



Items for the newsletter should be emailed to

newsletter@eastwoodu3a.org

Deadline for March 2024 newsletter - Monday 12th February



MONTHLY MEETING

7th February

David Amos- *Speaker*

“An illustrated talk on The Barber Walker Co: A Coal Mining Dynasty”

David Amos has a reputation for giving enthusiastic, fascinating and informative talks. He is an experienced speaker delivering illustrated talks on his specialist subject area of the Industrial Revolution in the East Midlands. His particular interest is in the history of local railways and coalmining.

He is currently a part-time Research Associate in Coal and Dialect at Nottingham Trent University.

Roger Kidd - Speaker Finder

VOLUNTEERS

Setting Up: Rob Leam, Neil Kirk

Refreshments: Linda Lambert, Georgia Hanson, Sue Wheatley, Heather Wright.

Signing In: Patricia Whelan, Joy Smith

Meet and Greet: Shirley Reynolds, Roger Reynolds.

Many thanks to our volunteers. It would be really helpful if you could arrive between 9.00 and 9.15 am.

Doris Fellows, Volunteer Coordinator

u3a AGM

NOTIFICATION OF EASTWOOD & DISTRICT u3a AGM

The 10th Annual General Meeting of Eastwood & District u3a will be held on the 5th June 2024. Please consider whether you are able to put your name forward to be on the committee. Descriptions of all committee roles can be found on the website.

<http://eastwoodu3a.org/committee/descriptions-of-committee-roles/>

If you want more information, please talk to any member of the committee.

Barry Doran - Chairman

NEWSLETTER POSTAL CHARGE

Members who are not on the internet and would like the newsletter posted to them can do this by paying £10 on top of their annual subscription. This is less than the true cost but it reflects a commitment to receiving it.

u3a

MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTION

Membership subscriptions are due before the 1st April 2024. Renewal forms are available on the website

www.eastwoodu3a.org/forms

Whichever method you use to pay your subscription you MUST fill in a renewal form.

If there are no changes to your details, fill in your name, membership number and date and sign the top section of the form. You must then complete the Privacy Statement to confirm your consent to the storage and use of your data.

The current subscription is £20 for the year, £12 for Associate Members.

WAYS TO PAY

If possible please pay your subscription by Bank transfer - a one-off bank payment. You must also complete a renewal form and email the treasurer to confirm payment.

Name of payee: Eastwood & District u3a

Sort code: 60-07-28

Account no: 456 35 714

Reference: Your name & membership no (this is essential for the treasurer to pick out who has paid)

Amount: £20

You can pay by Bank transfer through your local post office if you don't bank online.

We will be collecting subscriptions at the Monthly Meeting but if you don't attend and you want to pay by cash or cheque please contact Barry Doran:

membership@eastwoodu3a.org

Tel: 07565 928 992

GIFT AID

We gain useful income for the U3A through the use of Gift Aid. If you are able, please consider this when renewing your membership.

JOINT GIFT AID

If you have signed a gift aid form for yourself and others in your household, the person who completed the gift aid form must pay the full joint amount and sign the renewal form.

BIRDWATCHING CHRISTMAS OUTING

The bird watching and wildlife group were due to visit the Brinsley headstocks to walk along the old railway tracks. Past years we have seen plenty of winter birds here but due to high winds the visit was cancelled for safety reasons. This year we have had several events cancelled, or moved to another date, which has never happen in previous years! Global warming. We did not let this put us off as we all met at the Brinsley Lodge for Paul and Christine's social Christmas lunch as previously arranged. We had a wonderful time with good food and company.

The group over the year had seen 68 species of birds with the highlights probably being Avocet, Black necked grebe, Marsh harrier, Osprey and Little ringed plover. Another good and enjoyable year with the weather playing its part.

Paul and Christine Millington



POETRY

THE SNOW STORM

The first flakes fell faintly
as feathers from a dove.
Then, spreading and settling,
cloaked the ground like a well-fitting glove.

