

Items for the newsletter should be emailed to

newsletter@eastwoodu3a.org

Deadline Monday 17th May



Message from the Vice-Chairman

Dear Members.

Our AGM is fast approaching and I'm pleased to say we have some new faces who are standing for the committee. There are still some vital roles that need filling if our u3a is to go forward.

Some stalwarts of the committee are sadly standing down and I would like to take this opportunity to thank them for their hard work and support. Bob, Val, Chrys, Barry S and Linda have all contributed greatly to the success of our u3a, especially during lockdown; a big thank you to them.

I know they will be on hand for help and advice and I wish them a happy 'retirement'.

If you are interested in standing for committee please contact one of the committee members for more information.

Enjoy the spring sunshine
Stay safe everyone

Chris

april 2021 - radio podcast - episode 7
u3a day, radio & polymath



learn, laugh, live

I would never have believed that 4 months of uncut hair would weigh nearly a stone; but if that's what the scales say; it must be right!

Monthly Meetings on Zoom

May	5th	Steve Herra - Cunard History and Glamorous Stars
June	2 nd	Tony Brewer (Photographer) - People

Look out for the email invitation. If you're not online and want telephone access so that you can listen in to the meeting, contact any committee member or tel 07565 928 992

More information on the Eastwood & District u3a website.

Membership Secretary membership@eastwoodu3a.org

Executive Committee Members:

eastwoodu3a@gmail.com

Website: www.eastwoodu3a.org

MAY MONTHLY MEETING



CUNARD HISTORY

AND

GLAMOROUS STARS



Compiled and presented by STEVE HERRA

Steve is a third generation Cunard employee as his father and grandmother both sailed with Cunard. This talk is based upon the history of Cunard from 1840 until the present day and includes some of the more famous liners but not all as there were nearly 250!

Steve also talks about some of the glamorous stars and celebrities who sailed aboard Cunard ships including some that he has met.

How did Charles Dickens describe the furnishings in his cabin aboard Britannia?

Which actress brought her gleaming white Rolls Royce on board Queen Mary and her own chickens as she demanded fresh eggs each day?

When at a New York function, what was the reply to the lady who described Elizabeth Taylor's very large diamond ring as vulgar?

COFFEE MATES OUT OF LOCKDOWN



Meeting in groups of 6 outdoors

**EASTWOOD & DISTRICT u3a
7th AGM**

The 7th Annual General Meeting of the Eastwood & District u3a will be held on Zoom at 10.00 am on the 2nd June 2021.

If you are acting as a proposer/second, please ensure that the individual is willing to stand in that role. All nominations must be received before 12 noon on the 5th May 2021.

Please note: There are currently urgent vacancies for the following roles: **Chairman, Vice Chairman and Business Secretary.**

Please send all nominations to: Business.secretary@Eastwoodu3a.org or text/call Linda on 07712277962

COMMITTEE ROLES.

Anyone who may be interested in joining the committee this year is always welcome to attend a meeting, usually the Monday after our monthly meeting. Contact Business.secretary@Eastwoodu3a.org

You dropped something when you were younger, you just picked it up.

When you're older and you drop something, you stare at it for a bit contemplating if you actually need it anymore.

**EASTWOOD & DISTRICT u3a
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE NOMINATIONS**

The following members of the Executive Committee are willing to be nominated for the coming year.

- Keith Sherwood ✓✓ Treasurer
- Barry Doran ✓✓
- Janet Gibson ✓✓
- Peter Hayden
- Margaret Naylor ✓

The following members are willing to be nominated for the coming year:

- Jayne Holmes ✓✓ (Business Secretary?)
- Janet Lander ✓✓

✓ indicates nominations/seconds received

The following offices are currently vacant:

Chairman, Vice Chairman, Business Secretary

Where 2 or more members are nominated for the same position a ballot will be held.

Please nominate one of the above people, or yourself or any other member (with their permission). You may nominate a maximum of two people.

