

Items for the newsletter should be emailed to  
[newsletter@eastwoodu3a.org](mailto:newsletter@eastwoodu3a.org)

**Deadline Monday 20<sup>th</sup> July**

## Message from the Chairman

Dear all,

I hope this message finds everyone safe and well.

The strange times continue even as we are gradually allowed to see our family and friends. The question that many are asking is, when are we going to get back to normal? It seems that getting back to how things were is a long way ahead and before that we have to construct a new normal.

At a writing group that I attend one of the titles was, 'This time next year'. We all found it a very difficult topic as we have no idea how things are going to be.

So, let's not look at what was but how we negotiate our new way of life and make the best of these changing times.

Stay safe

Chris



Barry Seeley is now the Groups' Coordinator. He will help the Group Contacts to restart their groups where feasible, possibly using video conferencing.

### FACEBOOK – U3A: Eastwood & District

Many members are on FaceBook and use it regularly. Does anyone have the interest, skills and enthusiasm to set up a FaceBook page for Eastwood & District U3A - to help us keep in touch with each other and pass information on easily? If so, please contact me or any committee member.

Many thanks Chris Niven

## LOCAL HISTORY

The Local History Group have been investigating the origin of some of Eastwood's street names. We walk and drive along these roads every day without any thought as to whom they commemorate.

A few, such as Barber Street, Walker Street & Lawrence Avenue are obvious but what about Pickering Avenue? This was named after William Alexander Pickering, born in Eastwood in 1840, who had a distinguished career in the civil service. After spending ten years in the Hong Kong Customs Service he moved to Singapore, where in 1877, he was appointed as the first Chinese Protector of the colony. In the Birthday Honours of 1884 he was appointed a Companion of the Order of St Michael and St George. He was injured in an attack in 1887 which led to his early retirement in 1889. He died in 1907.

Robey Drive might strike a chord with some members, as for many years Dr Robey practiced medicine and was the town's Mayor in 1943/44.

The origin of Fryar Road might not be so well known. This is in recognition of John William Fryar, Manager at Moorgreen Colliery from 1905 who lived at The Grange. He was apparently well respected by the miners and hundreds of the men attended his funeral, after his sudden death from appendicitis in 1915.

Finally, Beardsall Road. Who would have envisaged sixty years ago, at the height of the 'Lady Chatterley's Lover' trial, that Eastwood would eventually pay homage to the mother of its most famous son?

Carol Mills

## Your Committee Needs You!!!



**URGENT!**

**We have not received any nominations for  
Chairman or Vice Chairman**

**If you or anyone you know could fill these positions  
please contact**

**[Business.Secretary@EastwoodU3A.org](mailto:Business.Secretary@EastwoodU3A.org)  
or text/call Linda on 07712 277 962.**

**If these posts are not filled  
Eastwood & District U3A will fold.**

**If you are acting as a proposer please ensure that the  
individual is willing to stand.**

Membership Secretary [membership@EastwoodU3A.org](mailto:membership@EastwoodU3A.org)  
Executive Committee Members:  
[EastwoodU3A@gmail.com](mailto:EastwoodU3A@gmail.com)  
Website: [www.EastwoodU3A.org](http://www.EastwoodU3A.org)

### ZOOMING COFFEE MATES

So far I have arranged three Zoom meetings with members of Coffee Mates. I think everyone who has participated has enjoyed it. They said it was nice to speak to people face to face. We have a coffee, cup of tea or drink of water; sometimes even cake - and a laugh.



I am going to continue with a meeting every week until all members in Coffee Mates who have an email address have been included. I've telephoned the members who haven't got email and we've had a chat; which they said they appreciated. I will continue to do this, mixing members up so we can speak to different people each time.

I would encourage other Group Contacts to try it; your members would appreciate the visual contact.

*Andrea Sadler*

### A COVID COFFEE MORNING

First you phone up for a slot.  
Just take anything they've got.  
9.15 in 2 weeks time?  
It's not a joke! We must not whine.

Make a face mask with a gap  
to push a straw through into your cup.  
Sit apart -the whole 6 feet  
and just pretend this is a treat!

They'll take your temperature at the door  
You shout your order from afar.  
Milky latte, Americano  
Espresso, Black or Cappuccino?