Whiteness! A brightness unburdened the world;
lit up the dark season.
Away! All the bleakness
was hid from our vision.

Faster, ferocious
it gathered in swiftness.
All swirling and whirling,
a dervish, so keen in its avarice.

Deeper and drifting it covered the roads.
It contoured in its wake
the fields and the cities
like a newly iced cake.

It's still now and silent
as angels with wings furled.
A treat for our senses,
perfection embodied in this white world.

Pat Potter Feb 2019

EASTWOOD & DISTRICT u3a HISTORY

Steering Committee, Inaugural Meeting and first Interest Groups

After the launch, the people who had volunteered to help form the steering committee met up, agreed their roles and began working out what their 'job' entailed. With the help of mentors - Michaela Moody, Karen Highfield Taylor and Jan Pavier - they set about creating the constitution, rules for membership, opening bank accounts, creating the newsletter and website, plus many spreadsheets for membership details and finance.

It was agreed that this new u3a would be called the Eastwood & District u3a, to encompass Kimberley and local villages in the NG16 area. An outline plan was made for the Monthly Meetings - a guest speaker, the opportunity to join interest groups, news updates and refreshments; new members to be able to join at each meeting.

The Inaugural Meeting was held on Wednesday 2nd July in Plumtre Hall, St Mary's Church, Eastwood where almost 100 people signed up as members of the new Eastwood and District u3a. The Steering Committee had worked hard to get things started and were overwhelmed at the fantastic response to the inaugural meeting. Many of the first 100 members are still taking a very active part in our u3a.

Michaela Moody, the East Midlands Regional Trustee, started off the meeting by introducing the new chairman, Ann McGillivray, who in turn introduced the other members of the steering committee. This committee would run the Eastwood & District u3a for the first year until the AGM.

Special Interest Groups are the heart of the u3a and the following groups were set up at the Inaugural Meeting: Spanish, Singing for fun, Apple Computing, Craft/Textiles, Bridge, Strollers, Walks- 5 miles, Vegetable Gardening and Book Group. Some of these groups still exist, with the same Group Contact.

.... more to follow

NB. A copy of the first Eastwood & District newsletter is attached to this month's newsletter.

Margaret Naylor



HISTORY OF ENGLAND

You may be surprised to know that if you were a Victorian lady your best hat would be adorned with several stuffed birds, feathers and all!



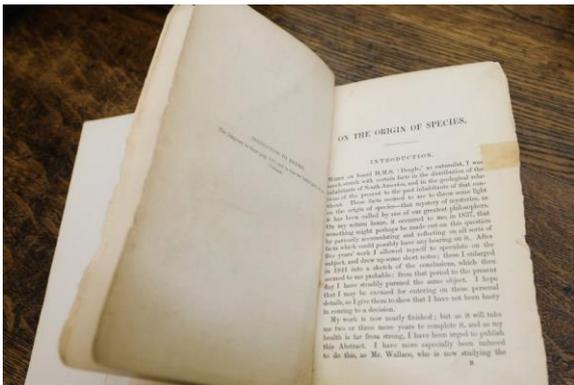
The History of England group have been learning about Queen Victoria, Prince Albert and the developments in the Victorian era for several months now; both the factual and the quirky.

Victoria reigned from 1837 to 1901 and her love for Prince Albert is well known. They had nine children and resided on the Isle of Wight in Osborne House.



Prince Albert died in 1861 from typhoid but modern research has shown that he may have been suffering from Crohn's disease.

Major events during the period include the introduction of the penny post; the Victoria Cross is founded for Military bravery; Charles Darwin wrote *On the Origin of Species*; the Education Act made primary education compulsory, and Victoria became Empress of India.



The Great Exhibition in Crystal Palace was the first international exhibition, conceived by Prince Albert in 1851 to celebrate the Industrial Revolution. There were more than 100,000 products on display and more than six million people visited it.



We now go on to look at the British Empire next month. By the end of the 19th century Victoria ruled over "*the greatest empire the world has ever seen*".

