfinch arrived in the top of the trees and Chaffinch flying from tree to tree. As we approached a small area, designated as a nature reserve, Blue Tit, Great Tit and Coal Tit were seen. The old rail track is lined with trees and it seemed that every other tree had a squirrel! Next we saw a flock of Siskins eating seeds in the treetops and lower down there was a Nuthatch searching every nook and cranny on the tree. As we made our way back you could see the Carrion Crows. One bird on the edge was a little different, and closer inspection showed this to be a Kestrel. As we approached the car park a bird calling with two soft notes could be heard. Scanning the trees and bushes we finally located the bird that was a male Bullfinch. The morning was then followed with an excellent Christmas lunch together. *Chrys & Paul Millington*

The Three Wise Men??



Membership Subscription

Your membership subscription is due before the 1st April and you can renew at the Monthly Meetings in February and March. Payment can also be made by BACS, details on the website. The current subscription is £20 for the year.

Items or suggestions for the newsletter? Deadline: Mon 15th January, 2018. Contact Caroline Winfield: newsletter@eastwoodu3a.org