



Items for the newsletter should be emailed to
newsletter@eastwoodu3a.org
Deadline for June 2025 newsletter – 19th May



Monthly meeting

Date: Wednesday 7th May 2025

Speaker: Philip Caine

Topic: Author of many novels speaks about his career

Born in 1950, in Barrow-in-Furness Philip's working life began in the hotel business. His career developed in the oil industry and 30 years were spent in places such as the North Sea, Algeria, Nigeria, Kazakhstan and Russia. From 2003, he spent 7 years in post-war Baghdad working with the American coalition and a further 3 years running oil services companies in Dubai. He retired in 2015 and began writing and public speaking, since then he has spoken at over 500 venues all over the UK and written 9 adventure thrillers.

Speaker Finder: Roger Kidd

Volunteers for Monthly Meeting

Setting Up: Rob Leam, Geoff Gration, Ernie Thornhill.

Refreshments: Linda Lambert, Georgia Hanson, Janice Matthews, Maureen Fownes.

Signing In: Ann Wright, Paul Bettridge.

Meet and Greet: Pat Collins, Sandra Burns.

Volunteer Co-ordinator: Doris Fellows

Audio Loop

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

From the Editor

Another bumper issue. Thanks again to all the contributors who take the time and effort to keep us all informed and involved in our many fab groups.

Melanie Weston

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.

AGM and Committee Roles

Nomination forms are now available at the monthly meeting. We still have a few spaces left for some new members. It is a great opportunity to get to know other members and to feel part of the group.

Committee meetings are held just once a month and we need enough members to cover all the different roles that are necessary for the organisation to run smoothly. It would be really good to have someone to organise publicity, and we are also looking for a new Business Secretary. This is not an onerous position, and consists mainly of taking the minutes of each committee meeting, and sending relevant articles to the newsletter.

Please consider if you are able to help in any way. We are keen to share the load and to bring in new ideas.

Janet Lander

Group Contacts

I hope that all is going well with your group, but if you have any queries or issues then please contact us and we will be happy to help you. We would like to put an article in the monthly newsletter of all the group's activities. Have you done anything or been anywhere that we can share with our members? It can be humorous or just factual. If you don't have anything to report then don't stress, we will be contacting you once a month for any news, if applicable. If you have any photos as well then that would be brilliant.

We also send articles to the u3a Newsbites which covers all of Nottinghamshire's u3as and is published every two months. There is usually a good response and we can put Eastwood on the map!

Look forward to hearing from you.

Group Coordinators: **Anne, Madeleine, and Sharon**

Gogglebox

March

We had a good meeting this morning and discussed **Amandaland** and **Unforgotten**.

Most of us had watched **Motherland** and really enjoyed its humour, so we weren't sure if a spin-off would work. Not everyone enjoyed the first couple of episodes, but we stuck with it and found it really funny by the end of the series. The character of Amanda has been made more appealing, and it was hilarious to see how she was still trying to strike a pose, whilst struggling to cope with her more straitened circumstances. The scene when she is promoting minimalism, while hiding all her possessions behind a curtain was a favourite, as was the one when she pretends not to be at work, despite wearing the uniform of an employee. Joanna Lumley was universally agreed to be a superlative comic actress, and this part fits her to perfection. She manages to steal every scene that she is in.

Unforgotten is a favourite series for many of our group, but some members felt that this particular story was a little too keen to cover every possible theme. We talked about whether Juliet was wrong in suggesting a controversial book to one of her students, possibly to provoke a reaction, and that it would be difficult to teach a modern, challenging curriculum without offending sensibilities. It seemed unlikely that Taylor would not have worked out that stabbing her father was linked to his subsequent disappearance. However, most of us had still enjoyed it.

Janet Lander

Local History

We had another good meeting yesterday, with 3 new members. Our topic was Old Photos and we brought a lot of items to share with each other.

