

Eastwood and District

Registered Charity No. 1164636

October 2022

Issue 100

u3a

learn, laugh, live



Items for the newsletter should be emailed to newsletter@eastwoodu3a.org

Deadline for November newsletter - Monday 17th October



Ready to start the walk with the beacon and banner - at The Three Ponds, Nuthall



... and they're off



Keith in charge of the beacon



Passing toppers on the way



Nearly there - The Gate Inn, Kimberley





Pauline and Anne at Morrisons



Frank, Delia and Chris at Morrisons



Toppers in Eastwood

Party in the Park with Flash Mob



Practising the Flash dance



Well done ladies.
Don't forget to keep
practising for the
Christmas demo



FORTY YEARS WITH U3A

- Come celebrate and raise a cheer
- Each member of our U3A
- Let's look back on real good times
- Excel in our new found interests
- Bird watching, creative crafts
- Reading history, National Trust
- Art appreciation, bridge and
- Terrific speakers at main meeting
- Informative to educate
- Not forgetting coffee mates
- Got to have some cake and coffee!!
- Forge ahead with gardening
- Outdoor games; we like petanque
- Reading out our creative writings
- Try out, next, the 5 mile walk
- Yes! say 'yes' to paths of promise
- Yes to broadening horizons
- Everyone has hidden talents
- All can find their favourite niche
- Ready for the next new challenge
- Sharing interests which enrich

Pat Potter 2022

My wife told me I was a fool to build a car out of spaghetti. You should have seen the look on her face when I drove pasta.

MONTHLY MEETING

Oct 5th Dr Ann Featherstone

A storm in a tea cup - the waitresses strike of 1908

At lunch time on 4th April 1908, the waitresses at the Cabin Restaurant, Piccadilly Circus, came out on strike and made the headlines in national and provincial newspapers around the country. The Cabinettes, as they were known, were working women who chose to take on a major company, set up their own restaurant and, against the odds, succeeded. Their example is still inspirational, especially being as women hadn't even got the vote then!

If you want to join in on Zoom, please let me know before Monday 3rd Oct 2022; I will then send the link out. If you haven't received the link by Tuesday 4th October please email.

admin@eastwoodu3a.org

A MAN OF LETTERS?

I had a refreshingly novel experience the other day in the form of a hand written letter (remember those?) from a very old and old fashioned colleague from way back and it would appear that technology hasn't infiltrated his simple, uncomplicated world hence the writing of the letter. It was a typical catching up, how are you, any news or gossip type of thing so I wrote back (after having to make a trip to the stationers to buy a writing pad) in similar fashion and signed it off David Willey AF AMD. A few days later I received a further letter from him telling me that he had spent far too many frustrating hours at his local library delving into reference books trying to discover what the letters stood for but he just couldn't find any information and would I please explain forthwith. Knowing that I'd never been blessed with high academic prowess, he was curious to find out what qualifications or awards I had somehow managed to acquire over the years and what professional bodies I had been able to gain membership of so I decided to come clean and write back with an explanation of the mystery which read as follows; Dear George, I'm afraid you have been subjected to one of our old family jokes and hope you won't be offended by the wild goose chase I inadvertently sent you on when I explain that the letters after my name are simply the abbreviations of my long term medical conditions!

AF –Atrial Fibrillation AMD – Age related Macular Degeneration.

David Willey.

HISTORY OF ENGLAND

The London 'Gin Craze' gripped the city – or at least its poorer districts – between 1720 – 1751. Anti-gin reformers did exaggerate the effects of the demon drink, blaming the drink known as 'geneve' for everything from poverty and disease to idleness and casual sex, but there's really no doubt that the people of London spent a large part of the eighteenth century on a truly colossal rout.

In 1737, there were around 8659 'brandy shops' in London (against a paltry 6,000 alehouses). You didn't have to go to a shop for your snifter, though; you could buy cheap gin ('drunk for a penny dead drunk for two!') in people's cellars and garrets, by the roadside, from dodgy geezers with wheelbarrows – pretty much anywhere you liked. In the slums of St Giles, one in four houses was a gin shop of some sort.

The Gin Act of 1751, which imposed stringent restrictions on the sale of the drink, reduced England's gin intake to 2 million gallons a year. That might sound quite a lot, but before the Act was passed, the figure was up around 8 million gallons.

