



Items for the newsletter should be emailed to
newsletter@eastwoodu3a.org
Deadline for May 2025 newsletter – 14th April



Monthly meeting

Date: Wednesday 2nd April 2025
Speaker: Jackie Harwood
Topic: Eastwood Volunteer Bureau

Speaker Finder: [Roger Kidd](#)

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 information. They will be happy to assist you.

Zoom

In future the zoom link for the monthly meeting will only be sent out either the evening before or on the day of the meeting. This change is for technical reasons and to ensure that you get the best possible quality and experience of using Zoom.

Executive Committee Nominations

The following members are willing to be nominated for the coming year:

Roger Kidd (Chairman)
Keith Sherwood (Treasurer)
Anne Steel (Vice-Chairman)
Janet O'Neill
Sharon Dudley
Janet Lander

The following post is vacant: **Business Secretary.**

We now need nominations for these members and others. Nomination forms will be displayed in the church at the monthly meeting.

Where two or more members are nominated for the same officer position, a ballot will be held.

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.

Treasurer Accounts

!! IMPORTANT !!

A reminder please that all group contacts for groups where money is collected have to pass to the Treasurer their accounts for the year 2024-25 as soon as possible after 1st April if not before.

Thank you.

Keith Sherwood

AGM and Committee Roles

Our next AGM is June 4th. Nomination forms for the new committee will be on the noticeboard.

We are looking for a new business secretary. Duties would include taking minutes at the committee meeting and sending items to the newsletter. If you think you would be able to fulfil this role, please talk to one of the committee members and there will be a specific area on the nomination form.

If you are interested in joining the committee in a more general way, then the lower spaces are for this – possible roles include publicity, group co-ordinator or looking after resources at the monthly meeting.

It is important for us to have continuity, whilst also welcoming new members, who would naturally bring a fresh way of looking at everything.

Janet Lander

Spam Emails

Several members of our u3a have received spam emails, apparently from other members. These do not contain any suspicious links, but a response will lead to a more obviously fake reply.

The official advice is to look at the beginning and end of the email carefully. Is it addressed directly to you and mentions your name, and does the sender add their name at the end? The absence of either of these is a significant pointer that this is spam.

Janet Lander

Singing for Pleasure

It is with regret that the singing for pleasure group has been cancelled. Due to an evening session not being available, there were not enough members to make up a group for the afternoon session.

Anne Steel

Local History

We had another interesting meeting in March, this time led by Karen Walsgrove. She shared her reasons for becoming a member of the Haggs Farm Preservation Society, and how it is linked with the life and writing of D.H. Lawrence.



It is the setting for several key scenes in *Sons and Lovers*, and Jessie Chambers has long been known to be the inspiration for Miriam Leivers in the novel. We learnt about the history of Haggs Farm, both before and after Lawrence's time, and how access has been denied by the Barber family, who felt that they had been unfairly portrayed in Lawrence's novels. It has now passed to a distant relative, but there seems to be little progress towards any kind of public access, however limited. There are yearly inspections to comply with building regulations and its historical significance, but few people have seen any of it.



This was felt by the group to be a sad state of affairs, and that it would be of great interest to people from all over the world who are interested in Lawrence.

Karen was ably assisted by Carol, who added to our knowledge about D.H. Lawrence's life and his links to Eastwood and the surrounding area.

Next month, we will share old photographs of our locality.

Janet Lander

Gogglebox

At our latest meeting, we discussed [The Fear Clinic](#), [Brian and Maggie](#) and [Out There](#).

We thought that there were too many episodes of [The Fear Clinic](#), and that they all followed the same formula. It was interesting to talk about different types of phobia and how they could be potentially overcome, including using the technique of "flooding" shown in the programme. We also talked about our personal experiences of fear.