Please send nominations by **5th May 2021** to business.secretary@eastwoodu3a.org

The committee members who are standing down will be vacating crucial roles within the remit of the committee.

Eastwood & District u3a needs ALL these roles filled to be the vibrant and fulfilling group YOU wish!

AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION

The committee are proposing some amendments to the constitution, to be approved by members at the AGM on the 2nd June 2021.

The proposed amendments fall into 2 distinct categories.

The first of these is to make provision within the constitution to have annual general and extraordinary meetings online either solely online or mixed with some members attending in person. These amendments are proposed by an additional new Clause 19.

The second category is to update the constitution to incorporate some amendments made by the u3a in its most recent model constitution.

You will have received more details about these amendments by e-mail or through the post with this newsletter.

The current constitution can be found at: <http://eastwoodu3a.org/newsite/policies/>

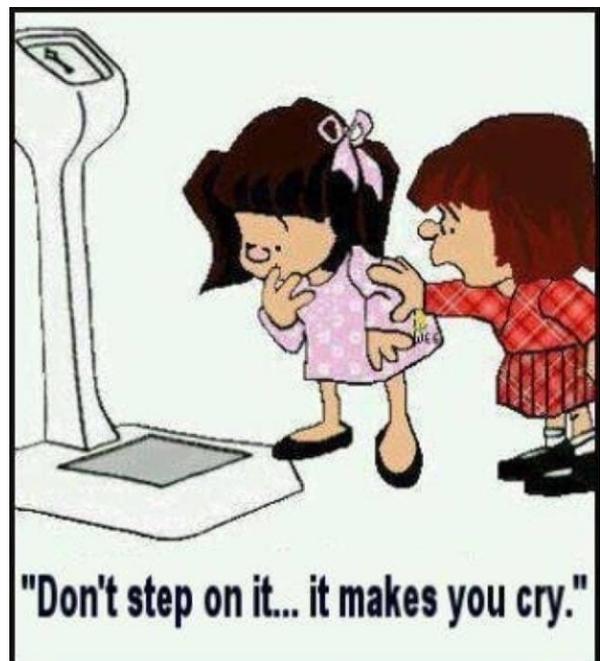
u3a DAY – WEDNESDAY 2ND JUNE 2021

Our first ever national u3a day is Wednesday 2nd June 2021. u3a day is planned to maximise the opportunity to raise our profile nationally as well as locally.

- The u3a is at number 21 in the list of top-100 UK membership organisations, with over 400,000 members;
- The WI is at number 32 with just over 200,000 members;
- The Ramblers are at 65 with a mere 130,000 members.

Yet it seems that both WI and the Ramblers are better-known.

So, u3a day is an opportunity for all u3as to each do something to create more PR, remind people of what we offer and what we stand for.



Group Information

New Groups

If you have ideas for new groups or need further information contact:

groups.coordinator@eastwoodu3a.org

Group News

Art Appreciation: meeting on Zoom on the usual date and time. Contact Helen 01773 710 743

Bird Watching & Wildlife: meeting in groups of 6 at the venues. Contact Paul 07986 037 871

Book Group: now meeting up outdoors on the first Monday of the month. Contact Sue 01773 717 676 or Pauline 01773 788 366

Church History: meeting on Zoom. Contact Marianne 01159 134 077

Coffee & Co: have temporarily changed to afternoon tea, meeting on Zoom at 3.00 pm for the next few months. Contact Barbara 01159 468 721

Coffee Mates: now meeting up in groups of 6 outdoors. Contact Andrea 07927 660 408

Computer Drop in/IT help: meeting on Zoom @ 2.00 pm 4th Thursday. Contact: Bob Chairman@Eastwoodu3a.org

Creative Writing: Contact Chris 07891 032 300

Discussion Group: meeting on Zoom on agreed dates. Contact: Bob Chairman@eastwoodu3a.org

Everyday Science: meeting on Zoom at the normal day/time. Contact Doris 01773 710504

Family History: meeting on Zoom on the usual date and time. Contact Diana 0115 9169343

