



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

Deadline for August 2024 newsletter - Monday 15th July



MONTHLY MEETING

Wednesday 3rd July

Speaker: **Andy Smith**

Life in Music

"A journey through life featuring self-penned comedy songs and ballads played on a multitude of instruments... plus a few well-known numbers."

Also Andy explains a bit about the instruments he brings along and how he writes and records on his home recording studio.

He is a popular speaker with lots of amusing chat and anecdotes.

Roger Kidd – Speaker Finder

VOLUNTEERS

Setting Up: Jerry Jarvis, Andy Gill, Rob Leam.

Refreshments: Linda Lambert, Sue Wheatley, Diana Pidgeon.

Signing In: Celia Dorkes, Sarah Gill.

Meet and Greet: Pauline Daws, Barbara Moir.

Doris Fellows – Volunteer Co-ordinator

GROUPS

If anyone is interested in starting up the Discovering Nottingham group again (visiting local places of interest), there is a folder ready and waiting to use, with all the relevant information in. Please let one of the committee know if you are interested.

At the next meeting, there will be a "blue book" available for members to express any interest that they have in a group. If each new one is put on a separate page, then others could also add their name, and hopefully this could lead to the creation of new groups. We would really benefit from extending the number of groups that are available to new members, and many groups are sadly missed.

Janet Lander

THANK YOU FROM THE EDITOR

A big thank you to all those who have contributed to our July newsletter. Special thanks for all the fab photos.

Enjoy!

Melanie Weston

Committee Roles

The roles for the new committee are as follows:

Chairman	Roger Kidd
Vice-Chairman	Anne Steel
Treasurer	Keith Sherwood
Business Secretary	Janet Lander
Group Co-ordinators	Madeleine Fletcher, Sharon Dudley, Anne Steel
Welfare	Sharon Dudley
Volunteers	Doris Fellows
Website	Anne Steel

We would welcome help with the following –

Publicity Co-ordinator and **Equipment Co-ordinator**.

If you are able to help, either as a committee or volunteer role, please contact one of the committee. It is possible to co-opt extra members to the committee during the year.

Janet Lander

10th Anniversary Celebration

We had a very enjoyable celebration after the AGM on 5th June. The pioneer members were presented with beautiful u3a glass coasters, made by Jim and Lorna Stirland's daughter. It was inspiring to see the original members and committee who had the vision to start the whole project off.

We enjoyed learning about the race to find a nerve agent detector from our own member, Gerry Jarvis, and to name the new u3a bear. A stylish anniversary cake had been decorated by Lorna Stirland, and was shared out among members.

The morning was rounded off by a delicious buffet, largely provided by donations from members and augmented by a donation of cakes and biscuits from Morrisons.

Many thanks to the organisers of the event and our regular helpers – Linda and her team in the kitchen, and also for the extra help provided by Barbara Ingall, Sue & Graham Parkin, Rob Leam, Geoff Gratton and Cecil Peters.

Janet Lander

New Chairman

Hi,

I am pleased to introduce myself as your new "Chairman." I regret to inform you that I will not be able to attend our monthly meetings in July and August due to prior commitments. Among these commitments is the funeral of my father in Kent, my hometown.

Having worked as an Aircraft Engineer for 50 years, I have a wealth of management experience in the aviation industry, having worked with various Airlines and Maintenance Organizations until my retirement in 2017.

My late wife and I joined u3a three years ago, and I must say that it has been a remarkable experience. The u3a offers a wide range of groups to join, from National Trust to Coffee Mornings and if you cannot find a group that interests you, I encourage you to start your own, and we have individuals who can guide you through the process. Get out there and meet people you only get one shot at life, live it. Our Organisation is run by volunteers who give up their time to help others. When you signed up you declared where you might be able to help.

I will see you in person either at the September meeting or at one of the group meetings.

Enjoy your summer such that it is so far.

*Roger Kidd
Chairman*

THE u3a BEAR

At the recent meeting, we held a vote to decide the name of the new bear. It was a very close contest between the two most popular suggestions, and Clint won by a narrow margin. He has been on a visit to French conversation already.