Our overall opinion of [Brian and Maggie](#) was that it was quite "dry". Steve Coogan was thought to be good, but that Harriet Walter was maybe a little too old and fragile for the Maggie that we remembered. We agreed that not all of us were interested in politics at that time, and our personal responses varied with our age differences. Some members remembered watching the actual interview. We discussed how politicians in the 1980s and before, were not expected to be media stars like today. The writer is James Graham, who is from Notts and has written various political dramas, including [Sherwood](#).

[Out There](#) was felt to be a hard watch, with a significant amount of violence. Once again, there were maybe too many episodes. Martin Clunes is associated with other roles, and it was a bit off putting seeing him take on this role. A second series seems very likely, especially given the ending.

Next meeting we will discuss [Amandaland](#) (BBC 1) and [Unforgotten](#) (ITV).

[Janet Lander](#)

French Conversation

Notre dernière rencontre a eu lieu le 25 mars au grenier à foin à Giltbrook.

Nous avons fait une liste pour faire une liste pour aller faire les courses aux magasins. Après ça nous avons joué au jeu de mots cachés en français. Puis on a lu l'histoire d'un garçon qui voulait devenir domteur de lions quand il grandit.

Nous avons terminé en lisant et en traduisant un autre épisode de la vie de notre ami Louis.

Chaque fois nous nous amusons très bien et aussi nous améliorons notre français. Si quelqu'un est intéressé de nous joindre ça donnera grand plaisir, En ce cas s'il vous plaît contactez Pauline.

[Alan Stonebanks](#)

Review of March Speaker

The speaker at the March monthly meeting was Bharat Patel who was a radio and TV reporter.

He has Nottinghamshire connections having worked with various organisations around our area. He had also travelled around the world with his job reporting on earthquakes and the death of Lady Diana.

We were treated to life behind the scenes that you never hear about. Some very sad but most often hilarious. He won an award for going into the "smelliest house" and coming out alive! On a daily basis you never knew what you were going to be faced with. It could be interviewing Nigel the tortoise, or getting stuck in the African bush.

He also talked about his life in India as a young child and moving to Britain when he was 11. It was a great culture shock to a young boy, but he immersed himself in the peculiarities of our society and has had a varied and interesting career.

His book was on sale and the proceeds and donations going to cancer research for which £300 was raised. A great success.

[Anne Steel](#)

Poetry

Lark song at dawn can be gainsaid.

It's lost on me, I'm still abed.

Give me the creatures of the night;

the Barn Owl's searching swooping flight.

The urban fox's slinky walk

as through the darkling night they stalk.

The hedgehogs search for millipedes

as through our garden plots they feed.

And see the bats that swiftly flit

as on their midnight feasts they hit.

Nocturnal moths love to devour

sweet juice and nectar from the flowers.

Lark song at dawn can be gainsaid.

I like an extra hour in bed.

[Pat Potter](#)

Mar '25

Creative Writing

We are a small friendly group who meet approximately once a month. We write short stories, poems and in other formats. We explore dialogue, character and plot plus lots of varying writing techniques.

Here are some of the topics we have covered; modern fairy stories, writing from objects or photos, lonely hearts, life is like....., flash fiction, writing from the perspective of an animal or object, letter writing, memoir.

We are currently working on play scripts and are enjoying reading them to each other.

Some of our work has been in the Newsletter.

We all have different styles and interests but enjoy sharing our work without taking it too seriously. Writing can be therapeutic as well as being enjoyable. We also like to discuss other art forms; books, theatre, plays and television.

If you fancy giving it a try, grab a pen and join us.

Chris Niven

Haiku

Dog Kennel

Outside, inside house.

Shelter, homely, happy place.

Cosy, warm prison.

Cinquian

Traffic

Lorry!

Necessary.

Noisy, rolling convoy

Clogging services, big, brutal

Slow fiends.

Frances Lomax

From the Editor

Many thanks to our contributors this month's bumper edition of the newsletter. It's great to have so many articles and photos to get a really good insight into what all our various groups are getting up to each month.