But back to some of the quirky fashions of the time. Ladies used arsenic to ensure a clear and fresh complexion; families posed for photographs with their newly departed; Victorians who had travelled to Egypt brought back mummies to unwrap at special unwrapping parties, and there were many clubs dedicated to eating the weirdest animals. Even Charles Darwin was a keen eater of anything exotic.

Let's hope these don't catch on again!

Pat Potter

NEW GROUPS?

Does anyone have any ideas for new groups that they would be interested in attending or running?

If so, please contact the group co-ordinators Anne and Madeleine at:

groups.coordinator@eastwoodu3a.org

FROM THE ED

Thank you to everyone who has contributed to this month's edition of the newsletter, it's another bumper issue.

New members can find it tricky to know exactly what goes on in our groups. It would be great if we could have some reports - no matter how short - from groups we've not heard from for a while.

What athlete is warmest in the winter?

A long jumper!

Why was the turkey in a band?

Because he was the only one with drumsticks!

PHOTOGRAPHY

The photography group continues to meet regularly on the 3rd Tuesday of the month at Brinsley Parish Hall 10.00am

In December we had a Christmas fuddle enjoyed by all, with photographs taken by the members being shown throughout.

At the February meeting as well as showing pictures on chosen themes, we are setting up various table top displays to enable us to experiment with lighting and photographic setting to show what imagination can achieve using everyday items. Experienced members will be demonstrating and assisting us with this.

Barbara Sherwood



THEATRE

Our Theatre Group have enjoyed a number of years experiencing a variety of dramas and musicals at many venues in Nottinghamshire & Derbyshire.

During this time we have been supported by our group leader **Marianne Sparrow** who is regrettably stepping down from this position. This has been one of our most successful groups with 60 members, plus a waiting list, due entirely to Marianne's hard work. This shared love of the theatre has helped to forge many friendships and it would be sad to see it close.

Running a group of this size is a big task but very rewarding and if two people could share this leader position it would be so much easier. Marianne is happy to help and advise any new theatre group leader. Please contact Anne Steel or myself (Madeleine Fletcher) if you would like to discuss this further.

Thank you again to Marianne and we will look forward to seeing you again soon.

Madeleine Fletcher

New Year Office Chitchat

How was your Christmas? he asks
at the water cooler

and, as the machine gurgles,
she thinks about

the bloodstained rug
and the silent scraping of the spade

in the garden at midnight
and the wash wash washing

of her hands,
and the dreams,

those endless dreams
which haunt the night-time

and smudge their thumbprints
on the day to come,

and she replies
Super, thanks. Yours?

Brian Bilston

By kind permission of the author

“Volunteers
don't get paid,
not because
they're
worthless,
but because
they're
priceless.”

Sherry Anderson

Sudoku 2

	4				9			3
3		8		6		5		4
		5	8	3		2	7	
4	3	2	9		1			7
6	8			7			2	9
7			4		6	3	1	8
	9	6		4	7	1		
1		3		9		7		5
5			2				8	

9 Letter Word Puzzle - No 2

I	D	O
F	C	N
N	E	T

- How many words can you make from these letters?
- Words must be at least 4 letters long and must contain the middle letter.
- Try to make a 9 letter word if you can.
- **Extra challenge** – make longer words by using letters more than once.

SUDOKU 1 ANSWERS

9	8	4	3	1	6	2	7	5
7	2	1	9	5	4	3	6	8
6	3	5	2	8	7	9	1	4
2	9	6	7	3	5	4	8	1
5	1	3	8	4	9	6	2	7
8	4	7	6	2	1	5	9	3
3	6	8	4	7	2	1	5	9
4	5	9	1	6	8	7	3	2
1	7	2	5	9	3	8	4	6

WORD PUZZLE 1 ANSWERS

T G L N E A M E N

9 letter words	5 letter words
gentleman	metal
	agent
8 letter words	meant
entangle	leant
	eaglet
7 letter words	eaten
elegant	elate
6 letter words	4 letter words
tangle	tang
mantle	lent
mental	gent
lament	team
gannet	teal
gamete	tale
legate	mate
magnet	meat
negate	meet
gentle	teem
mantel	neat
neaten	gate
	teen
	late
	tame