The thing about the cut-price gin swilling around the hovels and rat runs of Georgian London was that, quite often, it wasn't gin at all. Unscrupulous distillers would bulk out their 'gin' by cutting raw spirit with turpentine or sulphuric acid (mmm tangy).

These practices weren't restricted to gin, though: bread was stuffed with chalk and alum, wine fortified with zinc and arsenic compounds, tea-leaves replaced with the leaves of ash or elder trees. Nor were they restricted to the eighteenth century. In Victorian England, penny-pinching grocers were still putting strychnine in their beer, bisulphate of mercury in their chocolate, red lead in their cheese and chalk in their milk. One study of ice cream sold on the streets of nineteenth-century London found that the 'hokey-pokey', as it was known, contained 'cocci, bacilli, torulae, cotton fibre, lice, bed bugs, bugs' legs, fleas, straw, human hair and cat and dog hair'.

Extract from "English History Strange but True" by Richard Smythe

Phillip Goold

GROUP INFORMATION

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

groups.coordinator@eastwoodu3a.org

Art Appreciation: meet 10:30 am on the 3rd Monday. Contact Helen 01773 710 743

Bird Watching & Wildlife: meet at Skylarks NG12 2LU Holme Pierrepont on 20 Oct. Contact Paul 07986 037 871

Book Group: meet 1st Monday 11.00 am at Eastwood Library. Contact Sue 01773 717 676 or Pauline 01773 788 366

Bridge: meet upstairs at the Horse & Groom on agreed Mondays @ 2.00 pm. **New members welcome!** Contact Maureen 07968 121 246

Canasta: meet in The Sun Inn 2nd Thursday 11.00 – 13.00 pm. Contact Nina 01773 717 770

Church History: Contact Marianne 01159 134 077

Coffee & Co: meets in various venues on the 4th Wednesday, 11.00 am. Contact Barbara 01159 468 721

Coffee Mates: members have a choice of dates each month. Contact Andrea 07927 660 408

Creative Crafts: meet in Rumbletums 2nd Wednesday 1-2.30 pm and 3rd Thursday 10.00 – 12.00 noon. Contact Jackie 07580 340 014

Creative Writing: New members welcome! Contact Chris 07891 032 300

Family History: meet at The Sun Inn on the 4th Monday @ 11.00 am. Contact Diana 0115 9 169 343

French Conversation: are now meeting at the homes of our members on 2nd & 4th Tuesday 11.00 – 12.30 pm. **New members welcome!** Contact Pauline 01773 788366

Gogglebox: meet in the Sun Inn on the 3rd Tuesday @ 11.00 am. **New members welcome!** Contact Janet 07889 976 342

History of England: meet in The Sun Inn lounge, 1st Thursday 11.00 – 13.00 pm. Contact Janet 01773 770 183

National Trust: meet in the Dog & Parrot on the 3rd October, 10.00 am. Contact Yvonne 01773 712 530

Pétanque: meet at The Foresters, Newthorpe on the 2nd Thursday and 3rd Wednesday @ 2.00 pm. Contact Colin 01773 715 493

Psychology: : meet in The Sun Inn 4th Wednesday at 1.30 pm. Contact Jim 07977 415 072 or Diana 0115 9 169 343

Pub Pals: Contact Janet 07961 832 864 or Rob 07845 177500

Spanish: meet in The Sun Inn on the 2nd & 4th Wednesday 11.00 - 12.30 am. **New members welcome!** Contact Paul 01159 133 449

Strollers: meet last Wednesday each month at 10.15 am. Contact Val 01773 712 269

Theatre Group: meet at Dora Phillips Hall, Eastwood on 2nd Tuesday 1.00 – 3.00 pm. Contact Marianne 01773 717 500

Walks, 5 miles: Meet on Tuesday 4th October at 10.00 am. Street parking, bottom of Newton Lane approached from Awsworth Lane (opposite, Gardeners Inn). Note: no car access from bypass. Contact Roger for further information 01773 788169

War Babies & Boomers: meet 11.00 am on 22nd November, Brinsley Lodge. Contact Ann warbies@eastwoodu3a.org

Wine Appreciation: meet in the Sun Inn on the 1st Monday @ 7.00 pm. Contact Tom 01773 762333



5 mile Walkers - September Walk At Attenborough Nature Reserve at the side of the Trent

FRENCH CONVERSATION

The group are now meeting at the homes of our members on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of the month. We are a small friendly group with a passion for French conversation and culture. We run the group on a self help basis and use various resources, particularly the languages app Duolingo. New members welcome.