French Conversation: meeting on Zoom on the usual date and time. Contact Peter 01159 384 033

History of England: meeting on Zoom on the usual date and time. Contact Janet 01773 770 183

Micro Brewery/Pub Pals: Contact Barry 07452 812 758

Pétanque: Contact Colin 07813 785 528

Psychology: meeting on Zoom on the usual date and time. Contact Peter 01159 384 033

Radio Waves: meeting on Zoom at 10.00 am on the 4th Friday. Contact: Ray 01773 770 138

Vegetable Gardening: meeting on Zoom. Contact Ann 01773 767 686

War Babies & Boomers: meeting on Zoom. Contact Ann warbabies@eastwoodu3a.org

What new groups would you like?

LUNCHALOT

*"One of the groups that I attend in our region is called **Lunchalot**. It is purely social! The leader organises a **lunch** the first Thursday of each month at places that are affordable, easy parking or good public transport. People love the social aspect of it."*

Would you like a group like this?

groups.coordinator@eastwoodu3a.org

CRAFT GROUP – NEW CONTACT NEEDED

After a great deal of thought I have decided to withdraw from leading the Craft Group. We were one of the first groups to meet when Eastwood & District u3a was established. Members have been doing a variety of crafts including knitting, crochet, embroidery, card making and lots more. This group led to two offshoot groups forming - Jewellery Making and Knit Aid. One of our best achievements has been creating the bunting which is displayed at main meetings which has a flag representing each of the groups being run. We had recently done some smocking and made some Dorset buttons.

We have been on a number of visits to local knitwear factories in the area - John Smedley in Derbyshire, David Nieper in Alfreton and the Hurt factory in Chilwell, renowned for making the shawls worn by royal babies! We also went to Ruddington Framework Knitters Museum. In each case we experienced a warm welcome and lots of background information about the history of the company and the knitwear trade locally.

We had talked about visiting Cromford Mill next but Covid put a stop to that. I very much hope the group will continue with a new group leader who has lots of ideas to take forward.

Pat Collins

If you are interested in being the Contact for the Craft Group please email Barry Seeley:

groups.coordinator@eastwoodu3a.org

PÉTANQUE

The first meeting is scheduled for

Wednesday 19th May

Meetings will be 2nd Thursday and 3rd Wednesday of the month at 2.00 pm for two hours.

All members present at future meetings must abide by all current Covid restrictions including social distancing and masks to be worn where appropriate.

Contact: Colin 07813 785 528

BOOK CLUB

The Book Club held its first outdoor meeting in April. Six of us visited Sue Draper's beautiful garden, complete with firepit and copious amounts of sunshine and enjoyed a lively discussion about our latest book: **The Woman in the Window by A.J. Finn**.

The book received a mixed reception, some of us thought that it made a slow start but picked up later.

We discussed the device of using references to classic films in the plot. Some thought it wasn't relevant to those who were unfamiliar with the films.

We thought the book had an intriguing plot and was cleverly constructed but were disappointed by the denouement. We thought that Ethan was an unlikely murderer. We also discussed whether Anna was an unreliable narrator due to her addictions. But we were pleased that she seemed to be recovering at the end of the book.

We talked about agoraphobia, one of the main themes in the book, in respect of the current lockdown and whether some people would find it difficult to go out when we are able.

Hazel has kindly offered her garden for the next meeting on May 10th. Our book for this month is 'Cold Comfort Farm' by Stella Gibbons.

Pauline

RECYCLE YOUR EMPTY MEDICINE PACKETS

Every year empty medicine blister packets end up in landfill across the United Kingdom.

The Medicine Packet Recycling Programme allows us to recycle our empty medicine blister packets.

Our nearest pharmacy collection point is Brinsley Pharmacy. If members save their empty packs, at a later date I am quite happy to take full bags of blister packs over to Brinsley. Just a small recycling step.

Learn more at www.terracycle.co.uk.



Margaret Naylor

Also ...

