



Items for the newsletter should be emailed to
newsletter@eastwoodu3a.org
Deadline for April 2025 newsletter – 17th March



Monthly Meeting

Wednesday 5th March 2025

Speaker: **Bharat Patel**

Radio and TV Reporter

One of the first Asian reporters on British radio and TV. His family left India for Zambia, then migrated to England. He arrived in Leicester armed with just a few words of English, including 'The dog barks at the fog' and 'The cat sat on the mat.' A teacher told him that Indians always speak with their teeth clenched, whereas the English speak with their mouths open and enunciate. This advice helped to get him a job at the BBC at a time when accents of any sort – Indian, Brummie or Geordie – were frowned upon.

Roger Kidd - Speaker Finder

Volunteers

Setting Up: Charles Hatton, Ivan Brown, John Armstrong, Bill Moore.

Refreshments: Linda Lambert, Heather Wright, Tina Ladell, Georgia Hanson.

Signing In: Mary Brown, Denise Watts.

Meet and Greet: Janette Wilson, Janice Matthews.

Doris Fellows - Volunteer Co-ordinator

Audio Loops

Please note that audio loops are available at the monthly meetings in the church. Please see the technicians' team at the front of the church to the right of the altar for further info. They will be happy to assist.

u3a AGM & Committee Roles

Our next AGM is **Wednesday, 4th June**. We are hoping to welcome new members to the committee who organise the running of the u3a to ensure it meets members' needs. This year, we're looking for a new business secretary, and other roles include publicity & another group co-ordinator. There are many jobs that need doing, and any help is appreciated. Meetings are held once a month. It is good to have fresh ideas and share the load. Nomination forms will be available at the April and May meetings, so please give this some consideration. Getting involved is a great way to make friends and new contacts.

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

Janet Lander

u3a

MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTION

Membership subscriptions are due before the 1st April 2025. 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 **Janet O'Neill**:

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.

French Conversation

January

Today there were only five of us at French conversation, but we all felt the session was well worthwhile, learning with fun.

First there was a short translation, "une longue randonnée dans la neige", a long walk in the snow, which gave us a chance to read aloud and improve our French pronunciation and also increase our vocabulary.

Next, one member, reaching a certain age, needs to renew their driving licence, and we discussed how much longer we might continue to drive, especially long distance, and the obstacles we are encountering.

And finally, we used Trivial Pursuit cards in French to play our own version of the game.

We learned, if we didn't already know, that hopscotch, 'la marelle', has never been an Olympic sport, though croquet has; that the three opposing countries in World War II were 'les Pays de l'Axe'; that the part played by Glenn Ellis in The Revenant was the bear, 'l'ours'; that Philadelphia, 'Philadelphie', was the city where the Declaration of Independence was signed; that the rare occurrence of two full moons in one month is 'la lune bleue', where the saying 'once in a blue moon' comes from; and that in 1880 telephone boxes, 'les cabines téléphoniques', became, in America, a feature on each street corner.

Every day's a school day.

Maureen Ward

February

On 11 February the French Conversation Group met for their twice monthly session at the Hayloft.

We took it in turns to read a story about a young man who went on a diet. In four weeks he lost 5 kilos but the lure of fast food proved too much for him and he not only put the 5 kilos back on but also another 5 kilos!

We then answered comprehension questions to prove how much (or how little) was understood.

We then played Bingo and some of us struggled with the numbers between quatre-vingts and quatre-vingts dix-huit.

We finished up with Trivial Pursuits in French which was challenging!

Two very enjoyable hours.

Alan Stonebanks

Poetry

Trees

Magic, Legend, Mystery; all of these are common to the nature of our trees.

The Hawthorne or May Tree will protect, but flowers brought indoors bad luck impacts. Its wood a maypole will provide when children weave its ribbons at spring tide.

Mid-summer solstice brings the longest day when Regal English Oaks take centre stage; the oaken ships have long been our defence; regard its timbers with a deference.

The ancient Yew, the oldest tree on earth made arrow heads for ancients and its worth of planting them in churchyards is acknowledged, and, as a poison, tribes took as a death pledge.

The Rowan wood provides a good luck charm, and plant it near to home to save from harm. Divine a water source from saplings crossed. Its common name is witchwood; its ethos.

The lady of the woods, the Silver Birch all light, love and fertility will not besmirch. And birch twigs tied in bundles, these do form a signal to all misfits to conform.

Our trees they are a treasure of the earth. They shelter and protect. We know their worth. The very air we breathe they do provide Exalt in them. They beautify our lives.

Pat Potter Oct '24

5 Mile Walks

A lovely walk on a sunny but windy day by the River Trent at Attenborough Nature Reserve with lovely sights and sounds of a great variety of birds, as well as an abundance of snowdrops and crocus at Attenborough church, reminding us that Spring is on its way.

Thanks to Heather again for leading this walk.



Maureen Ward

Memory Cafes

Here are the contact details for local Memory Cafes

Eastwood Memory Cafe

07847 716759 info@eastwoodmemorycafe.co.uk

Stapleford Memory Cafe

Jayne Daykin 07796 651950

jayne.daykin@ntlworld.com

Beeston Memory Cafe

07846403342 beestonmemorycafeinfo@gmail.com

Forget-me-not Support Group

(Kirkby in Ashfield) - 07763 519196 or 07751 006107

fmn.contactus@gmail.com

Singalong with Ellie

has groups in Heanor, Pinxton, Sutton in Ashfield and South Normanton

07813 148373 ellie@singalongwithellie.co.uk

Local History

We had an excellent meeting today with a very good turnout.