Pauline Clayton

BIRDWATCHING & WILDLIFE

The bird watching and wildlife group visited Rutland water in July. We were greeted by yet another lovely sunny day. We left the car park, Red kite above, and headed to the reserve bird hides. After visiting a couple of hides, on the way to the third we spoke to some volunteers who were removing Ragwort. Most Butterflies feed on nectar from Ragwort and indeed Cinibar moths only exist on this weed. Their caterpillars are orange with black bands along their bodies. Ragwort is very toxic and deadly to cattle/horses and is one of five weeds that are injurious found in this country. The volunteers aim was to keep the Ragwort under control. Visiting our fourth and last hide we hit the jackpot. Previous hides had revealed our normal birds but this one we had Avocet (RSPB emblem) Black tailed Godwit, Green sandpiper, Common sandpiper, Snipe and Common tern. Just in front of the hide within the reeds a little brown bird was darting about. (LBJ-little brown job) Checking with the reference books we think it may have been a Cetti's warbler. We then headed back to the visitors centre for lunch and drinks. Another cracking day out for the group.

Paul and Chrys Millington



Avocet



u3a member Jackie Barker's grandson Luke was a coffin bearer at the funeral of HM Queen Elizabeth II



St George's Chapel



NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

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

THE UNCOMMON READER by ALAN BENNETT

I am sure you all felt as emotional and privileged as I did to watch the Queen's funeral.

Not sure exactly what prompted it, but over the weekend I remembered a book which I had read by Alan Bennett called *The Uncommon Reader*. It is a fictional (obviously) account of how the Queen, after a chance meeting with a mobile library in the grounds of Buckingham Palace, came to enjoy reading for pleasure rather than as a duty which required her to read Red Box papers and background information on countries, charities, foreign officials etc. The book is in parts very funny and although Bennett has often been outspoken in his left-wing views, he obviously has a fond affection for the Queen which comes across in the book.

The book was written in 2007, long before any of the recent troubled events which have beset the Royal Family, but what does come across is the Queen's loyalty to her household staff. This loyalty has been confirmed over and over again during the recent days by moving accounts from staff at all the Royal residences.

I have never heard Alan Bennett confirm or acknowledge that the Queen had read the book but from now hearing all about her wicked sense of humour, I feel she would have enjoyed it.

The book is also available as a CD on BBC Audio Radio 4 and was broadcast and read by Alan Bennett in 2007.

Sue Draper

DIAMOND JUBILEE

On 13th June 2012 the Queen and the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge came to Vernon Park, Basford where the Queen unveiled a plaque to give the park a new Queen Elizabeth II field status. **I WAS THERE!** A good time was had by all.

This visit followed a reception at the Council House in Nottingham to mark the Queen's jubilee. I shall never forget that day.

Janet Kirk

CHURCH HISTORY



The Church History group spent their Spring, Summer and Autumn monthly meetings visiting local churches or other religious establishments.

In July the group visited one of England's most idiosyncratic churches, that of All Saints at Dale Abbey and the nearby ruins of Dale Abbey.

The church is tiny and one half of it has been converted into a private dwelling so it now semi-detached.

It dates back to the 12th century and still has a fragment of a 17th century wall painting as well as a remarkable jumble of furniture/fittings dating over the centuries including a pulpit dating back to 1634.

After visiting the church we went to see the ruins of the 12th century Abbey, kindly being shown through a private garden by the landowner who also showed us the remains of the crypt.

Excellent hospitality was provided by the church wardens who laid on tea, cold drinks, cake and biscuits.

One of our many enjoyable trips.

Barbara & Keith Sherwood

NB. There are several more photos on the Group's webpage.

GOGGLEBOX

We had a lively discussion about the programmes "Marriage" and "Changing Rooms". We all agreed that "Marriage" was a lot like real life, and raised important issues about relationships. However, we did find it quite hard to watch and thought it worthy, but not entertaining. "Changing Rooms" seems to include much of Lawrence Llewellyn-Bowen's usual flamboyance, but there is clearly a much better budget for this series than the original, and it was fun to watch the reactions. Our next meeting is October 18th at the Sun Inn at 11 am, when we will discuss "Crossfire" (BBC 1) and "Make me Prime Minister" (Channel 4)

Janet Lander



I stayed up all night to see where the sun went. Then it dawned on me.

THEATRE GROUP ENJOYING A SHOW



Final thought for the day!