Extra challenge - using letters more than once

entanglement	latent
gentlemen	tangent
gallant	mallet
genteel	natal
teenage	agate
talent	

GROUP INFORMATION

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

groups.coordinator@eastwoodu3a.org

Art Appreciation: meet in Brinsley Parish Hall, 3rd Monday @ 10:30 am.
Contact Helen 01773 710 743

Board Games: meet in the Hayloft, 2nd and 4th Monday @ 1.30 pm. **Next meeting not until Monday 8th April.**
Contact Pauline Dawkins 01159 383 530

Book Group: meet 1st Monday @ 11.00 am in Eastwood Library.
Contact Sue 01773 717676 or Pauline 01773 788366

Café Culture meet in various venues on the 2nd Wednesday at 10.30 a.m. **New members welcome!**
Contact Margaret 07828 155 086

Canasta: meet in the Hayloft, 2nd and 4th Thursday @ 11.00 am.
Contact Nina 01773 717 770

Church History:
Contact Marianne 01159 134 077

Coffee & Co: meet 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.
New Members welcome!
Contact Jackie 07580 340 014

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

Family History: meet in the Hayloft on the 4th Monday, 11.00 – 12.30 pm.
Contact Diana 01159 169 343

French Conversation: meet in the Hayloft on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of the month at 10.00 am.
New members welcome!
Contact Pauline 01773 788 366

GROUP INFORMATION

Gogglebox: meet in the Hayloft on the 3rd Tuesday, 11.00 – 12.30 pm. **New members welcome!**
Contact Janet 07889 976 342

History of England: meet in the Hayloft, 1st Thursday @ 10.00 am.
Contact Janet 01773 770 183

National Trust: meet in the Dog & Parrot on 1st Monday each month @ 10.00 am.
Contact Yvonne 01773 712 530

Pétanque:
Contact Colin 01773 715 493

Photography: meet in Brinsley Parish Hall on 3rd Tuesday @ 10.00 am.
New members, beginners & enthusiasts all welcome.
Contact Barbara 01773 786 004 or 07977109451

Psychology: meet in Rumbletums on the 4th Wednesday @ 1.00 pm.
Contact Jim 07977 415 072 or Diana 01159 169 343

Pub Pals:
Contact Janet 07961 832 864 or Rob 07845 177 500

Social Trips: Day trips out to various locations.
Contact Sandra tel. 07930 752 808

Spanish: meet on the 2nd & 4th Wednesday 11.00am - 12.30 pm @ Julie's Tea Rooms. **New members welcome!**
Contact Paul 01159 133 449

Strollers: This group has now finished for the Winter and will recommence in the Spring.

Walks, 5 miles: meet on Tuesday 6th February at 10 am. Attenborough Nature Reserve Car Park adjacent to Visitors Centre.
Contact Roger Reynolds for further information 01773 788169/07879492779

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

Whist: meet at the Hayloft, Giltbrook on the 2nd and 4th Thursday of the month at 2.00 pm.
Contact Glenis 01773 715 040

Wine Appreciation: meet in the Hayloft on the 2nd Monday @ 7.00 pm.
Contact Chris 07779 375865

GROUPS COORDINATORS

Anne's Groups	Madeleine's Groups	Formerly Marianne's Groups
1. Board Games	1. Art Appreciation	1. Book Group
2. Coffee Mates	2. Cafe Culture	2. Canasta
3. Creative Crafts	3. Church History	3. Gogglebox
4. History of England	4. Coffee & Co	4. Pétanque
5. Pub Pals	5. Creative Writing	5. Photography
6. National Trust	6. Family History	6. Social Trips
7. General Gardening	7. French Conversation	7. Theatre
8. War Babies and Boomers	8. Psychology	8. 5ml Walks
	9. Spanish	9. Wine Appreciation
		10. Whist