However, fans of the other choice, Fred, can rejoice, because we have now got a companion bear (a little brighter yellow), who has been duly christened with that name. He went on the National Trust trip to Erddig and behaved himself beautifully.

Janet Lander

u3a FESTIVAL 24

Tickets for our first ever u3a festival, in York, available now!

Between **18-20 July**, members will be having fun and learning together with workshops, talks, music and more.

See the full programme on the u3a Festival 24 page <https://www.u3a.org.uk/events/festival-2024>

Book your tickets-<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/u3a-festival-24-tickets-851586085907>



THEATRE GROUP

I want to start the theatre group again on a limited basis. There will be no monthly meetings as this is not viable for me yet.

I will book some of the specially discounted tickets at the Playhouse for the next few productions and will advertise those to people who belonged to the theatre group via our WhatsApp group. To begin with ticket numbers may be limited depending on availability so I will operate on a first come first served basis.

It has been a while since we last met and I know people have missed the group so I'm hoping this will be a welcome step forward.

Marianne Sparrow

10th Anniversary celebrations – presentation of commemorative coasters to founder members



Members Achievements

Three of our members took part in the Nottingham Race for Life around the Embankment on Sunday 23rd June. They ran the 10k race to raise money for Cancer Research. Well done to you all!

Melanie Weston
Maureen Ward
Frances Lomax



CREATIVE CRAFTS

These post box toppers were designed and made by the Creative Crafts group to celebrate our 10th anniversary with the theme of a party or picnic.



POETRY

Caveman

I lie and dream of days that used to be
of hunting down wild aurochs with the clan.
The skinning and the cutting of the meat;
back to the fire, the rituals began.

The fire lit the night, the sparks arose
around us in a mystifying haze.
We drank the tincture, new thoughts to expose;
our totem spirits signalled and amazed.

Clan of the Wolf, their Chief I was and now
my life is draining like a summer stream.
The shaman's magic fails, does not endow
my body with the strength for which I dream.

I lie within the cave, unmoving, still.
The twilight fades, the moon is on the wane.
My spear and wolf skin, taken from a kill,
escort me to that everlasting plain.

When future hunters my bones will discover,
then will they know that I and they are brothers?

Pat Potter June '24

POETRY

Today's Climate Forecast

And onto today's climate forecast,
where we can expect to see a prolonged spell of inaction,
interspersed with patches of hazy promises
across many areas.

Over Westminster and other centres of government,
a build-up of hot air will cause inactivity
to soar to record levels over the coming days,
in spite of the high pressure.

Elsewhere, a front of chronic misinformation
will sweep in from the east,
bringing with it a band of climate change deniers
and the chance of scattered falsehoods,

while powerful gusts of idiocy and ignorance
look set to blow across social media.
Outbreaks of 'We just got on with it in 1976'
and 'It's called the British summer, mate' are likely.

In summary: unsettling.

With kind permission of Brian Bilson



Margaret Naylor

ART APPRECIATION

At our May meeting we had a presentation on Pierre Auguste Renoir, a leading member of the Impressionist movement. We heard how he progressed from starting work in Limoges painting on fine china to Paris where he became friends with other Impressionists such as Monet.

He was a painter of portraits and still-life, but he was also famed for his paintings of social scenes.



**Luncheon
of the
Boating
Party**

1881

He was particularly interested in depicting the reflections of light and colour on water and colours in shadows. He painted 'en plein air', out in the open, and often sat alongside Monet. Several pairs of paintings exist where they painted the same scene.

In 1881 Renoir began 'The Umbrellas'. Whilst painting it, he travelled to Italy and there studied the grand masters. He began to question whether he was taking the right path and returned to complete 'The Umbrellas' in a more severe classical style. This change can easily be seen when looking at the painting and the mystery of why it took 5 years to complete is explained.