I am getting to grips with a new laptop and new open source software LibreOffice, so this month has been a bit tricky to try to convert over the old format. I think it's going to be easier to do once my brain gets around a new way of doing things!

Happy reading!

Melanie Weston

Art Appreciation

We had a great meeting in February introducing some of our favourite artists:

Islay artist [Heather Dewar](#) was discovered during a scroll through TV channels. She has programmes on BBC Alba showing how she produces her lovely portraits, and interviews her subjects, whilst travelling around the Scottish Isles. The programmes are in Gaelic but there are subtitles!

[Bridget Reilly](#) is more well known. We were shown her illusional paintings which started mostly in black and white but later were influenced by the bright colours she saw when visiting Egypt.

We are all familiar with the surrealist paintings of [Salvador Dali](#) but not so much with his more realistic works. We were shown his Christ of Saint John of the Cross, an awe-inspiring piece held in the Kelvingrove Art Gallery, Glasgow.

[Avril Paton](#), another Scottish artist, paints detailed pictures depicting street life in Scottish cities. They are fascinating and make you want to look into all the windows and wonder about the lives of the people depicted.

We were introduced to [Rene Lalique's](#) jewellery of which not many of us were aware. These are intricate bejewelled pieces of the Art Nouveau style, many using the natural world for inspiration. There are flowers, dragonflies, peacocks in finely worked precious stones and metals.

One of our old favourites, [Joseph Wright](#) of Derby, was discovered in The Louvre. His View of Lake Nemi hangs in the British Gallery and was a more exciting sight for our member than the Mona Lisa! The National Gallery is holding an exhibition of his works starting towards the end of this year and is called From the Shadows. It is to be dedicated to his 'candlelight' paintings.

An aspect of [Degas](#) that we were not so familiar with was his sculpture. We were shown the little Fourteen-Year-Old Dancer which is a wax sculpture with real cloth, tulle and ribbon.

[Mark Gordon](#) was (he died two days after our meeting) a local artist. Born in Ireland he spent most of his life in Notts and Derbys. He painted in a variety of styles but we were shown his Elvaston Gothic – a moody, atmospheric scene from inside Elvaston Castle.

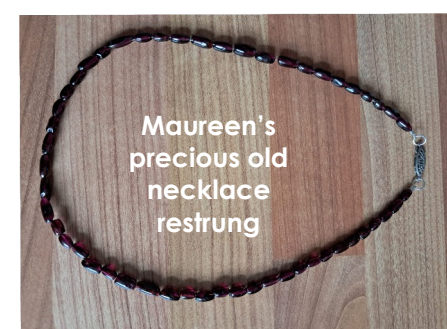
[Mike Tomlinson](#) is another local artist much admired. And we finished with Monet's flowers.

Helen Baker

Jewellery Making- February and March Meetings

At our last two monthly meeting we have been making earrings from scratch; replacing earring fixings on old existing earrings; mending/replacing broken clasps on necklaces and stringing new bracelets. We are starting to get to know each other and have a laugh and a coffee. It is a very supportive, lovely, friendly group of people enjoying being creative together.

Melanie Weston



Group Co-ordinators

Anne's Groups		Madeleine's Groups		Sharon's Groups	
1	Creative Crafts	1	Cafe Culture	1	Art Appreciation
2	French Conversation	2	Church History	2	Book Group
3	General Gardening	3	Coffee & Co	3	Canasta
4	History of England	4	Creative Writing	4	Gogglebox
5	Jewellery Making	5	Family History	5	Petanque
6	KnitAid	6	Local History	6	Photography
7	National Trust	7	Spanish	7	Psychology
8	Pub Pals	8	Strollers	8	5 mile Walks
9	Whist	9	Wine Appreciation	9	War Babies and Boomers

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

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 17th April 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: !! START OF WALK CHANGED !!

Meet at 10am Tuesday 1st April. Park on Old Church Rd at the top before Watnall Corner. For further information
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