



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

**Deadline for February 2024 newsletter - Monday 15th January**



## Happy New Year!

In 2024 we celebrate 10 years of Eastwood & District u3a

### MONTHLY MEETING

**3<sup>rd</sup> January**

**Robert Mee- Speaker**

#### Crime in Langley Mill

A detailed examination of the type of crimes recorded by the police in this heavily industrialised village over a forty year period. Okay, so you may not be interested in Langley Mill itself. But the talk also offers an interpretation of the changes in the patterns of recorded crime, which is applicable to any community during this period.

*Roger Kidd - Speaker Finder*

### VOLUNTEERS

**Setting Up:** Rob Leam, J Armstrong.

**Refreshments:** Linda Lambert, Georgia Hanson, Pat Collins.

**Signing In:** Ann McGillivray.

**Meet and Greet:** Pauline Rollison, Jean Hartshon.

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*

### MESSAGE FROM OUR CHAIRMAN

#### Hello Everyone

On behalf of the committee, I want to wish you and your family all the very best for a very happy Christmas and a healthy and exciting New Year - I'm always the optimist!

We had a fabulous monthly meeting on December 6th. Graham Short was the superb speaker who narrated so professionally with humour laced with amazing details and unbelievable facts about his very unusual profession as a miniature engraver – wonderful. Many thanks go to Roger Kidd, our 'speaker finder'. We then had Christmas treats of mince pies, cakes etc. Thanks to all who organised and helped make the morning a great success.

It would be so good to see more of you there at these regular meetings. Before the pandemic we would have over 200 attend, now perhaps half of that total. Our membership is over 300 so do make a date and come along on January 3<sup>rd</sup> 2024 at 10am to St Mary's Eastwood.

All the best

*Barry Doran - Chairman*

### Committee members

All committee members now have lanyards to wear at the monthly meetings. Please do approach them if you need any help or information, or if you have any queries or issues to raise with the committee.

### 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, if you have not already done so. Many thanks to those of you who are already supporting us in this way.

### RESERVED SEATS AT THE MONTHLY MEETING

At the monthly meetings, 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.

### EASTWOOD & DISTRICT u3a

#### Prehistory

There was a lot of work behind the scenes long before the launch meeting in June 2014. The Third Age Trust didn't feel there was any call for a u3a in Eastwood and it took over 3 years to persuade them that there would be enough interest in the local community. Even when we were top of the list and next in line we were overtaken by another local area.

During that 3 years some options for meeting places disappeared but eventually the Third Age Trust booked Plumtre Hall for a series of preliminary meetings and got the ball rolling.

The first Wednesday in June was earmarked for the launch and despite torrential rain 100 people turned out to see what the u3a was all about. The meeting unanimously decided that a new u3A should be formed for Eastwood and district.

.... more to follow

*Margaret Naylor*

**GOGGLEBOX**

At our last meeting we discussed *The Reckoning* and *Three Little Birds*.

Despite its bleak subject matter, we all found *The Reckoning* compelling and that Steve Coogan was brilliant in portraying Jimmy Savile. Hopefully, the more stringent checks that are now in place will help to prevent these terrible things happening again in the world of television.

The period detail in *Three Little Birds* was liked and the liveliness of the music. It is generally based upon the lives of Lenny Henry's parents and their friends who came over from Jamaica, and it is hard to watch the racism that so many people experienced at that time. However, we felt that there were maybe too many stories going on at once, and that it might have been benefited from focusing in more detail on fewer characters.

*Janet Lander*

**THANK YOU LETTER**

Dear Roger and Keith,

I'd just like to say, on behalf of everyone here at **Asthma + Lung UK**, a huge thank you for your fantastic donation of **£133** following Mike Storr's presentation to Eastwood & District u3a.

£133 could help to pay towards our specialist Helpline team to support six people on our Helpline via phone or WhatsApp, offering lifesaving advice to the people who need it. Since 2020, our helpline team has provided advice and a listening ear to more than 50,000 people and we have helped people with lung conditions connect and get support from each other at our 150 support groups up and down the country.

It's amazing how much of a difference your donation can make which is why we'd like to thank you again for helping us. As the UK's only charity supporting everyone with a lung condition, we are determined to transform lung health, investing in even more world-leading research and urging the government to triple its research spend, fighting for clean air for all and ensuring everyone with breathless symptoms gets the diagnosis, treatment and care they need.

Thank you so much,

*Alice Field*  
Asthma & Lung UK

**WANTED**

We are looking for someone who usually uses Zoom to attend the monthly meetings and who would be willing to act as a Zoom Controller, admitting those who are using the link. Training provided if necessary.

**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**

Calling all members!

**u3a Poetry Competition 2023/24 is now open**

The deadline for submission is **12pm on Friday 26 January 2024**. Look on the website for further information:

<https://www.u3a.org.uk/learning/poetry-competition>

**This competition is open to all u3a members**, not just those in writing groups. You can only apply online so it is very important to follow the instructions carefully.

Best of luck to everyone.

**POETRY**

**NEW YEAR'S EVE**

I'll harvest memories of the year that's past.  
Bright shining moments that have blessed my life.  
Turn failings to the wall and let them go.  
There's no place for them in the year to come.  
Discourage demons. Some will not be gone  
but time has taught acceptance and resolve.  
So fill the glass to life. And fill again  
and toast the future. Greet this gift of life.

Happy New Year ! Let's sing of 'Auld Lang Syne'  
Oh, joyful bells, ring out across the world.  
Let's share the cup of kindness, and a prayer  
That everyone can know of someone's love.  
Look through the dusty panes of life and find  
some peace and hope for all of us to share.  
Time's ever moving, if we will or no.  
Shout out and tell the world "Happy New Year "

*Pat Potter Nov 21*



**PROCAFFEINATING**

(n.) the tendency to not start anything until you've had a cup of coffee.

