

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

Deadline for Christmas/New Year newsletter - Monday 12th December



CHRISTMAS LIGHTS

I

love to

see, when night

comes in, the twinkle

of the Christmas lights.

They sparkle brightly, twinkling

on and lighten up the winter's night.

They bring us joy at

Christmas tide when dusk comes soon

and doors are locked. With stars and angels,

Santas too, good folks from all around now flock.

In windows and in gardens dank they brighten up the

neighbourhood and spread

excitement all around to children in

a merry mood who stand awestruck delighting

in the magic of the atmosphere. With Santa sitting in his

sledge; before him go his loyal reindeer. Come winter snows and blust'ry

gales which make our nose and fingers freeze. We do not shirk from wintry cold,

to see the

Christmas

lights ablaze.



Pat Potter

MONTHLY MEETING

Dec 7th David Skillen The Gettysburg Address

If you want to join in on Zoom, look out for the link on Monday 5th December. If you haven't received the link by Tuesday 6th December please email:

Admin@eastwoodu3a.org

VOLUNTEERS FOR THE MONTHLY MEETING

Refreshments: Shirley Reynolds, Christine Chapman.

Signing In: Celia Dorkes, Val Kennerell.

Meet and Greet: Sandra Burns, Barbara Sherwood.

Setting Up: Paul Bettridge, Roger Reynolds, Malcolm Tivey.

The December meeting will include free refreshments – mince pies and an assortment of other items,

The refreshments will be served after the general business and the speaker.

2023 LAUNCH

At the February monthly meeting (February 1st), we are holding an open morning to publicise our U3A. Each group will be asked to provide some information about their activities and contacts for visitors. We will be advertising this widely on social media and fliers and posters will be available to hand out. Please let the committee know if you are able to help with publicity, manning a stall or with refreshments.

There will be meetings in January for Group Contacts to discuss the precise format for the February open day. Posters will be available next month. Please let us know if you are able to take one to publicise the event.

Janet Lander

Membership Secretary membership@eastwoodu3a.org

Tel 07565 928 992

Executive Committee Members:

eastwoodu3a@gmail.com

Website: www.eastwoodu3a.org



LUDOLF

It was Christmas Eve morning and Santa Claus made his annual visit to the reindeer farm to pick a suitable specimen to guide his sleigh tonight delivering toys and presents to all the girls and boys. The fit young bucks ran enthusiastically up to Santa all begging to be picked for this important prestigious role as they knew it was such a great honour and they were even more excited this year as during the summer the elf 'n safety brigade had LEDs fitted to the ends of their noses so as to give illumination during the dark winter days and nights, Santa then noticed a little old Chinese looking reindeer painfully hobbling towards him looking rather the worse for wear. Santa felt sorry for the old lad so instead of picking one of the sprightly young bucks, he asked him his name and would he do the honour of guiding the sleigh tonight. 'Oh Santa' I'm velly solly to have to turn down your kind invitation and would have roved to guide your sleigh tonight but I'm just too old and frail nowadays and would be more of a hindrance than a help so please go and pick one of the others' 'Ok' said Santa 'I understand what you're saying and I'm very disappointed but never mind, I'll go and pick one of the others like you suggested. – oh and by the way, what is your name?' ' My name is Ludolf the led nosed lame deer' *David Willey*

ps. Do you remember a few weeks ago some chap lost control of his car and it ended up embedded inside Sandiacre library? Apparently when he appears in court he's going to have the book thrown at him!

I was at the airport, checking in at the gate when an airport employee asked,
'Has anyone put anything in your baggage without your knowledge?'
To which I replied, 'If it was without my knowledge, how would I know?'
He smiled knowingly and nodded, 'That's why we ask.'

THEATRE GROUP

Following a brief summer break members of the theatre group have been to see Vincent at the Lacemarket theatre which was an interesting experience. Those who went liked the intimate atmosphere of the studio production (upstairs in the bar area) and enjoyed the play about Van Gogh's early life as an art dealer in London. It was marvellous having such close proximity to the cast.