**The
Umbrellas**

1881-6

It may not reproduce here very well but we were very lucky to see it for ourselves when for our June meeting we visited Leicester's Museum and Art Gallery. As part of the National Gallery's 200th Anniversary, 12 museums around the country are displaying 12 iconic artworks from the national collection during this summer, under the title 'National Treasures'. Leicester is displaying Pierre Auguste Renoir's masterpiece "The Umbrellas" (c 1886), one of the most famous artworks in the world.

Helen Baker

Clint's Corner



I must begin by thanking you for the warm welcome I have received as the newest member of the u3a. I was formally christened as Clint, (Eastwood) on Wednesday 5th June at the 10th Anniversary/AGM. I am determined to do my best to promote and represent our u3a.

I am already being kept very busy and have been sat at the Treasurer's desk as I do have a lot of responsibility now. I was also present at the induction of committee members Roger and Sharon.



I have already been on tour for a very enjoyable day out with the National Trust group. I was safely strapped in and had a front seat view of the journey to Bodnant Gardens, Wales, leaving the rain behind last week which made a pleasant change!

J'ai passé un très bon moment avec mes copains du French Conversation group au Hayloft Pub. Nous avons lu une scène amusante ensemble et un copain a lu une histoire au sujet du retrait de son ancienne cuisinière. Quel cauchemar!



I look forward to meeting you in one of our many wonderful u3a groups and appearing with you in this noble newsletter in the future. Please invite me to your groups, make my day!

Finally, however, I must address a rumour circulating about me. A topper was seen in the town, and it has caused some gossip as there appeared to be three other bears sitting on the top. The paparazzi are hunting for a mummy bear. I can confirm to you all, it is a definite case of mistaken identity.

*Clint Eastwood
Official Mascot*

PERSONAL ACCOUNT OF D DAY

This is an authentic account of D day from my Uncle. I thought it might be interesting in light of the eightieth anniversary.

This diary was given to my Uncle George as a Xmas present from my Mum. Nobody even knew it existed until after he passed away when he was in his eighties. It was a small 3" x2" leather backed book which he had obviously carried during some horrendous unimaginable scenes. After his death I typed it up for his daughters. We owe so many such a debt for their sacrifice.

3 Sat

I embarked on a tank landing craft today at 4pm for the invasion. We don't know where we are going

4 Sun

We are anchored just off Portsmouth. Weather a bit rough.

5 Mon

We lifted our anchor today at 6pm. We are now headed for France. I'll be glad when we land. (seasick)

6 Tue

Landed at (Lion -Sur- Mer)

We landed at 12.05pm today. No opposition on landing. Plenty of shelling 1000 yds in land.

7 Wed

Nearly killed today.

We advanced a little today. We have had a terrific shelling all day two of our Stretcher Bearers (SB's) killed. Memoranda -Wednesday was just like living in Hell. (missed death by inches)

8 Thu (In the wood)

Not so bad today but still getting shelled. We did have a little rest.

9 Fri (In the wood)

Today our battalion got a terrible cutting up 20% casualties.

Bloody Hell itself.

10 Sat (In the wood)

We set out today to collect our dead and bury them. Our SB's are worked to death.

Draft of letter sent to girlfriend Alice - before D Day Landing

MEMORANDA 5/6/44

To :-

My Darling Alice

I am writing this note just before I land in France.

I want you to know darling, that in case I shouldn't come out of this battle, to try to forget me and find somebody else.....

Because if there is one thing I want it is for you to be happy, so please darling do as I say.

Goodbye my darling. I shall always be thinking of you.

I love you

George xxxx

George returned from the war, married his beloved Alice and had three daughters Eileen, Kathleen and Maureen and lived a life in which he didn't talk about the sacrifice and suffering he had seen.

Marianne Sparrow

WAR BABIES AND BOOMERS

Games and Pastimes - April 24 Meeting - Part 2

What were our indoor activities when it was too cold, or too wet, or too dark to be outside?

Books and comics were a big distraction. Many of us had our weekly comics: favouring Beano **or** Dandy – rarely both, and then the gender targeted Eagle and Bunty. In our early teens there were the music magazines like New Musical Express (NME), and teenage magazines with hints on makeup, hairdos, agony aunts and 'true life' stories.