Our speaker was Peter Collins, the Operations Director of the Bennerley Viaduct Trust. He gave a really informative and detailed talk about the history of the local railways and the building of the viaduct, and its purpose within the network. He then traced how the disused viaduct and area have been rescued by the hard work of amateurs who formed the Friends of Bennerley Viaduct, and campaigned tirelessly for it to be restored and made accessible to the public.

We were shown maps and designs of the new Visitor Centre and cafe, which should be open to the public by this summer.

We all appreciated the tireless determination that had gone into reclaiming an important part of our industrial heritage.

There is a ten year plan in place, and it will be fascinating to see how the site is developed in the future, in line with strict guidelines.

When it is open, we intend to organise a visit to see it for ourselves at first hand.

Our next meeting is March 10th, when we will learn more about Higgs Farm, and this will be introduced by one of our own members, Karen Walsgrave.

Janet Lander

Review of February Speaker

Our speaker at the Eastwood u3a monthly meeting on the 5th February was Andy Smart, who gave a talk on Nottingham's Theatre History.

It was very entertaining, and I would like to have been a fly on the wall to listen to all the gossip, caustic first night reviews and people watching all the famous stars who graced the boards or sat in the audience. Stars such as Elizabeth Taylor and Richard Burton, Judie Dench, and Diana Rigg. Ken Dodd was the most prolific entertainer and there were queues round the block to buy tickets for his long-running annual shows.

We even had audience participation with a sing along to one of the old music hall songs: "my old man said follow the van..."

We had the history of how all the theatres evolved, how they were built, then demolished and even a near riot with the council offices when they threatened to knock down one of the theatres! They lost, and the theatre remains to this day. People power won the day.

There is even a ghost who appears every so often and has been seen near the stage. Rumour has it she was a woman who committed suicide after being left pregnant and homeless by an actor.

Such a rich tapestry of the history of our local theatres.

Anne Steel

Breach House Open Days

Breach House 28 Garden Road Eastwood.

Saturdays 11 - 3p.m.

April 5th

May 3rd

June 7th

July 5th

August 2nd

September 6th

Everyone is welcome to come along & view the Lawrence's family home which was so vividly depicted in 'Sons & Lovers'.

Visits outside of these times can be arranged by following the link on the D H Lawrence Society website.

There is no charge but donations are welcome.

Creative Crafts

Creative Crafts members are working on a variety of projects, mostly sewing but there are also a few knitters; so lots of things going on and a wealth of knowledge in the group.

A few months ago a lady from the Scottish Highlands offered us her stash of material as she had to give up sewing. She had seen my posts on the PUMA* Facebook site and trusted that our members would put the material to good use.

This is the first quilt, made by Janet Ferguson, and it will be sent via PUMA to Ukraine in a few weeks.



*PUMA = Plymouth Ukraine Medical Aid

We have had a few new members in Creative Crafts/KnitAid but the door is always open to new members.

Margaret Naylor

Photography

The photography group continues to meet monthly at Brinsley Parish Hall, when members show photographs on 2 designated themes and any outings. This is followed by tea/coffee, biscuits and a friendly chat with exchanges of ideas and helpful information regarding photography.

One of February's themes was kitchen utensils when one member Rita showed great imagination with this picture using 'fork handles' and 4 candles.



The group's next meeting is in March at Highfields.

Barbara Sherwood

Thank you from the Editor

Thank you to everyone who has kindly contributed to our newsletter this month. Your input is hugely appreciated.

Happy reading as always.

Melanie Weston

Groups Co-ordinators

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. Pétanque
6. Jewellery Making	6. Local History	6. Photography
7. KnitAid	7. Spanish	7. Psychology
8. National Trust	8. Strollers	8. 5ml Walks
9. Pub Pals	9. Wine Appreciation	9. War Babies and Boomers
10. Whist		

Group Information

If you have any 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 07535 785061

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

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 @ 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. **New Members welcome!**
Contact Margaret 07828 155 086

Creative Writing: meet 3rd Tuesday @ 2:00 – 3:30 pm
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 @ 10.00 am. **New members welcome!**
Contact Pauline 01773 788 366

General Gardening Club meet 2:30 – 4:30, 3rd Friday April - September @ different member's garden each month.
Contact Ann on candamcg@gmail.com

Gogglebox: meet in The Hayloft on the 3rd Tuesday, 11.00 – 12.30 pm.
Contact Janet 07889 976 342

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

Group Information

Jewellery Making: meet in The Hayloft, 3rd Thursday @ 10.00-11:30am. **Next meeting Thursday 20th March 2025.**
Contact Melanie 07722 177820

KnitAid: meet in Rumbletums, Kimberley, 3rd Thursday @ 10-12.00 noon.
Contact Margaret 07828 155 086

Local History: meet in Brinsley Parish Hall 2nd Monday @ 10:30 – 12:00
Contact Janet 07889 976342 janet_lander@yahoo.co.uk
or Julie Matthews 07929 914230 juliemattuk@yahoo.co.uk

National Trust: meet in The Dog & Parrot on 1st Monday each month @ 10.00 am.
Contact Yvonne 07951 886195

Pétanque: meet in The Foresters Inn Newthorpe.
Contact Jim 07977 415072 for further information.

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 Tuesday 4th March at 10 am
Street parking, Linkmel Road, near New Horizon Christian Centre, Langley Mill. For further information please
Contact Roger Reynolds 01773 788169/07879492779

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

Whist: meet in The Hayloft on 2nd and 4th Thursday.
Wintertime 1:00 – 3:00pm, Summertime 2:00 – 4:00.
Contact Lillian on 07526 535188

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