In September, 36 members went to the Playhouse to see The Clothes They Stood Up In. We agreed it was a wonderful production with a versatile cast. It was funny and poignant. We liked Alan Bennett's humour and this adaptation by Adrian Scarborough, with many people describing it as brilliant.

The Mousetrap had its world premier in Nottingham so it was apt that it returned to the Theatre Royal on its 70th anniversary tour. As most people already know this is an atmospheric period drama by Agatha Christie. We enjoyed being part of its history and thought the set and costumes were outstanding.

The next production had mixed reviews from us. It was a bit marmite. Some people felt that it was an interesting experience but one they wouldn't want to repeat, whilst others loved it and admired the skill and professionalism. What we saw was the "Trocks", an all male ballet company based in New York who perform segments from well know ballets like Swan Lake but occasionally fall or show a pained expression to add humour to the serious routine.

Two amateur productions had mixed reviews, Bonnie and Clyde the musical sounded very interesting and had some comic and poignant moments. Overall it was felt to be a performance well worth going to see. Unfortunately West Side Story at Nottingham Arts Centre wasn't anywhere near the expected standard and the lead role was especially disappointing. Only one person saw some merit in the show so that says a lot about the production as a whole.

Recently more than 30 of us made the short trip to Langley Mill to see a wonderful production of Sister Act. Right from the start the cast were enthusiastic and professional and this continued throughout the performance. We are so lucky to have this amazing musical theatre company on our doorstep. We're already looking forward to their pantomime Cinderella which is showing at New Horizon Church in February.

The end of October saw a trip to the Duchess theatre in Long Eaton. The show, Checkout girls, was a humorous portrayal of working women looking for love and fulfilment. It was packed with songs from the 80's like "Looking out for a hero" which had one or two of the group wanting to get up on stage and join in.

Now Halloween is over and done with everyone seems to be looking forward to Christmas and our group are no exception. We have a pantomime to look forward to at Nottingham Playhouse at the end of November!!

Marianne Sparrow

GROUP INFORMATION

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

groups.coordinator@eastwoodu3a.org

Art Appreciation: No meeting in December. Contact Helen 01773 710 743

Bird Watching & Wildlife: meet at Brinsley Headstocks at 10.30 am on 15th December. 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: no Wednesday meeting in December. Meet in Rumbletums, 15th December 10.00 – 12.00 noon. Contact Margaret 07828155086

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 01159 169 343

French Conversation: are now meeting at the homes of our members on 2nd & 4th Tuesday 10.00 am. **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 5th December @ 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

Photography: See notice in next column. Contact Barbara 01773 786004 or 07977 109 451

Psychology: meet in The Sun Inn 4th Wednesday at 1.30 pm. Contact Jim 07977 415 072 or Diana 01159 169 343

Pub Pals: meet Dec 8th, 7.00 pm @ The Gate, Kimberley; Dec 22nd, meeting tba. 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

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 6th December at 10.00 am at Beauvale Priory. Contact Roger Reynolds for further information 01773 788169

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

Wine Appreciation: meet in the Sun Inn on the 1st Monday @ 7.00 pm. Contact Tom 01773 762 333

ART APPRECIATION - THE 4th PLINTH

Lily gave us an engaging account of the history of the 4th Plinth in Trafalgar Square. Prue Leith wrote to The Standard newspaper in 1994 with the suggestion that the 4th Plinth (which had been empty for 140 years) should be used to carry a new work of art each year. Lily then presented us with 13 examples of some of the artwork which had been used. The best known was probably Alison Lapper Pregnant by Mark Quinn, but an amazingly diverse array of works of art had been used, including One and Other by Anthony Gormley, Powerless Structures, Cock and The Invisible Enemy Should Not Exist. Our task was to put names to the pictures - not so easy! She finished by presenting us with some definitions of art, and applying them to the art we had been discussing. An excellent and well thought out presentation.