Magazines and newspapers had special children's sections with story strips, games and puzzles. Libraries were a godsend to children, where they could discover a whole world of adventure, goodies and baddies, midnight feasts and jolly japes beyond their everyday life – Biggles, Treasure Island, Enid Blyton, or Agatha Christie.

Radio gave us Listen with Mother, Dick Barton, The Adventures of Tintin. Then came television: Muffin the Mule, Bill and Ben, The Woodentops, and American cartoons: Tom and Jerry, Popeye, Yogi Bear.

We played card and board games, dominoes, draughts and tiddly winks, built Meccano models and balsawood aeroplanes, dressed cardboard dolls, painted pictures or models made from plaster of Paris or papier mâché, collected stamps, cigarette cards, thimbles, teaspoons, autographs, or birds' eggs, butterflies and moths.

How many of us had trainsets, or steam engines that were added to as birthday money or pocket money allowed?

These are just some of the things we did. What have I missed?

Ann McGillivray

GOGGLEBOX - JUNE

We discussed Rebus and Rob and Rylan's Grand Tour.

Re-imagining Rebus as a younger self in the modern world was an interesting idea, supported by Ian Rankin, writer of the many Rebus crime fiction books. Some of us thought it was quite successful, using an up and coming actor, Richard Rankin (no relation), who is a star in the popular Outlander series. Others were fans of the Ken Stott version and found this one hard to follow. The story centred round gangland killings and contained a lot of violence and swearing. Fans of the books found it hard to deal with the changes to significant characters like Siobhan and Rebus's boss, Gill Templar. However, the topics in the series did refer to ones in the books, with a different slant.

By contrast, everyone had enjoyed watching Rob and Rylan, and thought that basing their tour around the travels of Lord Byron was a good one. We learnt a lot about the three different cities and how they were experienced by the original "gap year" generation in the 18th century. Rob and Rylan brought a refreshingly new approach to the famous tourist spots and we saw them from an alternative viewpoint. We also had a glimpse into their differing profiles and saw beyond the celebrity status. Another series would be very welcome.

On July 16th, we will discuss Suranne Jones: Investigating Witchcraft Trials (two programmes on Channel 4), Douglas is Cancelled (four programmes on ITV1) and Lost Boys and Fairies (three programmes on BBC iplayer).

Janet Lander

Sudoku 7

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

9 Letter Word Puzzle - No 7

H	E	N
A	S	I
P	S	P

SUDOKU 6 ANSWERS

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

WORD PUZZLE 6 ANSWERS

A O C O L H T C E

9 letter words	4 letter words
chocolate	coat
5 letter words	hate
cocoa	tale
cleat	teal
teach	late
leach	talc
loath	alto
tache	chat
latch	heat
octal	halt
cheat	coal
catch	lath
latch	hale
lathe	heal
Extra challenge - using letters more than once	
cacao	hatch
thatch	hall
tall	call
that	total
tact	

- 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.

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. **New members welcome!**
Contact Helen 01773 710 743

Board Games: meet in The Hayloft, 1st Monday @ 11.00 am – 1.00 pm.
Contact Pauline 07759 383530

Book Group: 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.
Contact Margaret 07828 155 086

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

Church History: Meets in Rumbletums 2nd Friday @ 1:00 pm.
Contact Marianne 01159 134 077

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

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

New Members welcome!

Contact Margaret 07828 155 086

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 0115 9 169 343

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

General Gardening Club meet 2:30 – 4:30, 3rd Friday April to September @ different member's garden each month.

Contact Ann on candamcg@gmail.com

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

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

Spanish: meet on the 2nd & 4th Wednesday 11.00 am - 12.30 pm @ Julie's Tea Rooms.

New members welcome!

Contact Paul 01159 133 449

Strollers: meet on the 4th Wednesday from April to Sept.

Contact Jill on 01773 765735, or 07979 964091

for further information.

Walks, 5 miles: Meet on Tuesday 2nd July 2024 at 10 am Jacksdale Garden Centre, car park at the rear.

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