COVID LATERAL FLOW TESTING KITS
Available from Brinsley Pharmacy

THE BEARS BOOTS

I recently sold a pair of ladies size 5 Brasher Boots on an internet auction site and the winning bidder was someone by the name of Simon Smith. This reminded me of a 1968 pop song by Alan Price, ex keyboard player with the Animals entitled Simon Smith and the Amazing Dancing Bear.

Now mentally transform the song to the present day and ask yourself this question. Did Simon Smith buy the Brasher Boots for the bear to keep her pretty little tootsies warm while she was dancing? I have assumed that the bear was female as any self respecting macho mister bear wouldn't want to be seen wearing a pair of ladies boots unless he was that way inclined.

As the bear would have danced upright on her back legs, Simon would only have needed to buy the one pair of boots as the front ones were probably just swaying in time to the music and wouldn't need any protection.

Another poser is to figure out what size of boot Simon needed to buy and how did he find this out. You would have to be a very brave soul to just go up to a bear and start messing around measuring its feet. Did Simon do this while the bear was asleep? or maybe they were bosom pals and the bear would let Simon do anything he wanted. We will probably never know but we can 'paws' for a while and think about it.

David Willey



**APRIL MONTHLY MEETING
WORKING FOR AUNTIE (BBC)**

Christine Green had a very interesting 20 years at the BBC, designing storyboards and programme introductions. At times she combined these ideas with her interest in Needlepoint, co-writing a book and producing a needlepoint kit for the National Trust.



Programme design idea used for glasses case, later shown in a book co-written by Christine.

Design produced by Christine for a programme on the National Trust.

She was later asked to create a Needlepoint Kit from the design for the National Trust to sell in their shops.



Caroline Winfield

LEXOPHILE

"Lexophile" describes those that have a love for words, such as "you can tune a piano, but you can't tuna fish", "To write with a broken pencil is pointless."

An annual competition is held by the New York Times to see who can create the best original lexophile.

This year's submissions:

- I changed my iPod's name to Titanic. It's syncing now.
- England has no kidney bank, but it does have a Liverpool.
- Haunted French pancakes give me the crepes.
- This girl today said she recognized me from the Vegetarians Club, but I'd swear I've never met herbivore.
- I know a guy who's addicted to drinking brake fluid, but he says he can stop any time.
- A thief who stole a calendar got twelve months.
- When the smog lifts in Los Angeles U.C.L.A.
- I got some batteries that were given out free of charge.
- A dentist and a manicurist married. They fought tooth and nail.
- A will is a dead giveaway.
- With her marriage, she got a new name and a dress.
- Police were summoned to a daycare center where a three-year-old was resisting a rest.

More next month.

Sue Rowlett

THE THATCH



Out of its time, the cottage showed a woebegone face, the rendered walls, defaced by the passage of time, were stained and weather worn where the rain had seeped from the straggling thatch.

The facade discloses the small panes of two sliding windows, 12 to a frame, which bracket a front door like a childlike drawing of a house. Suggested in their siting are a kitchen and parlour; a one paned tiny window just by the front door, is a larder with a thrall preserving milk and meat in the cool damp air.

A tiny window under the edge of the thatch dimly lit a room where children lay under a homemade quilt in a brass bedstead, disturbed by the scuffling of mice in the rafters.

Sturdy hinges on the sides of the window frames have outlasted the long decayed shutters

It offers a sorry sight in the post-war emergence of a red-brick world.

But look again.

The garden hedge is neatly trimmed and a dog with his white woolly coat and strangely black eyes, stands his ground and steadfastly faces the camera. His name is Don.

Lace at the window belies a dead and forgotten time. It hangs, not in tatters, but neatly frames each side of the windows.

Imagine a cosy room with a warming fire in the iron range and a gleaming kettle coming up to boil.

A scrubbed table has a glass sugar bowl on squat glass legs, the little boat shaped salt with its dinky spoon, a bread board and knife and the ends of a good meal.