Keep your distance, pay by card.  
£7 a cup makes swallowing hard!  
As for cake, Oh please don't ask  
how to get it past your mask.  
Perhaps a chocolate finger biscuit  
fits through your mask slot, go on, risk it.

Waitress Molly's a sight to see  
all done up in PPE  
Full face visor, gloves and gown,  
really lets her make-up down.

Our 'gang' of 6 friends fill the caff  
This social distancing's faff.  
We shout in turn across the room  
I think it's slightly better than Zoom!

Don't sit too long as once we would  
cos the 'in' queue's down to Colliers Wood !

Was it worth it? Yes by heaven!  
Next time let's hope our time slot's 11.  
Whatever the snags, however daunting  
Please keep us sane with a coffee morning!

*Pat Potter*

### EASTWOOD U3A LITERARY AND POTATO PEEL PIE SOCIETY (AKA BOOK CLUB)

If you are running out of ideas for books to read, we have two further suggestions from our members who have chosen their favourites from our recently read novels.

#### **Persuasion by Jane Austen**

I was delighted to reread this book, which is a real favourite. Anne Elliott is given a second chance at happiness after rejecting a seemingly unsuitable suitor in her youth. The book brilliantly maps the reawakening of interest between the principal characters and cleverly throws in enough barriers that they must overcome. The descriptions of Regency Bath and Lyme are very evocative and Austen uses all her usual wit to make sharp comments about the behaviour and motivation of all her wide and varied cast of characters. Score 10/10

*Janet*

#### **The Hundred-year-old Man Who Climbed Out of a Window and Disappeared by Jonas Jonasson**

As a young man Allan Karlsson had worked in a dynamite factory and his expertise took him all over the world meeting and befriending many famous people. On his return to Sweden he 'adopts' a cat who unfortunately is killed by a fox. So incensed by this Allan sets a trap with dynamite which results in a huge explosion. Eventually he is sent to a Retirement Home which he hates, so on his 100th birthday he decides to escape and go on a journey of intrigue and misadventures and also gets caught up in so many various "criminal activities". Unbelievably funny, yet sad at times.

I rated it 7/10 and think it's worth a read. It was also made into a film which I didn't think was as good as the book.

*Dee*

JAMES (age 4) was listening to a Bible story.

His dad read: "The man named Lot was warned to take his wife and flee out of the city but his wife looked back and was turned to salt."

Concerned, James asked: "What happened to the flea?"



View of the poppies at Moorgreen, opposite St Mary's Church Greasley last week. Still just as beautiful now.

*Chrys Millington*

**CREATIVE WRITING on ZOOM**

The Creative Writing Group members got together using Zoom on Monday 8th June. This was our first 'official' meeting since lockdown and using this method of contact (without actually being in contact) worked very well for us. Just 5 members took part on this maiden voyage but we look forward to seeing and speaking with the other members in ten days time for our next meeting. As Zoom time is limited not too much time is available for chit-chat so Chris soon put us to work and I feel already we are back on track and looking forward to Wednesday 17th June, after we have done our homework!!

Madeleine Fletcher

**VIRTUAL DAY TRIP?**

This week my 6 year old granddaughter's home school topic is 'London'. My daughter had given me the 'heads up' ahead of our daily video call.

Caitlin told me about her topic.....I read her the storybook Topsy and Tim Go to London and showed her the map of the City in the back of the book.....without another thought I asked her if she wanted to go on a pretend day trip to London with me. Yes please!.....there was great excitement.....I would drive to her house while she packed a picnic. I described the journey and in a trice I had arrived while she had packed a bag and a picnic.....she had made a sandwich from two squares of white paper with a coloured piece in the centre. I said it looks like you have a ham sandwich.....actually Granny..... it is cheese she replied. Our drink was a toilet roll middle with a straw!

We decided to go by train and imagined the journey. I read her the first verse of Robert Louis Stevenson's poem, From a Railway Carriage.....*faster than fairies, faster than witches* .....before suggesting I might knit and she could read on the train. I looked up at the iPad screen and saw she was wearing her headphones and was silently reading her book. I began knitting.....all was quiet. My daughter checked in on us to make sure we hadn't lost the internet connection!

After a few minutes I told her we had arrived.....so the bags were quickly repacked. We got off the train and got on the Hop on Hop off bus to the London Eye, took a boat down the River Thames, went under Tower Bridge, had a picnic at The Tower of London while watching the Beefeater feeding the ravens. There is a video on YouTube. We had a quick peek at the Crown Jewels before heading off to swim at the Serpentine Lido in Hyde Park.