Some of the group were fortunate enough to have original photographs of family members who used to live in the locality, with the oldest dating back to 1890s Kimberley. It was fascinating to hear the stories behind the pictures, both about the people and the buildings and locations.

We thought about how our local towns and villages had changed - some, like Underwood, losing many of its shops, and others like Kimberley, losing its factory and acquiring a large supermarket. The coming of the M1 had affected quite a few locations and in one photograph it showed a tram in the early 1900s, well before the modern ones were re-introduced.



*Isaac Booth and family, 1900s – Selston
(Janet Lander's great grandfather, who worked as a carrier, taking goods and passengers into Nottingham)*



1890s Kimberley Main Street Carriers Shop known as West End House (now estate agent's) At the front is Emily Chambers (Julie Matthew's great grandmother) who lived with her parents at Villa Farm, Nuthall

Some members also brought in interesting books, full of old photographs or postcards of different areas. It was tantalising to try to match them up to modern day locations. We found many connections between the group, and were able to make links to some of the topics that have already been discussed.

Next month, we will be learning about The Eastwood Murder, led by one of our own members, Helen Baker, which sounds very interesting.

Janet Lander

National Trust

I really enjoyed my recent trip with the National Trust group to [Lacock Abbey](#) in Wiltshire. I was a little worried that it would be a long journey, but soon got comfortable in the coach.



I was very excited to see where Harry Potter had been filmed and kept looking for Severus Snape in the cloisters of the abbey. I very much hope that I will be asked to be in the new TV series, and think I could be the new Dumbledore.



After looking round the picturesque village, I enjoyed a cup of tea in the National Trust café with my new friends, before falling fast asleep on the way home.



I would like to thank [Yvonne Carey](#) for booking yet another wonderful day out, and hope that I will be allowed to go on the next trip to [Stourhead](#).

[Fred Bear](#)

Gogglebox

April

We had a good turn out, and discussed three different programmes. Most of the group found [Protection](#) quite a mediocre drama, and thought that the main character was not really believable, although we all agreed that Siobhan Finneran is a fine actor. There were some unlikely coincidences and it did not inspire us with much confidence in the Witness Protection scheme.

We had high hopes for [Stacey Dooley's Meet the Shoplifters](#), but did not feel that this particular episode reached her usual high standard. It contained mostly interviews without any comment, so felt unfinished. We were generally shocked at how widespread shoplifting is at the moment, and the toll that it clearly takes on shop-owners and staff.

[A Cruel Love: The Ruth Ellis Story](#) was highly praised for its sensitive dramatisation of this true crime story. It was felt that nowadays there would be more sympathy and understanding of her character and actions, whilst still accepting that her actions were wrong. It was not clear why Ruth did not take any steps to mitigate her situation, and seemed resigned to her terrible fate, indicating that it was justice. Several of the group had also watched the documentary about her and were able to add extra details. Her children were very badly affected by what happened to their mother, and her son committed suicide, whilst her daughter was put into foster care (by her own father, who also killed himself two years later) where she did not thrive and ended making bad choices in her own life.

Next month, we will discuss [This City is Ours](#) (BBC1), [Our Welsh Chapel Dream](#) (Channel 4) and [The Feud](#) (Channel 5).

[Janet Lander](#)

French Conversation

Notre séance de français était très compétitive! Alain avait un quiz qui était très difficile, mais drôle. Les questions portaient des régions de France, les auteurs, l'université de Paris et la ville du festival du film. J'ai marqué un point! Puis, nous avons écouté un exercice de Duolingo et Lawless French aussi; deux applications utilisées par certains de nos membres. Très utile. Finalement, il y avait une activité de dessin. Quelqu'un a décrit une image et tout le monde a dû le dessiner. Très amusant.

[Maureen Ward](#)

Discovering Nottingham

As per the announcement at the meeting on 2nd April, please can everybody who put their name down in the blue book regarding Discovering Nottingham meet in the hall to discuss how to proceed with this group **after the monthly meeting on 7th May.**

Art Appreciation

As it was 17th March and St Patrick's Day, we had a look at Irish Art.