A chiming clock and a pair of brass candlesticks take pride of place on the mantelpiece with a colourful but crude pot from a fondly remembered rare day out to the coast.

A woman stands in front with a questioning look on her face, maybe at the strangeness of this rare photographic event.

Clothed against the cold with a hastily buttoned coat, she is caught in this moment, her thoughts now lost to time.

This woman's name was Emma Gaunt and she was my Grandma.

The children in the brass bedstead were my older sisters, Dot and Ivy.

I never saw the thatch, though the stories told of it intrigued me with their bygone style of life.

Long after it had gone my family reminisced and shared memories of this 1930s long-gone time.

If you can remember any of the older members of your family talking about the Thatch which was on Main Street, Newthorpe, please get in touch. 07870349601

Pat P

BUDDIES

Are you Zooming into the Monthly Meetings?

As we come out of lockdown and can allow people into our homes, please consider inviting other members to join you when you watch.

Many members have not been able to access the Zoom meetings and it could still be a few months before we can meet in the Church.

My train of thought often leaves the station without me.

Somebody came to the door asking for a donation for the local swimming pool.

I gave him a cup of water!



BARGAIN HUNT EXPERIENCE

Bargain hunt was filmed at Newark show ground in October 2020. We were there a full day to film and three shows were filmed in the one day. The actual buying took us 3.5 hours to film due to re takes, the crew continually checking their takes, and background noise.

Due to Covid we couldn't be at the actual auction so we met in a Derby hotel. Again this took a day to film and the auction took place via video conferencing. This was the most pressure for the film crew as it could only be a one take situation. So there was a lot of practising beforehand along with filming that would later be edited into the programme.

A couple of spoilers now:

When the "professionals" are interviewed as to what they have in mind for the bonus buy, Nick said it would be speculative in our case but he had already purchased it, so of course he knew what it was!

During the programme Charlie has a blue and a red handkerchief in his breast pocket. When he's summing up and ready to announce the winner take another look at his breast pocket, there is only one handkerchief.

Our show was screened on Monday 22nd March and can be seen on BBC iPlayer.



Paul & Chrys Millington

THE DEATH OF THE HIGH STREET

This was a favourite media headline even before the pandemic – and now there's an urgent need for change. One in seven shops stands empty, retail giants like Debenhams have collapsed, and many jobs have been lost.

So what next? Rebecca Trevalyan, high streets activist and Library of Things co-founder, will share her experiences in a talk and Q&A.

https://www.rgs.org/events/summer-2021/the-high-street-reimagined/?fbclid=IwAR2ot-opQJEwBWolik0ighP2LAzqOuEidBrz5wj3t_I6Q7YWuh5dViywRE



ONLINE EVENT - FILMS FROM THE ARCHIVE THE CHANGING HIGH STREET

Thursday 24 June

Take a look at the changing face of the British high street, as seen in vintage adverts and archive training films.

Free Online Event

This is a pre-recorded talk featuring original archive images introduced by our Archivist, who will be available to respond to questions during and following the talk.

Running time - 30 minutes.

Please book via our Eventbrite page:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/films-from-the-archive-the-changing-high-street-tickets-146964569985>



'We've moved a few things around. Travel books are in the Fantasy section, Politics is in Sci-Fi, and Epidemiology is in Self-Help. Good luck.'

FACE TO FACE MEETINGS

What are your thoughts on the u3a opening up again?

Are you ready to join up with your groups?

Outdoors? Indoors?

What do you feel about the Monthly Meetings starting again in church?

Is there anything that you would change?

Please give us your thoughts on how and when you think we should come out of lockdown.

Email: eastwoodu3a@gmail.com

or talk to any committee member

I'm ready for the rest of this week! I have my umbrella,
... my flip flops, ... my mittens, ... my suntan lotion,
... my winter coat, ... my sunglasses, ... my thermals,
... my iced tea ... and my hot chocolate!

NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

Thank you to everyone who has contributed to this month's newsletter. Please send your contributions for June to: newsletter@eastwoodu3a.org