David Hale

NEW GROUP

Another **BOOK GROUP** is setting up at Eastwood Library, starting after Christmas. Sue has spoken to library staff and arranged for the meetings to be on Saturday mornings. If you are interested in being a member of this new group please contact Sue Daykin on 07773 888 712

PHOTOGRAPHY

The first meeting of the new Photography Group is on the 17th January, 10.00 – 11.30 am at Brinsley Parish Hall. Group Contact Barbara 01773 786004 or 07977 109 451

GOGGLEBOX

At our last meeting we discussed The House across the Street and Am I being Unreasonable? Everyone found The House across the Street hard to watch, mainly because the lead character was far too keen to intrude into the tragic events. It was a bold step to create such a character, and we talked about how some people might become too involved in other people's lives in order to compensate for flaws in their own. Am I being Unreasonable is a very black comedy, which was enjoyed by most, despite its unconventional subject matter. It had the power to surprise us, and there were many comic moments. Next month we will meet on December 20th to discuss The English (BBC 2) and Castle Howard: Through the Seasons (Channel 4).

Janet Lander

**RESERVED SEATS AT THE MONTHLY MEETING**

At the next monthly meeting, there will be reserved signs on some of the front seats, so that it will be easier for any who are especially hard of hearing, or have eyesight issues, to enjoy the speaker. Please feel free to sit on one of these seats if it would be of benefit to you.

Janet Lander

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 COMMITTEE OFFICERS

Barry Doran
Chairman & Membership Secretary



Although Barry is designated Chairman, he and Keith are sharing the role.

As **Membership Secretary**, Barry is the first point of contact for new members.

His responsibilities include:

Responding to all enquiries, dealing with applications and membership renewals

Updating and maintaining members records both paper and computer based

Ensuring Data Protection protocols are observed

Ensuring Newsletters and other information are received by all Members

chairman@eastwoodu3a.org
membership@eastwoodu3a.org

Keith Sherwood
Treasurer



Treasurer tasks include:

Operating bank accounts;

Maintaining accurate and sufficiently detailed financial records in accordance with the requirements of Charity Law;

Reporting to the Committee on finance at each meeting;

Preparing the statement of accounts for examination and presentation to the AGM;

Preparing an annual budget and recommending the level of subscription to be paid by the members;

Paying approved invoices and agreed expenses and keeping receipts;

Ensuring the Committee has agreed appropriate procedures for the handling of financial matters.

treasurer@eastwoodu3a.org

Marianne Sparrow
Vice Chairman & Groups Coordinator (joint)



One of the roles of a Vice Chairman is to deputise for the Chairman and so Marianne will need to be familiar with all necessary procedures and able to assume responsibility at short notice, if required to do so.

Groups Coordinator: creates and maintains all the Interest Groups, and, by listening to the needs and requirements of the group contacts and the membership, works with both to ensure needs are met.

The Group Coordinators:

Communicate on a personal level with as many people as possible to keep abreast of current requirements and problems, and look for new group contacts;

Provide information and the opportunity to join Interest Groups at monthly Members meetings;

Source potential public venues for Interest Group meetings;

Keep a file of information on possible Group contacts and Members' interests in order to set up new groups or help existing groups maintain their numbers.

Marianne is working as **Groups Coordinator** alongside Anne Steel and Madeleine Fletcher.

vice.chairman@eastwoodu3a.org
groups.coordinator@eastwoodu3a.org

Janet Lander
Business Secretary



The **Business Secretary** is the Committee organiser. Along with the Chairman, Janet prepares the agenda for committee meetings, she takes the minutes at meetings, and prepares them for approval.

The Business Secretary keeps the wheels of the organisation turning. She needs to be able to work well with the Chairman and agree upon a course of action. Mutual trust is essential.

business.secretary@eastwoodu3a.org