We started around 3200 BC with Neolithic stone carvings through to Celtic art in around 300 BC. Being free from Roman subjugation Celtic designs became highly developed into intricate interlaced patterns of Celtic knotwork.

Christianisation in the 5th century AD saw the establishment of monasteries and led to the highly decorative illuminated manuscripts, such as the Book of Kells. From around 1200 to 1700, however, Irish art was relatively stagnant, and Irish culture was left comparatively untouched by the influence of the Renaissance.

From the late 17th century, artists in the general contemporary styles of European fine art began to emerge, particularly the painting of portraiture and landscapes. With a small pool of patrons and better opportunities to be found abroad, many Irish artists emigrated, especially to London (portraitists) or Paris (landscapists). By the start of the 20th century, things began to improve. There was renewed interest in Celtic art and the Municipal Gallery of Modern Art was established. With increased patronage a new generation of homegrown talent and returning emigres gradually formed a solid basis for the regrowth of art in Ireland.

We then looked at individual artists starting with Jack Butler Yeats 1871 – 1957. His father was the painter John Butler Yeats, and his brother was the poet W B Yeats. Jack began as an illustrator and his early works were landscapes and portraits before he adopted impressionism. Another notable artist was Sir John Lavery who was best known for his portraits and war depictions.

Francis Bacon (28 October 1909 – 28 April 1992) was an Irish-born British figurative painter known for his raw, unsettling imagery. Focusing on the human form, his subjects included crucifixions, popes, self-portraits, and portraits of close friends, with abstract figures. Rita Duffy (born 1959) is a Northern Irish artist, described in 2005 as the province's "foremost artist". Her installations and projects often highlight socio-political issues.

Then we discovered more members of the talented Butler Yeats family. Anne Butler Yeats (26 February 1919 – 4 July 2001) was an Irish painter, costume and stage designer. She was the daughter of the poet William Butler Yeats and niece of the painter Jack B Yeats. Elizabeth Corbet Yeats (11 March 1868 – 16 January 1940), was an Irish educator and publisher. She worked as an art teacher and published several books on art. Her brother was W B Yeats. Lily Yeats was an accomplished embroiderer.

Helen Baker

KnitAid

Whilst knitting for Ukraine, Seafarers and many others, the KnitAid group have also produced some smaller items in their spare time.

Eastwood Town Council wanted poppies:



Innocent Smoothie Big Knit

Innocent have been running the Big Knit since 2003, giving 25p to Age UK for every behatted bottle sold. Volunteers have knitted over 11 million hats, raising £3.2 million for Age UK to provide support for older people who need it the most!

This is the KnitAid group's latest contribution:



Margaret Naylor

Monthly Meeting Review

At the April monthly meeting we had a speaker from Eastwood Volunteer Bureau and Food Bank, Jackie Harwood. She advised us of the services that are available and run by the bureau which is situated behind Eastwood Library. Although in Eastwood it does cover a lot of the local area as you can see from the leaflet to the right.

Their services include:

The **local food bank**, which is available for registered users only. A referral can be obtained from the Citizens Advice Bureau who will conduct a simple review of your disposable income.

There is a **low-cost transport** facility for vulnerable, elderly, and disabled people. All you have to do is register and book this facility which is a very simple and straightforward process.

They operate a **befriending scheme** where lonely and vulnerable people can take advantage of a one hour weekly chat.

New Volunteers are always welcome, and if you are able to spare a couple of hours a week you will be very welcome!

For more information you can contact Jackie at

jackieh@eastwoodvb.org.uk

Anne Steel



Whist

After discussion with the current members it has been agreed to discontinue the Whist group. The interest in the group had dropped away over time and there were not enough players on several occasions to keep it viable.

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	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

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 15th May 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 on Tuesday 6th May at 10.00 am Street parking near Swingate Water Tower, Kimberley. For further info Contact Roger 01773 788169/07879492779

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

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