### FRENCH CONVERSATION

The French Conversation Group meets twice a month on the second and fourth Tuesdays. Our current meeting place is the Hayloft at Giltbrook. We are enjoying our new venue and the staff at the Hayloft have made us very welcome.

Our members have a variety of different experiences of the French language. Some are brushing up their 'O' level French from many years ago, others have studied French at a higher level and others have lived in France. Some of us use Duolingo at home to consolidate our learning.

Previously we had a French teacher who led the group, but now we run the group on a self-help basis. Participants bring along activities to encourage conversation. These include playlets, songs in French, descriptions of objects, sentence starters, games, and sometimes we listen to French Podcasts and discuss the content.

*Pauline Clayton (Group Contact)*

### 5 MILE WALK - DECEMBER

Our enjoyable get-together at Beauvale Priory after the Christmas walk.



*Roger Reynolds*

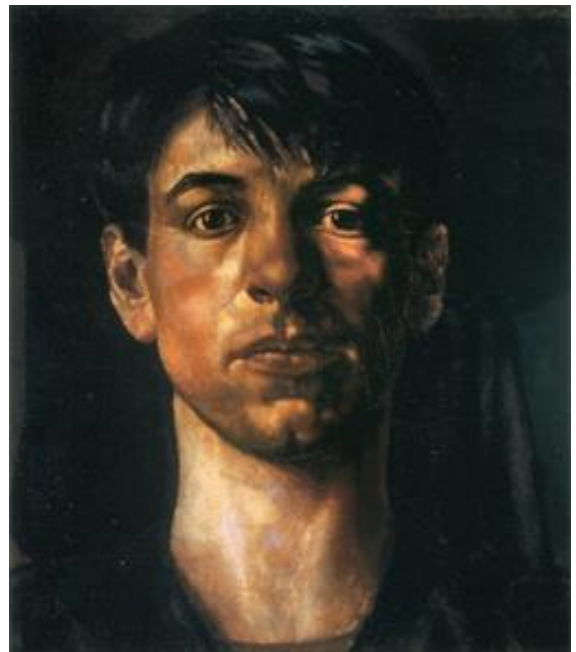
**According to my  
chocolate advent  
calendar, there  
are only three  
days till  
Christmas.**

### ART APPRECIATION

In November, one of our members, Janet Lander, did an interesting presentation about the British artist, Stanley Spencer (1891 - 1959). She explained how his art was influenced by both his religious beliefs, and also his love of his home town, Cookham in Berkshire.

The talk charted how he was commissioned to create murals to commemorate the life of Henry Willoughby Sandham, who died in 1919, following the wounds he sustained in Macedonia during the First World War. These can still be seen today at the Sandham Memorial Chapel in Burghclere, near Newbury (National Trust). He produced many bible-based pictures, using Cookham as the location, and used a semi-abstract style which echoed the paintings of Giotto and Breughel.

He also worked as an official War Artist during both World Wars. We also learnt about this complicated personal life and how this affected his art.



*Janet Lander*



### Sudoku 1

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

### 9 Letter Word Puzzle - No 1

G	L	N
E	T	A
M	E	N

- 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.

### CREATIVE CRAFTS

Another busy month for the Creative Crafts group:



Scarves, mittens, hats, fish n chip vests, teddies, quilts and Christmas tree decorations all sent to PUMA (Plymouth Ukraine Medical Aid). These will be taken to Ukraine Uzhhorod hospital, care homes and orphanages in the area in time for Christmas.



This is Sam the Scarecrow. He was a half-finished project found in the knitting stash of a local lady who died a few months ago. He was finished by Mary Brown and will now be given to a charity of the widower's choice as a raffle/tombola prize.



Margaret Naylor

**GROUP INFORMATION**

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

**[groups.coordinator@eastwoodu3a.org](mailto:groups.coordinator@eastwoodu3a.org)**

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

**Bird Watching and Wildlife:** meet 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday @ 10.30 am. Contact Paul 07986 037 871

**Board Games:** meet in the Hayloft , 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Monday @ 1.30 pm. Contact Pauline Dawkins 01159 383 530

**Book Group:** meet 1<sup>st</sup> 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, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday @ 11.00 am. Contact Nina 01773 717 770

**Church History:** Contact Marianne 01159 134 077

**Coffee & Co:** meet in various venues on the 4<sup>th</sup> 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 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday 1-2.30 pm and 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 4<sup>th</sup> Monday, 11.00 – 12.30 pm. Contact Diana 0115 9 169 343

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

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

**GROUP INFORMATION**

**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 1<sup>st</sup> Monday each month @ 10.00 am. Contact Yvonne 01773 712 530

**Pétanque:** Contact Colin 01773 715 493

**Photography:** meet in Brinsley Parish Hall on 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 11.00 - 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.

**Theatre Group:** meet in Dora Phillips Hall, Eastwood on 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday 1.00 – 3.00 pm. Contact Marianne 01773 717 500  
**TEMPORARILY SUSPENDED**

**Walks, 5 miles:** Meet on Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> January at 10 am Shipley Country Park, Car Park - near the visitor centre Contact Roger Reynolds for further information 01773 788169/07879492779

**War Babies & Boomers:** Contact Ann [warbabies@eastwoodu3a.org](mailto: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 1<sup>st</sup> Monday @ 7.00 pm. Contact Chris 07779 375865

**GROUPS COORDINATORS**

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