Our video call was fast approaching the one hour mark so I asked her if she wanted to stay in London overnight? Yes please.....she ran upstairs and came back with her toothbrush and toothpaste. She asked if we could stay near Buckingham Palace. I looked for a hotel.....Hotel 41....very nice....we had dinner in the restaurant, looked out of the window and saw the palace all lit up.

What a fun time we had.....made simply with imagination, conversation, memories, a few props, the help of Google images and YouTube.....it was as if we had really been to London.....and her teacher was impressed too.....she asked if she can come next time!

Sue Rowlett

**EASTWOOD & DISTRICT U3A AGM****WEDNESDAY 2<sup>ND</sup> SEPTEMBER****to be held on Zoom**

All members will be notified formally nearer to the time and those members who wish to take part in the Zoom meeting must inform the committee when requested to do so. They will then be invited.

There are still vacancies on the committee.

Please send all nominations to [Business.Secretary@EastwoodU3A.org](mailto:Business.Secretary@EastwoodU3A.org) or text/call Linda on 07712 277 962.

If you are acting as a proposer please ensure that the individual is willing to stand.

**ONE LOST SOCK**

Little Johnnie one sock, left behind alone;  
Down amongst the white wash, all his mates were gone.

There under the bedsheets, wrapped up in disguise;  
Sitting in a mass of clothes, hidden from all eyes.

Where had all his buddies gone? Why was he alone?  
How would he ever find them now he was on his own?

Gathered up, together with shirts and sheets and such;  
Stuffed into the wash drum, he didn't like it much.

The water, it was scalding, too hot for him to thrive.  
How had he got in this fix? How would he survive?

Spun around for England, pegged out with the whites.  
He was definitely odd man out, strung up next to lights

He wondered where he'd end up, what would be his fate?

He hoped he'd find a resting place with his matching mate.

Here he is now, safe and sound, rolled up in a ball.  
Back at home with all his friends, he made it after all.

Margaret Naylor

**NOTE FROM THE EDITOR**

Thank you to everyone who has contributed to this month's newsletter. Please send your contributions for August to:

[newsletter@eastwoodu3a.org](mailto:newsletter@eastwoodu3a.org)

"Mummy there's an aeroplane in my bedroom."  
"Did you leave the landing light on again?"

Two birds on a perch, one said "Can you smell fish?"

I have a rare type of amnesia where I can't remember any bands from the 1980s. Seemingly there's no cure!!

It should have been Cossall Open gardens but like everything else they are cancelled. John has been busy making a new windmill and step ladder for Plantpot man and the garden is always needing attention, so busy lockdown.

Susan Hill



Tom Hickingbottom

Hi everyone.

Hope you are all keeping well in these strange times.

If you have read the Third Age Matters magazine you may have noticed the article on Page 43: "Litter picking groups that make a difference". This is something I am very interested in as I already belong to a conservation group where we clean up in country parks and reserves. It would be good if we could start a group for our U3A, maybe something to talk about when we finally meet again?

I hope we will soon be able to get together, in the mean time keep in contact by Email, WhatsApp, Text and Telephone\*.

Stay safe  
Peter Hayden

\*AND Video Conferencing - Editor

**FACEBOOK – U3A: Keeping in Touch**

This Facebook group is for the U3A members to stay in contact with each other and also a place to share ideas that some U3As are using to maintain learning and interests and to keep in touch in the current situation.

**1<sup>ST</sup> DAY OUT – NEWSTEAD ABBEY PARK**

We decided to have a day out, so having failed to get a National Trust 'slot', we opted for Newstead.

The Abbey wasn't open but the grounds and toilets (deciding factor) were. The weather forecast was for sunshine and showers, which was exactly what we got. I took the photos when the sun was out - not when it was blowing a gale and chucking it down.

We had a picnic when the sun was out, fed the ducks in the rain, strolled in the Japanese gardens and admired the rhododendrons. There was an ice cream van and takeaway coffee - if you were prepared to wait (which we weren't) - what more could you want?

With very few people there, the park was lovely and peaceful, sometimes a bit eerie, but it was interesting how much more you notice when there's no-one else around.

Apparently we chose well with our showery day as it had been packed out when the sun was out, so choose your time carefully.

Margaret Naylor

